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Shri Sunil Arora
Chief Election Commissioner
(23rd Chief Election Commissioner)



Shri Ashok Lavasa
Election Commissioner



Shri Sushil Chandra
Election Commissioner

Election Commission of India – Major Roles and Functions

The Election Commission of India is a constitutional body. It is an independent body to oversee free and fair elections throughout the country. It was established on 25th January 1950 in accordance with the Constitution. It oversees the entire election and nomination procedures of Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, State Legislatures as well as the President and Vice President while the Panchayat and Municipality elections are not supervised by the Election Commission. Article 324 of the Indian Constitution deals with the powers of the Election Commission of India.

Composition and Appointment:

1. The body is comprised of a Chief Election Commissioner and two Election Commissioners.
2. The President appoints the Chief Election Commissioner and the Election Commissioners.
3. The concept of multi-member Commission has been in operation since 1993, before that the commission only had a Chief Election Commissioner.
4. The Election Commissioner is assisted by the Deputy Election Commissioner at the time of the election.
5. They enjoy the same status and receive salary and perks as available to Judges of the Supreme Court of India. The salary is drawn from the Consolidated Fund of India.
6. They have a tenure of 6 years, or up to the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.

Key Functions and Powers of Election Commission of India

1. Determine territories of the electoral constituencies and allot seats to each of them.
2. Recognition of political parties and party symbol allocation.
3. Determine the number of polling booths required.
4. Conduct and supervise elections and by-elections.
5. Scrutinize election expenses accounts submitted by the contestants.
6. Advising the President on the question of disqualification of any Member of Parliament or advising the Governor on the question of disqualification of a member of a State legislature.
7. The Chief Election Commissioner can be removed from office only through impeachment by Parliament

New Initiatives and Reforms

Over the years, the Commission has brought several reforms in the electoral processes. A few are summarized below:

1. Use of state-owned Electronic Media for broadcast/telecast by political parties.
2. Checking criminalization of Politics.
3. Computerization of electoral rolls.
4. Providing voters with Identity Cards.
5. Simplifying the accounts maintenance and billing procedures by candidates.
6. A variety of measures for strict compliance of Model Code of Conduct to conduct fair elections.
7. “None of the above” button: In 2013, SC passed a landmark judgment, approving the ‘Right to Negative Vote’ by exercising the NOTA option in EVMs (Electronic Voting Machines) and ballots. The NOTA option is being used since November 2013.

1. EMERGING SIGNIFICANCE OF BIMSTEC

What is the issue?

India has invited the leaders of The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Member States for the swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This invitation is in line with the Government's focus on its 'Neighbourhood First' policy. Apart from BIMSTEC members invitations for PM's swearing-in ceremony have also been sent to Sooronbay Jeenbekov, President of Kyrgyzstan who is the current Chair of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and Pravind Jugnauth, Mauritius Prime Minister who is also the Chief Guest at Pravasi Bhartiya Divas 2019.

What do these imply?

- BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) - The invite signals a major outreach to India's neighbourhood in the Bay of Bengal.
- This sub-regional organisation came into being on June 6, 1997 through the Bangkok Declaration.
- The BIMSTEC Permanent Secretariat is established in Dhaka, Bangladesh, current chair Sri Lanka and M. Shahidul Islam Secretary General of BIMSTEC.
- Last time, the PM had invited the SAARC leaders. The then Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's attendance had raised hopes of a new beginning in the bilateral ties.
- This time, SAARC's exclusion is clearly aimed at keeping Pakistan out of New Delhi's engagement with its neighbours.
- **Kyrgyzstan**- By inviting the Kyrgyz Republic leader, India is displaying an outreach to the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).
- India became a member in SCO along with Pakistan in 2017. India thus wants to leverage its membership to advance its strategic objectives in Central Asia.

Mauritius- Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth is one of the most well-placed People of Indian Origin in the world.

Since Indian PM has invested diplomatic capital in outreach to the Indian diaspora since 2014, this invite is seen as a natural choice.

Why is BIMSTEC so significant?

- BIMSTEC comprises of Bangladesh, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Nepal and Bhutan, besides India.
- New Delhi's engagement with BIMSTEC rose from the ashes of SAARC (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Nepal, and Afghanistan).
- In October 2016, following the Uri attack, India gave a renewed push for BIMSTEC, although it had existed for almost two decades.
- India had long felt that the vast potential of SAARC was being under-utilised.
- Opportunities were being lost due to either a lack of response and/or an obstructionist approach from Pakistan.
- So BIMSTEC had emerged as an alternative regional platform.
- With 5 five countries from SAARC and two from ASEAN, BIMSTEC is a bridge between South Asia and Southeast Asia.
- It thus offers scope for discussions on sub-regional cooperation.
- Nevertheless, SAARC summit has only been postponed, and not cancelled.
- The possibility of revival remains, and so, the success of BIMSTEC does not render SAARC pointless.

Why the region matters?

- The Bay of Bengal is the largest bay in the world. Over one-fifth (22%) of the world's population live in the seven countries around it.
- These countries have a combined GDP of close to \$2.7 trillion.
- Despite economic challenges, they have been able to sustain average annual economic growth rates of 3.4% - 7.5% from 2012 to 2016.
- The Bay also has vast untapped natural resources.
- One-fourth of the world's traded goods cross the Bay every year.

How could India benefit?

- As the region's largest economy, India has a lot at stake in BIMSTEC.
- It is a natural platform to fulfil India's key foreign policy priorities of 'Neighbourhood First' and 'Act East'.

- A key reason for India's engagement is the vast potential that is unlocked with stronger connectivity.
- About 45 million people live in landlocked North-eastern states.
- They will have the opportunity to connect via the Bay of Bengal to Bangladesh, Myanmar and Thailand.
- This opens up new possibilities in terms of development.
- From the strategic perspective, the Bay of Bengal is a funnel to the Malacca straits.
- In this context, the Bay has emerged a key theatre for an increasingly assertive China in maintaining its access route to the Indian Ocean.
- Given these, it is in India's interest to consolidate its internal engagement among the BIMSTEC countries.
- The BIMSTEC initiative is an effort to reach out diplomatically to the neighbourhood, diaspora and the China-Russia-led regional grouping of Central Asian countries.
- The future course of the move depends on the progress New Delhi makes with these groupings.

BIMSTEC

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

Stands for The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation

Founded in 1997 through Bangkok Declaration

7 MEMBER COUNTRIES

Importance of BIMSTEC

- Accounts for **22%** of the world's population
- Combined GDP of **\$2.7 trillion**
- One-fourth of the world's traded goods cross the Bay every year
- Six focus areas—trade, technology, energy, transport, tourism and fisheries

Map labels: India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand

Callouts: First summit held in Thailand, Sri Lanka is the current Chair

2. INDIA'S FOREIGN TRADE SLOWDOWN

Why in news?

The estimates for foreign trade showed a sharp slowdown in merchandise export growth in April, 2019 to 0.64% from a year earlier.

How is the exports scenario?

- There was a 31% surge in petroleum products shipments to overseas markets in April.
- If this is removed, India's goods export actually contracted by over 3% in dollar terms.
- [In contrast, overall merchandise exports had expanded 11% year-on-year in March, 2019 with the growth in shipments excluding petroleum products.]
- The slump in exports was fairly widespread, with 16 of the 30 major product groups reflecting contractions.
- This is in contrast with the 10 categories that had shrunk in March.
- Worryingly, shipments of engineering goods declined by over 7% after having expanded by 16.3% in March.
- The traditionally strong export sectors all weakened in April.
- These include the gems and jewellery, leather and leather products, textiles and garments, and drugs and pharmaceuticals sectors.
- E.g. contraction in gem and jewellery exports widened to 13.4% in April, from 0.4% in March; it was 15.3% from 6.4% respectively for the leather segment
- Likewise, the pace of growth of garment exports decelerated to 4.4% from 15.1% in March

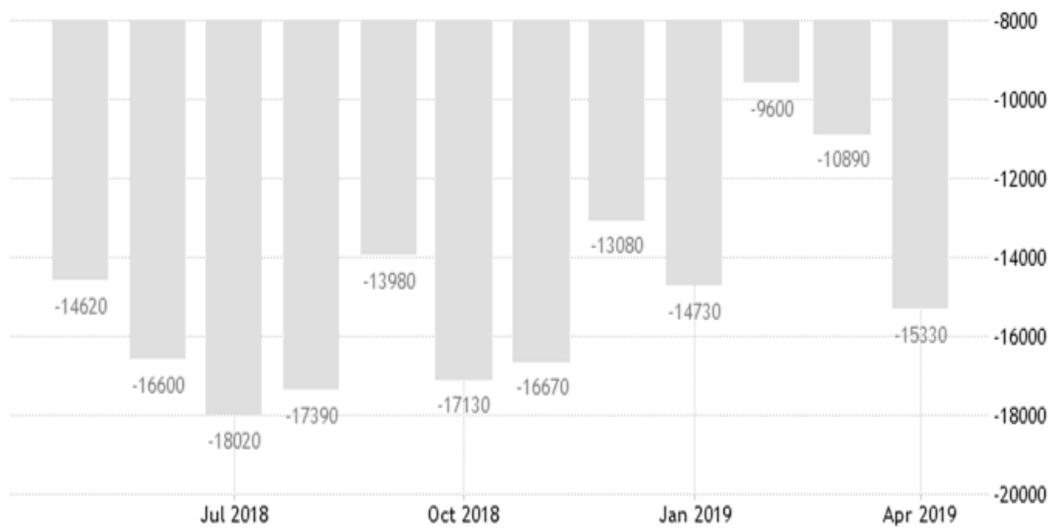
What is the case with imports?

- Imports grew by 4.5% to \$41.4 billion in April, accelerating from March's 1.4%.
- This was primarily because the purchases of crude oil and gold continued to increase.
- The 9.3% jump in the oil import bill, from March's 5.6%, can partly be explained by the rise in international crude prices.
- However, the 54% surge in gold imports reflects India's unappeasable appetite for gold, calling for policymakers' attention and action.
- Excluding oil and gold, however, imports shrank by more than 2% in April.
- This signals that import demand in the real productive sectors is largely balanced.

What are the implications?

- **Jobs and demand:** The traditionally strong export sectors are all key providers of jobs.
- So any prolonged slump across these industries will impact jobs, wages and overall consumption demand in the domestic market.
- **Trade deficit:** With merchandise imports outpacing exports, the trade deficit widened to a five-month high of \$15.3 billion.
- The widening trade shortfall will add pressure on India's widening current account deficit (CAD).
- Being at around \$51.9 billion in the first 9 months of fiscal 2018-19, CAD had already surpassed the preceding financial year's 12-month shortfall of \$48.7 billion.
- More challenges and limitations to trade and exports are ahead with the escalating trade war between the U.S. and China.
- The impacts of this could be widespread on global growth.
- Moreover, the rising military tensions in West Asia could potentially further push up oil prices, further increasing India's import burden.

- Given these, containing the trade and current account deficits seems significantly challenging and urgent measures are needed to boost exports.



IACE

3. INTERNATIONAL AND BILATERAL

Russia launches new nuclear-powered icebreaker in bid to open up Arctic

Russia launched a nuclear-powered icebreaker, part of an ambitious programme to renew and expand its fleet of the vessels in order to improve its ability to tap the Arctic's commercial potential.

- The ship, dubbed the Ural and which was floated out from a dockyard in St Petersburg, is one of a trio that when completed will be the largest and most powerful icebreakers in the world.
- The Ural is due to be handed over to Russia's state-owned nuclear energy corporation Rosatom in 2022 after the two other icebreakers in the same series, Arktika (Arctic) and Sibir (Siberia), enter service.

Nepal celebrates its 12th Republic Day

Nepal is celebrating its 12th Republic Day on 29th May 2019. A number of programmes are being organized in different parts of the country to mark the occasion. The main function was held at Army Pavilion in Kathmandu, which was attended by the President Bidya Devi Bhandari, Prime Minister K.P.Sharma Oli, cabinet ministers, senior government officials, heads and representatives of various diplomatic missions and other dignitaries.

WHO: Algeria and Argentina declared Malaria-Free

The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared Algeria and Argentina as 'Malaria-Free' countries after no cases of indigenous transmission of disease were recorded.

- The indigenous transmission of disease was last reported from Algeria in 2013, while last case of Argentina was recorded in 2010.
- Algeria became second country in Africa to be declared malaria-free, after Mauritius, which was certified in 1973.
- Argentina became second country in South America to be certified malaria free after Paraguay, which was certified in June 2018.
- The certificates will be presented to both countries on sidelines of the 72nd session of the World Health Assembly (WHA) which is being held in Geneva.

- **WHO Malaria-Free Certification Criteria:** The Country under consideration has to prove that it has interrupted indigenous transmission of malaria for at least 3 consecutive years. Till date a total of 36 countries have received WHO's malaria free certification.

Trump becomes first foreign leader to meet new Japanese emperor Naruhito

- US 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 Naruhito.
- The US President is on a four-day state visit to Japan. Trump will go to the Japanese state guest house later for meetings and joint news conference with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

UNGA resolution demands UK withdrawal from Chagos Archipelago

The United Nation General Assembly (UNGA) passed a non-binding resolution asking United Kingdom (UK) to return Chagos Archipelago in Indian Ocean to Mauritius.

- On February 2019 International Court of Justice (ICJ) issued an advisory opinion on the legal consequences of separation of Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius in 1965 when latter was a British colony. It also ruled the UK's decolonisation of the Indian Ocean islands was unlawful. This advisory opinion was endorsed by UNGA.
- Chagos Archipelago, a group of seven atolls comprises of more than 60 islands in Indian Ocean. It is located about 500 km south of Maldives. Since 18th century when the French first settled in islands, it had been part of Mauritius only. In 1801, all of the islands of French colonial territory in region were ceded to British.
- Although the resolution is not legally-binding, but it still carries significant political weight as the ruling came from UN's highest court and assembly votes also reflected world opinion.
- India was among 116 nations who voted in favour of resolution.

Donald 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. He made the announcement in his Rose Garden speech.

400 KMPH: Japan Tests World's Fastest Bullet Train

- Japan has started testing its fastest-ever bullet train capable of reaching 400 kilometers per hour (249 mph) as it continues to develop the revolutionary mode of travel. The ALFA-X version of the Shinkansen train began three years' worth of test runs.
- Once it enters operation around 2030, it will run at speeds of up to 360 kph (224 mph), comfortably making it the world's fastest bullet train. It will also outpace China's Fuxing train, which runs at 10 kph slower despite being designed with the same top speed capabilities as the ALFA-X.

UN Imposed Sanctions On Terror Group ISIS Khorasan

- The UN has imposed sanctions on terror group ISIS-Khorasan (ISIS-K) for its links with Al-Qaeda and involvement in several attacks in Afghanistan and Pakistan. It is now subject to the assets freeze, travel ban and arms embargo.
- »The group, formed in 2015 by a Pakistani national and a former commander of the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, has killed over 150 people. The United Nations Security Council's 1267 Al Qaeda Sancti

Vice President Venkaiah Naidu 4-Day Visit To Vietnam

- Vice President Venkaiah Naidu undertook an official visit to Vietnam at the invitation extended by Dang Thi Ngoc Thinh, Vice President of Vietnam. He was also invited by the Vietnam Buddhist Sangha and the organizers of the 16th UN Day of Vesak that is being held at the Tam Chuc Pagoda in Hanam Province in Vietnam to deliver the keynote address during the inaugural session.
- Vesak is celebrated to commemorate the birth of Buddha. He also delivered the keynote address at

the inaugural session of the event. The theme of the event was "Buddhist Approach to Global Leadership and Shared Responsibilities for Sustainable Societies." Win Myint, the president of Myanmar, K.P. Sharma Oli, Prime Minister of Nepal and Tashi Dorjee, Chairman of the National Council of Bhutan also participated in it.

- Naidu also met the Indian community and Vietnamese beneficiaries of the Jaipur Foot Artificial Limb Fitment Camp which was organized in Vietnam under the initiative termed 'India for Humanity'. It was launched to celebrate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
- As per the proposed system, permanent legal residency would be given based on points for their age, knowledge, job opportunities and civic sense. The proposals significantly increase the quota for skilled workers from the existing nearly 12% to 57%.

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.

US President Donald Trump declares national emergency

The President of the United States, Donald Trump on May 15, 2019 declared a national emergency to protect the US computer networks from foreign adversaries.

- The announcement was made through an executive order that effectively bars US companies from using foreign telecoms that are believed to pose a risk to the security of the nation.
- The move has authorized US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross to block transactions that involve information or communications technology that pose an unacceptable risk to the national security of the United States.

- Though the executive order does not name any company specifically, according to analysts it is mainly directed at Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei.
- Following the order, the US Commerce Department announced the inclusion of Huawei Technologies and its affiliates to the Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) Entity List, making it more difficult for the Chinese telecom giant to conduct business with US companies.
- The inclusion in the entity list means that the US companies will no longer be able to sell or transfer technology to Huawei without a license issued by the BIS.
- Several nations including the US have raised concerns that Huawei's products could be used by China for surveillance, though the company has denied such claims.
- The announcement comes on the backdrop of an escalating trade war between the US and China. The US President had complained about China's trading practices since before he took office in 2016.

Ireland Becomes 2nd Country To Declare Climate Emergency

- Ireland on May 9, 2019 became the second nation in the world after Britain to declare a climate emergency. The Irish Parliament accepted an amendment to a parliamentary report declaring the emergency without a vote.
- The parliamentary report also called upon the parliament to examine how the Irish government can improve its response to the issue of biodiversity loss. The decision was hailed by environmental campaigners who called it as historic.
- The British Parliament became the world's first to declare a climate emergency by passing the largely symbolic motion on May 1, 2019.
- The move followed 11 days of street protests in London by the Extinction Rebellion environmental campaign group.
- The environmental group's ultimate aim is to slash global greenhouse gas emissions to zero by 2025 and to biodiversity loss.
- The declaration of the emergency is a call for governments across the world to change their

behavior towards the climate and biodiversity in profound ways, on a sustained basis.

- The decision comes as the European Union leaders put action on climate change at the top of the agenda in the next five years.

India to Attend G-7 Meet In France:

India will be attending the Group of 7 industrialised nations meet organised by France in Biarritz in August along with Australia, Chile, and South Africa.

- The French ambassador to India Alexandre Zeigler stated that one of the issues on the agenda of the G-7 meet would be fighting terrorism in cyberspace.
- The G-7 groups together the US, Britain, France, Italy, Canada, Japan, and Germany. The grouping had included Russia but it was left out following tensions with Western nations over the annexation of Crimea in 2015.

Trump imposes harsher sanctions on Iran's iron, steel, copper and aluminium industry

- The President of the United States, Donald Trump on May 8, 2019 imposed harsher sanctions on the iron, copper, steel and aluminium industry of Iran. The move is aimed at stopping Iran from pursuing its nuclear interests and acquiring nuclear weapon and intercontinental ballistic missiles.
- The decision comes a year after President Trump decided to pull the United States out of the 2015 nuclear deal, calling it fatally flawed and one-sided and re-imposed economic sanctions against the nation.

Why did the US exit the nuclear deal?

- The Trump administration withdrew from the nuclear deal stating that it had failed to protect American national security interests and enabled Tehran's malign behaviour.
- Trump called the deal defective at its core and said that he feared that it will allow the Iranian regime to accumulate nuclear weapons. He stated that the deal allowed the Iranian regime to preserve its nuclear infrastructure, keep enriching uranium and continue research and development.
- He also called the mechanisms for inspections and verification as incomplete.

Singapore passes new bill to check fake news

- The Parliament of Singapore on May 8, 2019 passed new laws to fight the menace of fake news. The laws will empower the authorities to order the removal of any content reported to be fake despite fierce criticism from tech giants and the media and rights groups.
- The Protection from Online Falsehoods and Manipulation Bill will enable the government to order social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter to put up warnings next to posts that the authorities deem to be false or get them taken down in extreme cases.

Key Highlights:

- The new laws were passed on May 8 after being debated upon in the Parliament for two days. Singapore's Parliament is dominated by the ruling People's Action Party.
- The state's small opposition party- Workers' Party, which has six elected members in the 89-seat chamber, opposed the new measures.
- The new bill grants the ruling government with broad powers including the ability to demand corrections in the news that is deemed fake, demanding the removal of such content, or blocking websites deemed to be publishing fake news in extreme cases.
- It also empowers the government ministers to act to protect national security, public health, public finance, public safety and tranquillity in the friendly relations between Singapore and other countries.
- The penalties for not complying with the laws include steep fines and jail time.
- The government stated that the new laws target false statements and not opinions and that ordering corrections to be placed alongside the fake news will be the primary response rather than fines or jail terms.

China blocks all editions of Wikipedia:

China on May 15, 2019 blocked all the language editions of online encyclopedia, Wikipedia.

- The Open Observatory of Network Interference (OONI) earlier reported that the country began the process of blocking language editions of Wikipedia in April 2019.

- Previously, China had enforced ban on viewing the Chinese version of the Wikipedia along with some sensitive pages such as Dalai Lama and the Tiananmen massacre.
- Though China blocked most of the editions of Wikipedia along with the Chinese language version in 2015, some of them were still accessible.
- The block comes at a time when Chinese authorities under the Chinese President Xi Jinping are placing controls on internet usage and are trying hard to clean out 'Great Firewall' proxy tools such as Virtual Private Network (VPN) software.
- This ban is one among the various other bans that have been made under the Chinese 'Great Firewall', online censorship device of China. The device blocks a large number of sites in the country including search engine Google, social media giant Facebook, LinkedIn and the news website The New York Times.
- Wikipedia is also blocked in Turkey, which blocked the site in 2017. The community-edited encyclopaedia has also been blocked from time to time in Venezuela lately.
- Wikipedia is operated by the non-profit organisation Wikimedia Foundation.

US unveils Global Health Security Strategy

The United States government unveiled 'Global Health Security Strategy'. It is an effort which outlines coordinated US approach to help improve world's ability in stopping deadly outbreaks even before they spread between countries.

- It is a first of its kind strategy that seeks to detect, prevent, and respond to threats from various infectious diseases occurring naturally or accidentally.
- It defines the actions that US administration will undertake by adopting a whole-of-government (WoG, is joint activities performed by multiple public service agencies) approach to health security.
- This will help US leverage strengths of different federal departments, agencies and funding streams.
- The National Security Strategy precisely identifies fighting biological threats and pandemics as central component of US's national security.

- The US is coordinating with international partners to work together and help improve world's ability to contain and stop infectious disease outbreaks before they spread between countries.

Global Road Safety Week 2019:

Fifth global road safety week is being celebrated between May 06 to 12, 2019. Theme for this year is - **“Leadership for road safety”**. United Nation believes that global goals can be achieved only if precious life is safe. To make it sure, UN has launched action through the ongoing campaign: Save Lives #SpeakUp.

World Health Organisation (WHO) has released a report during road safety week. This report highlights that road accidents are the major concern for death among people age group between 5 to 29 years. Report also indicates that 1.35 million people die each year due to road accidents worldwide.

Iran to continue enriching Uranium despite US move:

Iran announced it will continue with its low-level uranium enrichment in line with its nuclear deal with world powers. This move comes when on 3 May 2019, US forced Iran to stop producing low-enriched uranium and halt expanding its only nuclear power plant, thus intensifying campaign aimed at stopping Tehran's ballistic missile programme and curbing its regional power.

Move taken by US against Iran:

- US efforts to impose political and economic isolation on Tehran began in 2018 when US President Trump unilaterally withdrew from nuclear deal which US and other world powers negotiated with Iran in 2015.
- In recent move US announced discontinuing waivers and sanctions for countries (even India) buying oil from Iranian oil. It is an attempt to reduce Iran's oil exports to zero.
- It also blacklisted Iran's elite Revolutionary Guard Corps as terrorist Organization.

Arguments by Iran:

- As per (nuclear accord) Iran can produce heavy water (which is employed in reactors to produce plutonium, a fuel used in nuclear warheads), as this does not violate agreement so Iran will carry on with enrichment activity.
- Its low-enriched uranium production helps Iran produce electricity.
- Iran called for talks with its other partners in nuclear deal and UN's International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to approve that Iran can enrich fuel to 20 percent and higher.
- It is trying to counter US sanctions by continuing to export its oil at the same time boosting its non-oil exports.
- In a move to increase its hard currency income and cut down currency expenditures, Iran will increase production and raise non-oil exports.

4. NATIONAL

Narendra Modi sworn-in as Prime Minister for his second term:

Narendra Modi sworn in as India's 15th Prime Minister on May 30, 2019 for his second term. President Ram Nath Kovind administered the oath of Office and Secrecy to him and a team of 57 ministers at a glittering ceremony on the forecourts of the Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi.

- After Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi, Narendra Modi is the third prime minister of the country who has been able to retain power for a second term with full majority in Lok Sabha.
- Besides 24 Cabinet ministers including Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, Nirmala Sitharaman, Nitin Gadkari, Smriti Irani, and Piyush Goyal, 9 were sworn in as Minister of State with Independent charge and another 24 as Minister of State.

Here is the full list of new Council of Ministers:

Shri Narendra Modi	Prime Minister and also in-charge of: Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Department of Atomic Energy; Department of Space; and All important policy issues; and All other portfolios not allocated to any Minister.
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CABINET MINISTERS:

- **Rajnath Singh** : Defence
- **Amit Shah** : Home Affairs
- **Nirmala Sitharaman** : Finance; Corporate Affairs
- **Subrahmanyam Jaishankar** : External Affairs
- **Nitin Gadkari** : Road Transport and Highways; Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
- **DV Sadananda Gowda** : Chemical and Fertilizers
- **Ram Vilas Paswan** : Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
- **Narendra Singh Tomar** : Agriculture and Farmers Welfare; Rural Development; Panchayati Raj
- **Ravi Shankar Prasad** : Law and Justice; Communications; Electronics and Information Technology
- **Harsimrat Kaur Badal** : Food Processing Industries
- **Thawarchand Gehlot** : Social Justice and Empowerment
- **Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank** : Human Resource Development
- **Arjun Munda** : Tribal Affairs
- **Smriti Irani** : Women and Child Development; Textiles
- **Dr. Harsh Vardhan** : Health and Family Welfare; Science and Technology; Earth Sciences
- **Prakash Javdekar** : Environment, Forest and Climate Change; Information and Broadcasting
- **Piyush Goyal** : Railways; Commerce and Industries
- **Dharmendra Pradhan** : Petroleum and Natural Gas; Steel
- **Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi** : Minority Affairs
- **Prahlad Joshi** : Parliamentary Affairs; Coal; Mines
- **Mahendra Nath Pandey** : Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- **Arvind Sawant** : Heavy Industries and Public Enterprise
- **Giriraj Singh** : Animal Husbandry, Dairying, and Fisheries
- **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** : Jal Shakti

MINISTERS OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

- **Santosh Kumar Gangwar** : Labour and Employment
- **Rao Inderjit Singh** : Statistics and Programme Implementation; Planning
- **Shripad Yesso Naik** : Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH); MoS Defence

- **Dr. Jitendra Singh** : Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region; MoS PMO; Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions; Department of Atomic Energy; Department of Space
- **Kiren Rijju** : Youth Affairs and Sports; MoS Minority Affairs
- **Prahalad Singh Patel** : Culture; Tourism
- **Raj Kumar Singh** : Power; New and Renewable Energy; MoS Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- **Hardeep Singh Puri** : Housing and Urban Affairs; Civil Aviation; MoS Commerce and Industry
- **Mansukh L Mandaviya** : Shipping; MoS Chemicals and Fertilizers

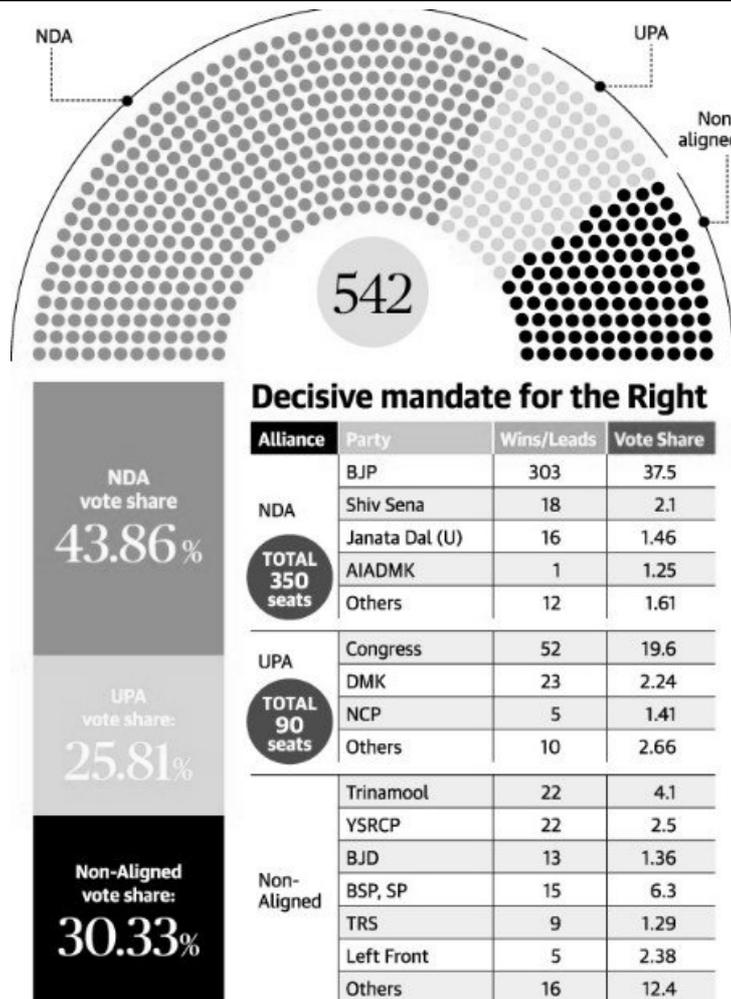
MINISTERS OF STATE

- Faggansingh Kulaste : Steel
- Ashwini Kumar Choubey : Health and Family Welfare
- Arjun Ram Meghwal : Parliamentary Affairs; Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises
- General (Retd) VK Singh : Road Transport and Highways
- Krishan Pal : Social Justice and Empowerment
- Danve Raosaheb Dadarao : Consumer Affairs, Food, and Public Distribution
- G Kishan Reddy : Home Affairs
- Parshottam Rupala : Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
- Ramdas Athawale : Social Justice and Empowerment
- Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti : Rural Development
- Babul Supriyo : Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- Sanjeev Kumar Balyan : Animal Husbandry, Dairying, and Fisheries
- Dhotre Sanjay Shamrao : Human Resource Development; Communications; Electronics and Information Technology
- Anurag Singh Thakur : Finance; Corporate Affairs
- Angadi Suresh Channabasappa : Railways
- Nityanand Rai : Home Affairs
- Rattan Lal Kataria : Jal Shakti; Social Justice and Empowerment
- V Muraleedharan : External Affairs; Parliamentary Affairs
- Renuka Singh Saruta : Tribal Affairs
- Som Parkash : Commerce and Industry
- Rameswar Teli : Food Processing Industries
- Pratap Chandra Sarangi : Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises; Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries
- Kailash Choudhary : Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
- Debasree Chaudhuri : Women and Child Development

BJP's Massive Victory:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Bhartiya Janata Party displayed a massive victory in the 17th Lok Sabha Elections 2019, crossing the majority mark on its own for the second straight time. The saffron party's win over 300 seats has left opposition parties like Congress on the verge of an existential crisis.

- The NDA together has a strength of 353 MPs in the 543-member Lok Sabha out of which the BJP has a majority of 303 MPs.



➤ As per Election Commission of India, the 2019 Lok Sabha elections witnessed a voter turnout of 67.10% (interim), which is the highest ever voter turnout in the history of general elections.

Seventeenth Lok Sabha Party-Wise Representation Of Members

Sl. No.	Party Name	No. of Members	Percentage (%)
1	Bharatiya Janata Party(BJP)	302	55.72
2	Indian National Congress(INC)	51	9.41
3	Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam(DMK)	23	4.24
4	All India Trinamool Congress(AITC)	22	4.06
5	Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party(YSR Congress Party)	22	4.06
6	Shiv Sena(SS)	17	3.14
7	Janata Dal (United)(JD(U))	16	2.95
8	Biju Janata Dal(BJD)	12	2.21
9	Bahujan Samaj Party(BSP)	10	1.85
10	Telangana Rashtra Samithi(TRS)	9	1.66
11	Samajwadi Party(SP)	6	1.11

Sl. No.	Party Name	No. of Members	Percentage (%)
12	Lok Jan Shakti Party(LJSP)	6	1.11
13	Nationalist Congress Party(NCP)	5	0.92
14	Independents(Ind.)	4	0.74
15	Indian Union Muslim League(IUML)	3	0.55
16	Jammu and Kashmir National Conference(J&KNC)	3	0.55
17	Communist Party of India (Marxist)(CPI(M))	3	0.55
18	Telugu Desam Party(TDP)	3	0.55
19	Communist Party of India(CPI)	2	0.37
20	All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen(AIMIM)	2	0.37
21	Apna Dal(Apna Dal)	2	0.37
22	Nagaland Peoples Front(NPF)	2	0.37
23	Shiromani Akali Dal(SAD)	2	0.37
24	Sikkim Krantikari Morcha(SKM)	1	0.18
25	Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi(VCK)	1	0.18
26	Shiv Sena(SS)	1	0.18
27	Rashtriya Loktantrik Party(RLP)	1	0.18
28	Revolutionary Socialist Party(RSP)	1	0.18
29	Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party(NDPP)	1	0.18
30	Mizo National Front(MNF)	1	0.18
31	Jharkhand Mukti Morcha(JMM)	1	0.18
32	Kerala Congress (M)(KC(M))	1	0.18
33	All India United Democratic Front(AIUDF)	1	0.18
34	AJSU Party(AJSU)	1	0.18
35	Aam Aadmi Party(AAP)	1	0.18
36	All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam(AIADMK)	1	0.18
37	Indian National Congress(INC)	1	0.18
38	Janata Dal (Secular)(JD(S))	1	0.18

First session of 17th Lok Sabha from June 17th:

- The first session of the 17th Lok Sabha will commence on 17th of this month. The Rajya Sabha will have its sitting from 20th onwards. Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javdekar stated the session will continue till 26th of next month (July).
- The election for the Speaker of the Lower House will be held on 19th of June. The President will address the Joint sitting of both the Houses of Parliament on the 20th.
- The Economic Survey will be tabled on the 4th of July and the Union Budget will be presented on the 05th July 2019 by Nirmala Sitharaman. Nirmala Sitharaman is the only woman to hold the portfolio (Minister of Finance) after former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

Record 78 women MPs elected to 17th Lok Sabha:

- Record 78 women candidates have been elected to the Lok Sabha in the recently held general elections. 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.

India elected to Executive Board of first UN-Habitat Assembly

- India has been elected to the Executive Board of the first UN-Habitat Assembly, announced by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. India has been elected to the Executive Board of the first UN-Habitat Assembly at the Plenary Session of the Assembly being held in Nairobi.
- The first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly started on May 27th at the headquarters of UN-Habitat in Nairobi and will go on till May 31st. The special theme for the UN-Habitat Assembly is "Innovation for Better Quality of Life in Cities and Communities".

Government extends ban on Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam

- In its latest notification, the Union Home Ministry extended the ban imposed on the militant group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) for its strong anti-India posture and the threat it poses to the nation.
- According to the Indian Government, the LTTE has been covertly working towards the creation of Tamil Eelam, a proposed independent state for Tamils, and has been undertaking fundraising activities for the same.
- The notification stated that despite the ban, many pro-LTTE organizations and individuals were trying to extend support to the outfit.

25 states miss deadline for plan on plastic disposal

- Over 25 state governments may have to pay environment compensation of Rs one crore each for not submitting their respective action plans on systematic disposal of plastic waste to the Central »Pollution Control Board (CPCB) as the April 30 deadline set by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has passed by.

- The states had to submit action plans by April 30 to the CPCB, failing which they would have to pay the pollution body a compensation at the rate of Rs one crore per month, as per the National Green Tribunal (NGT) order.

India to Co-Chair Consultative Group of Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery

- 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 GPDRR 2019.
- The CG Meeting was co-chaired by Africa Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States, the European Union (EU) and World Bank. Additionally, GFDRR in cooperation with the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and the European Union had also organized the 4th edition of the World Reconstruction Conference (WRC). This is the first time that the country has been afforded the opportunity of co-chairing the CG meeting of GFDRR.

India Re-Elected As Observer to 'Arctic Council'

- India was re-elected as Observer to the Arctic Council, an intergovernmental forum. The decision was taken during the 11th Arctic Council ministerial meeting at Rovaniemi, Finland.
- The Council also appointed the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) as a new Observer. India successfully got the Observer status in 2013 during the Kiruna Ministerial meeting held in Sweden.
- The Arctic Council, a high level intergovernmental organisation set up in 1996 to promote cooperation, coordination and interaction among the Arctic States and protect the Arctic environment.
- The Arctic Council is formed of eight circumpolar countries- Norway, Sweden, Finland, Iceland, Denmark, Canada, US and Russia.
- India has its Arctic research station 'Himadri' in Svalbard, Norway since 2008.

Delhi HC: United Nation not State under Article 12

- In a recent judgement the Delhi High court (HC) ruled that United Nations Organization (UNO) is

not 'State' in terms of Article 12 of the Indian Constitution and thus it is not amenable to its jurisdiction under Article 226.

- The Delhi HC judgment adjudicated the petition filed concerning immunity enjoyed by UNO under United Nations (Privileges and Immunities) Act, 1947.
- The plea in case is filed by a former UNO employee who was found guilty of misconduct following the findings of Procurement Task Force.
- He was then convicted by a US Federal Court and sentenced to 8 years of imprisonment and 2 years of mandatory probation, was later released and deported to India in May 2014.
- The petition filed by him claims that due process was not followed in his case.

Centre issued Drought Advisory to Six States:

- The Union Government has issued a drought advisory to six southern and western states and has asked them to use water judiciously. This was issued amid rising concern of water storage in dams of states which dropped to a critical level.
- The 'Water' subject falls under the state list mentioned in Indian Constitution and recent drought advisory recommends states to use water for drinking purpose only till dams are replenished.
- The drought advisory is issued to states when water level in reservoirs is about 20% less than the average of live water storage figures of past 10 years.
- to which drought advisory issued are Gujarat, Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

NPPA reduces Prices of 9 Non-Scheduled Cancer Drugs by 87%

- The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has reduced the prices of 9 non-scheduled cancer drugs by up to 87%. This decision is in continuation of nodal agency's efforts to bring down drugs prices.
- In February 2019, the government had capped about 42 cancer drugs at 30%. This new anti-cancer non-scheduled medicine list is in continuation of efforts to curb profiteering on these vital drugs and to make cure of cancer affordable for patients as well as for their families.
- More than 390 brands and about 72 formulations have reduced costs following the NPPA order. This price reduction is expected to benefit more than 22

lakh cancer patients in India and will result in annual savings of around Rs.800 crore rupees to patients.

NPPA, the Drug pricing regulator issued an office memorandum which mentioned that:

- Maximum Retail Price (MRP) of 500 mg chemotherapy injection called 'pemetrexed' which is used to treat lung cancer, has been reduced from Rs.22000 to 2800.
- MRP of 150 mg 'Erlotinib' tablets will now cost Rs.2400 instead of Rs.8800.
- NPPA has also approved a formula which restricts trade margin of selling price by up to 30%.

Iraq remains India's top supplier of Crude Oil in 2019:

- According to data released by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), Iraq remains India's top crude oil supplier for second year in a row.
- India is world's third largest importer of crude oil (7% of total crude oil imports) after China (world's largest importer with 20.2% of total crude oil imports) and USA (13.8%).
- India's crude oil imports meets 80 % its oil needs.
- India imported 207.3 MT (Metric Tons) of crude oil in 2018-19, down from 220.4 MT in 2017-18. This increased India's total crude oil import bill by 40.6% i.e. to \$86.9 billion as compared to \$61.8 billion from previous year.
- Iraq one of largest producers of Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is India's top crude oil supplier for past two years. It meets more than 20% of India's oil needs in 2018-19 fiscal year by selling 46.61 million tonnes (mt) of crude oil to India.

Jal Shakti Ministry:

- Union government has created a new ministry, Jal Shakti to provide safe drinking water to people.
- It has been created by reorganizing the earlier Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.
- Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation has also been added to it.
- Jal Shakti ministry will ensure clean water and top class irrigation water facilities for the farmers.

Minister of Jal Shakti: Gajendra Singh Shekhawat

5. STATES

Jagan Mohan Reddy sworn in as Andhra Pradesh CM

- YSR Congress party president YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has taken oath 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 the bifurcated Andhra Pradesh.
- In the presence of a large number of his followers who came there to witness his swearing-in-ceremony, Jagan Mohan Reddy has put his first signature on the file hiking social security pensions from next month.

YSRCP's Landslide Victory:

YSRCP for a landslide victory in Andhra Pradesh .The ruling Telugu Desam Party (TDP) is putting a poor show with 18 cabinet ministers are also losing their seats.

- The Jana Sena of film actor Pawan Kalyan failed to make a mark and his party won from just one seat (Razole) with a wafer-thin majority and got a mere 6.7% vote share in AP.
- The Congress too continued to fare badly in the bifurcated AP and it may not win even a single seat this time too. In the last assembly elections, the Congress failed to win a single seat.

Status Known For 175 out of 175 Constituencies	
Party	Won
YSRCP Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party(YSRCP)	151
Telugu Desam PARTY(TDP)	23
Janasena Party	1
TOTAL	175

- In the Lok Sabha elections too, the YSRCP got 22 seats and the TDP got 3 seats out of 25 seats

Naveen Patnaik takes oath as Odisha CM for 5th term

- Naveen Patnaik took oath as the Chief Minister of Odisha for the fifth time after a decisive victory in the state elections that were held along with national elections. The 72-year-old is the longest-serving chief minister of the coastal state.
- Odisha Governor Prof. Ganeshi Lal administered the oath of office and secrecy to Mr. Patnaik and his twenty councils of ministers. The council of ministers comprises 11 cabinet and nine state rank ministers.

Naveen Patnaik leads Biju Janata Dal back to power for a fifth consecutive term: One of India's most successful chief ministers, Naveen Patnaik, has led the Biju Janata Dal back to power in Odisha for a fifth consecutive term, defying anti-incumbency and bucking the "Modi wave" once again. Odisha, which is never known to vote on caste and religious lines, chose to repose its faith in Patnaik after having him at the helm for 20 years.

Status Known For 146 out of 146 Constituencies	
Party	Won
Biju Janata Dal	112
Bhartiya Janata Party	23
Indian National Congress	9
Communist Party of India (Marxist)	1
Independent	1
TOTAL	146

Pema Khandu to take oath as Arunachal Pradesh CM for 2nd term

Pema Khandu will be sworn-in as the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh for the second time on 29th May. After having a landslide victory in the Assembly elections with 41 seats in the 60-seat house, the BJP held its Legislature Party Meeting in Itanagar.

Mr. Khandu met Governor Dr. BD Mishra and staked claim to form the government.

PS Golay sworn in as Sikkim Chief Minister

- Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) president Prem Singh Tamang, popularly known as PS Golay took oath as the Chief Minister of Sikkim. He was administered the oath by Governor Ganga Prasad at Paljor Stadium in Gangtok. Mr. Golay is not a member of the State Assembly at present as he did not contest the polls. The 51-year-old party chief when he was taking the oath in the Nepali language.
- Former Chief Minister Pawan Kumar Chamling and senior Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF) leaders were conspicuous by their absence at the swearing-in ceremony. The SKM won a slender majority in the 32-member Sikkim Legislative Assembly by bagging 17 seats against 15 won by the SDF.
- The Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) was founded in 2013.
- The PK Chamling government was ousted by the SKM after over 24 years.

Goa celebrates its statehood day

- Goa celebrates its statehood day on 30th May. It was on this day in 1987 Goa became the 25th state of the Indian Union.² It was a Union Territory along with Daman and Diu from December 1961 onwards when Goa was liberated from the colonial rule.
- Once Goa was liberated there was a controversy regarding merging Goa with the neighbouring state of Maharashtra or Mysore. However, an opinion poll of 1967 suggested that Goa, Daman, and Diu be Union Territory.
- Pramod Sawant is the 13th and current Chief Minister of Goa.
- Panaji is the state capital of Goa.
- Mridula Sinha is present Governor of Goa.

Kerala Becomes First Indian State To Tap Into Masala Bond Market

- Kerala became the first state to tap into masala bond market by listing the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB)'s masala bond worth of USD 312 million (Rs 2,150 crore) in London Stock Exchange (LSE)'s International Securities Market (ISM).
- It has a fixed interest rate of 9.723% per annum. The bond issue builds on the Kerala government's focus to get multinational corporations to invest in the state.

Meghalaya Government Approves Setting Up Of Farmers' Commission

- The Meghalaya government has approved setting up of a commission to look into the problem faced by farmers. The proposal was made by the Agriculture Department to set up the Farmers' Commission in line with the resolution passed at the 'farmers' parliament'.
- The 'farmers' parliament', first of its kind in the country, was organised in December 2018 and was attended by scientists, bureaucrats, apart from farmers, to discuss issues related to the agri situation in the state.

Sikkim Statehood Day: 16th May

President Ram Nath Kovind has greeted the people of Sikkim on their statehood day. It was on 16th May 1975 that Sikkim officially merged with the Indian union and became the 22nd state of the country.

Punjab bans Online Food Delivery without Hygiene Rating

- The Punjab government has decided to make it mandatory for all online food aggregators to ensure that food supplied by them should compulsorily have hygiene rating as per Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) guidelines.
- The online food order and door to door delivery mechanism of food supply has created a physical disconnect between consumers and the food maker. Therefore, the onus of ensuring quality of food and that conditions under which food is prepared are hygienic has shifted to the intermediate food delivery mechanism.

- Punjab's Food and Drug Administration has sensitized companies operational in Punjab including Zomato, Swiggy, Uber Eats and Food Panda on the issue and also directed them to get the hygiene rating done of all the food business operators (FBO's) registered with them.
- The terms put forward includes that only those FBO's who are at higher level of hygiene rating (bearing 3 or more smiles), should be allowed to supply food under the online food orders-delivery mechanism.

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 around 9:40 pm due to old-age related ailments followed by respiratory tract infection.
- The great ape was under treatment for the last one year by experts from the College of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry OUAT who were under constant advice of the Orangutan experts from UK and Singapore.

Rajasthan bans Advertisement and sale of e-cigarettes

- The Rajasthan government recently announced its decision to ban production, distribution, advertisement and sale of e-cigarette in the state.
- The congress government in state had promised in its election manifesto during assembly elections 2019 that it will take steps to curb use tobacco among youths.
- The government has banned both online and offline sale, storage, production, distribution and advertisement of e-cigarettes in Rajasthan.
- The decision was announced on occasion of the World No Tobacco Day which is observed on 31 May 2019.

Saudi Arabia lifts export ban on fruits and vegetable from Kerala

- Kerala's fruits and vegetable exporters have heaved a sigh of relief following the lifting of the export ban by Saudi Arabia after the Nipah virus attack last year.

- With the lifting of the embargo, he said Kozhikode airport was alone handling 20 tonnes of fruits and vegetables per day valued at \$50,000 to various destinations in Saudi.
- Kerala ships around 150 tonnes of fruits and vegetables on a daily basis to various gulf countries and of this, the consignment to Saudi alone was 30-40 tonnes.

Maharashtra: Governor promulgates Ordinance for Medical Admission Reservation

- Maharashtra Governor V. Rao has promulgated an ordinance to provide reservation benefits in admissions to Social and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBCs) in medical education in state.
- In May 2019 the Nagpur bench of Bombay High Court has put a stay on the 16% quota offered by state to its Maratha community under SEBC category for admission in 2019's postgraduate medical courses.
- The HC ruled that implementation of this reservation for Maratha community under SEBC quota was "unconstitutional" and thus will not be applicable to post-graduate medical admission process which had already begun.
- This cancelled admissions already given to students under Maratha quota and necessitated fresh admissions.
- Thus the Maharashtra State Reservation for SEBC Amendment and Validation Ordinance, 2019, makes way for 16% reservation for students from Maratha community in current academic year itself.
- It provides reservation of seats for admission in educational institutions of state and appointments in public posts and services under state.

Kerala Assembly to Digitize all its Records

- The Kerala Legislative Assembly recently announced an initiative to digitize all its records and proceedings under its ambitious project called E-Vidhan which enables state legislature to go fully digital and completely paperless.
- The first phase of digitization project is expected to be completed in next 14 months. But for functioning of library and all departments attached to Assembly to go completely paperless, it would take around two years.

- Once the project is completed, all the Assembly proceedings like submission of notice by a member, question and answers, and all the other correspondence and business concerning the Assembly will go paperless.
- It is expected that if Kerala Assembly shifts completely into e-space it will save time as well as printing costs of about Rs.35 crore to Rs.49 crore annually.

Karnataka takes steps to limit weight of School Bags

- Following the order of the Ministry of Human Resource and Development, the government of Karnataka has taken the necessary steps and has issued the guidelines for the school.
- The government has issued guidelines to reduce the weight of schoolbags.
- All schools to take necessary steps to ensure that the weight of a schoolbag is not more than 10% of the child's weight.
- The bag of a student in Class 1 or 2 would weigh no more than 2 kg and the bag can weigh anywhere between 2 and 3 kg for students from Class 3 to 5.
- The prescribed weight increases progressively, with students in Class 9 and 10 allowed carrying bags in the 4-5 kg range.
- Further, students in Classes 1 and 2 should not be given any homework. Schools must set a timetable in advance, which will limit the number of books that have to be brought to class every day. All classwork should be kept in the school itself, either in files or books.
- The third Saturday of every month would be observed as a "No School Bag Day" and on that day, teachers are required to engage students without any books or supplementary materials.
- The suggested activities on No school bag day include field visits, general knowledge clubs, art

classes, indoor and outdoor games, abacus, dance classes, and debates.

Shops and Businesses in Gujarat can now remain Open 24X7

- 'Gujarat Shops and Establishments (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 2019' came into force from May 1. It allows that shops, commercial establishments and businesses running in state can now remain open round the clock (24X7).
- The act was passed by state Assembly in February 2019, but was notified on occasion of Gujarat's foundation day, 1 May 1960
- Now shops and commercial establishments employing less than ten persons will need no registration and those employing more than 10 workers will require one-time registration with no need for annual renewal.
- Working hours for women employees can be only between 6 am and 9 pm. It could be relaxed if after considering safety issues authorities make a written request.
- In Gujarat about seven lakh shops and businesses employ less than ten persons and generate direct employment of about 10-12 lakh persons. As per new law they do not require registration.

Mangaluru Police Gets An All-women Patrol Unit "Rani Abbakka Force"

- Mangaluru City Police has launched an all-women police patrol unit 'Rani Abbakka Force'. The force will cover the malls, beaches, educational institutions, places of religious importance, and the public transport system and handle issues related to eve-teasing and chain-snatching, among others.
- All-women police patrol force has been named after the 16th-century warrior of coastal Karnataka, Queen Abbakka of Ullal near Mangaluru, who fought the Portuguese in the 16th century.

6. ECONOMY AND BANKING

RBI Draft Rules for NBFCs

RBI has put up the draft circular, Liquidity Risk Management Framework for Non-Banking Financial Companies and Core Investment Companies.

New Rules:

LCR: Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) should maintain a liquidity coverage ratio (LCR) in line with banks.

- [The LCR requires banks to hold enough high-quality liquid assets (HQLA) that can be sold to fund banks during a stress scenario.]
- The LCR requirement shall be binding on NBFCs from April 01, 2020.
- The liquidity rules were proposed for all NBFCs.
- But for NBFCs with assets above Rs 5,000 crore and deposit-taking NBFCs, the LCR is mandatory.

HQLA:

RBI has asked the firms to have sufficient High Quality Liquid Asset (HQLA) that would keep them liquid for at least 30 days.

- HQLAs are generally cash or government securities that can be quickly sold in the market to raise cash.
- The minimum HQLAs to be held from April 1, 2020 will be 60% of the LCR.
- But by April 1, 2024, large and deposit-taking NBFCs should have HQLAs of a minimum of 100% of net cash outflows over the next 30 calendar days.

Collaterals:

An NBFC must actively manage its collateral positions, differentiating between encumbered and unencumbered (free of liabilities) assets.

- NBFCs should monitor such assets so that they can be mobilised in a timely manner.
- All NBFCs must have contingency funding plans for responding to severe disruptions.

Liquidity Position:

Firms are to measure their liquidity in a granular manner, measuring as minutely as 1-7 days', 8-14 days', and 15-30 days' period.

- Asset-liability mismatches should not exceed 10-20% in the timeframes running up to a year.

- Liquidity position has to be reported to the RBI, along with the interest rate sensitivity statement.
- Liquidity positions should also be disclosed to the public for investors.
- [Earlier, the RBI also asked large NBFCs to introduce chief risk officers to manage asset-liability mismatches on the books.]
- In addition to the structural and dynamic liquidity needs, a stock approach will also have to be maintained to gauge liquidity needs.
- NBFCs were thus asked to maintain tools that would generate early warning on risk situations.

What is the rationale?

- Since the IL&FS crisis, there has been notable uncertainty in the NBFC market.
- Over the past few months, many NBFCs have not been able to borrow from markets, including banks.
- In this backdrop, the regulatory norms are good for the long-term sustainability of the NBFC sector.
- With the RBI bringing in the guidelines to manage asset-liability mismatches, lenders will get more confidence.
- It ensures that an NBFC has sufficient collateral to meet expected and unexpected borrowing needs.

CBDT has revised Income Tax Rule for Senior Citizens

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has revised the rules applicable in case of filing of Form 15 H, allowing Section 87A rebate.

What is Form 15 H?

- The Form 15 H is a declaration under section 197A (1C) of the Income Tax Act.
- This is to be made by an individual who is of the age of 60 years or more claiming certain incomes without deduction of tax, i.e. TDS.
- The form needs to be submitted to any institution such as a bank.
- It deducts TDS if interest income exceeds Rs 50,000 a year (Rs 40,000 for non-senior citizens).

What is Section 87A?

- Under Section 87A of the Income Tax Act, an assessee, being an individual resident in India, whose total income does not exceed Rs 5 lakh, shall be entitled to a deduction.

- This will be a deduction from the amount of income-tax (as before allowing the deductions) on the total income with which s/he is chargeable for any assessment year.
- The deduction will be an amount equal to 100% of such income-tax or an amount of Rs 12,500, whichever is less.

What is the new rule?

- CBDT has notified that the Form 15H declaration will cover the Section 87A rebate.
- The new rule is applicable for the financial year 2019-20.
- The new rule will benefit those senior citizens whose tax liability will be Nil after allowing rebate under Section 87A.
- This means that if they are able to keep their total taxable income within Rs 5 lakh, they will face no tax and will be eligible to file Form 15H.
- Those who have interest income as the only source of income will stand to benefit from this change.
- The new rule will help reduce the running around for tax refund for those who now become eligible for submission of Form 15 H.

CBDT:

- The Central Board of Direct Taxes is a statutory authority functioning under the Central Board of Revenue Act, 1963.
- CBDT consists of a Chairman and six Members.
- The officials of the Board in their ex-officio capacity also function as a Division of the Ministry dealing with matters relating to levy and collection of direct taxes.

RBI sets up committee on corporate loans

- RBI has constituted a six-member committee on the Development of Secondary Market for Corporate Loans to come up with recommendations to increase the efficiencies of the debt market and aid in the resolution of stressed assets.
- The committee, headed by TN Manoharan, Chairman, Canara Bank, will make recommendations on required policy/regulatory interventions for facilitating the development of the secondary market in corporate loans, including loan transaction platform for stressed assets.

RBI extends timings for RTGS from 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm

- RBI has extended timings for customer transactions in the Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) system to 6:00 pm from 4:30 pm. The new time window for RTGS will come into effect from 01st June 2019.
- The customer is charged a 'time-varying charge' on each outward transaction in addition to the flat processing charge. The fee for transfers between 8 am to 11 am is nil, from 11 am to 1 pm is Rs 2, and from 1 pm to 6 pm is Rs 5. The fee for transfers made after the initial cut off of 6 pm will be Rs 10.
- The initial cut off for customer transactions will be 6 pm and the final cut off for inter-bank transactions will be 7:45 pm. The IDL reversal will take place between 7:45 pm and 8 pm.
- The RTGS is an online fund transfer system, supported by the RBI. The minimum amount for the transaction to be eligible as an RTGS transfer is Rs 2 lakh.

Facebook plans to launch 'GlobalCoin' cryptocurrency in 2020

- Facebook is planning to launch its own cryptocurrency in early 2020, allowing users to make digital payments in a dozen countries. The currency, dubbed GlobalCoin, would enable Facebook's 2.4 billion monthly users to change dollars and other international currencies into its digital coins.
- The coins could then be used to buy things on the internet and in shops and other outlets or to transfer money without needing a bank account.
- Mark Zuckerberg, the founder, and chief executive of Facebook, last month met the governor of the Bank of England, Mark Carney, to discuss the plans.

US Removes India, Switzerland from its currency monitoring list

- The Trump administration removed India from its currency monitoring list of major trading partners, citing certain developments and steps being taken by New Delhi addressing some of its major concerns. Switzerland is the other nation that has been removed from the list.

- However, the list includes China, Japan, South Korea, Germany, Italy, Ireland, Singapore, Malaysia, and Vietnam among others.

Indian Overseas Bank launches 'Bank on Wheels' facility

- Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) has announced that it has launched 'Bank on Wheels' facility in 14 of its lead districts in Tamil Nadu and Kerala, besides Vijayawada. The mobile van facility will enable the public, especially senior citizens, conveniently get door-step banking facility available at identified locations of the lead districts.
- A dedicated banking correspondent will accompany the vehicle with a micro-ATM inside the van to take care of services such as account opening, enrollment of customers in Social Security Scheme, passbook printing, and other financial inclusion activities.

Corporation Bank launches loan scheme for MSME sector

- State-owned Corporation Bank has launched 'SMESuvidha' scheme to provide loans to the GST-registered MSMEs at affordable interest rates. The product is designed as a part of the lender's efforts to improve service and provide the best products to the MSME sector. This is a unique product for GST-registered Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).
- The bank is actively participating in the government's flagship programmes including 'MUDRA' and 'Stand-up India' to provide the much-needed push to the MSME sector.

HDFC Capital Launches 'HeART' To Mentor Real Estate Technology Companies

HDFC Capital Advisors, a wholly-owned subsidiary of HDFC Ltd, launched a new initiative called 'HDFC Affordable Real Estate and Technology Program (HeART)'. It aims to mentor, partner and invest in real estate technology companies that drive innovation and efficiencies within the affordable housing ecosystem.

BSE Launches BSE StAR MF App for Its Mutual Fund Platform

- Leading stock exchange BSE has launched 'BSE StAR MF' app to enable more participation and

help mutual fund distributors process transactions faster.

- As per the BSE, this mobile app supports real-time client registration and paperless transactions, creates and uploads mandate for SIPs, generates the basket of multiple orders, tracks and allows the distributor to analyse his business at his fingertips.

SBI Ties Up With FMCG Arm of the Art of Living

- The State Bank of India (SBI) has announced a strategic partnership with the FMCG arm of The Art of Living – Sri Sri Tattva. FMCG stands for Fast Moving Consumer Goods.
- Under this partnership, YONO users can avail a discount of 15% on the entire range of products offered by Sri Sri Tattva such as food, personal care, healthcare, homeware, BYOGI apparels and Shankara skincare products.

RBI to create a 'Specialised Supervisory and Regulatory Cadre'

- The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) Central Board has decided to create a 'Specialised Supervisory and Regulatory Cadre' within the RBI.
- The decision to create a Specialised Supervisory and Regulatory Cadre within the RBI was taken at the recent two-day meeting of Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) Central Board which was held under the chairmanship of RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das in Chennai. This was the board's 576th Meeting.
- The cadre creation came with a view of strengthening the supervision and regulation of commercial banks, urban cooperative banks and Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs).

India's Overall Exports Registered

Positive Growth Of 1.34% In April 2019

- According to the Ministry of Commerce & Industry data, India's overall exports, combining Merchandise and Services, in April 2019 is estimated to be around 44 billion US dollars with a positive growth of 1.34% over April 2018.
- Overall imports in April, 2019 is estimated to be around 53 billion dollars with a positive growth of 4.5% over the corresponding period of 2018.

- Taking merchandise and services together, overall trade deficit for last month is estimated at around nine billion dollars as compared to around seven billion dollars in the same period in 2018.

WPI Inflation Slides To 3.07% in April

- Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation for April eased to 3.07%, from 3.62% in April 2018. The latest WPI print was also lower than 3.18% recorded in March this year. Build up inflation for the financial year so far was 0.75%, lower than 0.86% in the corresponding period of the previous year.
- The overall WPI print for April was dragged down by a sharp decline in manufactured products (which accounts for two-third weightage in the WPI basket), which came in at a 30-month low of 1.7% (2.16% in March 2019).

RBI releases Vision Document (2019-2021) for e-Payment System

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released a vision document to ensure a more convenient, affordable, quick, safer and secure e-payment system. The RBI's vision document is titled 'Payment And Settlement Systems In India: Vision 2019 – 2021'.
- The vision document is released on a pretext that as per RBI's speculations number of digital transactions in country is expected to increase more than four times to 8,707 crore in December 2021.
- Also, digital payment systems like UPI and IMPS are most likely to register an average annual growth of more than 100%, and NEFT will grow at 40%, over the period of 2019 – 2021.
- Core **Theme** of Vision Document: **Empowering Exceptional E-payment Experience.**

It envisages achieving **“a highly digital and cash-lite society”**. To achieve its **objective** the goal posts of RBI involves 4Cs, namely convenience, confidence, competition and cost-effectiveness.

SIDBI Launched a Pilot Scheme For Fintech NBFCs

- To give a fillip to digital lending, Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has put together a pilot scheme to extend financial assistance of up to Rs10 crore to new-age fintech non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) engaged

in financing small businesses and other income-generating activities.

- SIDBI has set the exposure cap for lending to a single new-age fintech NBFC at 30% of NOF of the new-age fintech NBFC, subject to maximum cap of Rs10 crore. As per the scheme, new-age fintech NBFCs should hold in trust the underlying securities/ receivables on behalf of SIDBI.
- Fintech NBFCs are digital loan companies. They leverage information technology to provide fast and convenient access to funding.

ICICI Bank Joins Hands with Travel

Portal Goibibo

ICICI Bank announced the launch of a co-branded multi-currency card with online travel booking portal Goibibo. The card also includes benefits of up to Rs20,000, including gift vouchers of Rs15,000 from Goibibo. Additionally, customers get 40 paise discount on the currency conversion rate on loading of a minimum of \$1,000.

RBI Slaps Rs1-crore Fine On Nainital Bank

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of Rs1 crore on Nainital Bank for its failure to fully automate the non-performing asset (NPA) identification process, despite specific directions issued in this regard.

IMF bails out cash-strapped Pakistan with a new loan deal

- Following months of negotiations, Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund have reached an agreement, wherein the IMF has agreed to provide the cash-strapped nation with bailout fund worth \$6 billion.
- The agreement is Pakistan's 22nd bailout with the IMF, as the country struggles to deal with its falling economy, triggered by low growth, soaring inflation and mounting debt.

Key Highlights:

- In a televised address recently, Pakistan's finance advisor Abdul Hafeez Sheikh announced that the nation has a \$12 billion gap in its annual payments and it doesn't have the capacity to pay them. Sheikh made the announcement while announcing the new agreement with the IMF.

- Under the new loan deal, Pakistan will receive \$6 billion from the IMF in addition to \$2 to \$3 billion from the World Bank and Asian Development Bank over the next three years.
- The agreement comes weeks after former World Bank official Sheikh was appointed as Pakistan's adviser on finance, following the sudden resignation of Pakistan's Finance Minister Asad Umar.

RBI imposes fines on prepaid payment instrument issuers for violating norms

- The Reserve Bank of India on May 3, 2019 announced that it has imposed penalties on five prepaid payment instrument (PPI) issuers, including Vodafone m-pesa and PhonePe, for violation of regulatory norms.
- The central bank said in a statement that in exercise of the powers vested to it under Section 30 of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, the Reserve Bank of India has imposed monetary penalty on five PPI Issuers for non-compliance of regulatory guidelines.

Key Highlights:

- A penalty of Rs 3.05 crore has been imposed on Vodafone m-pesa and Rs 1 crore each on Mobile Payments, PhonePe, Private and GI Technology.
- A penalty of Rs 5 lakh has also been imposed on Y-Cash Software Solutions.
- Penalties have also been imposed on Western Union Financial Services Inc and MoneyGram Payment Systems Inc, both US firms, for non-compliance of the guidelines.

- While, a penalty of Rs 29,66,959 has been imposed by the RBI on Western Union Financial Services Inc, USA, a penalty worth Rs 10,11,653 has been imposed on MoneyGram Payment Systems Inc, USA.
- The penalty of the two American firms has been imposed by the RBI under the provisions of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, for compounding of the contravention.

NABARD Announces Rs700-cr Venture Capital Fund for Agriculture, Rural Startups

- The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) announced 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-subscription of Rs 200 crore, called as the greenshoe option. The fund will have a high impact as it will provide a boost to investment ecosystem in the core areas of agriculture, food and improvement of rural livelihoods.

7. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

MoU between IIT Guwahati and ISRO

- The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Guwahati has signed a Memorandum of Understanding MoU with The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to set up an IITG-ISRO Space Technology Cell (STC).
- The Space Technology Cell (STC) would be a first of its kind in the North-East region that would augment research and capacity building processes in field of space-technology.
- Through STC IIT Guwahati aspire to partner with ISRO so as to perform cutting edge research that not only caters to socio-economic needs of Northeast ... Northeast but also contribute towards basic research activities of various ISRO projects across India.
- STC is a major milestone for IITG as it gives opportunity to kick start collaborative research activities involving its faculty members and ISRO scientists for short term and long term solutions in areas of challenging space-research problems.
- It would serve as a platform for involving and motivating undergraduate, post graduate (PG) students and research scholars and orienting them towards field of space-research activities.
- The research and development activities always play an important role in shaping our nations progress mainly in realms of science and technology.

NASA unveils schedule for 'Artemis' 2024 Moon mission

- NASA unveiled the calendar for the "Artemis" program that will return astronauts to the Moon for the first time in half a century, including eight scheduled launches and a mini-station in **lunar orbit by 2024**.
- The original lunar missions were named for Apollo – Artemis was his twin sister in Greek mythology, and the goddess of hunting, wilderness, and the Moon.
- Administrator Jim Bridenstine confirmed that Artemis 1 will be an uncrewed mission around the **Moon planned for 2020**.

- Next will come Artemis 2, which will orbit Earth's satellite with a crew around 2022; followed finally by Artemis 3 that will put astronauts on lunar soil in 2024, including the first woman.

ISRO Successfully Launched Earth

Observation Satellite 'RISAT-2B

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully launched the 'RISAT-2B' Satellite from the Sriharikota's, Satish Dhawan Space Centre, SHAR. The Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C46) lifted-off from the First Launch Pad and injected RISAT-2B into an orbit of 556 km, about 15 minutes and 25 seconds after lift-off.
- The RISAT-2B is a radar imaging earth observation satellite, weighing about 615 kg. The satellite is intended to provide services in the field of agriculture, forestry and disaster management. The all-weather, radar imaging satellite has the capability to observe and image the earth from about 500 kms.

Important Abbreviations:

- RISAT- Radar Imaging SATellite.
- ISRO- Indian Space Research Organization.
- RADAR- Radio Detection And Ranging.
- PSLV- Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle.

Historic Move: World Gets Redefined Units of Measurement

- After decades of ground-breaking laboratory works, the world's scientific and technical community, in a landmark and historic decision has unanimously adopted the resolution to redefine four of the seven base units, the kilogram (SI unit of weight), Kelvin (SI unit of temperature), mole (SI unit of amount of substance), and ampere (SI unit of current).
- This decision has now enabled scientists and researchers to base the SI units entirely on fundamental properties of nature, which will ensure their ongoing refinement and improvement for years to come.
- The fundamental constants are invariants of time and space and successfully replaced the artifact based units, and aptly opened up the new era for quantum world by linking all seven base units to fundamental constants/quantum standards.

- The new SI is being implemented worldwide from 20th May 2019 i.e. the World Metrology Day. The World Metrology Day (WMD) is celebrated annually on this very day as the Metre Convention was signed by representatives of seventeen nations on May 20, 1875.

On this occasion, CSIR-NPL also published a book entitled, “Redefined SI Units and Glimpses of NPL Metrological Activities” of almost 100 pages.

WhatsApp confirms ‘Targeted’ Spyware Attack

- WhatsApp, one of the most popular messaging apps in the world with about 1.5 Billion users worldwide confirmed a targeted spyware attack on its platform.
- A security flaw in WhatsApp acted as a vulnerability, which allowed hackers to insert malicious software on user’s phones by calling the target using the app.
- This latest exploit impacts Android devices and Apple’s iPhones, among others. It was discovered by company in early May and WhatsApp quickly attempted to fix it and even rolled out an update within 10 days.
- Such attacks are designed to compromise users data stored on mobile device and thus puts information stored by billions of people at risk.
- WhatsApp is a “secure” communications app as the messages shared on platform are end-to-end encrypted, which means they should only in a readable form on sender or recipient’s device. However, the surveillance software used in spyware would have let an attacker read messages on pot.

Restraint: to protect against potential targeted exploits, WhatsApp encouraged its users to upgrade to latest version of its app, and to also keep their mobile operating system (OS) updated as an added precaution.

NASA: finds Evidence of Water on Ultima Thule

- NASA has found evidence of a unique mixture of water ice, methanol, and organic molecules on Ultima Thule’s surface. This mixture is very different from most icy objects explored previously by spacecraft till date.
- Its scientific name is (486958) 2014 MU69. The words ‘Ultima’ and ‘Thule’ is its nickname. Ultima Thule, is a Greco-Latin term which means a distant unknown world.

- The discoveries made about Ultima Thule are going to advance theories of solar system formation.
- Recently, NASA published first profile of Ultima Thule which reveals details about complex space object.
- The object is a contact binary, with two distinguishable differently shaped lobes. About 36 km long ‘Ultima Thule’ consists of a large (19 km), strangely flat lobe (Nicknamed Ultima) which is connected to a smaller (14 km), somewhat rounder lobe (nicknamed Thule), at a juncture which is called “the neck.” Both bodies seem to be planetesimal aggregates of much smaller building blocks, thus indicate that it could be most primitive object in Solar System.
- In colour and composition, Ultima Thule resembles many other objects found in its area of Kuiper Belt. It is very red even redder even than Pluto (2,400-km wide).

Scientists sequence Asiatic lion’s Genome for the first time

- The scientists from Council of Scientific & Industrial Research’s (CSIR)-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology in Hyderabad, for the first time sequenced the entire genome of Asiatic lion.
- The population of Asiatic lion, an endangered species is very low. At present only 523 animals are found in the Gir forests in Gujarat.
- As per scientist for conservation of Asiatic lions it is crucial to adopt a multi-pronged approach.

About Asiatic Lion:

- They are also known as Indian Lion, and Scientific Name is Panthera Leo Persica.
- IUCN Red List Status: Endangered They are also.
- They are also Listed in Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, in Appendix I of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).
- At present the only home of Asiatic lion is Gir National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary in Gujarat.

Serotonin may help treat Neurological decline

- Researchers at Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Mumbai found new function for stress buster Serotonin. The serotonin may help treat neurological diseases. The results of this study

were published in journal named 'Proceedings of National Academy of Sciences' (PNAS).

- Its chemical name is 5-hydroxytryptamine (5-HT). It is a monoamine neurotransmitter which means, it is a chemical that signals between neurons.
- It is a chemical in brain that makes us calm therefore, an increase in 5-HT may enhance individuals capacity to respond to stress.
- At level of an organism, serotonin is known to be helpful in coping with stress. But, underlying mechanism of its neuro-protective role was unknown.
- It shows that serotonin is involved in generation of new mitochondria (powerhouse of the cell) in neurons, increased cellular respiration and fuel (ATP) in cell.
- So far, Serotonin's newly identified function was only studied in mice and rats. If found to be true in humans, it may have important medical implications like serotonin signalling could be used to prevent mitochondrial abnormalities and neuronal loss. At present, neuronal loss is a major cause of neurodegenerative diseases such as in Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. Besides this, abnormal mitochondrial functions are known to cause or contribute to neuronal death.

SpaceX's Falcon Heavy, World's Most Powerful Rocket, Launches 1st Commercial Mission

- The most powerful operational rocket in the world, SpaceX's Falcon Heavy, launched its first commercial mission from Florida in a key demonstration for billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk's space company in the race to grasp lucrative military launch contracts.
- The 23-story-tall Heavy, which previously launched Musk's cherry red Tesla roadster to space in a 2018 debut test flight, blasted off from Florida's Kennedy Space Center carrying its first customer payload.
- Space X Headquarter: Hawthorne, California, U.S. Founder & CEO: Elon Musk.

99942 Apophis Asteroid Expected to Fly Close to the Earth

- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has predicted that asteroid 99942 Apophis

will fly towards the Earth in ten years. There is no need to worry since the asteroid will be about 31,000km away from the surface of the Earth.

- Since it is relatively rare for such a large object like 99942 Apophis to pass so close to Earth, it will offer scientists around the world a great opportunity to conduct a close-up study of the Apophis' shape, composition and possibly even its interior.
- Asteroid 99942 Apophis was discovered by US astronomers in 2004 and was named after the Egyptian god of chaos and destruction. It is a 370-meter diameter near-Earth asteroid.

Samsung Introduces World's Highest-Resolution Image Sensor

- The South Korean Tech Giant, Samsung Electronics Co unveiled world's highest-resolution image sensor, with 64 megapixels for smartphones. This is a step to meet increasing demand for mobile devices with better image quality.
- Samsung expanded its 0.8-micrometer pixel image sensor (smallest pixel size currently available in global market) lineup by introducing two new 0.8-micrometer pixel image sensors:
 - 64-megapixel ISOCELL Bright GW1 (for advanced handsets)
 - 48-megapixel ISOCELL Bright GM2 (for flagship phones)
- The two image sensors are currently being sampled and its mass production will soon start in second half of 2019.
- In Global market share of Image Sensor shipments, Japan's Sony company accounted for 26.1% of global market in 2018, followed by Samsung's 23.2%.

Science books released by Secretary DST

- Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, Prof. Ashutosh Sharma released four popular science books published by Vigyan Prasar.
- Books were released at a function held at Indian National Science Academy (INSA) in New Delhi.
- The books released were 'Voyage to Antarctica', 'Story of Consciousness', 'An Autobiography of Moon' and 'Sambhu Nath De – The Discovery of Cholera Toxin'.

8. DEFENCE

New version of Akash missile test-fired successfully

- The DRDO successfully test-fired the new version of the Akash surface-to-air defence missile system with a new indigenously-developed seeker in Balasore off the Odisha coast.
- The medium range multi-target engagement capable missile was developed as part of the Integrated Guided-Missile Development Programme (IGMDP) other than Nag, Agni, Trishul, and Prithvi missiles.
- The supersonic missile has a range of around 25km and up to the altitude of 18,000 meters.

IAF's AN-32 Aircraft Certified to Operate on Indigenous Bio-Jet Fuel

- The Indian Air Force's (IAF's) AN-32 aircraft was formally fleet certified to fly on blended aviation fuel which contain up to 10% of indigenous bio-jet fuel.
- The Russian made AN-32 aircraft is IAF's formidable workhorse. It received the approval certificate for flying on blended aviation fuel at the aero-engine test facilities at Chandigarh.
- The indigenous bio-jet fuel was first produced in 2013 by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Indian Institute of Petroleum (CSIR-IIP) lab at Dehradun, but due to lack of test facilities in the civil aviation sector it could not be tested or certified for commercial use on aircraft.
- In last one year IAF undertook a series of evaluation tests and trials with this green aviation fuel. The scope of these evaluation tests and checks was in consonance with international aviation standards. The approval granted is an acknowledgement of meticulous testing using indigenous bio-jet fuel by IAF.
- This indigenous bio-jet fuel is made from Jatropa oil sourced from Chhattisgarh Biodiesel Development Authority (CBDA) and then processed at CSIR-IIP, Dehradun.

Sahara: Hostel for the 'Veer Naris'

- Lt. Governor of Delhi Anil Baijal, inaugurated the Sahara Naval Hostel for the 'Veer Naris' at Vasant Kunj in New Delhi.

- It is a unique Hostel project for Naval Widows or Veer Naris.
- It aims to provide rehabilitation of Naval Widows and their families in period immediately after unfortunate demise of their husbands serving the Indian Navy.
- The Naval Regimental System office has also been co-located at hostel premises for easy onsite assistance to occupants of Sahara Hostel.
- The Hostels are comprised of compact suites equipped with all necessary amenities for dignified living, along with a common Dining Hall and a Community Hall.
- The project is steered by Indian Navy and has been built in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) partnership with National Buildings Construction Corporation (NBCC).
- The hostel addresses a long term need felt towards rehabilitation of Naval 'Veer Naris' and also provides them a safe and secure environment will help them rebuild their lives.

Eligibility: Widows who have completed required period in Government accommodation after demise of their husbands only those are eligible to apply for staying in hostel for a period of one year.

Brahmos Air Missile Successfully

Launched From Su-30 MKI Aircraft

- Indian Air Force 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. Earlier, 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 in November 2017.

Indian Coast Guard Ship Vighraha

Decommissioned

- The Indian Coast Guard ship (ICGS) Vighraha was decommissioned at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. It is a frontline offshore patrol vessel

(OPV). It was commissioned into service on April 12, 1990. It has played an instrumental role in protecting the east coast of India for 29 years of service from 1990 to 2019.

DRDO Successfully Conducts Flight Test of ABHYAS

India successfully conducted the flight test of ABHYAS – High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) from a test range in Odisha. The trial, carried out by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur in Balasore, was tracked by various radars and electro-optic systems.

1st Apache Helicopter Formally Handed Over To IAF

- First AH-64E (I) – Apache Guardian helicopter was formally handed over to the Indian Air Force at Boeing production facility in Arizona, USA. Air Marshal AS Butola, represented the Indian Air Force and accepted the first Apache.
- IAF had signed a contract with US Government and M/s Boeing Ltd in Sep 2015 for 22 Apache helicopters. The first batch of these helicopters is scheduled to be shipped to India by July 2019.

INS Ranjit To Be Decommissioned

- INS Ranjit, an Indian navy destroyer built by erstwhile USSR, is set to be decommissioned. The third of the five Kashin-class destroyers, it was commissioned in 1983 and has rendered service to the Navy for over 36 years.
- The ship will be decommissioned at a solemn ceremony at the Naval dockyard in Visakhapatnam. The ceremony will be attended by personnel who have served onboard the INS Ranjit in the past, and officers and sailors from the commissioning crew.
- INS Ranjit was constructed as Yard 2203 in the 61 Communards shipyard in the town of Nikolev in present-day Ukraine.
- The keel of the ship was laid on June 29, 1977, launched on June 16, 1979, and commissioned as INS Ranjit on September 15, 1983.

Indian Navy Launches 4th Scorpene Class Submarine INS Vela

- The fourth of Indian Navy's stealth Scorpene class Submarines of Project 75, INS Vela 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.

India to Purchase 10 Kamov-31 Choppers from Russia for INR 3,600 cr

Defence ministry has approved the procurement of 10 Kamov Ka-31 Airborne Early Warning and Control helicopters for the Indian Navy. The cost of the deal would be around Rs 3,600 crore and the 10 helicopters would be deployed on the aircraft carriers and warships of the Navy including the INS Vikrant and Grigorovich-class frigates.

Shaheen-II: successfully test-fired by Pakistan

- Pakistan has successfully test-fired a land-based ballistic missile named 'Shaheen-II'. The impact point of missile was in the Arabian Sea.
- On 9 March 2004 Pakistan successfully test fires a medium-range nuclear-capable ballistic missile Shaheen-II from an undisclosed location. Now on 21 May 2019 Pakistan test-fired intermediate-range nuclear-capable ballistic missile which could 2,000 km (1,250 miles).
- The test was conducted to ensure operational readiness of Pakistan Army's Strategic Forces Command.
- Shaheen missile series is named after a Falcon (bird) species that lives in Pakistan's mountains.
- It is a land-based supersonic intermediate-range surface-to-surface guided ballistic missile.
- It is capable of hitting targets up to 1,500-2000 kilometers. Thus is capable of reaching major cities in neighbouring India.

Signed between Assam Rifles and ICG

- The Director Generals of Assam Rifles and Indian Coast Guard signed a 'Affiliation Charter' between 3rd (Naga Hills) Battalion of Assam Rifles and Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Ship 'Shaurya' at a ceremony held at Laitkor, Shillong. It aims to enhance inter-armed forces cooperation between two and utilise each other's assets for training and sports.
- To promote bilateral cooperation between the ICG and Assam Rifles in field of exchange of

information and personnel and to build-up camaraderie for training in sports, adventure and sustainable development.

- This affiliation charted will facilitate the ‘Sentinels of the North East’ (Assam Rifles) to interact with ‘Sentinels of the Seas’ (Indian Coast Guard) on professional as well as social platforms and share their rich experiences and best practices.

India to host Army Scouts Masters

Contest for First Time

- India for the first time will host the ‘Army scouts masters competition’. The event is scheduled to be held between end of July to mid-August 2019, in Jaisalmer City, Rajasthan.
- The Army Scouts Masters Competition is a part of International Army Games steered by Russia. This is the 5th edition of International Army games. India will be a co-host of Army International Scout Masters Competition 2019, which marks first such edition in international competition in which a country is a host as well as a participant.

US Navy’s Chief of Naval Operations visits India

- Chief of Naval Operations of US Navy, Admiral John Michael Richardson is on a three day official tour to India. The tour is scheduled from 12 to 14 May 2019 and during his visit he will meet Indian Navy’s Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Sunil Lanba in New Delhi.
- Admiral John Richardson visit to India is amid rising Chinese influence in Indo-Pacific region. This is part of US strategy of grouping together with like-minded countries like India, South Korea, Australia and Japan to make sure that each Indo-Pacific nation can protect its sovereignty from coercion.
- The visit by US Navy Chief is intended to consolidate bilateral naval relations between India and USA and as well as explore new avenues for naval cooperation between two nations.
- Major issues to be discussed during visit include information exchange, capacity building, operations and exercises, capability enhancement and training interactions.
- The visit emphasizes the importance of information sharing and exchange between two defence partners. This will further strengthen strategic partnership between the Indian Navy and US Navy.

9. PERSONS IN NEWS

Veer Savarkar

Swatantryaveer Vinayak Damodar Savarkar's birth anniversary is being celebrated on 28th May. Born on 28th May in 1883 near Nasik in Maharashtra, Savarkar was popularly called Veer Savarkar. He was a revolutionary who fought against the British Government. On the occasion, a function to pay floral tributes to him will be held in the Central Hall of Parliament House.

Saray Khumalo Becomes 1st Black SA Woman to Conquer Mount Everest

- South African Saray Khumalo has reached the highest point on the planet becoming the first black African woman to scale Mount Everest. This was her fourth attempt at climbing Mount Everest. In a previous attempt in May 2017, Khumalo had to be rescued from Mount Everest by helicopter.
- Mount Everest is the world's highest mountain at its official elevation of 8 848m above sea level. Sir Edmund Hillary and Nepalese Sherpa mountaineer Tenzing Norgay were the first people to reach the mountain's summit on May 29, 1953.

Captain Aarohi Pandit Becomes 1st Woman in World to Cross Atlantic Ocean Solo In a LSA

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). She 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 the following take-off from Wick, Scotland (United Kingdom), with brief stopovers in Greenland and Iceland.

Anil Kapoor Felicitated By European Chambers of Commerce in India

Anil Kapoor was felicitated by Council of European Chambers of Commerce in India and a European Union delegation in Mumbai. He was awarded because of his continuous support in promoting the cause of children's rights. The event also marked the celebration of EU Day 2019 on 17th May. Anil Kapoor, who has been working

in collaboration with Plan India, a child rights organisation, was the guest of honour at the event.

Nepal's Kami Rita scales Mount Everest for Record 23rd time

A 49-year-old veteran Nepali Sherpa named Kami Rita scaled Mount Everest for 23rd time, breaking his own world record. He reached atop the world's highest peak which is 8,850-metres high. He belongs to Thame village of Solukhumbu district in Nepal and yet again successfully climbed Mount Everest from Nepal side breaking his own world record for most summits on the roof of the world.

158th Birth Anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore Observed

- India's first Nobel laureate who reshaped Bengali literature and music, Rabindranath Tagore was also an educationist who started the Vishwa Bharati University in Shantiniketan, and in the process, challenged conventional mores of education. Rabindranath Tagore's birth anniversary is also known as Pochise Boishakh 2019.
- When Tagore was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1913, he became the first non-European to win it. He was awarded the prize after the publication of his acclaimed collection of poems Geetanjali.
- Rabindranath Tagore is the only known person to have written the national anthems for two different countries. He wrote Jana Gana Mana, the national anthem for India, and Amar Sonar Bangla, the national anthem for Bangladesh.

Actress Dia Mirza Selected 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' are 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.

Sunday Times Rich List 2019: Hinduja Brothers tops for 3rd time

According to Sunday Times Rich List 2019, Indian-origin Billionaire Hinduja brothers (Sri and Gopi Hinduja) were named as wealthiest people in the UK continuously for a third time. They topped No. 1 rank with a fortune of 22 billion pounds. Mumbai-born Brothers David and Simon Reuben secured second place with a combined wealth of 18.66 billion pounds. They made fortune in scrap metal, property and carpets. The richest person on 2018's Times Rich List, Sir Jim Ratcliffe, founder of Ineos chemicals firm, slipped to third rank.

Bandana Sets Guinness World Records on Longest Dancing Marathon

A 18-year-old Nepali girl, Bandana danced continuously for 126 hours to set a Guinness World Records on 'Longest Dancing Marathon by an Individual', a feat previously held by an Indian. Bandana beat the record set by Kalamandalam Hemlatha, who danced continuously for 123 hours and 15 minutes in 2011.

Nobel-winning physicist Murray Gell-Mann dies at 89

The Nobel-winning physicist Murray Gell-Mann, died at the age of 89 in New Mexico. He is credited with bringing order to the universe by helping discover and classifying subatomic particles. Gell-Mann was honored with Nobel prize in physics in 1969 for his contributions and discoveries relating to the classification of elementary particles and their interactions.

3 time Formula 1 World Champion Niki Lauda Passes Away

The former Formula One driver and three-time world champion Niki Lauda has passed away at the age of 70. He hailed from Austria. Niki Lauda, who won titles in 1975, 1977 and 1984, was hugely admired, respected and liked within F1.

He won two titles for Ferrari and one for McLaren. He came back from a horrific accident that left him severely burned and injured in 1976. He competed in 171 races and won 25.

I M Pei, the Master Architect Passes Away

- I M Pei, a dominant figure in American architecture for more than three decades who designed the Louvre's crystal pyramid, has passed away. He was 102. Pei's more than 50 projects included the Musee d'Art Moderne in Luxembourg (2006) and the 72-story Bank of China Tower in Hong Kong (1989).
- He was honored with the American Institute of Architects' Gold Medal in 1979; the Grande Medaille d'Or from the Academie d'Architecture de France; and the Presidential Medal of Freedom in the USA.

Padma Shri Awardee Bhojpuri Singer Hiralal Yadav Passes Away

- Padma Shri awardee Bhojpuri vocal artist Hiralal Yadav passed away in Varanasi at the age of 93. Shri Yadav was a well known Bhojpuri folk singer from the 'Birha' genre, which revolves around the separation of a lover from his beloved.
- He received a Padma Shri award, the country's fourth highest civilian award, in January 2019. In 2015, he was felicitated with the Yash Bharti award for his contribution in the field of music.

ITC's longest-serving chairman Y C Deveshwar passes away

- Y C Deveshwar, chairman of ITC group, passed away at the age of 72. One of India's longest-serving corporate chiefs, Y.C. Deveshwar took over as chairman of ITC group in January 1996 when the company was going through its worst crisis. Under Deveshwar's watch, the company battled resistance from key shareholders to its diversification efforts.
- Within two years of taking the helm, Deveshwar was forced to cut losses and get out of the edible oils and financial services business. Within four years of Deveshwar's becoming chairman, ITC was again trying to enter new business segments. It started with stationery products and soon launched others such as food.
- Through two decades of his leadership, ITC's revenue had grown ten-fold—from ₹ 5,200 crore to ₹ 51,500 crore, while shareholder returns grew at a compounded annual rate of 23.3%, the company claimed in its statement to shareholders.

Renowned Economist Baidyanath Mishra Passes Away

Renowned economist Baidyanath Mishra passed away due to old-age related problems. He was 99. Mishra had started his career as a lecturer in Ravenshaw University in Cuttack in 1949. He was vice-chancellor of Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT) from 1981 to 1985. He was also the chairman of the State Planning Board from 1985 to 1990.

NR Madhava Menon, Father of Modern Legal Education, Passes Away

Prof N.R. Madhava Menon, an educationist, scholar, and the pioneering spirit behind modern legal education in India, has passed away. He was 84 years old. Menon was bestowed with the Padma Shri in 2003 for his outstanding contribution to public services.

1st Chronicler of Partition, Prof. Kirpal Singh Passes Away

Prof. Kirpal Singh, the first chronicler of Partition, who started building an archive in 1954, passed away at

95 in Chandigarh. He began his journey in Partition's historiography in 1953 as a young lecturer at Khalsa College, Amritsar.

Paytm President Bhushan Patil Resigns

Bhushan Patil, president at Paytm, has quit the company. Patil, who joined Paytm after a five-year stint with Alibaba, had initially joined the Noida-based company to look after its cross border commerce business. Patil joined Paytm in March 2016.

Tamil Novelist and Sahitya Akademi Awardee Thoppil Mohamed Meeran Passes Away

Noted Tamil novelist and Sahitya Akademi awardee Thoppil Mohamed Meeran, passed away in Pettai, Tamil Nadu. Saaivu Naarkkaali (The Reclining Chair), released in 1995, bagged him the prestigious Sahitya Akademi Award in 1997. In recognition, he received 8 awards including Tamil Nadu Kalai Ilakkiya Perumantram Award in 1992.

10. SPORTS

Lewis Hamilton wins Monaco Grand Prix

- Lewis Hamilton won the Monaco Grand Prix to extend his championship lead over Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas. Hamilton struggled with grip in the latter stages and was under constant pressure from Red Bull's Max Verstappen.
- But Verstappen had earlier picked up a five-second time penalty. So even though he finished just behind Hamilton, Verstappen was fourth overall behind Bottas in third and Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel in second.

Saurabh Chaudhary wins 10m Air Pistol gold; beats own World record

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.

Chaudhary has already secured a berth for the Tokyo Olympics. This is India's second Gold in the championship.

China beat Japan to win 2019 Sudirman Cup

- China won the badminton world mixed-team championship, Sudirman Cup 2019 in Nanning, China. They beat Japan in men's doubles, women's singles and men's singles to clinch the title for the 11th time.
- In the latest Men's singles match, Shi Yuqi stunned world champion Kento Momota 15-21, 21-5, 21-11. Japan have never won the Sudirman Cup.

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

- 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.

India bags 57 medals at India Open International tournament

- 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. The London Olympic bronze medallist blew away the challenge of Vanlal Duati in a facile 5-0 win.
- This was Mary's second gold in the tournament, having won in 48 kg last year in the capital. On the other hand, Deepak defeated Govind Kumar in 49 kg final while in 52 kg category- Amit Panghal defeated Sachin.

Brooks Koepka Returns To World No. 1 after 4th Major Title

An American professional golfer Brooks Koepka (of USA) returned to the top of the world rankings after his nerve-jangling second straight US PGA Championship victory at Bethpage Black. The 29-year-old American has now won four major titles in his last eight starts and is the first man to ever hold back-to-back titles in two majors at the same time.

Double Olympic Biathlon Champion Dahlmeier Retires Aged 25

Germany's double Olympic biathlon champion Laura Dahlmeier announced her retirement at the age of just 25 after struggling with health issues. She has won seven world championship gold medals, and in 2018 in Pyeongchang, she became the first female biathlete to win both the sprint and the pursuit at the same Olympics.

BFA Launches 2 New Formats Of Game, AirBadminton & Triples

- The world body governing Badminton, BFA, has launched two new formats of the game AirBadminton and Triples with new dimensions of the court and an innovative shuttlecock called Airshuttle. Traditional competitive badminton has been an indoor game.
- AirBadminton will be outdoor sports. In Triples format, the match will be played between a team of three players each with the presence of at least one female. India's top shuttlers have endorsed AirBadminton.

Italian Open 2019

The 2019 Italian Open was a professional tennis tournament played on outdoor clay courts in Rome, Italy. It was the 76th edition of the Italian Open. Rafael Nadal was the winner in Men's singles category while Karolina Pliskova won the Women's singles title.

Here is the complete list of winners of 2019 Italian Open:

Sl. No.	Event	Winner	Runner-Up
1.	Men's singles	Rafael Nadal (Spain)	Novak Djokovic (Serbia)
2.	Women's singles	Karolina Pliskova (Czech Republic)	Johanna Konta (United Kingdom)
3.	Men's doubles	Juan Sebastián Cabal and Colombia Robert Farah (Colombia)	Raven Klaasen (South Africa) and Michael Venus (New Zealand)
4.	Women's doubles	Victoria Azarenka (Belarus) and Australia Ashleigh Barty	Anna-Lena Grönefeld (Germany) and Demi Schuurs (Netherlands)

China to Host 2023 Asian Cup Football Tournament

China has become the sole contender to host Asian Cup Football tournament in 2023 after South Korea has announced to withdraw its bid to host the game. The Korea Football Association (KFA) announced 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.

ICC World Cup 2019: USD 10 million On Offer, Winner To Earn 4 million

Ten million US Dollars or a little more than 70 crore rupees are on offer in the upcoming ICC men's cricket World Cup 2019. The 46-day tournament will be played across 11 venues in the United Kingdom from 30th of May.

- Besides a trophy, the World Cup winner will earn a cash award of 4 million US dollars (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.
- 2015 World cup was held jointly in Australia and New Zealand.
- Australia (5th title) was the champion team.
- New Zealand team was runner up.

India's GS Lakshmi Becomes 1st Ever Female ICC Match Referee

- India's GS Lakshmi has become the first ever woman to be appointed to the ICC International Panel of Match Referees and will be eligible to referee international games with immediate effect.
- The 50-year-old first officiated as a match referee in domestic women's cricket in 2008/09. Lakshmi has overseen three women's ODI matches and three women's T20I matches.
- The first woman on the ICC Development Panel of Umpires was Kathy Cross, who retired in 2018.

Asia-Pacific Diamond Cup Golf 2019

India's Rahil Gangjee finished tied 39th while Viraj Madappa ended tied 53rd at the Asia-Pacific Diamond Cup Golf 2019 held in Japan. Japan's Yosuke Asaji won the Asia-Pacific Diamond Cup 2019 at the Sobu Country Club.

Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton Wins Spanish Grand Prix

Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton won the Spanish Grand Prix in Barcelona, Spain and rose to the top of the Formula One world championship. Mercedes' V. Bottas finished second, while Red Bulls' M. Verstappen finished third.

Manchester City Wins Premier League Title 2019

- Manchester City clinched their fourth Premier League title (football) after winning the 2018-19 season. Manchester City registered a 4-1 victory against Brighton to accumulate 98 points, while Liverpool, who were also in the title race, finished second with 97 points.

- Dominant Manchester City have successfully retained their Premier League title on the final day of an exhilarating 2018-19 campaign. Manchester City also lifted the trophy in 2011-12, 2013-14 and 2017-18. They are the first team to win back-to-back titles since Manchester United in 2009.

Sana Mir Becomes Highest Wicket-Taking Spinner in ODI

Pakistan off-spinner Sana Mir has become the most successful women's ODI spinner in history after she took her 147th wicket, highest ever by any spinner in One-day International (ODI) cricket. Currently, Mir is placed on the third position in the ICC's ODI bowling ranking, which is topped by Indian pacer Jhulan Goswami.

World's 1st Exclusive Women's Cricket Magazine 'Criczone' Released

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.

It is a one-stop solution, exclusively dedicated to providing updates, articles, news, interviews, etc. from the world of women's cricket. Publisher of the magazine is Yash Lahoti.

Mumbai Indians to Win IPL 2019

Mumbai Indians became IPL champions for the fourth time after defeating Chennai Super Kings by one run in a thrilling final in Hyderabad. Last ball dismissal of Shardul Thakur by pacesman Lasith Malinga registered a final win for Mumbai over Chennai. Chasing a victory target of 150 set by Mumbai, Chennai Super Kings were restricted to 148 for 7 in stipulated 20 overs.

- Kieron Pollard top-scored with his unbeaten 41-run knock. For Chennai, Deepak Chahar accounted for three batsmen. 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.
- The winner of the Indian Premier League (IPL) got prize money of Rs 20 crore while the runner-up received Rs 12.5 crore.

Let's have a look at some interesting Statistics of IPL 2019:

- **Orange Cap:** David Warner of Sunrisers Hyderabad scored most runs: 692 Runs in 12 Matches.
- **Purple Cap:** Imran Tahir of Chennai Super Kings took most wickets: 26 Wickets in 17 Matches.
- Jonny Bairstow of Sunrisers Hyderabad Highest Individual Score: 114 Runs.
- IPL 2019's Emerging Player of the Year award: KKR's Shubman Gill.
- Andre Russel of the KKR hit the most sixes i.e. 52 in the IPL 2019.
- Shikhar Dhawan of the Delhi capitals has hit the most fours (64) in the IPL tournament 2019.
- Highest score (236 runs) in IPL was made by the Delhi capital team in IPL 2019.
- Mumbai Indians win the 4th title (most title by any team) of the IPL.
- Chennai Super Kings (CSK) is the only team which have lost five IPL finals.
- Mahendra Singh Dhoni is the only captain in the IPL who have played most IPL finals i.e. 8 finals.
- Virat Kohli and Suresh raina are the only two players in the IPL history who have scored more than 5000 runs in the IPL so far. Kohli has made 5412 runs while Raina has made 5368 runs.
- Sri Lankan Lasith Malinga has taken highest wickets (170) in the IPL history followed by the Indian bowler Amit Mishra who has taken 157 wickets so far.
- The 2019 season of the Indian Premier League was **12 season of the IPL**

Madrid Open 2019

The 2019 Madrid Open (sponsored by Mutua) is a professional tennis tournament played on outdoor clay courts at the Park Manzanares in Madrid, Spain. It was the 18th edition of the event on the ATP World Tour and 11th on the WTA Tour.

Here is the complete list of winners of 2019 Madrid Open:

Sl. No.	Event	Winner	Runner-Up
1.	Men's singles	Novak Djokovic (Serbia)	Stefanos Tsitsipas (Greece)
2.	Women's singles	Kiki Bertens (Netherlands)	Simona Halep (Romania)
3.	Men's doubles	Jean-Julien Rojer (Netherlands) and Horia Tecau (Romania)	Diego Schwartzman (Argentina) and Dominic Thiem (Austria)
4.	Women's doubles	Hsieh Su-wei (Chinese Taipei) and Barbora Strýcová (Czech Republic)	Gabriela Dabrowski (Canada) and Xu Yifan (China)

Amul to Sponsor Afghanistan in 2019 World Cup

- Amul has been announced as the principal sponsor of the Afghanistan cricket team for the upcoming World Cup, slated to be held in England and Wales from May 30.
- The logo of brand Amul will appear on the leading arm of the Afghanistan team playing jerseys as well as on the training kits throughout the showpiece event.

Indian Boxers Win 6 Medals at 36th Feliks Stamm International Boxing

- Indian boxers finished with a rich haul of six medals, including two gold at the 36th Feliks Stamm International Boxing Tournament in Warsaw, Poland. Gaurav Solanki and Manish Kaushik bagged one gold each. Indian boxers also clinched a silver and three bronze.
- The 22-year-old Solanki out-punched England's William Cawley 52 kilogram on his way to the coveted yellow metal. In 60-kilogram weight category, Kaushik beat Morocco's Mohamed Hamout.

Saurav Ghoshal & Joshna Chinappa Win Asian Individual Squash Championship Titles

- Ace Indian squash players Saurav Ghoshal and Joshna Chinappa won their respective Asian Individual Squash Championship titles in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Saurav Ghoshal defeated Leo Au Chun Ming of Hong Kong.
- Joshna Chinappa, on the other hand, retained her title as she beat top seed Annie Au of Hong Kong in the women's final event. Ghoshal who had become the first Indian male player to reach the top 10 of the world rankings is the finalist of the previous edition.

Asian Wrestling Championship 2019

India wrapped up their campaign at the Asian Wrestling Championships on a resounding note with 16 medals after Harpreet Singh settled for a silver in 82kg on the final day of competitions. Only Bajrang Punia won the gold medal after defeating Kazakhstan's Sayatbek Okassov by 12-7 in 65kg men's freestyle. Asian Wrestling Championship 2019 was held at Xi'an, China.

Here is the List of Top 3 Countries in the Medal Tally:

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Iran	11	0	6	17
2	China	5	5	6	16
3	Japan	4	7	6	17
8	India	1	6	9	16

Jaipur to Host Asian Youth Women Handball Championship

- Jaipur will host the 8th Asian Youth Women Handball Championship in which 10 teams will be participating. It will be played in August 2019. Earlier Delhi had hosted it in 2015 where the hosts India had finished 7th.
- The previous edition in 2017 was held at Jakarta in Indonesia where South Korea was the champion while Japan and China were placed second and third respectively.

Dominic Thiem Wins Barcelona Open 2019

Dominic Thiem (Austria) won the Barcelona Open 2019 after defeating Daniil Medvedev (Russia). The Austrian became just the fourth player in the past 15 years to lift the title in Barcelona, joining Rafael Nadal, Kei Nishikori and Fernando Verdasco. Dominic Thiem is also the first Austrian winner at this event since Thomas Muster in 1996. Thiem now has 13 ATP Tour titles, nine of which have come on clay.

Spain Football Legend Xavi Hernandez has Announced Retirement

- Spain and Barcelona legend Xavi Hernandez has announced that he will retire from professional football at the end of the current season. Xavi Hernandez spent 14 years in Barcelona, where he won 35 trophies, including 8 La Liga titles, before moving to Qatari club Al-Sadd.
- He is widely considered to have been one of the most crucial players to Spain's success in the 2008 and 2012 Euros and the 2010 World Cup. He was named among Europe's 11 best players for 5 straight years between 2008 and 2012 and made it to the world's top 11 for 6 years in a row from 2008-2013.

11. AWARDS AND HONOURS

ICMR head wins Dr. Lee Jong-wook Prize for Public Health

- Professor Balram Bhargava, Director General of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) jointly won the 2019 Dr Lee Jong-wook Memorial Prize for Public Health at the 72nd World Health Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland.
- He won the award for his achievements as an innovator, clinician, researcher and trainer.
- Dr Lee Jong-wook Memorial Prize for Public Health was established in 2008
- It is an annual award which is conferred at a special ceremony held during the World Health Assembly.
- Cash Prize: It consists of a plaque from Founder and a sum of money which will not exceed US\$ 100 000.

Indian Writer Annie Zaidi Wins USD 100,000 Global Book Prize 'Nine Dots'

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

Sri Lankan writer Guy Gunaratne wins Swansea University International Dylan Thomas Prize 2019

- Sri Lankan writer Guy Gunaratne was announced as the winner of 2019's Swansea University International Dylan Thomas Prize and received the winning prize sum of £30,000.
- He won the award for his debut novel '**In Our Mad and Furious City**'.
- He is a 35 years old British-Sri-Lankan human rights documentary filmmaker, turned debut novelist. He won over 5 other shortlisted authors.

- While working as a journalist and documentary filmmaker he has covered human rights stories from around world.
- In Our Mad and Furious City: is his debut novel and is a fictional account of 48 hours (2 days) in a North London housing estate after murder of a British soldier.
- The book was shortlisted for The Gordon Burn Prize, The Goldsmiths Prize and the Writers Guild Awards and also longlisted for The Man Booker Prize 2019.
- Swansea University International Dylan Thomas Prize was awarded every year for the best published literary work in English language, written by an author aged 39 or under.

Horticulture award for TNAU V-C

N Kumar, Vice-Chancellor of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University has been conferred the lifetime recognition award by the Confederation of Horticulture Association of India. The award has been conferred for his outstanding contribution in the field of horticulture and academic leadership focussed on human resource development in agriculture.

Bharti AXA Bags Claims Excellence Award

Bharti AXA Life Insurance, a private life insurer, has been conferred with the FICCI Claims Excellence Award. The recognition comes for its customer-friendly claims services in the life insurance sector. The insurer improved its individual claim settlement ratio, the number of claims paid to the number of claims received, to 96.85% in the financial year 2017-18.

Patanjali MD Balkrishna has received UNSDG Influential People in Healthcare Award

The 'UNSDG 10 Most Influential People in Healthcare Award' was received by Acharya Balkrishna, Managing Director (MD,) of Patanjali Ayurved Limited on behalf of India's Patanjali Group of Institutions in Geneva, Switzerland. He is a close aide of Baba Ramdev, renowned Yoga guru.

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, 'Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star'.
- He will be conferred with this award for his contributions to strengthen the strategic ties and enhancing mutual understanding between India and Japan.
- Saran, who was India's Foreign Secretary during 2004-2006, has played an important role to elevate Japan-India relationship to the strategic partnership.
- The Order of the Rising Sun' is a Japanese government honour established in 1875 by Emperor Meiji.

Oman Author Jokha Alharthi Wins Booker International Prize

- An author from Oman, Jokha Alharthi 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.
- The prize is a counterpart to the Man Booker Prize for English-language novels and is open to books in any language that has been translated into English.

Indian Peacekeeper To Be Honoured Posthumously By UN

- Police Officer Jitender Kumar, an Indian peacekeeper is among the 119 military, police and civilian personnel who will be honoured with a prestigious UN medal 2019 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 Hammarskjold Medal as the world organisation observes the International Day of UN Peacekeepers.
- India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin. India is the fourth

largest contributor of uniformed personnel to the UN peacekeeping.

Indian Charity sets Guinness Records for holding Longest Iftar

- PCT Humanity, a charity run by an Indian named Joginder Singh Salaria in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), sets a new Guinness World Records for 'Longest Line of Hunger Relief Package' in Abu Dhabi.
- Indian expat Joginder Singh Salaria is the founder of PCT Humanity, which set the Guinness world record with Iftar distribution. The PCT stands for Pehal Charitable Trust.
- The Hunger Relief Package efforts were in continuation to vegetarian iftar which is held daily by PCT Humanity at premises of Salaria's company Pehal International in Dubai Industrial Park, Abu Dhabi.
- PCT Humanity's record-breaking Iftar line contained seven meal items spread in a line without keeping any gap which continued for about a kilometre in length.
- The charity was held for hunger relief efforts during the Muslim's holy month of Ramzan.

Nancy Pelosi: receives JFK Profile in Courage Award 2019

- The USA's House of Representatives (lower house of US) Speaker Nancy Pelosi was honoured with 2019 John F Kennedy Profile in Courage Award.
- She has served in House of Representatives since 1987. She was recognized for putting national interest above her party's interest, for her efforts to pass former President Barack Obama's 2010 health care law (Obama Care) and also for helping Democrats reclaim control of U.S. House during 2018 elections.

Previous Honorees: former Presidents Barack Obama, Gerald Ford and prominent lawmakers Rep. John Lewis and late Sen. John McCain.

- The award was presented at John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Boston.
- It is an annual award that was created in 1989 by members of President J.F. Kennedy's family.
- John F Kennedy was the 35th president of United States. His served from January 1961 till his assassination in November 1963.

UNDRR Confers Dr P.K. Mishra with Sasakawa Award 2019

- 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.
- The United Nations Sasakawa Award is the most prestigious international award in the area of Disaster Risk Management.

Indian Short Film Wins Nespresso Talents Award in Cannes

- Indian filmmaker, Achyutanand Dwivedi's film, "Seed Mother", won the third prize in the

international section of Nespresso Talents 2019 in Cannes.

- The three-minute film celebrates the exceptional spirit of Rahibai Soma Popere, a woman who champions the use of local seeds and traditional methods of farming in villages of Maharashtra.
- This year's theme was 'We Are What We Eat', aimed at exploring the world, experiencing diversity, and sharing experiences and knowledge through food.
- The Nespresso 2019 first prize in the international section was won by New Zealand's Josh Morrice for "Subak", about rice cultivation in Bali.
- CEAT Cricket Rating Awards 2019
- CEAT Cricket Rating (CCR) Awards 2019 were announced in Mumbai. India captain Virat Kohli bagged the International Cricketer and Batsman of the Year award during the CCR International awards. Pacer Jasprit Bumrah was adjudged as International Bowler of the Year.

Here is the complete list of winners of CEAT Cricket Rating Awards 2019:

Sl. No.	Category	Winner
1.	International Cricketer and Batsman of the Year	Virat Kohli
2.	International Bowler of the Year	Jasprit Bumrah
3.	International Test Cricketer of the Year	Cheteshwar Pujara
4.	International ODI Cricketer of the Year	Rohit Sharma
5.	International T20 Player of the Year	Aaron Finch
6.	Outstanding Performance of the Year	Kuldeep Yadav
7.	International T20 Bowler of the Year	Rashid Khan
8.	Lifetime Achievement Award	Mohinder Amarnath
9.	Domestic Player of the Year	Ashutosh Aman
10.	International Woman Cricketer of the Year	Smriti Mandhana
11.	Junior Cricketer of the Year	Yashasvi Jaiswal

IPS Officer Chhaya Sharma Receives McCain Institute Award

- 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.
- The award is given to those who show courage on behalf of human rights, humanitarian compassion, justice, freedom, and human dignity.
- Some of the famous awardees of McCain Institute Award are – Malala Yousafzai (2015) and Dikembe Mutombo (2016).

Actress Anne Hathaway Receives Star on Hollywood Walk Of Fame

- Oscar-winning actress Anne Hathaway was honoured with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in Los Angeles, US.

- The Hollywood Walk of Fame comprises more than 2,600 five-pointed terrazzo and brass stars embedded in the sidewalks along 15 blocks of Hollywood Boulevard and three blocks of Vine Street in Hollywood, California.

G D 'Robert' Govender Conferred With V K Krishna Menon Award

- GD '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 during an event to mark the 123rd birth anniversary of the Indian diplomat and politician V K Krishna Menon. During a career spanning nearly 60 years, Govender developed a reputation as a campaigning journalist and author.

Israel Honoured 1971 Bangladesh

Liberation War Hero Lt. Gen JFR Jacob

- Israel honoured Lt. Gen. (ret'd) Jack Farj Rafael (JFR) Jacob, who negotiated the historic surrender of Pakistani troops in Dhaka after the 1971 Bangladesh's liberation war, with a plaque on the Wall of Honour at the Ammunition Hill.
- Lt. Gen. Jacob, who passed away in 2016 at the age of 92, was one of the most prominent members of India's relatively small Jewish community, serving as a Lieutenant General in the Indian Army and later as a Governor of two Indian states-Goa and Punjab.
- The Wall of Honour at the Ammunition Hill pays tributes to the heroism and courage of Jewish soldiers who fought in the defence of their countries they lived in "implementing values of bravery, loyalty, commitment and dedication to a mission, leadership, creativity, camaraderie, and sanctity of life".

Indian student Trio won 2nd prize in

Microsoft's Imagine Cup World

Championship

- The 'Team Caeli' from India comprising of three Indian students namely Bharat Sundal, Aakash Bhadana and Vasu Kaushik emerged as First Runner-up (second position) in Microsoft's Imagine Cup World Championship final held in Seattle, US. The trio won for developing "Caeli", which is

world's first smart automated anti-pollution and drug delivery mask.

- It is precisely designed for asthmatic and chronic respiratory patients.

Features: It is a sleek, portable, easy to fit/carry inside pocket nebulizer and customized mask. Its drug doses can be scheduled through app.

- For this innovation team has earlier won first position in Asia Regional Final contest held in Sydney in February 2019.
- Microsoft's Imagine Cup World Championship Winner for 2019 was Team EasyGlucose from United States won. They won for their Deep Learning non-invasive blood glucose level monitor.

Nileena M. S authored Article 'Coalgate 2.0' wins Asian College of Journalism's Award for Investigative Journalism, 2018

- Article titled 'Coalgate 2.0', authored by Nileena M. S. and published in March 2018 issue of 'The Caravan' magazine, won Asian College of Journalism's Award for Investigative Journalism, 2018.
- The article investigates allotment of 'captive coal blocks' in Parba East and Kanta Basan regions of Chhattisgarh.
- It explores deforestation, re locations of people, loss of livelihood, and denial of forest rights to tribals.
- It is an excellent example of investigative journalism in field of financial reporting.
- ACJ Award for Investigative Journalism is instituted by Asian College of Journalism, with support of Media Development Foundation.
- It recognises and encourage best works of investigative journalism produced for Indian readers, viewers and audiences in order to promote journalism in public interest.
- It is an award for Print and online/ digital/ multimedia (newspapers, magazines, websites and others) portals or platforms.
- It comprises of trophy, a citation and a cash prize of Rs.2,00,000 (rupees two lakhs).

Criteria: The piece should be solid work of investigative journalism, combined with extensive research uncovering new evidence to reveal a truth, hitherto unknown to most, and must be of essential public interest.

12. REPORTS, INDICES AND RANKINGS

India moves up to 43rd in competitiveness; Singapore tops chart

India has moved up one place to rank 43rd most competitive economy in the world on the back of its robust economic growth, a large labour force and its huge market size, while Singapore has topped the US to grab the top position, a global study showed.

Singapore has moved up to the top, from the third position last year, while the US has slipped to the third place in the 2019 edition of the IMD World Competitiveness Rankings. Hong Kong SAR has held onto its second place, helped by a benign tax and business policy environment and access to business finance.

FICCI survey forecasts India's GDP growth at 7.1% for FY20

The country's median GDP is forecast at 7.10 percent for Financial Year 2020 and 7.20 percent for Financial Year 2021. The industry body FICCI's economic outlook survey stated that the minimum and maximum growth estimate stood at 6.80 per cent and 7.3 percent for 2019-20.

The survey was conducted in May 2019 among economists belonging to the industry, banking, and financial services sectors. Inflation is expected to remain moderate and the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) based inflation rate is projected at 3.1 percent in 2019-20, while, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) based inflation has a median forecast of 4 percent for 2019-20. India's Economy to Grow 7.5% by 2020:

OECD Report

As per the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) Economic Outlook, India's economic growth will regain strength and approach 7.5% by 2020 buoyed by rural consumption and subdued inflation.

As per the report, Gross domestic product (GDP) growth in India is projected to strengthen to close to 7.25% in FY19. This growth will come from higher domestic demand due to improved financial conditions, fiscal and quasi-fiscal stimulus, including new income support measures for rural farmers, and recent structural reforms.

Kids Right Index 2019: India Ranks 117, Iceland Tops

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. Iceland secured the top position in the index followed by Portugal.

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.

GSI Report: Arunachal Has Highest 35% of India's Graphite Deposits

The Geological Survey of India (GSI) in its report revealed that about 35 % of India's total Graphite reserves are found in Arunachal Pradesh. This is the highest found in the country. GSI has been suggested to move the survey and drilling activities towards the India-China border considering that China is reportedly undertaking huge mining activities in Tibet.

Geological Survey of India (GSI) was founded in 1851 with primarily goal of finding coal deposits for the Railways. It is an attached office to the Ministry of Mines and it is Headquartered in Kolkata. Graphite is the most stable allotrope of Carbon, with standard entropy being zero.

Nilekani Panel on Digital Payments submits report to RBI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) appointed committee on 'suggestions on promoting digital payment' has submitted its report to RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das. The committee was headed by Nandan Nilekani, also known as Aadhaar Architect.

The panel was tasked to review existing status of digitisation of payments in India, identify current gaps in ecosystem and suggest ways to bridge them. It also assessed current levels of digital payments in financial inclusion.

It undertook cross country analyses with a view of identifying best practices which can be adopted in India so as to accelerate digitisation of economy and financial inclusion through greater use of digital payments.

RBI will examine recommendations given by committee and will link action points, wherever required and necessary, in its 'Payment and Settlement Systems in India: Vision 2019 – 2021' for implementation.

The Payment Systems Vision 2021 was recently released by RBI. It seeks to ensure a secure, safe, quick, affordable and convenient, e-payment system with aim of making India a 'cash-lite' society.

World-Air Help Report

Global air passengers right expert Airhelp came out with the list of world's best airports and Hyderabad Rajiv Gandhi International airport was ranked the world's eighth best airport.

The survey takes into account on-time performance, service quality and food & shops to determine the ranking.

The top 3 airports in the list of world's best airports as per Airhelp are:

1. Qatar's Hamad International Airport, Qatar
2. Tokyo International Airport, Japan
3. Athens International Airport, Greece

RBI data on Debit Card Swipes

According to the RBI data, in Mar 2019, the total number of financial transactions done by people using their debit cards increased by 15%. Also, the financial transactions done by the debit cards at POS terminals increased by 27% compared to March 2018. In actual terms, the total number of financial transactions done by people using their debit cards at ATMs stood at 891 million for the month of March, increased by 15%, against 775 million in March 2018.

Jio GigaFiber Tops Netix ISP Index

The Netix ISP Index is a measure of Netix Prime Time performance on particular internet service providers. This is what sets this test from Netix apart from other tests which calculate the performance of ISPs on different parameters. Now, Netix has released the ISP Index report for April and Reliance Jio GigaFiber is leading the chart for the eight consecutive time.

13. SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES

S.No	NAME OF THE SUMMIT&CONFERENCE	VENUE
01.	5th Smart Cities India 2019 Expo	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 (MoUHUA) at the Pragati Maidan, New Delhi . Organised by India Trade Promotion Organization
	Taiwan Expo 2019	Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA) is organizing Taiwan Expo 2019 for the second time from May 16 to 18, 2019 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi under commission by the Bureau of Foreign Trade of the Ministry of Economic Affairs.
02.	17th Investiture Ceremony of BSF	National Security Advisor Ajit Doval was addressing 17th Investiture Ceremony of Border Security Force, BSF in New Delhi .
03.	SCO Meeting Of Council Of Foreign Ministers	The meeting of Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic on 21-22 May 2019
04.	TAPI Pipeline Meeting	The Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline meeting was held in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan .
05.	Conference on Dialogue of Asian Civilizations	China will be hosting a Conference on Dialogue of Asian Civilizations in Beijing , from 15 May to 22 May 2019. Theme: “exchanges and mutual learning among Asian civilizations and a community with a shared future”.
06.	3rd India-Botswana Foreign Office Consultations	The third round of Foreign Office Consultations between India and Botswana was held in New Delhi .
07.	11th India-Iran Joint Consular Committee Meeting	The 11th Joint Consular Committee Meeting between India and Iran took place in New Delhi .
08.	WTO Ministerial Meeting of Developing Countries	WTO Ministerial meeting of developing countries was held in New Delhi . Sixteen developing countries, Six Least Developed Countries (LDC) (Argentina, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Brazil, Central African Republic, Chad, China, Egypt, Guatemala, Guyana, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Malawi, Malaysia, Nigeria, Oman, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, Uganda) and DG, WTO participated in the meeting.

09.	2020 Ocean Conference	United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) decided to hold its 5-day long 2020 high-level conference early June in Portugal's Lisbon .
10.	Meeting of Regional Heads of Customs Administration of Asia Pacific Region of WCO	Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has organised a 2-Day meeting of the Regional Heads of Customs Administration of Asia Pacific Region of the World Customs Organisation (WCO) in Kochi . This meeting was chaired by Mr Pranab Kumar Das, Chairman, CBIC.
11.	15th Finance Commission's Meeting	The 15th Finance Commission headed by Chairman, N.K. Singh held a detailed meeting with the Governor and Deputy Governors of RBI in Mumbai . Key issues raised by RBI Governor, Shaktikanta Das and Finance Commission Chairman, N.K. Singh were discussed in detail at the meeting.
12.	IBSA Sherpas Meet	The IBSA (India, Brazil & South Africa) Sherpas' Meeting, following the 9th IBSA Trilateral Ministerial Meeting, was held in Cochin . Secretary (Economic Relations) in the Ministry of External Affairs, Mr. T.S. Tirumurti led the Indian delegation.
13.	G7 Environment Ministers Meet	The G7's (Group of Seven) Environment Ministers gathered for a 2-day meeting in Metz, France to discuss on steps required to handle deforestation, plastic pollution, depletion of coral reefs and ways to build pacts between the countries in order to achieve the target.
14.	Cannes Film Festival	One of the most prestigious international events from the world of cinema, the Cannes Film Festival has begun in France . For Cannes 2019, Mexican filmmaker Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu has been named the jury president.
15.	16th Ministerial Meeting of Asia Cooperation Dialogue	The 16th Ministerial Meeting of Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) was held in Doha, Qatar . Gen. (Dr) V.K. Singh (Retd), Minister of State for External Affairs led the Indian delegation. The theme of the meeting was "Partners in Progress
16.	Joint meetings of Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam conventions	The 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to Basel Convention (COP 14) was held along with the 9th meeting of the COP to Rotterdam Convention and the 9th meeting of the COP to Stockholm Convention in Geneva, Switzerland , from 29 April to 10 May 2019.

14. APPOINTMENTS

S.No	Name	Appointed as
01.	Vice Admiral Karambir Singh	Appointed As India's New Navy Chief
02.	Muhammadu Buhari	Sworn In As Nigeria's President, For his Second Term
03.	James Marape	Elected As New Papua Guinea Prime Minister
04.	Cyril Ramaphosa	Re-elected as President of South Africa
05.	Justice Aniruddha Bose, Justice A S Bopanna, Justice B R Gavai and Justice Surya Kant.	4 Judges Elevated To Supreme Court of India
06.	Volodymyr Zelenskiy	Sworn In As Ukraine's New President
07.	Joko Widodo	Joko Widodo has been re-elected as president of Indonesia
08.	Jeffrey Rosen	Confirmed As US' Next Deputy Attorney General
09.	Sanjiv Puri	ITC Managing Director Sanjiv Puri has been appointed as the new chairman by the Board of Directors. His new designation will now be chairman and managing director. He has been the Managing Director since 2018.
10.	Nitin Chugh	Appointed as Next MD and CEO of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Limited
11.	Major General AK Dhingra	Appointed as the first head of country's first tri-services Special Operations Division comprising commandos.
12.	R Gandhi	RBI has appointed its former Deputy Governor, R Gandhi, on the board of private sector lender YES Bank as an additional director. The appointment has been conferred under sub-section (1) of Section 36AB of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
13.	Salman Khan	Bollywood star actor Salman Khan has been appointed brand ambassador of BharatPe payment APP
14.	Dinesh Pangtey	Appointed as CEO of LIC Mutual Fund
15.	Ajoy Mehta	Mumbai municipal commissioner Ajoy Mehta has been appointed as Maharashtra's new chief secretary.
16.	Professor Tijjani Mohammad Bande	Appointed as the new President of the United Nations General Assembly. His appointment was announced by María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, outgoing president of UNGA
17.	Subhash Chand	Subhash Chand, presently Deputy High Commissioner in the High Commission of India, Abuja, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the State of Eritrea.
18.	Jagjit Pavadia	India's Jagjit Pavadia has been re-elected with the highest number of votes by the UN Economic and Social Council to a five-year term on International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), while China's candidate Hao Wei lost.

19.	Dragan Mihailovic	Appointed As Coach Of Indian Volleyball Team
20.	Mueenul Haq	Mueenul Haq, the current ambassador to France, has been appointed as the new Pakistan High Commissioner to India.
21.	Virat Kohli and Anushka Sharma	Flipkart-owned fashion e-commerce platform Myntra announced that it had appointed celebrity couple Virat Kohli and Anushka Sharma as its first brand ambassadors.
22.	Jayshree Vyas	BSE, formerly known as the Bombay Stock Exchange, has appointed its first independent woman director Jayshree Vyas.
23.	Justice Arjan Kumar Sikri	The former judge of Supreme Court of India (SCI), has been appointed as the chairperson of News Broadcasting Standards Authority (NBSA) by the News Broadcasters Association
24.	Justice Madan B Lokur	The Retired Supreme Court judge of India, has been appointed to the Supreme Court of Fiji as a judge of its non-resident panel.
25.	Dilip Kumar	Dilip Kumar, a 1995-batch IAS officer of Punjab cadre, has been appointed as the Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in the office of Lokpal..
26.	Tod Wolters	US Air Force General Tod Wolters has been sworn-in as the top military officer of the 29-nation NATO military alliance. He became Supreme Allied Commander in Europe.
27.	Boubou Cisse	Appointed as Prime Minister of Mali
28.	Laurentino Cortizo	Elected as the new President of Panama
29.	Justice PR Ramachandra Menon	Justice PR Ramachandra Menon has been sworn-in as the new Chief Justice of the Chhattisgarh High Court.
30.	Justice (Retd.) K S Radhakrishnan	Appointed as a member of the Commonwealth Secretariat Arbitral Tribunal in London
31.	Justice Abhay Shreeniwas Oka	sworn-in as the new Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court
32.	Igor Stimac	Croatian World Cupper Igor Stimac has been appointed head coach of the Indian men's senior football team for a two-year term.
33.	Dr. Krishnamurthy Subramanian	The Chief Economic Advisor to Central government, Dr. Krishnamurthy Subramanian is appointed as 12 member of Advisory Council of 15th Finance Commission

15. COUNTRIES IN NEWS

Country	Capital & Currency	In News
Mexico	Capital : Mexico City Currency : Mexican peso	US President Donald Trump has announced tariffs on all goods coming from Mexico in a bid to curb illegal immigration. From 10th June 2019, a five percent tariff would be imposed and slowly raised until the Illegal Immigration problem is remedied. Mexico President: Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador.
Singapore	Capital : Singapore city Currency : Singapore dollar	Singapore recently reported the first ever case of the Monkeypox Virus, a rare virus similar to the human smallpox. The virus was brought in by a Nigerian who arrived in Singapore in late April 2019. The man might have been infected by bush meat, the probable source of the virus transmission. Bush meat can be of chimpanzee, gorilla, antelope, birds or rodents. Singapore President : Halimah Yacob
Taiwan	Capital : Taipei Currency : New Taiwan dollar	Taiwan has approved a bill legalizing same-sex marriage, a landmark decision that makes the self-ruled island the first place in Asia to pass gay marriage legislation. The successful bill includes limited adoption rights for same-sex couples. Taiwan President: Tsai Ing-wen
United Kingdom	Capital : London Currency : Pound sterling	The UK parliament became the first national legislative body in the world to declare a climate change emergency. 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. Prime Minister of United Kingdom: Theresa May
Thailand	Capital : Bangkok Currency : Thai baht	Thailand officially crowned its new King Maha Vajiralongkorn with 'Great Crown of Victory' (one of five Royal Regalia i.e. symbols of kingship). He received a symbolic nine-tiered umbrella conferring him as 'King Rama X of Thailand'. This coronation ceremony marks first ascension of a new monarch in past seven decades. He became crown prince and official heir to throne in 1972.
Mongolia	Capital : Ulaanbaatar Currency : Mongolian tögrög	India on May 14, 2019 extended USD 1 billion Line of Credit to Mongolia to set up its first-ever petrochemical refinery at Sainshand in Dornogobi Province. The line of credit will be implemented with Exim Bank funding. It is the largest project undertaken by India under its Lines of Credit programme. The funding was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to Ulan Bator in 2015. Mongolia President : Khaltmaagiin Battulga

16. ORGANIZATIONS IN NEWS

S.No	Name Of The Organization	In News
01.	<p>The Asian Development Bank (ADB)</p> <p>Headquarters : Metro Manila, Philippines</p> <p>President: Takehiko Nakao</p>	<p>The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed an agreement to provide long-term financing of \$750 million equivalent in Indian rupees to fund the Railways track electrification project. It is the largest single non-sovereign loan ever committed by ADB to Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) to electrify railway tracks in India. It is part of a broad modernisation programme that will help the railways transition to electric power and move away from dependence on fossil fuels.</p>
02.	<p>World Trade Organization (WTO)</p> <p>Headquarters : Geneva, Switzerland</p> <p>Director-General: Roberto Azevêdo</p>	<p>On 13th May 2019, the World Trade Organisation (WTO) ministerial meeting of developing countries was held in New Delhi. The meeting will provide an opportunity for the Ministers to discuss various issues and the way forward. Sixteen developing countries and six Least Developed Countries, LDCs are participating in the meeting.</p>
03.	<p>The World Health Organization (WHO)</p> <p>Headquarters : Geneva, Switzerland</p> <p>Director-General: Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus</p>	<p>The World Health Organization (WHO) has unveiled a new strategy to dramatically cut deaths and injuries from snakebites, and also warned a lack of anti-venoms could soon spark a "public health emergency". Each year, nearly three million people are bitten by poisonous snakes, with an estimated 81,000-138,000 deaths. The aim of the strategy is to cut snakebite-related deaths and disabilities in half by 2030.</p>
04.	<p>UNESCO: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization</p> <p>Headquarters : Paris, France</p> <p>Director-General: Audrey Azoulay</p>	<p>The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has celebrated the 2nd edition of International Day of Light (IDL-2019) on 16th May to mark the role light plays in our daily lives. IDL aims to raise awareness of the critical role light-based technologies play in our lives, elevating science, technology, art, and culture to help achieve the goals of UNESCO – education, equality, and peace.</p>
05.	<p>National Security Guard (NSG)</p> <p>Headquarters : New Delhi</p> <p>Director-General: Sudeep Lakhtakia</p>	<p>National Security Guard (NSG) created history as they scaled the Mount Everest (world's highest peak) in their maiden attempt. A seven-member team of NSG, led by Lt Col J P Kumar, successfully unfurled the Indian flag at the 8,848-metre tall peak. This is the first expedition of the NSG to the Mount Everest and the force has been preparing for it since 2017.</p>

06.	<p>World Customs Organization</p> <p>Headquarters : Brussels,Belgium</p> <p>Secretary General: Kunio Mikuriya</p>	<p>The meeting of the Regional Heads of Customs Administration of Asia Pacific Region of the World Customs Organisation (WCO) is being organized by Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) in Kochi from 08th to 10th May, 2019. India is hosting 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.</p>
07.	<p>Konkan Railway Corporation Limited</p> <p>Headquarters : Navi Mumbai</p> <p>CMD: Sanjay Gupta</p>	<p>The Konkan Railways Corporation Ltd (KRCL) has signed a contract agreement with Nepal's Department of Railways to supply two 1600 HP DEMU train sets. These trains will be used to operationalise railway link between Jayanagar in India and Kurtha in Nepal.</p>
08.	<p>Water and Power Consultancy Services (India) Limited (WAPCOS)</p> <p>Headquarters : New Delhi.</p> <p>CMD: R.K. Gupta</p>	<p>The Dredging Corporation of India Limited (DCIL) has inked a MoU with Water & Power Consultancy Services (India) Limited (WAPCOS) to jointly identify suitable future projects and carry out geotechnical investigation and engineering consultancy. WAPCOS is a mini ratna PSU under the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.</p>
09.	<p>International Press Institute</p> <p>Headquarters : Vienna</p> <p>Founder & CEO: Markus Spillmann</p>	<p>The International Press Institute (IPI) is an independent, non-governmental, not-for-profit organisation. On the occasion of World Press Freedom Day (WPDF-2019), International Press Institute (IPI) said in its latest report that as many as 55 journalists have been killed since May 2018.</p>
10.	<p>IPBES (Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services)</p> <p>Headquarters : Bonn, Germany.</p> <p>chair: Ana María Hernández Salgar</p>	<p>The UN report titled “IPBES Global Assessment” has been released by IPBES (Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services). It is compiled by 145 expert authors from 50 countries. The IPBES report found that around 1 million animal and plant species are now threatened with extinction, many within decades, more than ever before in human history. The threatened list includes more than 40% of amphibian species, almost 33% of reef-forming corals, and more than a third of all marine mammals.</p>

17. DEFENCE EXERCISES AND OPERATIONS

Name of the Exercise	Description
IMCOR-2019	The 8th edition of Indo-Myanmar Coordinated Patrol (IMCOR-2019) has started at Port Blair in Andaman and Nicobar Command on May 20. The CORPAT (coordinated patrol) initiative between Indian and Myanmar 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.
Pacific Vanguard exercise	U.S. Navy ships conducted joint drills with warships from allies Japan, Australia and South Korea in their first combined exercise in the Western Pacific. The Pacific Vanguard exercise near the U.S. island of Guam takes place ahead of President Donald Trump's visit to Japan, as Washington looks to allies in Asia to help counter China's military might in the region.
SIMBEX-19	SIMBEX (Singapore India Maritime Bilateral Exercise) is an annual bilateral naval exercise between India and Singapore. It was held in the South China Sea from 16 May to 22 May 2019. In addition to IN Ships Kolkata and Shakti, Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft P8I will also participate in the exercise.
ADMM-PLUS exercise	The ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting (ADMM)-Plus Maritime Security Field Training Exercise (MS FTX) in the South China Sea concluded on 13 May 2019 at RSS Singapura (also known as Changi Naval Base) in Singapore. It was held from 30 April to 13 May. The exercise commenced on 30 April in Busan, South Korea and concluded in Singapore.
'Group Sail' Exercise	'Group Sail' starting from 3 May and ending on 9 May with naval ships of USA, Japan and Philippines in South China Sea (SCS). Two Indian Navy ships INS Kolkata and INS Shakti carried out in this exercise. Participants: four countries namely, US, India, Japan and Philippines.

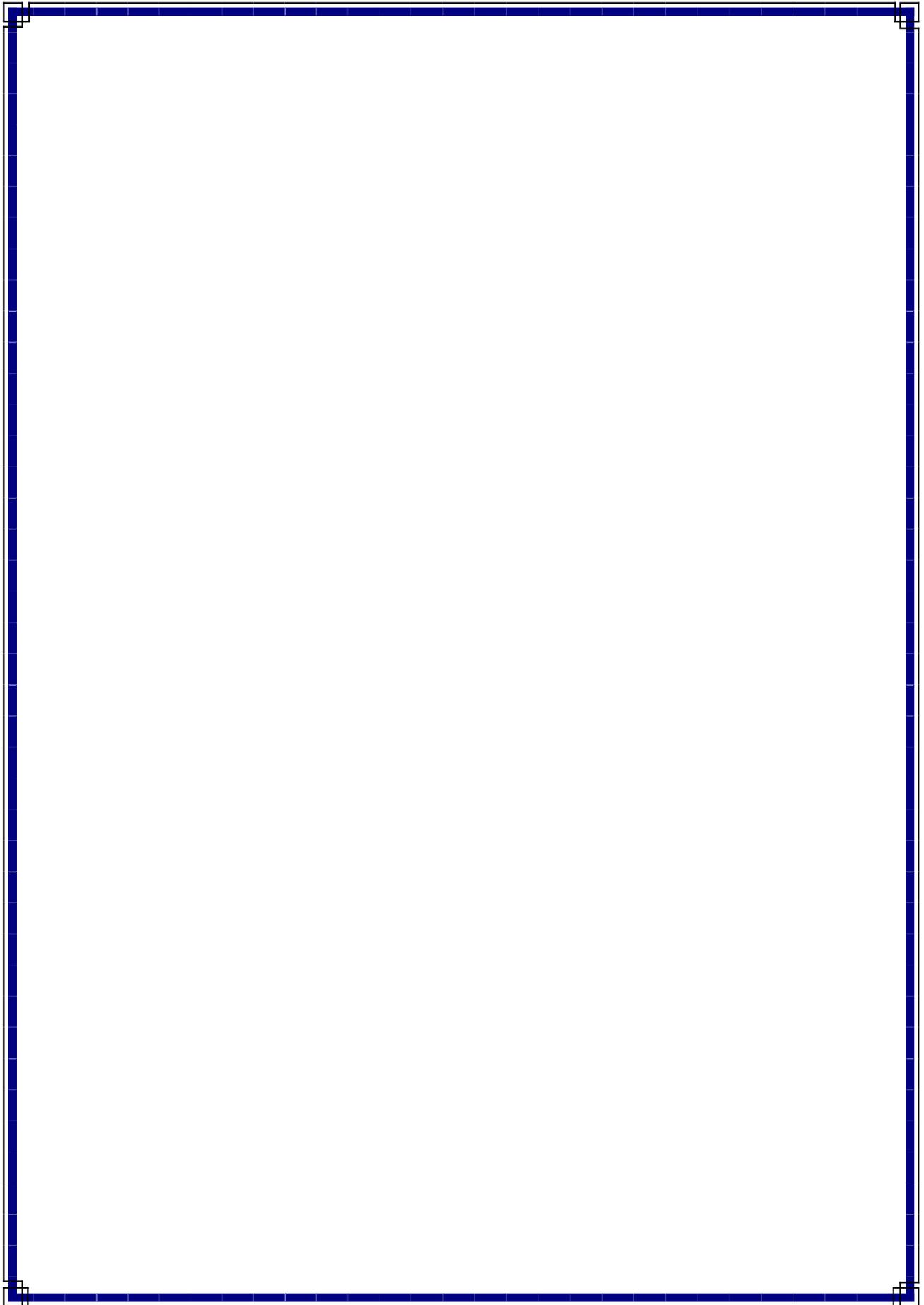
18. BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Book title	Author
'Game Changer'	Pakistan's former captain and star all-rounder Shahid Afridi released his autobiography, titled 'Game Changer'. The book is co-authored by Afridi and journalist Wajahat S Khan . Afridi stated that he was born in 1975 and not 1980 as stated in the official records.
"Celestial Bodies"	An author from Oman, Jokha Alharthi has won the prestigious 2019 Man Booker International Prize for her novel "Celestial Bodies", which reveals Omani homeland's post-colonial transformation. Her novel tells the story of three sisters of a desert country confronting its slave-owning past and a complex modern world.
"Coming Round the Mountain"	The book titled "Coming Round the Mountain", will be released officially by India's beloved children's author Ruskin Bond on his 85th birthday on 19th May 2019 at Cambridge bookstores in Mussourie. The book is the third installment of Bond's award-winning memoir series for children that includes "Looking for the Rainbow" and "Till the Clouds Roll By".
'Dopehri	Veteran actor Pankaj Kapur will soon release his debut novel 'Dopehri', based on a play of the same name which he wrote and directed several years ago. "Dopehri" is the story of Amma Bi, an elderly widow who lives alone in her deserted family haveli in Lucknow.

19. DAYS AND THEMES

Date	Day	Theme of 2019
May 1 st	International Labour Day (also known as May Day or International Workers' Day)	“Sustainable Pension for all: The Role of Social Partners”.
May 2 nd	World Tuna Day	-----
May 3 rd	World Press Freedom Day	“Media for Democracy: Journalism and Elections in Times of Disinformation”.
May 5 th	World Laughter Day (first Sunday of May every year)	-----
May 7 th	World Asthma Day	‘STOP for Asthma’.
May 8 th	World Red Cross Day	‘#Love’.
May 11 th	National Technology Day
May 11 th	World Migratory Bird Day (In 2019, World Migratory Bird Day is celebrated on May 11 and October 12)	‘Protect Birds: Be the Solution to Plastic Pollution.’
May 12 th	International Nurses Day	“Nurses–A Voice to Lead – Health for All”.
May 15 th	International Day of Families	“Families and Climate Action: Focus on SDG 13”
May 16 th	International Day of Light	-----
May 17 th	World Telecommunication & Information Society Day	“Bridging the Standardization Gap”.
May 17 th	World Hypertension Day	"Know your numbers"
May 18 th	International Museum Day	'Museums as Cultural Hubs: The Future of Tradition'.
May 20 th	World Bee Day	‘Save the Bees’
May 20 th	World Metrology Day	The International System of Units – Fundamentally better.
May 21 st	UAE celebrated World Day for Cultural Diversity	-----
May 21 st	Anti-terrorism day in India	-----
May 22 nd	International Day for Biological Diversity	‘Our Biodiversity, Our Food, Our Health’.
May 29 th	International Everest Day	-----
May 31 st	World No-Tobacco Day	“tobacco and lung health.”

PRACTICE BITS



PRACTICE BITS (CURRENT AFFAIRS)

1. _____ launches audio video streaming app wynk tube?
(a) Airtel (b) Vodafone idea
(c) BSNL (d) Jio
2. John singleton passed away recently. He was related to which among the following fields?
(a) Writer (b) Film director
(c) Mathematician (d) Scientist
3. Who is the first Japanese ruler to step down from throne in 200 years?
(a) Naruhito (b) Jimmu
(c) Heisei (d) Akihito
4. Steel sector growth accelerated to _____ in March from 4.9% in February 2019.
(a) 6.9% (b) 7.6% (c) 6.7% (d) 6.2%
5. Who is the author of the book “The making of a manager: what to do when everyone looks to you”?
(a) Julie Zhuo (b) Ashley Goodall
(c) Harper Lee (d) Marcus Buckingham
6. Rupinder Pal Singh is related to which of the following Games?
(a) Boxing (b) Tennis
(c) Badminton (d) Hockey
7. Who will take over as the vice chief of Indian Air Force?
(a) L. M. Katre (b) RKS Bhadauria
(c) P. K. Singh (d) Sandeep Kumar
8. Negasso Gidada has passed away recently. He was the former president of which country?
(a) Ethiopia (b) Nigeria
(c) Uganda (d) Kenya
9. Who won the outstanding achievement as a player award at the fourth edition of the annual India Golf Industry Association awards?
(a) Arjun Atwal (b) Anirban Lahiri
(c) Gaganjeet Bhullar (d) Shiv Kapur
10. Which day is observed as the International Labour day?
(a) April 1st (b) December 1st
(c) January 1st (d) May 1st
11. Which country has launched the 45-day ‘Mt Everest Cleaning Campaign’?
(a) China (b) Bhutan
(c) India (d) Nepal
12. Pungam Kannan, who passed away recently, was the well-known player of which sports?
(a) Football (b) Hockey
(c) Basketball (d) Carrom
13. World Tuna Day is celebrated every year, on which date?
(a) May 8 (b) April 15
(c) December 20 (d) May 2
14. India Ratings projected India’s GDP to grow at ____ for 2019-20
(a) 7% (b) 7.2% (c) 7.5% (d) 7.3%
15. Who has been named the 2019 footballer of the year by the Football Writers’ Association (FWA)?
(a) Lionel Messi (b) Raheem Sterling
(c) Neymar (d) Francesco Totti
16. Which of the following cities has set a new Guinness World Record for the number of national flags raised in a city for 24 hours?
(a) Beirut (b) Riyadh
(c) Abu Dhabi (d) Manama
17. Chandrayaan 2 will be launched by _____ in July 2019.
(a) GSLV Mark3 (b) PSLV S125
(c) GSLV MK1 (d) GSLV D1
18. Which Indian company has acquired Filipino personal care firm ‘Splash’?
(a) Infosys (b) Tata
(c) Wipro (d) Reliance
19. SEBI fines _____ Rs. 625 crore in co-location facility case.
(a) BSE (b) NSE
(c) MCX (d) UTI
20. Who will become the first Indian wrestler to fight at the iconic Madison Square Garden in New York?
(a) Ravinder Singh (b) Bajrang Punia
(c) Pawan Kumar (d) Sangram Singh

21. Subhashan Reddy was passed away recently. He was a _____
 (a) Politician (b) Actor
 (c) Journalist (d) Judge
22. Who launched the postage stamp to commemorate the 750th birth anniversary of Sri Vedanta Desikan?
 (a) Ram Nath Kovind (b) Narendra Modi
 (c) Rajnath Singh (d) Venkaiah Naidu
23. _____ Ministerial Meeting of Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) was held in Doha, Qatar.
 (a) 16th (b) 18th
 (c) 10th (d) 13th
24. World Press Freedom Day is celebrated every year on _____
 (a) 1 May (b) 3 May (c) 2 May (d) 4 May
25. Who bags the gold medal at the Ali Aliyev Wrestling Tournament 2019?
 (a) Bajrang Punia
 (b) Sushil Kumar
 (c) Yogeshwar Dutt
 (d) Mahaveer Singh Phogat
26. Which among the following countries is the top supplier of oil to India for 2018-19 fiscal?
 (a) UAE (b) Iraq
 (c) Iran (d) Saudi Arabia
27. Which of the following cities is set to host the 8th Asian Youth Women Handball Championship from August 21 to 30.
 (a) Chandigarh (b) Lucknow
 (c) New Delhi (d) Jaipur
28. The 14th edition of the annual Sino-Indian border trade opened at Nathu La, the frontier post at Sino-Indian border in which of the following states?
 (a) Himachal Pradesh (b) Uttarakhand
 (c) Sikkim (d) Assam
29. Government and _____ signs MoU to set up a Centre of Excellence for Waste to Wealth Technologies.
 (a) IIT Madras (b) IIT Delhi
 (c) IIT Mumbai (d) IIT Kharagpur
30. Nambor wildlife sanctuary is located in which among the following states?
 (a) Mizoram (b) Meghalaya
 (c) Assam (d) Tripura
31. International Fire Fighter's Day (IFFD) observed on?
 (a) May 3 (b) May 4
 (c) May 5 (d) May 6
32. 16th ministerial meeting of Asia cooperation dialogue held in _____?
 (a) Qatar (b) Saudi Arabia
 (c) Dubai (d) Kuwait
33. Renowed theatre personality master Hirannaiah passed away he is from which language?
 (a) Marathi (b) Bengali
 (c) Kannada (d) Telugu
34. Which Parliament is 1st to declare climate emergency?
 (a) USA (b) UK
 (c) Australia (d) India
35. Nepal to start construction of railways linking Kathmandu with which countries?
 (a) India and US
 (b) India and China
 (c) China and Pakistan
 (d) India and Pakistan
36. Who newly appointed as a member of Finance Commission's Advisory council?
 (a) Dr. Krishnamurthy Subramanian
 (b) Sudhir Bhargava
 (c) V. P. Pathak
 (d) Shri N. Kashinath
37. The Cyclonic storm Fani hits Odisha severely, what was the speed of wind per hour?
 (a) 150 to 160 km (b) 160 to 170 km
 (c) 170 to 180 km (d) 180 to 190 km
38. Space X to send organs on a chip to the international space station for what?
 (a) Modeling Kidneys
 (b) Bone and Cartilage
 (c) Blood-brain barrier and lungs
 (d) All the above
39. What is the theme of World Press Freedom 2019?
 (a) Fostering Freedom of Expression
 (b) Media Pluralism and Diversity
 (c) Media For Democracy: Journalism and Election in times of disinformation
 (d) Safety of Journalists

40. BSNL launches 'Bharat Fibre' Broad Band Service in which state?
 (a) Jammu & Kashmir (b) Himachal Pradesh
 (c) Karnataka (d) Uttar Pradesh
41. Which of the following parliaments has become the first in the world to declare climate emergency?
 (a) United Kingdom (b) United States
 (c) Japan (d) Germany
42. Which among the following banks has, recently launched \$5 Billion healthy oceans action plan?
 (a) AIB (b) NDB
 (c) EBRD (d) ADB
43. Generalized System of Preference (GSP), sometimes seen in news, is associated to which of the following countries?
 (a) Japan (b) United States
 (c) China (d) France
44. Which of the following banks hiked its marginal cost of funds-based lending rate (MCLR) By 0.05% with effect from may 7th 2019?
 (a) Bank of Baroda (b) SBI
 (c) Canara Bank (d) ICICI Bank
45. Where is the headquarters of International Press Institute (IPI)?
 (a) Washington (b) Berlin
 (c) Vienna (d) New York
46. The last captive white tiger named Bajirao died recently at "Sanjay Gandhi National Park" is located in which of the following states?
 (a) Maharashtra (b) Rajasthan
 (c) Tamil Nadu (d) Madhya Pradesh
47. India & _____, recently agreed to further deepen counter-terrorism co-operation.
 (a) Japan (b) Australia
 (c) Sweden (d) Argentina
48. Paytm, India's mobile payment and commerce platform's President, _____, quits the company.
 (a) Ajay Singhal (b) Bhushan Patil
 (c) Atul Karmakar (d) Vijay Sekhar Sharma
49. As per which UNSC committee, JeM chief Masood Azhar has been designated as global terrorist?
 (a) UNSC 1267 Committee
 (b) UNSC 1265 Committee
 (c) UNSC 1266 Committee
 (d) UNSC 1268 Committee
50. Who won the Spanish motorcycling Grand prix 2019?
 (a) Marc Marquez (b) Alex Rins
 (c) Lewis Hamilton (d) Daniel Ricciardo
51. The Indian Navy launched 4th Stealth Scorpene Class Submarine _____ at state owned MDL in Mumbai
 (a) INS Vikrant (b) INS Aditya
 (c) INS Vela (d) INS Kalvari
52. Master Hirannaiah, who passed away recently, was the noted personality of which regional theatre?
 (a) Tamil (b) Kannada
 (c) Telugu (d) Odia
53. Indian player Anomol Jain related to which of the following sports?
 (a) Hockey (b) Air Pistol
 (c) Air Rifle (d) Golf
54. Which of the following banks has become the first Indian bank to link interest rates to RBI's repo rate?
 (a) PNB (b) BOB (c) BOI (d) SBI
55. SCO Foreign Ministers meet-2019 will be held on May 22nd in which country?
 (a) Kyrgyzstan (b) Uzbekistan
 (c) Afghanistan (d) Iran
56. Which of the following state city police has launched an all-women police patrol unit 'Rani Abbakka Force'?
 (a) Karnataka (b) Kerala
 (c) Tamil Nadu (d) Andhra Pradesh
57. "Maha Vajiralongkorn" is the newly – crowned king of which country?
 (a) Vietnam (b) Brunei
 (c) Thailand (d) Singapore
58. Who has been appointed as the Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in the office of Lokpal?
 (a) Mahender Singh (b) Ajay Kumar Tripathi
 (c) Abhilasha Kumari (d) Dilip Kumar
59. The G7's Environment Ministers meeting held in which country recently?
 (a) Italy (b) France
 (c) Japan (d) Canada
60. Who Sworn in as Chief Justice of Chattisgarh?
 (a) Justice PR Ramachandra Menon
 (b) Justice Ravindra Bhat
 (c) T. B Radhakrishnan (d) V K Tahilramani

61. The book “Game Changer” is the autobiography of which of the following cricketers?
 (a) Waqar Younis (b) Javed Miandad
 (c) Shahid Afridi (d) Imran Khan
62. Who has been re-elected to International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) for another five year term?
 (a) David J. Johnson (b) Bernard Leroy
 (c) Jagjit Pavadia (d) Richard. P. Mattick
63. India has been re-elected as an observer to _____ Council.
 (a) Madagascar (b) Arctic
 (c) Antarctic (d) Mediterranean
64. Who is the newly appointed Prime Minister of Mali?
 (a) Michel Sidibe (b) Malick Coulibaly
 (c) Boubou Cisse (d) Tiebile Drame
65. Professor _____, father of modern Indian legal education, passed away at the age of 84.
 (a) NR Madhava Menon (b) R.K. Narayanan
 (c) Bimal Jalan (d) Vimalkanta
66. INS Ranjit, which is recently decommissioned by Indian Navy, was built by which of the countries?
 (a) USSR (b) United States
 (c) France (d) Germany
67. _____ has been appointed as Head of Marketing for India & South Asia for Visa.
 (a) Sujatha V. Kumar (b) Ajaypal Singh Banga
 (c) Rajiv Mehrishi (d) N. K. Menon
68. ‘GRIHA for Existing Day Schools’, which is in news recently, is associated to which of the following issues?
 (a) Mid Day Meal (b) Quality Education
 (c) Environment (d) All of the above
69. Who has been appointed as new coach of Indian Volleyball Team?
 (a) Pryemyslaw Gaszyoski
 (b) Dragan Mihailovic
 (c) Valadimir Radosevic
 (d) Michel Sidibe
70. Recently which country announces the partial Withdrawal of Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)?
 (a) Iran (b) Iraq
 (c) UAE (d) Saudi Arabia
71. _____ flight carrier, Qantas operated world’s first zero-waste flight.
 (a) Russia (b) USA
 (c) Australia (d) India
72. Artificial Intelligence based HR solutions provider, Talocity will provide _____ its touchless technology in living process.
 (a) ICICI Bank (b) SBI
 (c) HDFC Bank (d) Yes Bank
73. Former SC Judge _____ appointed as a member of commonwealth Secretariat Arbitral Tribunal.
 (a) KP Radha Krishnan (b) SN Rama Krishnan
 (c) K Rama Krishnan (d) KS Radhakrishnan
74. Modi beats Trump; Narendra Modi _____ most followed politician globally on social media.
 (a) First (b) Second
 (c) Third (d) Fourth
75. Kirpal Singh passed away recently. He was related to _____.
 (a) Politician (b) Film Maker
 (c) Hockey Player (d) Sikh Historian
76. Which company has been announced sponsor of the Afghanistan Cricket team in the World Cup 2019?
 (a) Amul (b) Reliance
 (c) Go daddy (d) Wipro
77. “Electron Guard’ an open source software unveiled by _____ for secure voting.
 (a) Google (b) Apple
 (c) Microsoft (d) HCL
78. _____ reported over 1.35 million deaths caused by road accidents.
 (a) UN (b) UNICEF
 (c) WHO (d) UNESCO
79. India and _____ signed a protocol for exportation of Indian chilli meal.
 (a) USA (b) Japan
 (c) Russia (d) China
80. WHO partnered with IFBA to eliminate industrially produced trans fat (iTFA) from food supply worldwide by _____.
 (a) 2020 (b) 2023
 (c) 2021 (d) 2022
81. 5th United Nations Global Road Safety Week observed from _____.
 (a) May 6 to 12 (b) May 2 to 8
 (c) May 7 to 13 (d) May 9 to 15

82. _____ Launched World's Highest Resolution image sensor.
 (a) Apple (b) Samsung
 (c) Moto (d) Vivo
83. The National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM) has received national agricultural higher education project (NAHEP). The project is funded by _____
 (a) World Bank (b) SIDBI
 (c) Asian Development Bank
 (d) NABARD
84. What is the present strength of Judges in the Supreme Court, as on May 24, 2019?
 (a) 30 (b) 28 (c) 29 (d) 31
85. What is the name of farthest place in universe where NASA's spacecraft has recently found evidence of water?
 (a) Webar Galaxy (b) Giant Gracia
 (c) Wire Gross (d) Ultima Thule
86. The Indian cricket team would be playing its first match at the ICC World Cup 2019 against which nation?
 (a) New Zealand (b) South Africa
 (c) England (d) Bangladesh
87. Which of the following countries is involved jointly with India in the development of Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM)?
 (a) Israel (b) Germany
 (c) France (d) United Kingdom
88. Navy ship 'Mendez Nunez' (Frigate) with a crew of 30 officers and 135 sailors is on Mumbai visit from May 18 to 23. The ship belongs to which country?
 (a) Spain (b) Turkey
 (c) France (d) Portugal
89. Who among the following has won the women's single title at the 2019 Italian Open?
 (a) Johanna Konta (b) Petra Kvitová
 (c) Caroline Wozniacki (d) Karolina Pliskova
90. Who can remove the Chief Election Commissioner of India?
 (a) President (b) Prime Minister
 (c) Parliament
 (d) Chief Justice of Supreme Court
91. The Indian Navy recently began the IMCOR exercise with which country?
 (a) Russia (b) Malaysia
 (c) Myanmar (d) South Carolina
92. World's First Women's cricket magazine _____ launched.
 (a) ORICBUZZ (b) CRICZONE
 (c) CRICPICK (d) CRICFORM
93. _____ vocal artist, Padma Shri awarded Hiralal Yadav passed away at 93 in Varanasi
 (a) Kannada (b) Hindi
 (c) Gujarathi (d) Tamil
94. The first ever Anti-Naxal women's commando unit deployed by _____ police.
 (a) Bihar (b) Chattisgarh
 (c) Telangana (d) Uttar Pradesh
95. In a survey conducted by Air Help, Rajiv Gandhi International Airport of Hyderabad has been ranked as the World's _____ best airport.
 (a) 5th (b) 6th (c) 7th (d) 8th
96. Indian Navy undertook group sail exercise with Japan, Philippines and US in _____
 (a) East China Sea (b) West China Sea
 (c) North China Sea (d) South China Sea
97. Which company becomes India's most valued firm, which surpasses RIL in market capitalization?
 (a) TCS (b) Wipro
 (c) Google (d) Infosys
98. Who has been appointed as the new president of UN General Assembly (UNGA) _____.
 (a) Maria Fernanda
 (b) Joseph Garba
 (c) Tijjani Mohamed Bande
 (d) Antonio Guterres
99. _____ takes over command of Air Force Station Faridabad.
 (a) Kaushik Das (b) Chandra Shekar Bhatt
 (c) Sujata Bhatni (d) Sanjeev Kumar
100. A micro processor named 'AJIT' developed by ____
 (a) IIT Madras (b) IIT Delhi
 (c) IIT Kanpur (d) IIT Bombay
101. New species of Pit Viper found in _____
 (a) Meghalaya (b) Arunachal Pradesh
 (c) Mizoram (d) Sikkim
102. Who has won the Men's single title of 200 Madrid open tennis tournament?
 (a) Roger Federer (b) Novak Djokovic
 (c) Alexander Zverev (d) Stefan or Tsitsipas
103. Which county has started testing its fastest ever bullet train capable of reaching 400 kilometers per hour?
 (a) Singapore (b) China
 (c) Japan (d) Russia

- 104.** Which country will get \$ 6 billion from the IMF over the next three years to meet its foreign debt obligations?
(a) India (b) Pakistan (c) Bangladesh (d) Britain
- 105.** Who has won the TATA steel PGTI players championship in panchkula?
(a) Aditi Ashok (b) Anirban Lahari
(c) Mukesh Kumar (d) Gaganjeet Bhullar
- 106.** What is the name of noted industry leader and ITC chairman who has passed away recently?
(a) Ramesh Singh (b) Baidyanath Mishra
(c) Hiralal yadav (d) YC Deveshwar
- 107.** Which Radar Imaging satellite will be launched by ISRO?
(a) RISAT – 2B (b) RISAT – 2A
(c) RISAT – 2C (d) RISAT – 2X
- 108.** Who has been named as the wealthiest people in the UK for a third time, according to the Sunday times Rich list?
(a) Alisher usmanov (b) Hinduja Brothers
(c) Glenn Gordon (d) Mukesh Ambani
- 109.** Who has won Women's single title of 2019 Madrid open tennis tournament?
(a) Kiki bertens (b) Serena Williams
(c) Nadia petrova (d) Venus Williams
- 110.** Which country's warship "HMAS Toowomba" would participate in 'exercise la perouse' in the Bay of Bengal?
(a) France (b) Oman (c) UAE (d) Australia
- 111.** Which team beat Chennai super kings in the final of the Indian premier league (IPL) at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Hyderabad?
(a) Mumbai Indians
(b) Delhi Capitals
(c) Sunrisers Hyderabad
(d) Kolkata knight Riders
- 112.** Which among the following financial start up launched india's first "UPI Bahi Khata" for merchants recently?
(a) Paytm (b) Aitel money
(c) Freecharge (d) BharatPe
- 113.** International day of the family is observed on ____
(a) May 11th (b) may 12th
(c) may 15th (d) may 14th
- 114.** Vice president Venkaiah Naidu held talks with Vietnamese prime minister Xuan phuc in capital Hanoi recently. The current of Vietnam is ____
(a) Ngultrum (b) Dong
(c) Rand (d) Baht
- 115.** Name the cricket player who was won the purple cap in IPL season 2019?
(a) KL Rahul (b) David Warner
(c) Imran Tahir (d) Andrew Russell
- 116.** How many countries agree to include plastic waste in Basel convention?
(a) 155 (b) 112 (c) 180 (d) 168
- 117.** Who has been sworn-in as the new chief Justice of Karnataka High court?
(a) Abhay shreeniwas Oka
(b) Dinesh Maheshwar
(c) Neelamani M Raju
(d) Gangambike Mallikarjun
- 118.** Which city has been chosen by facebook as the centre for the global roll-out of whatsapp pay?
(a) Tokyo (b) Beijing
(c) Shanghai (d) London
- 119.** Who has won the 2019 Spanish Grand Prix title?
(a) Lewis Hamilton (b) Sebastian Vettel
(c) Valtteri Bottas (d) Daniel Ricciardo
- 120.** Who has been appointed as new chairman of ITC?
(a) Narendra Nath sinha (b) YC Deveshwar
(c) Sanjiv puri (d) Ajith Kumar Mohanty
- 121.** Who has inaugurated the "Young Scientist Programme"?
(a) G Satheesh Reddy (b) K Kasturirangan
(c) S Unnikrishnan Nair (d) K Sivan
- 122.** India has extended 1 billion dollar line of credit to ____ to set up its first refinery at sainshand in Darnogobi Province
(a) Mongolia (b) Norway
(c) Australia (d) Austria
- 123.** Who has been appointed to International panel of ICC's first woman match Referee ____
(a) Swetha menon (b) GS Lakshmi
(c) Cathryn Fitzpatrick (d) Sana mir
- 124.** Which country is hosting conference on dialogue of Asian civilizations?
(a) India (b) Australia
(c) China (d) Russia

- 125.** Reserve Bank of India has appointed its former Deputy Governor R. Gandhi as an additional director on the board of ____ Bank.
 (a) Canara Bank (b) HDFC Bank
 (c) Bank of India (d) Yes Bank
- 126.** Senior ____ leader and two time MP from Chayal seat, Ram Nihor Rakesh died
 (a) CPI (b) Congress (c) BJP (d) TDP
- 127.** Nabventures, which has launched its first ever venture capital fund for agriculture and rural-focused startups, is the subsidiary of which of the following organizations?
 (a) SBI (b) NHB (c) ICICI (d) NABARD
- 128.** ____ has been appointed as the chairperson of the News Broadcasting standards Authority
 (a) AK sikri (b) KS. Radhakrishnan
 (c) Rana Kapoor (d) Joshi Chauhan
- 129.** Which insurance company has recently launched the mosquito disease protection policy?
 (a) Bajaj Allianz (b) SBI life insurance
 (c) HDFC ERGO (d) LIC
- 130.** Which country has been chosen as co-chair of the consultative group for “Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery?”
 (a) USA (b) Russia (c) India (d) China
- 131.** Who of the following spinners has become the world’s most successful women’s ODI spinner?
 (a) Sana Mir (b) Jhulan Goswami
 (c) Rajeshwari Gayakward (d) Cathryn Fitzpatrick
- 132.** National Vesak Week, which is news recently, is associated to which of the following religions?
 (a) Christianity (b) Hinduism
 (c) Buddhism (d) Jainism
- 133.** The theme for World Telecommunication and information Society Day celebrated on May 17 2019 is _____.
 (a) Bridging the standardization gap
 (b) Data for all
 (c) Fighting the Data loop holes
 (d) Universal information for whole world
- 134.** Who was recently appointed as the new United States Deputy Attorney General
 (a) Jeffrey Rosen (b) Mike Hall
 (c) Stefan Murphy (d) Clive Lawson
- 135.** Who has been appointed as the first female match referee by ICC?
 (a) Mary Waldron (b) Shivani Mishra
 (c) Jacque line Williams (d) G S Lakshmi
- 136.** France and which country have jointly launched a new initiative ‘Christchurch Call’ against online extremism?
 (a) United Kingdom (b) New Zealand
 (c) Germany (d) Poland
- 137.** Teressa Island is located in which of the following union territories of India?
 (a) Lakshadweep (b) Puducherry
 (c) Daman & Diu (d) Andaman and Nicobar
- 138.** Which of the following Middle-east nation has approved permanent residency for select expatriates?
 (a) Saudi Arabia (b) Iran
 (c) Iraq (d) Kuwait
- 139.** Who has become the world’s first woman to cross the Atlantic Ocean solo in a Light Sports Aircraft (LSA)?
 (a) Sarla Thakral (b) Aarohi pandit
 (c) Durba Banerjee (d) Avani Chaturvedi
- 140.** Who has been appointed head coach of the Indian men’s senior football team?
 (a) Hakan Ericson (b) Igor Stimac
 (c) Albert Roca (d) Lee Min-Sung
- 141.** Which of the following state Legislative Assembly recently announced an initiative to digitize all its records and proceedings under its ambitious project called “E-Vidhan”?
 (a) Kerala (b) Karnataka
 (c) Himachal Pradesh (d) Odisha
- 142.** In which city, Defence space agency will be setup?
 (a) Aligarh (b) Bengaluru
 (c) Chennai (d) New Delhi
- 143.** Kami Rita has scaled mount Everest for a 23rd time. He is from which county?
 (a) Myanmar (b) India
 (c) Srilanka (d) Nepal
- 144.** Which country has blocked Wikipedia in all languages?
 (a) china (b) Japan
 (c) North korea (d) South Korea

- 145.** Us president Donald Trump has rolled out a merit-based immigration system. The proposals significantly increase the quota for skilled workers from the existing nearly 12% to ___ ?
(a) 37% (b) 51% (c) 42% (d) 57%
- 146.** International military sports event named “Army scout masters completion” in
(a) Pune (b) Jaipur
(c) Jaisalmer (d) Hyderabad
- 147.** RBI has published payment and settlement system in India : _____ to promote innovation, cyber-security, financial inclusion.
(a) Vision 2019-20 (b) vision 2019-22
(c) Vision 2019-21 (d) vision 2019-23
- 148.** _____ launched online souvenir store on Amazon India
(a) Zee tv (b) colours
(c) Sun network (d) Doordarshan
- 149.** Who among the following is the current MD and CEO of Ujjivan small finance Bank limited?
(a) Anubhav Chandra (b) Adarsh kumar Goel
(c) Kamal Narayan murthi (d) Samit Ghosh
- 150.** Name of the country that has become the first in Asia to legalise same sex marriage?
(a) Taiwan (b) hong kong
(c) Thailand (d) Vietnam
- 151.** Which city declared environmental emergency
(a) Kanpur (b) Mexico city (c) vienna (d) Paris
- 152.** Which State Government approved Farmer’s commission which would seek to look into the issues faced by farmers?
(a) Meghalaya (b) Sikkim
(c) Tripura (d) Maharashtra
- 153.** India’s fastest train ‘Vande Bharat Express’ completed _____ kilometers without missing single trip.
(a) 10, 000 km (b) 50, 000 km
(c) 1 lakh (d) 10 lakh
- 154.** _____ became first State to list Masala Bond in overseas market.
(a) Gujarat (b) Kerala
(c) Maharashtra (d) Punjab
- 155.** _____ president rolled out new, ‘Merit Based Immigration System’.
(a) Australia (b) China
(c) India (d) USA
- 156.** Who was awarded the sasakawa award 2019 for Disaster Risk Reduction?
(a) Pramod Kumar Mishra (b) K. Sivan
(c) Pravin Gordhan (d) Satheesh Reddy
- 157.** Who was appointed as the US deputy attorney general?
(a) Rod Rosenstein (b) Jeffrey Rosen
(c) Patrick Hodsen (d) William Barr
- 158.** In which city, third meeting of the advisory council of the fifteenth financial commission was held?
(a) Mumbai (b) Chennai
(c) New Delhi (d) Dehradun
- 159.** Which day is celebrated as “International Museum Day”?
(a) 16th May (b) 17th May
(c) 18th May (d) 19th May
- 160.** Vesak Festival, also known as Buddha Jayanti is being celebrated in which country?
(a) Nepal (b) Sri lanka (c) India (d) China
- 161.** The _____ Edition of Singapore India Maritime Bilateral exercise (SIMBEX) held in Singapore.
(a) 26th (b) 25th (c) 27th (d) 29th
- 162.** _____ registers its new secretive Cryptocurrency firm Libra networks LLC in Geneva, Switzerland.
(a) Face book (b) twitter
(c) Watsup (d) Instagram
- 163.** Which country got its approval from US to buy 94 SM-2 missiles for \$314 billion?
(a) North Korea (b) South Korea
(c) India (d) Pakistan
- 164.** Which day observed as the Anti-Terrorism day in India
(a) May 20 (b) May 21 (c) April 20 (d) May 11
- 165.** _____ a new computer programme developed by Australian National University (ANU) can help develop precision medicine.
(a) Italian (b) Alye
(c) Zlye (d) Flye
- 166.** Italian open Tennis 2019 men’s singles winner is
(a) Roger Federer (b) Novak Djokovic
(c) Rafael Nadal (d) Andy Murray
- 167.** Italian open Tennis 2019 women’s Singles winner is
(a) Karolina pliskova (b) Johanna konta
(c) Serina williams (d) Venus Williams

- 168.** Which charity entered the Guinness Book of world records for its hunger relief efforts?
 (a) United Methodist committee on Relief
 (b) PCT Humanity
 (c) Give India Charity
 (d) Saint camilus foundation
- 169.** _____ Government to revamp “Ujala clinics’ for adolescents
 (a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Madya Pradesh
 (c) Rajasthan (d) Odisha
- 170.** World Bee day and world Metrology day is observed as on
 (a) May 20 (b) May 21 (c) May 22 (d) May 18
- 171.** Which research Institute announced to conduct Seven Mega Missions for upcoming 10 yrs and also prepared a roadmap for the next 30 yrs?
 (a) ISRO (b) NASA (c) DRDO (d) Space X
- 172.** Which day observed as International Day for Biology diversity?
 (a) May 18 (b) May 20 (c) May 22 (d) May 23
- 173.** Who became the first black african women to conquer Mt. Everest in her fourth attempt?
 (a) Saray Khumalo (b) Maria Lourdes
 (c) Kami Rita Sherpa (d) Mai Khumalo
- 174.** Joko widodo re-elected as president of _____ for the second term.
 (a) Indonesia (b) China
 (c) Japan (d) South Korea
- 175.** Who has been acknowledged as the “Most viewed comedian across the world” by the world Book of Records London?
 (a) Sunil Grover (b) Krishna Abhishek
 (c) Kapil Sharma (d) Raju Sri vastav
- 176.** What percentage of India’s GDP Growth is estimated by the United Nations (UN) for the financial year 2019-20?
 (a) 7.3% (b) 7.4% (c) 7.5% (d) 7.1%
- 177.** Three-time Formula One world champion Niki Lauda has passed away. He is from which country?
 (a) UK (b) Austria (c) Finland (d) Netherland
- 178.** Who has been appointed as Pakistan’s new High commissioner to India?
 (a) Asif saeed khan (b) Arif Alvi
 (c) Reza Baqir (d) Moin-ul-Haq
- 179.** Who has been bestowed by Japan with a national award “order of the Rising Sun, Gold and silver star”?
 (a) P.K Mishra (b) Shyam Saran
 (c) K. Sivan (d) Ramesh Chand
- 180.** Which company become the country’s by revenue?
 (a) TCS (b) IOC
 (c) Reliance Industries (d) HDFC
- 181.** Who won Booker International prize?
 (a) Jokha Al Harthi (b) Salman Rushdie
 (c) Peter Carey (d) Don Delilo
- 182.** _____ signed defence contract with Indian Navy.
 (a) Tech Mahindra (b) TCS
 (c) Google (d) Wipro
- 183.** Cyril Ramaphosa re-elected as president of which of the following country?
 (a) Indonesia (b) South Africa
 (c) Brazil (d) Iran
- 184.** Who ranked first on Hurun India Art list 2019?
 (a) Anish Kapoor (b) Suresh Kumar
 (c) Rajesh Kapoor (d) Anil Dev
- 185.** Which city Tops in the list of most vulnerable cities to cyber attacks in 2019
 (a) New Delhi (b) Hyderabad
 (c) Chennai (d) Mumbai
- 186.** Which bank has joined hands with FMCG Arm of the Art of living, Sri Sri Tattava.
 (a) ICICI (b) HDFC (c) SBI (d) Yes Bank
- 187.** Kadovoor Sivadasan passed away at the age of 87 in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. He is a/an ____
 (a) Director (b) Actor
 (c) Musician (d) Politician
- 188.** Which Indian female entrepreneur, an alma mater of Yale university, received in honorary degree by the prestigious Yale university?
 (a) Kiran Mazumdar shaw (b) Indra Nooyi
 (c) Vandana Luthra (d) Indu Jain
- 189.** Indian Ranked _____ in the kids Right Index 2019.
 (a) 110th (b) 117th (c) 143 rd (d) 126th
- 190.** Which bank introduced Savings Bank product named ‘KBL SB Salary’ for Salaried class?
 (a) SBI Bank (b) Yes Bank
 (c) Karnataka Bank (d) Corporation Bank

- 191.** Starbucks has recently opened “Silent Café” in which country?
 (a) Japan (b) USA
 (c) Russia (d) China
- 192.** Who was conferred with ‘German Chemistry prize’?
 (a) Ankur Patwardhan (b) Suresh Krishnan
 (c) Vikram Suraj (d) Vikram lamiya
- 193.** WHO declared _____ and _____ as malaria free countries
 (a) Bahrain and Belgium (b) Algeria and Argetina
 (c) Costa rica and Denmark
 (d) Hongkong and France.
- 194.** _____ records 15% GSDP growth in FY 19 with Rs. 8,66,875 crore
 (a) Kerala (b) Bihar
 (c) Tamil Nadu (d) Telangana
- 195.** Integral Coach Factory (ICF) will take up the design, development and production of which train?
 (a) Train 20 (b) Train 19
 (c) Train 18 (d) Train 21
- 196.** National Commonwealth Day is observed on ____?
 (a) May 22 (b) May 23 (c) May 24 (d) May 25
- 197.** IAF successfully fired the BrahMos air Version missile from Su-30 MKI fighter aircraft what is the Strike range?
 (a) 300 km (b) 500 km (c) 1000 km (d) 800 km
- 198.** Who won ‘Global Asian of the year’ Award for contribution to women’s Healthcare Ecosystem?
 (a) Nitya Suresh (b) Niranjani Kumar
 (c) Hema Divakar (d) Rashmi Narayana
- 199.** Which team crowned as Indian women’s league champions?
 (a) Bengaluru FC (b) East Bengal FC
 (c) Sethu FC (d) Kolkata FC
- 200.** How many million loan was granted to India for Railway Track Electricfication project by Asian Development Bank (ADB)?
 (a) 750 (b) 250 (c) 650 (d) 500
- 201.** Who was sworn in as the CM of Andhra Pradesh?
 (a) N.Chandrababu Naidu
 (b) K.Chandrasekhara Rao
 (c) Y.S Jagan Mohan Reddy
 (d) ESL Narasimhan
- 202.** NGT recently ordered _____ to furnish fresh details on green cover.
 (a) Delhi Government (b) Ministry of Water
 (c) National Highways Authority of India
 (d) None of these
- 203.** India’s crude oil imports jump _____ in April to 6-month high
 (a) 14% (b) 16% (c) 22% (d) 28%
- 204.** _____ flagged off the shipment of India’s largest liquid Hydrogen storage tank.
 (a) DRDO (b) ISRO (c) SAIL (d) HAL
- 205.** Wirecard, a payments company based in _____ would work with India to issue PAN cards.
 (a) Australia (b) B.Russia
 (c) Germany (d) D.Singapore
- 206.** Who secured top of the latest MRF Tyres ICC ODI rankings for all-rounders?
 (a) Shakib AI Hasan (b) Rashid Khan
 (c) Mohammad Nabi (d) Imad Wasim
- 207.** How many teams will participate in 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar?
 (a) 36 (b) 44 (c) 48 (d) 32
- 208.** Which Country successfully test fired Shaheen-II?
 (a) India (b) Afganistan
 (c) Pakistan (d) China
- 209.** Paytm Payments Bank turns profitable in 2nd year with _____ profit
 (a) 19 crores (b) 25 crores
 (c) 38 crores (d) 56 crores
- 210.** Reliance Capital will exit mutual fund business by selling its entire stake to its foreign partner _____.
 (a) Prudential Financial Inc.
 (b) United Health Group of US
 (c) Japan’s Nippon Life Insurance
 (d) China Life Insurance
- 211.** Which city hosts 2019 World Championships in Athletics?
 (a) Eugene, United States (b) Barcelona, Spain
 (c) Doha, Qatar (d) Rome, Italy
- 212.** Google has banned the world’s second-largest smartphone maker _____ from some Android operating system updates
 (a) Lenovo (b) Sony (c) Xiaomi (d) Huawei

- 213.** RBI is to introduce Liquidity coverage ratio in NBFCs/ non-deposit taking shadow banks which have an asset size of _____ and above
 (a) 5000 crore (b) 10000 crore
 (c) 15000 crore (d) 20000 crore
- 214.** How many seats have been won by women candidates in 17th Lok Sabha elections?
 (a) 56 (b) 68 (c) 72 (d) 78
- 215.** Who has become the youngest ever Lok Sabha MP?
 (a) Chandrani Murmu
 (b) Kanimozli
 (c) Kavitha Kalvakuntla
 (d) Shobha Karandlaje
- 216.** Where will the G-20 Summit 2019 be held?
 (a) Argentina (b) Japan
 (c) Germany (d) Australia
- 217.** Which bank launched 'Corp SME Suvidha' for MSMEs?
 (a) Bank of Baroda (b) Canara Bank
 (c) Corporation Bank (d) Andhra Bank
- 218.** Who won 2019 Sudirman Cup?
 (a) China (b) Pakistan
 (c) Indonesia (d) Saudi Arabia
- 219.** Where is the second Shanghai Corporation Organization (SCO) mass media forum being held from 23-26 May, 2019?
 (a) Russia (b) Kyrgyzstan
 (c) Uzbekistan (d) China
- 220.** Who won gold medal in 10m Air Rifle in ISSF world Cup?
 (a) Manu Bhakar (b) Heena Sidhu
 (c) Apurvi Chandela (d) Jitu Rai
- 221.** To prevent re-occurrence of IL FS type of debit crisis in NBFCs RBI is to introduce LCR. What does LCR stand for?
 (a) Liquidity Cash Reserve
 (b) Licensed Corrected Ratio
 (c) Liquidity coverage Ratio
 (d) Limited Cash Reserve
- 222.** Who has won the 2019 Dr Lee Jong-wook memorial prize for public Health at the 72nd world Health Assembly in Geneva?
 (a) Balram Bhargava (b) P.K Mishra
 (c) G.Satheesh Reddy (d) Arata Irozaki
- 223.** Which country elected to executive Board of first UN Habitat Assembly?
 (a) Indonesia (b) India
 (c) Pakistan (d) China
- 224.** Who has been elected the vice president of the Badminton Asia Council (BAC)?
 (a) Graham Reid (b) Praful Patel
 (c) Himanta Biswa Sarma (d) Narinder Batra
- 225.** Who is the author of the debut novel 'In our mad and Ferious city'?
 (a) Sarah perry (b) Guy Gunaratne
 (c) Lousia Hall (d) Zoe Gilbert
- 226.** Prem Tinsulanonda has passed away recently. He was the Former Prime Minister of which country?
 (a) Maldives (b) Nepal
 (c) Bangladesh (d) Thailand
- 227.** Who won the Monaco Grand Prix?
 (a) Lewis Hamilton (b) Alian Prost
 (c) Sebastian Vettel (d) Valtteri Bottas
- 228.** Who won UNSDG 10 most influential people in Healthcare Award?
 (a) Vikram Singh (b) Nitish Sharma
 (c) R.Srinivasan (d) Acharya Balkrishna
- 229.** Who has been sworn as Sikkim Chief Minister?
 (a) Prem Singh Tamang (Golay)
 (b) Akilesh Yadav
 (c) Pawan Kumar Chamling
 (d) N. Biren Singh
- 230.** Director Bong Joon Ho has bagged the palm d'Or for his film "Parasite" at the 72nd cannes film festival in France. He is from which county?
 (a) China (b) South Korea (c) Isracl (d) Japan
- 231.** How many medals has India won at India open International Boxing tournament in Guwahati?
 (a) 54 medals (b) 55 medals
 (c) 53 medals (d) 57 medals
- 232.** Which state's first woman mountaineer Kalpana Dash has passed away recently?
 (a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Odisha
 (c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Kerala
- 233.** India successfully test fired an Akash-MK-1S missile from the integrated test range at Chandipur in Odisha. What is the strike range?
 (a) 25 km (b) 50 km
 (c) 150 km (d) 300 km

- 234.** The world chess federation has decided to restore the rating of which country's chess players?
 (a) Malaysia (b) USA
 (c) India (d) Germany
- 235.** The government of India projected an increase of _____ in non-goods and service tax collection in 2022-23.
 (a) 25% (b) 24% (c) 26.6% (d) 25.5%
- 236.** Recently, Justice Talwant Singh, Rajnish Bhatnagar, Asha Menon and Brijesh Sethi were appointed as judges of which high court?
 (a) Delhi High Court
 (b) Madras High Court
 (c) Allahabad High Court
 (d) Bombay High Court
- 237.** Recently in which city Vice President Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated an International Day for Biological Diversity tree ambulance?
 (a) Bengaluru (b) Hyderabad
 (c) New Delhi (d) Chennai
- 238.** An all woman crew of Indian Air Force (IAF) flew which helicopter in India?
 (a) Mil Mi-8 (b) Mil Mi-17
 (c) Mi-17 V5 (d) Mi-17 V
- 239.** The Orchha town was recently added to the tentative list of world heritage sites of UNESCO. It belongs to which state?
 (a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Madhya Pradesh
 (c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Himachal Pradesh
- 240.** World's largest nuclear powered icebreaker 'Ural' was launched by which country?
 (a) China (b) India
 (c) Russia (d) Japan
- 241.** BJP's former MP Hariom Singh Rathore has passed away recently. He was from which constituency?
 (a) Gwalior (b) Rajsamand
 (c) Agra (d) Mathura
- 242.** When is International Day of UN Peacekeepers observed every year
 (a) May 28 (b) May 29
 (c) May 30 (d) June 1
- 243.** Mohamed Nasheed has been nominated as speaker of Parliament of which country?
 (a) Maldives (b) Nepal
 (c) Pakistan (d) Srilanka
- 244.** _____ Signed a MoU with the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Ministry for 2019-20?
 (a) National Medium Industries Corporation (NMIC)
 (b) National Industries Corporation (NIC)
 (c) National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC)
 (d) National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC)
- 245.** What is the Investment made by International Finance Corporation (IFC) in Manappuram Finance Ltd. (MFL)?
 (a) \$ 20 Million (b) \$ 25 Million
 (c) \$ 30 Million (d) \$ 35 Million
- 246.** Which Bank has launched 'Bank on Wheels' Facility?
 (a) Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)
 (b) Indian Bank
 (c) Canara Bank
 (d) Bank of India
- 247.** Western Command children summer Adventure camp 2019 is being organized at _____ from 27th May to 02nd June 2019.
 (a) Shimla (b) Mussorie
 (c) Manali (d) Dehradun
- 248.** RBI Formed a committee under the Chairmanship of Harsh Vardhan to review _____
 (a) Monetary Policy Committee
 (b) Housing Finance Securitisation market
 (c) Secondary Market for Corporate Loans
 (d) Economic Capital Framework
- 249.** Who has been elected as the new President of Nigeria?
 (a) Kingsley Moghal (b) Muhammad Buhari
 (c) Murtala Muhammed (d) Yakubu Gowon
- 250.** _____ Lifted export ban on Fruits and Vegetable from Kerala
 (a) Saudi Arabia (b) Iran
 (c) Pakistan (d) China
- 251.** What are the countries that are removed from US currency Monitoring list?
 (a) Pakistan and Afghanistan
 (b) China and India
 (c) Sweden and India
 (d) Switzerland and India

- 252.** Who has been sworn in as the Chief Justice of Meghalaya High Court?
 (a) MB Lokur
 (b) Surya Kant
 (c) Ajay Kumar Mittal
 (d) DN Patel
- 253.** _____ appointed as the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea
 (a) James Marape
 (b) Sam Abal
 (c) Bill Skate
 (d) Rabbin Namaliu
- 254.** World No Tobacco Day is observed on May 31st every year. What is the theme for 2019?
 (a) Tobacco and heart disease
 (b) Tobacco threat to development
 (c) Get ready for plain packaging
 (d) Tobacco and lung health
- 255.** Binny, India's last orangutan dies at Nandankanan Zoological Park. Where is the Nandankanan Zoological Park located?
 (a) Assam
 (b) Odisha
 (c) Gujarat
 (d) Maharashtra
- 256.** Goldman Sachs is to invest \$ 250 million to construct one of its largest global workspaces in ____ India.
 (a) Kolkata
 (b) Hyderabad
 (c) Bengaluru
 (d) Mumbai
- 257.** FASTags are now available on e-commerce platform _____
 (a) Amazon
 (b) Flipkart
 (c) Paytm
 (d) Snapdeal
- 258.** Who clinched Olympic quota place in women's air pistol in the shooting World Cup in Munich 2019?
 (a) Meenal Maheshwari
 (b) Elavenil Valarivan
 (c) Apurvi Chandela
 (d) Manu Bhaker

- 259.** Who is the chief of the Naval Staff, who will relinquish command of the Indian Navy on 31 May 2019?
 (a) Dalbir Singh Suhag
 (b) Sunil Lanba
 (c) Bipin Rawat
 (d) Bikram Singh
- 260.** What is the Rank of India 2019 IMD World Competitiveness Rankings?
 (a) 42
 (b) 145
 (c) 144
 (d) 43
- 261.** Carmine Caridi recently died. He belongs to which field?
 (a) Singer
 (b) Politician
 (c) Actor
 (d) Poet
- 262.** Tata Steel is to acquire Bhushan Energy Limited for about _____
 (a) Rs. 200 crore
 (b) Rs. 400 crore
 (c) Rs. 800 crore
 (d) Rs. 500 crore

ANSWER KEY

1	a	2	b	3	d	4	c	5	a
6	d	7	b	8	a	9	c	10	d
11	d	12	a	13	d	14	d	15	b
16	a	17	a	18	c	19	b	20	b
21	d	22	d	23	a	24	b	25	a
26	b	27	d	28	c	29	b	30	c
31	b	32	a	33	c	34	b	35	b
36	a	37	c	38	d	39	c	40	a
41	a	42	d	43	b	44	a	45	c
46	a	47	b	48	b	49	a	50	a
51	c	52	b	53	b	54	d	55	a
56	a	57	c	58	d	59	b	60	a
61	c	62	c	63	b	64	c	65	a
66	a	67	a	68	c	69	b	70	a
71	c	72	d	73	d	74	b	75	d

76	a	77	c	78	c	79	d	80	b
81	a	82	b	83	a	84	d	85	d
86	b	87	a	88	a	89	d	90	c
91	c	92	b	93	d	94	b	95	d
96	d	97	a	98	c	99	b	100	d
101	b	102	b	103	c	104	a	105	c
106	d	107	a	108	b	109	a	110	d
111	a	112	d	113	c	114	b	115	c
116	c	117	a	118	d	119	a	120	c
121	d	122	a	123	b	124	c	125	d
126	b	127	d	128	a	129	c	130	c
131	a	132	c	133	a	134	a	135	d
136	b	137	d	138	a	139	b	140	b
141	a	142	b	143	d	144	a	145	d
146	c	147	c	148	d	149	d	150	a
151	b	152	a	153	c	154	b	155	d
156	a	157	b	158	c	159	c	160	b
161	a	162	a	163	b	164	b	165	d
166	c	167	a	168	b	169	c	170	a

171	a	172	c	173	a	174	a	175	c
176	d	177	b	178	d	179	b	180	c
181	a	182	a	183	b	184	a	185	d
186	c	187	d	188	b	189	a	190	c
191	d	192	a	193	b	194	d	195	b
196	c	197	a	198	c	199	c	200	a
201	c	202	c	203	a	204	b	205	c
206	a	207	d	208	c	209	a	210	b
211	c	212	d	213	a	214	d	215	a
216	b	217	c	218	a	219	b	220	c
221	c	222	a	223	b	224	c	225	b
226	d	227	a	228	d	229	a	230	b
231	d	232	b	233	a	234	c	235	c
236	a	237	d	238	c	239	b	240	c
241	b	242	b	243	a	244	c	245	d
246	a	247	c	248	b	249	b	250	a
251	d	252	c	253	a	254	d	255	b
256	c	257	a	258	d	259	b	260	d
261	c	262	c						
