

CURRENT AFFAIRS



MAY 2019

tutorialspoint

SIMPLY EASY LEARNING

www.tutorialspoint.com



<https://www.facebook.com/tutorialspointindia>



<https://twitter.com/tutorialspoint>

Current Affairs — May 2019

This is a guide to provide you a precise summary and a huge collection of Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) covering national and international current affairs for the month of **May 2019**.

This guide will help you in preparing for Indian competitive examinations like Bank PO, Banking, Railway, IAS, PCS, UPSC, CAT, GATE, CDS, NDA, MCA, MBA, Engineering, IBPS, Clerical Grade and Officer Grade, etc.

Audience

Aspirants who are preparing for different competitive exams like Bank PO, Banking, Railway, IAS, PCS, UPSC, CAT, GATE, CDS, NDA, MCA, MBA, Engineering, IBPS, Clerical Grade, Officer Grade, etc.

Even though you are not preparing for any exams but are willing to have news encapsulated in a roll, which you can walk through within 30 minutes, then we have put all the major points for the whole month in a precise and interesting way.

Copyright & Disclaimer

© Copyright 2019 by Tutorials Point (I) Pvt. Ltd.

All the content and graphics published in this e-book are the property of Tutorials Point (I) Pvt. Ltd. The user of this e-book is prohibited to reuse, retain, copy, distribute or republish any contents or a part of contents of this e-book in any manner without written consent of the publisher.

We strive to update the contents of our website and tutorials as timely and as precisely as possible, however, the contents may contain inaccuracies or errors. Tutorials Point (I) Pvt. Ltd. provides no guarantee regarding the accuracy, timeliness or completeness of our website or its contents including this tutorial. If you discover any errors on our website or in this tutorial, please notify us at contact@tutorialspoint.com

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CURRENT AFFAIRS — MAY 2019	2
AUDIENCE	2
COPYRIGHT & DISCLAIMER	2
TABLE OF CONTENTS	3
APPOINTMENTS	4
AWARDS.....	17
BILLS & ACTS	30
BOOKS & AUTHORS	32
BANKING & FINANCE	34
BUSINESS AND ECONOMY	41
COMMITTEES.....	47
DEATH	48
DEFENCE	51
ENVIRONMENT	75
IMPORTANT DAYS	79
INTERNATIONAL	85
MISCELLANEOUS	96
NATIONAL	98
RESIGNATIONS	116
REPORTS	118
REGIONAL	119
SPORTS	126
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY	133

Appointments

1. Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria Appointed as Vice Chief of Air Staff

Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria was commissioned in the fighter stream of Indian Air Force in 1980 and won the coveted 'Sword of Honour' for standing first in the overall order of merit.

He has over 4250 hours of experience on twenty-six types of fighters and transport aircraft with the unique distinction of being an Experimental Test Pilot, a Cat 'A' Qualified Flying Instructor and a Pilot Attack Instructor.

He held a number of important appointments, which include, Command of a Jaguar Squadron and a premier Air Force Station, Commanding Officer of Flight Test Squadron at Aircraft and System Testing Establishment, Chief Test Pilot and Project Director of National Flight Test Centre on Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) project.

He was extensively involved in the initial prototype flight tests on the LCA.

Air Marshal Bhadauria was also the Air Attache, at Embassy of India in Moscow, Assistant Chief of the Air Staff (Projects), Commandant of the National Defence Academy, Senior Air Staff Officer at HQ CAC, Deputy Chief of the Air Staff at Air HQ and Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Southern Air Command.



2. Japan got its new emperor Naruhito Emperor ascends to the Chrysanthemum Throne

The new emperor, Naruhito (59-year-old), on 1st May received the sacred imperial regalia that represents his rightful succession to the world's oldest monarchy, Tokyo, Japan. Emperor Akihito of Japan formally stepped down on 30th April 2019 as his son Naruhito prepared to take the Chrysanthemum Throne and usher in a new imperial era.

Emperor Akihito

Emperor Akihito abdicated the Chrysanthemum Throne three decades after he succeeded his father, the wartime emperor Hirohito. This is the first abdication for 200 years in the world's oldest monarchy. In the "Room of Pine" in Tokyo's Imperial Palace, the popular 85-year-old performed the abdication ritual in the presence of the imperial regalia, an ancient sword and the sacred jewel.



Akihito (now 85 years old), took the throne in 1989. He devoted his career correcting for a war fought in his father's name. He even brought the aloof monarchy closer to people. He is the first emperor in Japan's modern history whose era did not have a war. While the role of the emperor has been chiefly ceremonial since the end of World War II, the departing monarch acted as the nation's chief consoler during times of disaster, such as the 2011 earthquake and tsunami, and sought to make amends throughout Asia for Japan's wartime atrocities.

Change of Era

Stepping down of Emperor Akihito brings his "Heisei" era to an end and beginning of a new "Reiwa" era with Naruhito's accession. The term "Reiwa" means "Beautiful Harmony". It is derived from "Manyoshu", an anthology of Japanese poems dating back 1,200 years that symbolises Japan's profound public culture and long tradition.

3. Jayshree Vyas appointed as BSEs first independent woman director

BSE, formerly known as the Bombay Stock Exchange, has finally appointed its first independent woman director Jayshree Vyas. The appointment was still late by at least a few weeks from the deadline of April 1 given to all top 500 listed companies based on their market capitalisation for appointing an independent woman director on their board.



Why the delay?

The delay happened as the country's largest stock exchange was awaiting market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India's (SEBI) approval on the appointment. Because of the appointment, BSE is now compliant with the regulations. BSE already has two non-executive women directors namely Usha Sangwan and Rajeshree Sabnavis on its Board.

Jayshree Vyas

Vyas is a professionally-qualified chartered accountant, working as the managing director of Shree Mahila Sewa Sahakari Bank, Ahmedabad, since 1986. She helped in launching the first financial literacy programme in Sewa Bank in 2001.

Why the appointment is important?

The Companies Act of 2013 mandates a certain class of companies to have at least one woman director on board. SEBI, in compliance with the Companies Act 2013, made it compulsory to have at least one woman on a board from October 2014.

However, according to some reports as of April 2019, 51 of top 500 National Stock Exchange (NSE) listed companies in terms of market capitalisation had not appointed independent woman director.

Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)

Location: Maharashtra, India

Founded on: 9 July 1875

Founded by: Premchand Roychand

Chairman: S. Ravi

MD & CEO: Ashishkumar Chauhan

Market cap: ₹150,184.87 billion

It is an Indian stock exchange

BSE is the world's 10th largest stock exchange

4. US Air Force General Tod Wolters sworn in as NATO commander

US Air Force General Tod D. Wolters has been sworn in as the top military officer of the 29-nation NATO military alliance.

Wolters, who replaces U.S. Army General Curtis M. Scaparrotti for a term likely to run two to three years, will also be commander of U.S. forces in Europe.

The NATO post of SACEUR (Supreme Allied Commander Europe) is always held by an American military officer.



About NATO

NATO full form: North Atlantic Treaty Organization

It is an intergovernmental military alliance between 29 North American and European countries.

The organization implements the North Atlantic Treaty that was signed on 4 April 1949.

NATO's Headquarters: Haren, Brussels, Belgium

Headquarters of Allied Command Operations: Mons, Belgium.

The most recent member state to be added to NATO is Montenegro on 5 June 2017.

NATO's 29 members are: Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom, the United States, and Montenegro.

5. Justice PR Ramachandra Menon sworn in as CJ of the Chhattisgarh HC

Justice PR Ramachandra Menon was sworn in as Chief Justice of the Chhattisgarh High Court on 6th May. Governor Anandiben Patel administered him the oath of office and secrecy at a function at Raj Bhawan.

The office the Chief Justice of Chhattisgarh fell vacant after the resignation of Chief Justice Ajay Kumar Tripathi following his appointment as Judicial Member in the Lokpal.

Justice PR Ramachandra Menon

Initially, he was sworn-in as Additional Judge of High Court of Kerala on January 5, 2009. On December 15, 2010, he was appointed as permanent Judge of the High Court of Kerala and has been functioning there since his elevation.

Menon's name was recommended for the position of Chief Justice of Chhattisgarh High Court by Supreme Court Collegium on April 8, 2019, following which, he was appointed for the said position by President Ram Nath Kovind.



Chhattisgarh

Capital: Raipur

Governor: Anandiben Patel

Chief Minister: Bhupesh Baghel

Official language: Hindi

Districts: 27

6. Sujatha V Kumar appointed as Head of Marketing for India and South Asia for Visa

Visa, the global leader in digital payments technology, announced the appointment of Sujatha V Kumar as Head of Marketing for India and South Asia.

Her roles will be as the overall marketing strategy and execution including consumer, retail and digital marketing initiatives for India and the emerging markets of Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal and Maldives

Prior to this, she worked with Google as Head in Brand & Reputation, Marketing and Strategy.



She has 20 years of experience and extensive knowledge of consumer insights, brand development, go-to-market approaches, category management, retail strategy and promotions.

She started her career at Procter & Gamble and later on gathered rich experience in sales and marketing across companies such as Gillette, Nokia, The Royal Bank of Scotland and Coca-Cola.

Sujatha is a graduate in Psychology and holds an MBA in Marketing.

About Visa

- Headquarters: California, United States
- CEO: Alfred F Kelly Jr

7. Indias Jagjit Pavadia re-elected to the International Narcotics Control Board(INCB)

Jagjit Pavadia, an Indian re-elected by the UN Economic and Social Council to a five year term on International Narcotics Control Board with the highest number of votes of 44 in the 54 member council.

She will begin her term on March 2, next year.

She was elected to the INCB for her first five year term in 2014. She has also served as the First Vice-President of the Board in 2016 and Chair of the Standing Committee on Estimates in 2015 and 2017.



About International Narcotics Control Board

- Established: 1968
- President: Viroj Sumyai

8. Rakesh Sharma, Bajaj Auto Executive Director elected as IMMA Vice-President

Rakesh Sharma, Bajaj Auto Executive Director and also a representative of SIAM (Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers) elected as VP (Vice President) of IMMA, International Motorcycle Manufacturers Association (based in Geneva) during the annual general meeting of (IMMA) at Yogyakarta in Indonesia.

Rakesh Sharma has a wide range of experience in 2 and 3-wheeler industry and he is expected to efficiently direct IMMA towards being the trusted motorcycle manufacturers worldwide.



IMMA's president is Johannes Loman.

9. LIC Mutual Fund appointed Dinesh Pangtey as CEO

LIC Mutual Fund appointed Dinesh Pangtey as the company's Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

He joined LIC as a direct recruit officer in 1984

He was Director and CEO at LIC Group's private equity division LIC HFL AMC. He also served as Regional Manager Marketing channel in Western Zone spanning the states of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Goa.

He has more than 35 years of experience across private equity, life pension, group annuation scheme and insurance sector.



About Life Insurance Corporation(LIC)

Industry: Financial services

Founded: 1 September 1956

Headquarters: Mumbai, India

Chairman: M. R. Kumar

10. Simon Armitage has been named the U.K.s new Poet Laureate

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

It is up to the poet to decide whether or not to produce poetry for national and royal occasions. Previous laureates have included John Dryden and William Wordsworth.



Simon Armitage

Armitage, a professor of poetry at the University of Leeds, has published 28 collections of poetry and his work is studied by British schoolchildren as part of the national curriculum.

Culture Secretary Jeremy Wright praised Armitage for his witty and profound take on modern life.

Poet Laureate of the United Kingdom

The British Poet Laureate is an honorary position appointed by the monarch of the United Kingdom, currently on the advice of the Prime Minister.

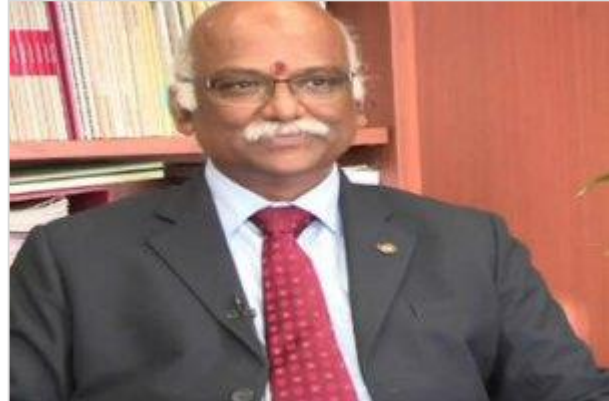
It is expected that the role holder will write verse for significant national occasions.

The origins of the laureateship date back to 1616 when a pension was provided to Ben Jonson. But the first official holder of the position was John Dryden. He was appointed in 1668 by Charles II.

11. RBI appointed R.Gandhi as Additional director of Yes Bank

The Reserve Bank of India has appointed its former Deputy Governor R. Gandhi as an additional director on the board of private sector lender Yes Bank with immediate effect. The appointment is for two years, that is till May 13, 2021.

R. Gandhi's appointment comes against the backdrop of Yes Bank reported a loss of ₹1,507 cr for March quarter. This appointment will significantly strengthen Yes Bank's Board Composition and the Bank will immensely benefit from R. Gandhi's experience and wisdom at the Yes Bank.



Mr.R.Gandhi

Gandhi was RBI Deputy Governor during April 2014 and April 2017. Gandhi was the driving force for the design and implementation of a real-time gross settlement system or RTGS.

About Yes Bank

Founded on: 2004

Founder: Rana Kapoor, Ashok Kapur

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

Non-Exe Chairman: Brahm Dutt

MD & CEO: Rana Kapoor

Yes Bank is India's 4th largest private sector Bank.

12. Sanjiv Puri appointed as New Chairman of ITC

Sanjiv Puri is appointed as the chairman of ITC.

He became the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of ITC.

He was appointed as a Managing Director of ITC in 2018 and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in February 2017.



About ITC Limited

Headquarter: Kolkata

CEO: Sanjiv Puri

Founded: 24 August 1910

Headquarters: Virginia House, Kolkata

13. Cyril Ramaphosa re-elected as President of South Africa

African National Congress (ANC) won South African elections with majority and secured 57.51 percent votes and Cyril Ramaphosa elected as South African President.

Last year in February 2018, Cyril Ramaphosa elected as South African President after President Jacob Zuma resigned from the post due to charges of corruption

This was the first time that African National Congress has got less than 60 percent votes in national polls.



About South Africa

Capital: Cape Town, Pretoria, Bloemfontein

Currency: South African rand

14. IL&FS Engineering appoints Karim Raza Khan as CEO

IL&FS Engineering and Construction Company Ltd. has appointed Kazim Raza Khan as its chief executive officer. Mr. Khan was appointed as the manager and key managerial personnel of the company on December 24, 2018.

Khan has an overall professional experience of over three decades in the technical field focused on infrastructure. He will continue to be key managerial personnel of the company.



Khan's previous experience

Khan had joined IL&FS Transportation Networks Limited in December 2005 as Project Manager. He was promoted as Assistant Vice President in 2007 and was further promoted as Associate Vice President in 2010.

He was working as Senior Vice President and Regional Head of South, Central and West India till his appointment as Manager (Key Managerial Personnel) of IL&FS Engineering & Construction Company Limited in December 24, 2018.

15. Moin ul Haque appointed as Pakistans High Commissioner to India

Pakistan announced career diplomat Moin ul Haque as its new High Commissioner to India. The appointment was formally approved by Prime Minister Imran Khan. He is the current ambassador of Pakistan in France.

Haque replaces Sohail Mehmood. The post of High Commissioner to India fell vacant after Sohail Mehmood was appointed Pakistan's new foreign secretary.

Pakistan has announced new ambassadors to 18 countries including China, Japan, and Brussels. The decision came after a detailed meeting with Prime Minister Khan, who formally approved the new appointments.



Other appointments

In Beijing, Naghmana Hashmi will replace Masood Khalid, the incumbent envoy to China, after completion of his tenure. Additional Secretary Imtiaz Ahmad has been appointed Ambassador to Japan, while Zaheer Janjua, currently serving as additional secretary in Europe, will look after the Pakistani mission in Brussels.

Sarfaraz Ahmad was appointed as ambassador to Sudan, Imran Haider as ambassador in Tajikistan, Major General Abdul Aziz Tariq in Brunei and Major General Muhammad Khalid Rao in Bosnia Herzegovina.

Ambassador in Kuwait Ghulam Dastagir will replace Muazzam Ali Khan in Abu Dhabi, while Qazi Khalilullah, serving as ambassador in Russia, was being given an extension of six months.

The newly-appointed ambassadors and consul generals will play a pivotal in promoting the soft image of Pakistan and will adopt the best behaviour with Pakistani community living abroad.

Note

Ambassador: An ambassador is an accredited diplomat sent by a state as its permanent representative in a foreign country.

16. Jagan Mohan Reddy Sworn In As CM of Andhra Pradesh

YSR Congress Chief Jagan Mohan Reddy sworn in as chief minister of Andhra Pradesh on 30th of May at Vijayawada.

Mr Jagan Mohan Reddy took over the post following his party's landslide victory in the legislative elections for Andhra Pradesh Legislative assembly.

He replaces N Chandrababu Naidu as Andhra Pradesh CM.



About YSR Congress Party

President: Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy

Founded: 12 March 2011

Headquarters: Vijayawada

17. Four new Supreme Court judges were sworn in making a strength of 31 judges

Four new Supreme Court judges were sworn in, raising the number of judges to the full sanctioned strength of 31.

Justices Aniruddha Bose, AS Bopanna, Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai and Surya Kant were administered the oath of office by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi.

With this, the apex court attained its approved total strength of 31 judges. The five-member Collegium, headed by Justice Gogoi, had earlier this month overruled the Centre's objection to the appointment of Justice Bose of the Jharkhand High Court and Justice Bopanna of the Gauhati High Court. The Collegium had recommended the names of Justices Bose and Bopanna on April 12. The Centre had, however, objected to their elevation citing seniority and representation of regions as the reasons.



18. Lieutenant General Shailesh Tinaikar of India appointed to head UN peacekeeping operation in South Sudan

The commandant of the Indian Army Infantry School, Lieutenant General Shailesh Tinaikar, aged 57, appointed as the new force commander of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) by the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

He will succeed Lieutenant General Frank Kamanzi of Rwanda.

He will command over 16,000 peacekeepers which include nearly 2,400 from India.



He has an experience with the Indian Armed Forces for more than 34 years. ii. In 1983, he graduated from the Indian Military Academy.

He obtained a Master of Philosophy degree in Defence and Strategic Studies from the University of Madras.

He served the UN Angola Verification Mission III from 1996 to 1997 and UN Mission in Sudan from 2008 to 2009.

About the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS):

Established by. United Nations Security Council Resolution 1996

Founded: July 9, 2011

Headquarters: Juba, South Sudan Head: David Shearer

19. Alapan Bandyopadhyay appointed as new Home Secretary for West Bengal

Chief Minister of West Bengal, Mamata Banerjee appointed Alapan Bandyopadhyay, an IAS officer of the 1987 batch, as the new Home Secretary for West Bengal.

He succeeds Atri Bhattacharya

Alapan Bandyopadhyay was in charge of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Department with additional charge of Industry, Commerce and Enterprises Department.



Ajit Ranjan Bardhan as the new principal secretary of the North Bengal Development Department (NBDD)

Bardhan was earlier in charge of Youth Services and Sports department.

Barun Kumar Ray, who was in charge of the NBDD with an additional charge of Jalpaiguri Commissioner was transferred as the Commissioner of Malda.

Choten D Lama, Secretary of the Panchayat & Rural Development Department (P&RD) was shifted to the Backward Classes Welfare Department with an additional charge of the Tribal department.

Gyanwant Singh was appointed as the new ADGP (Law and Order).

Jayanta Kumar Basu was appointed as the director of the directorate of economic offences.

About West Bengal

Capital: Kolkata

Governor: Keshari Nath Tripathi

Chief Minister: Mamata Banerjee (AITC)

20. Malawi's President Peter Mutharika re-elected for the second term

Malawi's president Peter Mutharika of Democratic Progressive Party won the re-elections with 38.5% votes.

The victory was announced in Blantyre, Malawi by the head of the Malawi Electoral Commission (MEC) Jane Ansah.

He won the elections against the opposition candidate Lazarus Chakwera from the Malawi Congress Party (MCP) who secured 35.4% of the votes.

Former Vice President Saulos Chilima secured third position with 20% votes.

Malawi has been independent since 1964 and it was the 6th presidential election held since single-party rule ended in 1994.



About Malawi

Capital: Lilongwe

Currency: Malawian Kwacha

21. Muhammadu Buhari sworn in as the president of Nigeria for the second term

Muhammadu Buhari sworn in for a second term as Nigeria's president.

He is a former military ruler, won 56 percent of the votes to defeat his main challenger, former Vice President Atiku Abubakar of the Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP) in the February election.

According to Transparency International's 2018 Corruption Perceptions Index, Nigeria failed to improve its ranking of 144th out of 180 countries from the previous year, despite a number of positive steps.



Buhari is the twenty-third child of his father.

Buhari was raised by his mother after his father died when he was about four years old.

About Muhammadu Buhari

Born: 17 December 1942

Political party: All Progressives Congress

Nationality: Nigerian

22. James Marape appointed as the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea

Lawmakers of Papua New Guinea elected James Marape as its 8th prime minister.

He belongs to Pangu Party.

He succeeded Peter O'Neill of People's National Congress party, who was pressured to resign by a series of political defections in recent days, and tensions over a multi-billion-dollar gas project signed this year with French company Total and the US firm ExxonMobil.

Marape earlier served as the finance minister of Papua New Guinea while he was a member of the People's National Congress party and he resigned on April 2019.



About Papua New Guinea

Capital: Port Moresby

Currency: Papua New Guinean kina

Awards

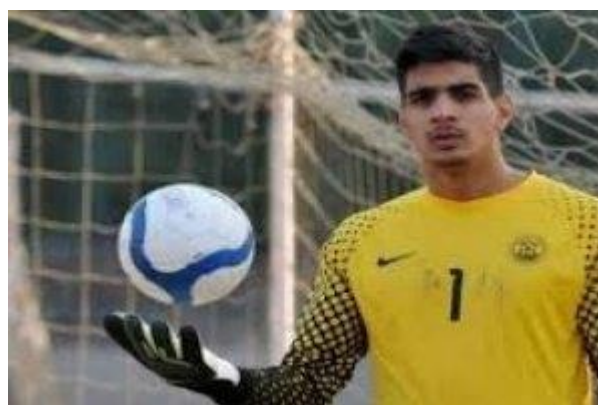
1. AIFF recommends names of Gurpreet Singh Sandhu and Jeje Lalpekhlua for Arjuna award 2019

All India Football Federation (AIFF) recommended the names of Gurpreet Singh Sandhu and Jeje Lalpekhlua for the prestigious Arjuna award this year.

The federation had been pushing the cases of the two footballers since 2017 but the Arjuna award committee continued to ignore their claims.

In 2017, the AIFF recommended the two footballers along with then Indian women's team captain Bembem Devi but only the last named was conferred with the award.

Sandhu and Jeje's names were sent again last year but they did not receive the approval.



2. Nileena M S won the ACJ Award for Investigative Journalism

The article titled 'Coalgate 2.0' authored by Nileena M S and published in The Caravan magazine in March 2018 has won the ACJ Award for Investigative Journalism, 2018. The award, which comprises a trophy, a citation, and Rs. 2,00,000 cash prize. It was presented to the winner by John Micklethwait, Editor-in-Chief of Bloomberg News, who was the chief guest at the journalism school's annual convocation ceremony.



Jury's Verdict

On 3rd May, the final jury comprising Gopalkrishna Gandhi, Nilita Vachani and Dr A R Venkatachalapathy unanimously decided on Nileena's work as the winner. The article is has been recognised for its detailed, exhaustive and persuasive investigation and its clear exposition. It also met the criteria of what comprises a solid work of investigative journalism, combining extensive research uncovering new evidence to reveal a truth, hitherto unknown to most, and of essential public interest.

Other awardees

Other stories that were considered as final nominations and have been awarded special mentions by the jury are:

The Chronicle of Crime Fiction That is Adityanath's Encounter Raj authored by Neha Dixit and published by The Wire

The Death of Judge Loya written by Nikita Saxena for The Caravan magazine.

Coalgate 2.0

Coalgate 2.0 investigates the allotment of captive coal blocks in Chhattisgarh to the Rajasthan. Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam in a joint venture with a subsidiary of the Adani Group despite a landmark Supreme Court judgement from September 2014. The court had cancelled permissions for captive mining of coal blocks and was considered to have put a halt on the Coalgate scam.

3. Ex-ISRO chief AS Kiran Kumar received France's highest civilian award

Former ISRO chairman AS Kiran Kumar was conferred with France's highest civilian award 'Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur' for his contribution to India-France space cooperation.



About AS Kiran Kumar

He served as the ISRO chief from 2015 to 2018 and was awarded the Padma Shri in 2014.

He has contributed to projects like India's first experimental remote sensing satellite, Bhaskara-1, launched in 1979 and even Chandrayaan-1 and Mangalyaan.

About Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur

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

The President of the French Republic is the Grand Master of the Ordre national de la Lgion d'Honneur.

About France

President: Emmanuel Macron

Prime minister: Edouard Philippe

Capital: Paris

Currencies: Euro, CFP franc

4. World Press Freedom Prize 2019 awarded to Myanmar Journalists

The World Press Freedom Prize also known as UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize 2019 is formally conferred every year by Director-General of UNESCO, on occasion of World Press Freedom Day observed on 3 May. In 2019 award would be shared by two jailed Myanmar journalists Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo who reported on alleged human rights violations in the state of Rakhine, Myanmar. The Reuters reporters are serving a seven-year prison sentence in Myanmar. They are charged with breaking the country's secrets law for their journalistic investigation on the military's brutal crackdown and killings of Rohingya Muslims in Rakhine state.



Recognised for

The award recognises their exceptional courage in reporting on alleged human rights violations in the Myanmar's state of Rakhine. Both Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo's documentary on the taboo topic regarding crimes committed against Rohingyas landed them behind the bars. The award paid a tribute to their courage, resistance and commitment to freedom of expression.

UNESCO/Guillermo Cano Press Freedom Prize

The award was established in 1997. The Prize is named after Guillermo Cano Isaza, the Colombian journalist who was assassinated in front of the offices of his newspaper El Espectador in Bogota, Colombia, on 17 December 1986.

It is an initiative of UNESCO's Executive Board. It honours a person, organization that has made an outstanding contribution to the defence and, or promotion of press freedom anywhere in the world in the face of danger.

5. Bandana sets Guinness World Records on Longest Dancing Marathon by an Individual

An 18-year old girl from Nepal named Bandana set a Guinness World Records on 'Longest Dancing Marathon by an Individual'. She danced exclusively to Nepalese music continuously for 126 hours (over five days).

She broke the record set by India's Kalamandalam Hemlatha, who danced continuously for 123 hours and 15 minutes in 2011.

She performed classical dance form Mohiniyattam and set the record at age of 37.



About Guinness World Records

Since its inception from 1933 to 2000, it was known as 'The Guinness Book of Records', later it was renamed Guinness World Records. It is a reference book which lists record-breaking achievements. It is published annually.

6. PC Chandra Puraskaar 2019 conferred to Padma Bhushan Dr. Devi Prasad Shetty

India's most reputed cardiac surgeon and humanitarian, Dr Devi Prasad Shetty were awarded 27th P.C.

Chandra Puraskaar the annual national award from the P.C. Chandra Group at Biswa Bangla Convention Centre.

General Secretary of Ramakrishna Mission, Belur math, SwamiSuviranandajiMaharaj graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and gave away the award.

He is also known as 'The Man with Divine Hands'.



About P.C. Chandra Puraskaar

This award ceremony was introduced in 1993 as a tribute to late ShriPurna Chandra.

The award has recognized people from various field and paths of life achieving great success in their respective fields.

About Ramakrishna Mission

- Founder: Swami Vivekananda
- Founded: 1897
- Headquarters: Belur Math, West Bengal, India
- Purposes: Education, Philanthropy, Religious studies, Spirituality

7. G D Robert Govender honoured with V K Krishna Menon Award

Indian –origin journalist G D ‘Robert’ Govender conferred with V K Krishna Menon Award 2019 in UK for his contribution as a pioneer of decolonised journalism.

The award is given to mark the 123rd birth anniversary of V K Krishna Menon, Indian diplomat and politician.

He is the first person who has been awarded the V K Krishna Menon posthumously.

He died in the UK in 2016.

Govender had written many books in the field of journalism but his one of the outstanding work was “The Martyrdom of Patrice Lumumba” which had exposed the role of western intelligence agencies in the murder of the Congolese independence leader.



8. Israel honoured 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War hero Lt. Gen JFR Jacob

Israel honoured Lt. Gen. (retd) Jack Farj Rafael (JFR) Jacob who negotiated the historic surrender of Pakistani troops in Dhaka after the 1971 Bangladesh 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.



About Israel

Capital: Jerusalem

Currency: Israeli new shekel

President: Reuven Rivlin

Prime Minister: Benjamin Netanyahu

9. Tiger Woods was awarded the USs Presidential Medal of Freedom

US President Donald Trump awarded golfer Tiger Woods the US's Presidential Medal of Freedom, the country's highest civilian honour. The award described the 43-year-old as a true legend who transformed golf and then fought through years of injury to return to the sport's summit. He was awarded after his fifth Masters' title. He became the fourth and youngest golfer to receive the prestigious award after other golfers Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus, and Charlie Sifford.



Trump has given the award to several athletes in 2018 including former professional NFL players Roger Staubach and Alan Page, Miriam Adelson as well as posthumously to baseball great Babe Ruth.

Presidential Medal of Freedom

It was first established by President Truman to honour extraordinary civilian accomplishments related to World War II.

Later, in 1963 the medal was re-established by President Kennedy by an executive order.

It is awarded by U.S. President to any person, living or dead (i.e. posthumously).

The Presidential Medal of Freedom is awarded annually to people who have made outstanding contributions to the security or national interests of the country, to world peace, or to cultural or other significant public or private endeavours.

About Tiger Woods

Eldrick Tont Woods, nicknamed as Tiger, is an USA's professional golf player.

He ranks second in both major championships and PGA (Professional Golfers' Association of America)

He holds numerous records in golf and is considered one of the greatest golfers of all time.

10. IPS officer who oversaw Nirbhaya rape case receives McCain Institute Award 2019

IPS officer Chhaya Sharma conferred with the 2019 McCain Institute Award for Courage and Leadership.

She headed the investigation team of the infamous Nirbhaya gang-rape and murder case.

She has guided teams in the detection and investigation of sensitive criminal cases and protection of human rights.



In 2017, Chhaya performed a crucial role in drafting Standard Operating Procedures and Guidelines to Combat Trafficking of Persons in India.

The award is granted to those who manifest courage on behalf of human rights, humanitarian compassion, justice, freedom, and human dignity.

About McCain Institute

Founded: 2012

Leader: Kurt Volker

Location: Washington, D.C.

11. Pramod Kumar Mishra was awarded the Sasakawa Award

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) has awarded the Sasakawa Award 2019 for Disaster Risk Reduction to Pramod Kumar Mishra. The award recognized his dedication to improving the resilience of communities most exposed to disasters. He is currently serving as Additional Principal Secretary to Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi.

The theme of the 2019 Sasakawa award was Building Inclusive and Resilient Societies. He was conferred the award during ongoing 6th Session of Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR) 2019 at Geneva, Switzerland.

GPDRR is biennial multi-stakeholder forum established by UN General Assembly (UNGA) to review progress, share knowledge and discuss the latest developments and trends in reducing disaster risk.



United Nations Sasakawa Award

The was instituted in 1986 by Nippon Foundation. It is jointly given by the UNDRR and the Nippon Foundation.

It is most prestigious international award in area of Disaster Risk Management.

It is awarded either to organizations or individuals in recognition of their contributions for ensuring inclusive participation in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) activities for all sections of society, especially the poor.

12. Oman author Jokha Al Harthi wins Booker International Prize

Oman Author Jokha Al Harthi 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.



About Man Booker International Prize

Country: United Kingdom

Awarded for: Best book in English translation

Presented: by Man Group

Reward(s): £50,000

First awarded: 2005

13. Govt. invites nomination for Vayoshreshtha Samman for Senior Citizens 2019

The Department of Social Justice And Empowerment had invited nominations for the Vayoshreshtha Samman awards 2019. Nominations for Vayoshreshtha Samman-National Awards for Senior Citizens 2019 for individuals/institutions should be sent by 31st May 2019.

The Ministries/Departments of Government of India and their autonomous organisations/State Govts. or UT Administration can nominate the suitable individuals/institutions for the said Awards.



About Vayoshreshtha Sammans

The series of National Award-Vayoshreshtha Samman awards were instituted by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in 2005. In 2013 these were elevated to the level of national awards. It is an annual award which is conferred in thirteen categories.

These are conferred to eminent senior citizens and Institutions who are involved in providing distinguished services for the cause of elderly persons.

The Department of Social Justice And Empowerment as part of the celebration of the International Day of Older Persons (IDOP) on 1st October every year has been conferring National Award – Vayoshreshtha Samman to eminent senior citizens and institutions

involved in rendering distinguished services for the cause of elderly persons. The President of India confers the National Awards.

14. Shyam Saran will be conferred with Japan's second highest national award

Former foreign secretary Shyam Saran is to be awarded Japan's second highest national award The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star. He will be awarded in 2019 Spring Imperial Decorations for his contributions to strengthen strategic ties and enhancing mutual understanding between India and Japan.



Shyam Saran

Saran was India's Foreign Secretary from 2004 to 2006. He had played an important role to elevate Japan-India relationship to a strategic partnership.

During his tenure, the then Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi had visited India for the first time in 5 years.

When he was Deputy Chief of Mission of Embassy of India in Japan he contributed to strengthening mutual understanding between Japan and India includes India Festival, which was held in Japan in 1988.

Since 2017, he has been enhancing mutual understanding between two countries, such as by hosting an India-Japan Colloquium.

The Order of the Rising Sun

It is a Japanese government honour established in 1875 by Emperor Meiji. It was the first national decoration awarded by the Japanese government. It is awarded to those who have made distinguished achievements in international relations, promotion of Japanese culture, advancements in their field, development in welfare or preservation of the environment.

It consists of badge featuring rays of sunlight from the rising sun. Its design symbolizes energy as powerful as the rising sun in parallel with the "rising sun" concept of Japan (Land of the Rising Sun).

15. Indra Nooyi was presented with an honorary degree by the prestigious Yale University

Former PepsiCo chairman and CEO Indra Nooyi was presented with an honorary degree by the prestigious Yale University, her alma mater. The degree is to recognize her achievements in business and for being a global role model who encouraged women and girls to see themselves as top corporate executives. She is celebrated for her leadership and her commitment to helping women achieve success.



Nooyi, She received a degree in Master of Public and Private Management from the university's Yale School of Management in 1980, was presented with the Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters.

Nooyi was among 11 individuals to be presented with the honorary degrees for achieving distinction in their fields.

Others who received the honorary degrees included author and feminist activist Gloria Steinem, wildlife researcher Cynthia Moss, entrepreneur and philanthropist Strive Masiyiwa and Harvard University president Lawrence Bacow.

Indra Nooyi

In 2006, Nooyi became the first woman to helm the global food and beverage giant PepsiCo. She stepped down in October 2 last year as PepsiCo's CEO, after 24 years with the company, the last 12 as CEO of the global beverage giant.

Nooyi was recently elected to the board of Amazon, on whose audit compensation committee she sits. She is a member of the World Economic Forum board of trustees and of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

She is also an independent director of the International Cricket Council and chair of the compensation committee at Schlumberger, an oilfield services company, on whose board she serves.

One of 25 women to have led a Fortune 500 company, Nooyi has appeared frequently on the Forbes and Fortune rankings of the world's most powerful women.

16. Prof. Bhargava awarded 2019 Dr Lee Jong-wook Memorial Prize

Director General of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Professor Balram Bhargava jointly won the 2019 Dr. Lee Jong-wook Memorial Prize for Public Health at the 72nd World Health Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland. He bagged the award for his achievements as a clinician, innovator, researcher, and trainer.



Professor (Dr) Balram Bhargava

Professor (Dr) Balram Bhargava, Secretary, Department of Health Research, (Ministry of Health & Family Welfare) and Director General of ICMR joined on 16th April 2018. He is Professor of Cardiology at AIIMS, New Delhi and also serves as the Executive Director for Stanford India Biodesign Centre, School of International Biodesign (SiB). He is an outstanding cardiologist, one of the foremost leaders in biomedical innovation, public health, medical education, and medical research.

Professor Bhargava has excellent leadership qualities and has established the India-Stanford Biodesign program, a unique interdisciplinary fellowship program to foster innovation, design in low-cost implants/devices. He set up the c-GMP Centre for Excellence for Stem Cell Studies, at AIIMS which has initiated treatment of patients with dilated cardiomyopathy which has benefitted a number of no-option heart failure patients waiting on the cardiac transplant list.

Awards

He has been awarded the SN Bose Centenary award, Tata Innovation Fellowship and Vasvik Award for Biomedical Technology Innovation, Ranbaxy Award and the OP Bhasin Award in the field of Health and Medical Sciences. He has been awarded the Padma Shri high civilian award by the Honourable President of India and the UNESCO Equatorial Guinea International Prize for research in Life Sciences at Paris.

Dr. Lee Jong-wook Memorial Prize

The Dr. LEE Jong-wook Memorial Prize for Public Health was established in 2008. It is awarded to individuals, institutions, and governmental or nongovernmental organizations who have made an outstanding contribution to public health. The Prize aims at rewarding work that has extended far beyond the call of normal duties, and it is not intended as a reward for an excellent performance of duties normally expected of an official position of a governmental or intergovernmental institution.

The prize is awarded once a year and consists of a plaque from the Founder and a sum of money which will not exceed US\$ 100 000. It will be presented at a special ceremony during the World Health Assembly.

17. Guy Gunaratne received the 2019 Swansea University International Dylan Thomas Prize

Sri Lankan writer Guy Gunaratne was announced as the winner of 2019 Swansea University International Dylan Thomas Prize.

He won the award for his debut novel 'In Our Mad and Furious City'. Guy Gunaratne is a 35 years old British-Sri-Lankan human rights documentary filmmaker, turned debut novelist. He won over 5 other shortlisted authors.

The other titles shortlisted for the Swansea prize were: House of Stone by Novuyo Rosa Tshuma, Friday Black by Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah, Trinity by Louisa Hall, FOLK by Zoe Gilbert and Melmoth by Sarah Perry.



2018's winner Kayo Chingonyi won for his critically-acclaimed debut poetry collection, Kumukanda, which explores black masculinity.

About Swansea University International Dylan Thomas Prize

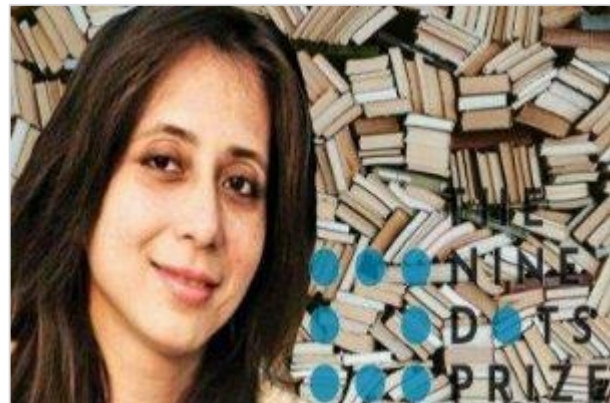
It is awarded every year for the best published literary work in the English language, written by an author aged 39 or under.

The prize includes a prize sum of £30,000 and celebrates the international world of fiction in all its forms including novels, poetry, drama, and short stories.

The year 2019 marks the 11th year of worlds largest English language literary prize for young authors.

18. Zaidi wins USD 100,000 Nine Dots Prize

Mumbai-based Writer Annie Zaidi was announced as the 2019 winner of the \$100,000 Nine Dots Prize, an award for creative thinking that tackles contemporary societal issues. She won the prize for her entry titled 'Bread, Cement, Cactus', a piece that combined memoir and reportage to explore concepts of home and belonging.



Her proposed book, based on the prize-winning essay, will be published in May 2020 and will examine how a citizen's sense of home might collapse, or recover. The varied themes it will address include the politics and economics of death in India, the crossing of caste and religious lines in a marriage, and the Partition of India as a great cultural and emotional sundering.

Annie Zaid

She is a freelance writer whose work includes reportage, essays, short stories, poetry, and plays.

She has published both fiction and non-fiction, including a collection of essays *Known Turf: Bantering with Bandits and Other True Tales* and *Love Stories # 1 to 14*, a collection of short fiction published in 2012.

Nine Dots Prize

The Nine Dots Prize is sponsored by the Kadas Prize Foundation, a U.K.-registered charity, with support from the Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (CRASSH) at the University of Cambridge and Cambridge University Press.

It aims to promote, engage and encourage innovative thinking so as to address problems facing the modern world. The prestigious book prize is awarded for creative thinking that tackles contemporary societal issues. The winner receives US\$100,000 to write a short book expanding on their ideas.

Entrants are asked to answer the given question in 3,000 words. All entrants with a minimum of 18 years of age can write. Responses and the resulting book will be in English.

Bills & Acts

1. Lok Sabha passed the Indian Forest Amendment Bill, 2017

The Lok Sabha passed the **Indian Forest (Amendment) Bill, 2017**. The bill replaces **Indian Forest (Amendment) Ordinance, 2017** promulgated by President Ram Nath Kovind in November 2017 and amends **Indian Forest Act, 1927**.



Though bamboo was taxonomically a grass, it was earlier defined as a tree under the **Indian Forest Act, 1927** and its **felling and transit required permission**. It was a major impediment for bamboo cultivation by farmers on non-forest land.

The **bill omits bamboo** grown in non-forest areas **from the definition of trees**. The **omission thereby exempts it from requiring permits** for felling or transportation of bamboo grown in non-forest areas. With this, bamboo grown in non-forest areas ceases to be a tree. It will encourage bamboo plantation by farmers, which will contribute to **doubling farmers income by 2022**.

The Indian Forest Act, 1927 consolidates **laws relating to forests**, the **transit of forest-produce** and **duty to be levied** on them. Under it, the definition of the tree includes palms, stumps, bamboos, brush-wood, and canes.

2. MoEFCC amended rules to ban the import of solid plastic waste

The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has amended the Hazardous and other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016 to completely ban the import of solid plastic waste.



The amendment notified by the MoEFCC fixes a loophole, which previously allowed the import of plastic waste into India for processing. The ban on the import of plastics is in line with the principles of sustainable development. To ensure the ban does not adversely impact the ease of doing business, the amendment **allows the reverse import of defective electrical and electronic assemblies and components manufactured in and exported from India**, within a year of export.

India is exploring various options to discourage the **use of single-use plastics** and also is emphasizing recycling of the plastic waste to reduce the burden on the environment thereby providing benefits.

3. Cabinet approved the National Mineral Policy 2019 on 28th February

The **Union Cabinet** approved the **National Mineral Policy 2019** on **28th February 2019**. The policy is aimed at bringing about more effective regulation to the sector as well as a more sustainable approach while addressing the issues of those affected by mining.



The policy will also provide a more **effective, meaningful and implementable** policy that brings in further **transparency, better regulation**, and enforcement, balanced social and economic growth as well as sustainable mining practices.

It also aims to increase the **share of Indian software products** in global market by tenfold, pitches for nurturing of 10,000 technology start-ups in software product industry, including 1,000 such startups in tier-II and tier-III towns.

Books & Authors

1. Shahid Afridi co-authored his autobiography titled, Game Changer with journalist Wajahat S Khan

Shahid Afridi, former captain of the 'Pakistan national cricket team' wrote his autobiography titled, 'Game Changer' will unveil answers to the much-contemplated questions about him.

Afridi is popularly known as 'Boom Boom' and holds the world record for the fastest ODI (One Day International) century in 37 deliveries.

He also holds the distinction of having hit the most number of sixes in the history of ODI cricket.



The book has been co-authored by Afridi and journalist Wajahat S Khan.

'Game Changer', among the other revelations, unveils the fact as to how the cricketer's hobby of swinging the bat eventually turned out to become his career.

About Shahid Afridi

Born: 1975

Born in: Khyber Agency, Pakistan

ODI debut: 2 October 1996 v Kenya

Last ODI: 20 March 2015 v Australia

Test debut: 22 October 1998 v Australia

T20I debut: 28 August 2006 v England

2. Former basketball player, Lamar Odom launched a new book 'Darkness to light'

Former American professional basketball player, Lamar Odom, aged 39, launched a new book titled 'Darkness to light'.

The book reveals the dark secrets of his life.

He is the ex-husband of Khloe Kardashian, an American media personality, socialite, model, businesswoman and entrepreneur.

In his book, he has opened up about his relationship with ex-wife Khloe Kardashian, his difficult childhood, past overdoses and addictions to drugs, alcohol, and sex.

As a member of the Los Angeles Lakers in the National Basketball Association (NBA), he won NBA championships in 2009 and 2010 and was named the NBA Sixth Man of the Year in 2011.

Odom played on the United States national team, winning a bronze medal in the Olympics in 2004 and a gold medal in the FIBA World Championship.

Odom fell into a coma and was hospitalized with life-threatening medical problems.

Odom has since recovered from his health scare and obtained drug treatment.



About Lamar Odom

Born: November 6, 1979

Nationality: American

Banking & Finance

1. Indian Overseas Bank launches 'Bank on Wheels' facility

Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) has announced that it has launched 'Bank on Wheels' facility in 14 districts in Tamil Nadu and Kerala, besides the city of 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.

2. 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 its strength and approach 7.5% by 2020 sustained 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**.

3. RBI Allows Modern Currency Chests To Hike Service Charges

The Reserve Bank of India has announced that it will allow large modern currency chests to increase the service charges on cash deposited by non-chest bank branches from the existing rate of Rs5 per packet of 100 pieces to a higher rate subject to a maximum of Rs8 per packet.

For this, only a currency chest (CC) that fulfils the minimum standards will be eligible to be classified as a large modern CC



4. Reliance Beats Indian Oil Corporation, Becomes Biggest Indian Company

Reliance Industries has toppled state-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) to become the country's biggest company by revenue.

The Mukesh Ambani-led conglomerate, in the 2018-19 fiscal year that ended March 31, reported a turnover of Rs 6.23 lakh crore. In comparison, IOC posted a turnover of Rs 6.17 lakh crore for the fiscal.



5. 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.

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, homecare, BYOGI apparels and Shankara skincare products.



6. BSNL Partners Google To Expand Wi-Fi Footprint In India

State-run telco BSNL has announced that it has joined hands with internet major Google to expand its WiFi footprint across the country.

Google has previously completed the rollout of RailW According to an Analysys Mason study, public Wi-Fi will connect 40 million new users to the internet by 2019.



7. 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.



8. Debit Card Swipes On PoS Terminals Rise 27% in March 2019: RBI

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.



9. 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.



10. 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.



11. In a 1st, 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.

12. RIL Acquires British Toy Retailer Hamleys

Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) acquired British toy retailer 'Hamleys' in an all-cash deal. RIL has acquired Hamleys in 67.96 million pounds (about Rs. 620 cr).

With this announcement, Reliance will get hold of 100% shares of Hamleys Global Holdings Limited (HGHL).



13. India Ratings Downgrades Yes Bank With Negative Outlook

India Ratings has downgraded the **YES bank's long-term rating to 'IND AA-'** with a negative outlook, while reaffirming short-term rating. ICRA has also downgraded the long-term ratings of the lender.

Accordingly, six instruments with a total borrowing of over Rs 33,000 crore were also downgraded.



14. Airtel, Hughes To Combine Their India VSAT Operations

Sunil Mittal led telecom major **Bharti Airtel** and **Hughes Communications India (HCIL)** have decided to combine their **VSAT** (Very Small Aperture Terminal) satellite communications operations in **India**. The transaction is subject to approvals by relevant authorities.

HCIL is the India unit of **Hughes Network Systems, LLC**, the global leader in broadband



satellite networks and services. VSAT refers to the provision of data services using satellites and is used extensively by banks and ATMs.

15. RBI Enhances Housing-Loan Limits Under Priority Sector Lending For RRBs, SFBs

The **Reserve Bank of India** has decided to enhance the housing loan limits for Regional Rural Banks (**RRBs**) and Small Finance Banks (**SFBs**) for eligibility under priority sector lending, in a bid to give them a level playing field with other Scheduled Commercial Banks.

Henceforth, housing loans given by RRBs and SFBs to individuals up to **INR 35 lakh** in metropolitan centers (with population of 10 lakh and above) and **INR 25 lakh** in other centers.



16. Mastercard Announces \$1 Billion Investment In India

Global card payments brand **Mastercard** has announced its plan of investing **\$1 billion** in India operations over the period of next 5 years. About **\$350 million** of the total amount would be invested in setting up a **local payments processing center** as per the Reserve Bank of India's mandate to store all payments data locally.



The rest of the investment will go towards existing services and expanding capacity among others. This is the **first** such processing center of the company outside of the **US** and could provide service markets such as Southeast Asia and Asia-Pacific.

17. RBI Imposes Fines On PPIs For Violating Norms

The **Reserve Bank of India** has slapped a monetary penalty on five pre-paid payment instrument issuers including **Vodafone m-pesa** and **Phonepe**, for violating regulatory guidelines.

A penalty of INR 5 lakh has been imposed on **Y-Cash** Software Solutions. It had imposed a penalty of INR 29.67 lakh on **Western Union** Financial Services Inc., USA., and INR 10.12 lakh on **MoneyGram** Payment Systems Inc, USA, for non-compliance of regulatory guidelines.



18. State Bank of India Links Interest Rates To RBI's Repo Rate

India's largest bank State Bank of India has moved to a new interest rate regime on large savings account deposits as well as short-term loans.

Earlier, SBI had announced that it will link its **interest rate on savings account with a balance above Rs1 lakh** and short-term loans like overdraft and cash credit facility to Reserve Bank of India's repo rate, **effective 1 May 2019**.



19. LIC HFL launches Udyam Centre in Bengaluru

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

The Centres of Excellence will provide training to marginalised youth in the BFSI, retail, and IT/ ITES sectors.



20. Netherlands Becomes The Third Largest Foreign Direct Investor In India

The **Netherlands** has emerged as the **third** largest foreign direct investor in India during **2017-18**, with investments pegged at about **\$2.67 billion** across sectors.

The Netherlands was also the **second** largest destination for foreign investment by Indian companies, after **Singapore**, with investments worth **\$12.8 billion** in **2017**.



21. 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.



22. 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.

23. 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.

Business and Economy

1. RBI releases draft norms on liquidity risk management for NBFCs

RBI stated that all non-deposit-taking **non-banking financial companies (NBFCs)** with an asset size of Rs 5,000 crore and above, and all deposit-taking NBFCs irrespective of their asset size, have to maintain a liquidity buffer in terms of a Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR).



In a draft on liquidity risk management framework for NBFCs and core investment companies, these measures will promote resilience of NBFCs to potential liquidity disruptions by ensuring they have sufficient **High-Quality Liquid Asset (HQLA)** to survive an acute liquidity stress scenario lasting for 30 days. The banking regulator proposed that it will implement LCR through a glide path from **01st April 2020 to 01st April 2024**.

2. Corporation Bank launches 'Corp SME Suvidha' for MSMEs

Corporation Bank has launched '**Corp SME Suvidha**', a product for GST-registered MSMEs. The product has been designed as part of the bank's efforts to provide the best products to the MSME sector.

PV Bharathi, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation bank, launched the product in Mangaluru recently.



3. IBM Garage To Co-Create AI-based Automation Solutions With HDFC ERGO

IBM India has tied-up with **HDFC ERGO** General Insurance Company, India's third-largest non-life insurance provider in the private sector, to co-create new **Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based solutions**.

Leveraging IBM Garage that uses data-driven insights to develop end-to-end strategies and solutions for business transformation, teams from HDFC ERGO and IBM Services will work **together** to develop and test new solutions.



4. 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.

5. RBI Releases 'Vision 2021' For Payment Systems For 'Cash-Lite' Society

Reserve Bank of India has released a vision document '**Payment and Settlement Systems in India: Vision 2019 - 2021**', with its core theme of 'Empowering Exceptional E-payment Experience' for ensuring a safe, secure, convenient, quick and affordable e-payment system.



The move comes as the apex bank expects the number of digital transactions to increase more than four times to 8,707 crores in December 2021.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. Infosys Foundation's FCRA Licence Cancelled

The Home Ministry has cancelled the registration of Bengaluru-based NGO Infosys Foundation for alleged violation of norms in receiving **foreign grants**.

All non-government organizations (NGOs) are mandatorily required to be registered under the **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act** or **FCRA** to receive foreign funding.



9. Tech Mahindra Partners With French Based Firm Rakuten Aquafadas

IT services firm Tech Mahindra and **French digital content publishing firm Rakuten Aquafadas** signed an MoU to collaborate on building enhanced customer experience offerings.



Rakuten Aquafadas and Tech Mahindra aim to build a Customer Experience Offering leveraging the suite of software that Rakuten Aquafadas provides for digital publishing.

10. Asia-Pacific To Grow 5.7% In 2019: ADB

The Asia-Pacific region is expected to grow at **5.7%** in 2019. According to the bank's **Asian Development Outlook 2019** report released in April, developing Asia which comprises **45** nations ranging from China to Tuvalu is projected to grow by 5.7% in 2019.

However, the growth outlook for developing Asia is expected to moderate to **5.6 %** in 2020.



11. Huawei Overtakes Apple To Become 2nd Biggest Smartphone Maker

Huawei Technologies Co overtook **Apple Inc** to claim the **No. 2** spot in smartphones making in the first quarter, moving a step closer to its avowed ambition of displacing **Samsung** at the top of the market.

Huawei's been steadily gaining on Apple and Samsung Electronics Co. with an increasingly high-end line-up of devices.



12. Iraq Becomes India's Top Oil Supplier in 2018-19

Iraq has become India's top crude oil supplier for the second consecutive year, meeting more than one-fifth of the country's oil needs in the 2018-19 fiscal year.

According to data collected by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Iraq sold 46.61 million tonnes of crude oil to India during April 2018 and March 2019.



13. UDS Acquires Majority Stake In Matrix Business Services

Facilities management provider UDS has acquired a **majority stake in Matrix Business Services**, which operates in the business assurance and background verification segment.

This acquisition includes buying out the **entire 19.77% stake of Kotak Mahindra Investments and 2.67% of Mahindra & Mahindra Contech** and the balance 52.56% from other shareholders, mainly from all non-executive shareholders.



14. Bharti AXA Ties Up With Wishfin To Offer Policies Via WhatsApp

Bharti AXA General Insurance, a private non-life insurer, **has tied up with** financial marketplace Wishfin's insurance arm **Wishpolicy**, to offer two-wheeler insurance to customers **via WhatsApp**.

This service option is an instant and additional customer service option for policyholders, apart from Bharti AXA General Insurance's multiple channels, including its network of branches, customer care and contact centre, dynamic portal, and intelligent chatbot.



15. India Ratings & Research Lowers Growth Forecast For 2019-20 To 7.3%

India Ratings & Research (A Fitch Group Company) has lowered the country's growth forecast for the current fiscal to 7.3%, from the earlier projection of 7.5 %.

The agency has listed three key reasons for lowering its projection.

1. Prediction of lower-than-normal monsoon for 2019 and the continued agrarian distress.



2. The loss of momentum in the industrial output growth, especially manufacturing and electricity, is likely to hurt growth.
3. The slow progress in cases referred to the National Company Law Tribunal under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016, for resolution of the non-performing assets of the banking sector becoming a long-drawn-out process.

16. Paytm Launches Recurring Payments Service For Merchants

Paytm has launched a **recurring payment service** for merchants that are working on a digital subscription model. The move will allow the subscription-based businesses to collect payments from their subscribers effortlessly.

Recurring payments are an **automatic payment system** wherein the merchants automatically charge their customers for a specified service on



17. SEBI Fines NSE Over Rs625 crore In Co-Location Scam

Markets regulator SEBI directed National Stock Exchange to pay more than **Rs625 crore** in the case of misuse of its co-location facility. SEBI has been probing alleged lapses in high-frequency trading offered through NSE's co-location facility.



The amount, if considered with simple interest, would come to little less than Rs1,000 crore. If it involves a compound interest, the fine could amount to around Rs1,300 crore.

18. HDFC Partners With IMGC For Home Loans

Housing finance major **HDFC Limited** has partnered with **India Mortgage Guarantee Corporation (IMGC)** to offer a mortgage-guaranteed home loan product.

The partnership aims to make it possible for **HDFC** to further penetrate the home loan market and access an enlarged customer base, helping them to own a home of their choice.



19. 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).

20. Airtel, HDFC Life Insurance Tie Up To Offer Free Cover

Bharti Airtel and HDFC Life Insurance have tied up to offer life cover for customers who get a prepaid recharge done.

Airtel's new **Rs249-prepaid** bundle (which will include **2 GB data**, unlimited calls across networks, and 100 SMSes per day) will also offer a cover worth Rs4 lakh from HDFC Life.



21. Paytm Partners With Citibank To Launch 1st Credit Card- 'Paytm First Card'

Digital payments company Paytm, in association with Citibank, launched its first credit card called *Paytm First Card*.

The card is issued by Citibank and doesn't involve any hidden fees or charges. Paytm First Card comes with unlimited cash back and will be accepted in India as well globally.



Committees

1. MoEFCC constituted a committee to implement National Clean Air Program

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has constituted a committee to implement the National Clean Air Program (NCAP). The objective is to reduce the PM (particulate matter) 2.5 and PM 10 concentration by 20% to 30% in at least 102 cities by 2024. The committee will be headed by the Secretary, Union Environment Ministry. The headquarters of the committee will be in New Delhi.



Key Highlights

The other members of the committee will be Joint Secretary (Thermal), Ministry of Power; Director General, The Energy Resources Institute (TERI) and Professor Sachidananda Tripathi, IIT Kanpur.

The 102 cities, across 23 states and Union Territories will be identified by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). The selection criteria will be based on their ambient air quality data between 2011 and 2015. The NCAP is envisioned as a five-year action plan with 2019 as the first year. There would be a review every five years.

About Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)

- Headquarter: New Delhi
- Chairman: S. P. Singh Parihar

Death

1. Former president of Ethiopia, Negasso Gidada passed away

Former president of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Negasso Gidada passed away in Germany where he was undergoing medical treatment. He was 75 years of age. He was the president of Ethiopia between 1995 and 2001.

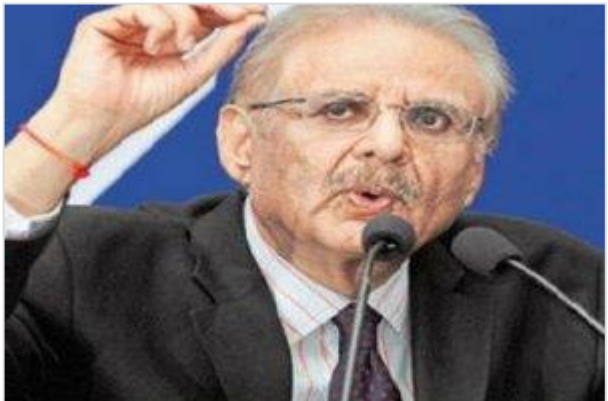
He served as president for six years until he fell out with the late Prime Minister Meles Zenawi's administration. Apart from serving in the role of heads of state, he was a member of the Constitution draft Committee.



2. Yogesh Chander Deveshwar, ITC's longest-serving chairman passed away

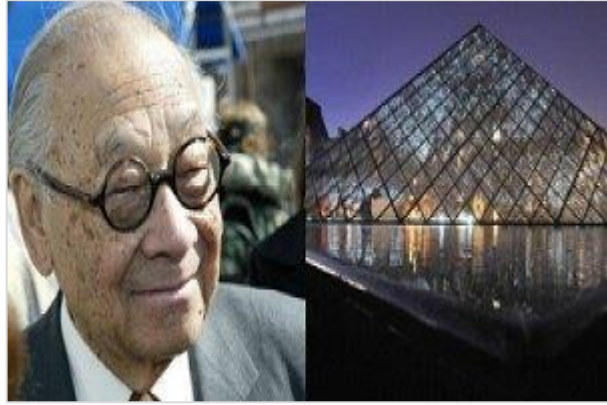
Yogesh Chander Deveshwar, ITC's longest-serving chairman, passed away on 11th May in Delhi. He was 72.

Mr. Deveshwar, an alumnus of IIT Delhi and Harvard Business School, joined ITC in 1968. Between 1991 and 1994, he was invited by the government to serve as the chairman and managing director of Air India. His stewardship over the last two decades has guided ITC to become India's foremost FMCG marketer, the country's largest paperboards and packaging company and a corporate enabler in farmer-empowerment, through its wide-ranging agri-business. It also has the second largest hotel chain in India.



3. Architect behind Paris' Louvre pyramid dies aged 102

Ieoh Ming Pei, who was the mastermind behind the bold Louvre pyramid in Paris, the landmark 72-story Bank of China tower in Hong Kong and Athens' Museum of Modern Art, has died at age of 102 years.



About Ieoh Ming Pei

Born in China in 1917, banker's son Ieoh Ming Pei came to the US at 17 to study architecture, receiving an undergraduate degree in the field from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1940. He became a naturalized US citizen in 1954.

I M Pei's Iconic buildings across the globe:

He revived The Louvre with a Giant Glass (about 22-metre) pyramid in Paris.

His revered projects include the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum in Cleveland, Ohio; the Miho Museum of Shigo, Japan; the Morton Meyerson Symphony Center in Dallas, Texas, and The John F. Kennedy Library in Boston, Massachusetts.

Awards and Honours

He was one of 12 naturalized US citizens then-president Ronald Reagan awarded the Medal of Liberty in 1986.

In 1983 Pei was given the prestigious Pritzker Prize.

4. Former Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke died aged 89

Australia's 23rd prime minister and Labor elder statesman Bob Hawke has died.

He served as prime minister between 1983 and 1991, making him the longest serving on the Labor side of politics.

He was the country's third longest-serving leader after Robert Menzies and John Howard.



About Australia

Capital: Canberra

Currency: Australian dollar

Prime minister: Scott Morrison

President: Malcolm Turnbull

5. 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.

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.



6. Filmmaker and Film Historian Vijaya Mulay Passed Away

Vijaya Mulay is best known for her 1974 film Ek Anek Aur Ekta, which won the National Film Award for Best Educational Film.

Mulay founded the Delhi Film Society in 1959, and later on became a joint secretary of the Federation of Film Societies.

In 2002, Vijaya Mulay was honoured with the prestigious V Shantaram Award for her work in documentary filmmaking.



Defence

1. MoD awarded GRSE Rs.6,311 crore project to build 8 ASWSWC

The Defence Ministry has awarded a contract of worth Rs.6,311 crore to Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited (GRSE) to build eight anti-submarine warfare shallow watercraft (ASWSWC) for the Indian Navy.

As per the agreement, the first ship is to be delivered within 42 months from the date of signing of the contract and subsequently, two ships are required to be delivered per year. The eight vessels are to be delivered between 2022 and 2027.



The vessels are equipped with highly advanced state-of-the-art integrated platform management systems including propulsion machinery, auxiliary machinery, power generation, and distribution machinery and damage control machinery, etc.

Anti Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft

Name: ASW-SWC

Builders: Cochin Shipyard, GRSE

Operators: Indian Navy

Preceded by: Abhay class

Planned: 16

The ASW-SWC corvettes are anti-submarine warfare vessels ordered for the Indian Navy from Cochin Shipyard (CSL) and Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE). They are in the 700-ton range and will replace the Abhay-class corvette currently in service. The Indian Ministry of Defense (MoD) cleared the acquisition of 16 shallow water anti-submarine vessels, to replace Russian-built Abhay-class corvettes commissioned in 1989 and 1991.

GRSE's projects

The 100 warships built by GRSE so far range from Advanced Frigates to Anti-Submarine Warfare Corvettes to Fleet Tankers, Fast Attack Crafts, etc., with the Shipyard having many firsts to its credit in terms of Innovation and Design.

The GRSE is currently handling major projects to make three Stealth Frigates for Indian Navy under P17A Project, ASW Corvettes for Indian Navy, LCUs for Indian Navy, four Survey Vessels (Large) for Indian Navy, FPGVs for Indian Coast Guard, etc. The present

project will further consolidate GRSE's position as a unique shipyard with the all-around capability to design and build ASWSWC warships with state-of-the-art technology.

2. Pakistan named its retaliatory action against India on February 27 as Operation Swift Retort

Pakistan Air Force announced that they will observe its retaliatory action against India against the Balakot strike of Indian Air Force as 'Operation Swift Retort'.

The Indian air strikes at Balakot terror camp on February 26 was response of Pakistan based Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) attack by a suicide bomber in Pulwama that killed 40 CRPF jawans.

In response to Indian attack, Pakistan Air Force (PAF) retaliated and captured IAF Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman who was released by Pakistan on March 1.



About Pakistan

Capital: Islamabad

Currency: Pakistani Rupee

President: Arif Alvi

Prime Minister: Imran Khan

3. Varuna 19.1, Indo French joint naval exercise, began in Goa

Varuna 19.1 is the first part of the Indo-French joint naval exercise. It is being held off the Goa coast from 1st to 10th May 2019.

The exercise will see the participation of the French Navy's aircraft carrier FNS Charles de Gaulle, two destroyers, FNS Forbin and FNS Provence, the frigate FNS Latouche-Treville, the tanker FNS Marne and a nuclear submarine. From the Indian side, the aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya, destroyer INS Mumbai, the Teg-class frigate, INS Tarkash, the Shishumar-class submarine, INS Shankul, and the Deepak-class fleet tanker, INS Deepak, are taking part in the exercise.



The exercise is being conducted in two phases.

The harbour phase at Goa would include cross-visits, professional interactions and discussions and sports events

The sea phase would comprise various exercises across the spectrum of maritime operations

Varuna 19.2, the second part of the exercise, is scheduled to be held in May end in Djibouti.

About the Bilateral Naval Exercise

The bilateral naval exercise which was started in 1983 and christened as Varuna in 2001, form a vital part of the Indo-French strategic partnership. Having grown in scope and complexity over the years, this exercise exemplifies the strong relations between the two nations. It aims at developing interoperability between the two navies and fostering mutual cooperation by learning from each other's best practices to conduct joint operations.

It also underscores the shared interests and commitment of both nations in promoting maritime security. The exercise is in line with the Joint Strategic Vision of India-French Cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region signed by President Emmanuel Macron and Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the former's visit to India in March 2018.

France established diplomatic relations with the newly independent India in 1947. A treaty of cession was signed by the two countries in May 1956.

France

President: Emmanuel Macron

Prime Minister: Edouard Philippe

Capital: Paris

Currency: Euro (€) (EUR), CFP franc (XPF)

Official/national language: French

4. Yeti footprints sighted claims Indian Army tweet

The official Twitter account of the Indian Army's Additional Directorate General of Public Information tweeted that an Indian Army mountaineering expedition team sighted mysterious footprints of mythical Himalayan beast "Yeti" measuring 32×15 inches (81 centimetres by 38 centimetres) close to Makalu Base Camp, located in North-Eastern Himalayas on 09 April 2019.

The yeti also known as Abominable Snowman or Asian

Bigfoot is a giant ape-like creature often figures in South Asian folklore.

Yetis are believed to weigh anywhere between 91 to 181 kilograms with a height of above 6 feet.

According to a report in the National Geographic, British explorer Eric Shipton captured the footprints of the Yeti in 1951 for the first time.



5. India to purchase 10 Kamov-31 choppers from Russia for 3,600 crores

Defence Ministry Nirmala Sitharaman approved Indian Navy's proposal to acquire 10 Kamov-31 choppers from Russia at a cost of around Rs. 3,600 crore to strengthen its capability against aerial threats to its aircraft carriers and large warships.

They cleared the Rs. 3,600 crore proposal for buying around 10 Kamov-31 Airborne Early Warning and Control choppers for the aircraft carrier operations and deployment on future warships.

Indian Navy already has a fleet of 12 of these Kamov-31 choppers which sanitise the air space around the aircraft carriers and destroyers operating in open seas.

For the anti-submarine warfare operations, the Navy has a fleet of Russian Kamov-28 choppers along with the Seaking choppers which were procured long back in the 1980s and are in need of an upgrade.



About Indian Navy

Founded: 1612

Commander-in-Chief: President Ram Nath Kovind

Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS): Admiral Sunil Lanba, PVSM, AVSM, ADC

Vice Chief of the Naval Staff (VCNS): Vice Admiral G. Ashok Kumar, AVSM, VSM

Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff (DCNS): Vice Admiral M. S. Pawar, AVSM, VSM

6. India in talks with UK for INS Vishal

The United Kingdom is in talks with the Indian government on building a new state-of-the-art aircraft carrier along the lines of Britain's HMS Queen Elizabeth as part of the ongoing Make in India negotiations.

The talks are underway for the Indian Navy to buy detailed plans for the 65,000-ton British warship to build a so-called copycat supercarrier to be named INS Vishal in 2022. If a deal can be agreed, the new warship would be built in India but UK companies could supply many of the parts.



INS Vishal

INS Vishal, meaning 'giant' in Sanskrit, also known as Indigenous Aircraft Carrier 2 (IAC-2) is a planned aircraft carrier to be built by Cochin Shipyard Limited for the Indian Navy.

It is intended to be the second aircraft carrier to be built in India after INS Vikrant (IAC-1). It will be the first supercarrier to be built in India.

In the proposed design of INS Vishal an Electromagnetic Aircraft Launch System (EMALS) CATOBAR system is under consideration.

The design stage of IAC-2 began in 2012, and was undertaken by the navy's Naval Design Bureau.

On 13 May 2015, Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) allotted Rs.30 crore for initial construction planning process of INS Vishal.

Initially, the carrier was expected to enter service by the 2020s, but the expected date of completion was later postponed to the 2030s.

7. INS Vela: Indian Navys 4th Scorpene-class made in India submarine launched

INS Vela, Indian Navy's 4th Scorpene-class submarine was launched at Mazagon Dockyard in Mumbai.

This is the fourth submarine in the series of six submarines under Project 75 built by Mazagon Dock Ltd, Mumbai.

The Scorpene-class submarine has been termed as the Kalavari Class.

Project 75 is a \$3.75 billion contract inked between French Company DCNS (now Naval Group) and the Mazagon Dock Ltd in 2005 for construction and transfer of technology for 6 Scorpene-class submarines.

Before Vela, Mazagon Dock Ltd has launched Kalvari, Khanderi, Karanj submarines.



About Indian Navy

- Supreme Commander: President of India, Ramnath Kovind
- Chief of Indian Navy: Admiral Sunil Lanba (to be retired on May 31, 2019), Karambir Singh (Designated)

8. Indian Army is commemorating 2019 as the Year of Next of Kin to reach out to the next of kin of battle casualties

Indian Army is commemorating '2019' as the 'Year of Next of Kin'.

As a part of this commemoration, the Army has planned to reach out to the next of kin of battle casualties, ex-servicemen and serving soldiers to resolve their pension-related issues and to let them know of their entitled financial benefits, welfare schemes.

Bipin Rawat, Army Chief General in January stated that the army will observe 2019 as the year for the next of kin. Last year, stress was laid on the disabled soldiers, while this year its on the next of kin of the deceased soldiers.



The issue has gained importance because most of the next of kin of the late soldiers were unaware of their entitled financial benefits.

The Indian Army has stated that the issue has worsened due to non-digitised personal records, and also because of complications from various policy provisions and their multifarious interpretations.

The Army will take the help of the defence ministry, Nepal Embassy, Sainik Boards, banks and welfare agencies like the Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) to embark upon this journey.

The nodal agency will be The Directorate of Indian Army Veterans.

On an average, every year the army suffers 150 to 200 battle casualties and 1,000 to 1,200 physical casualties, thus leading to 1,100 to 1,400 next of kin to be taken care of each year.

The first are the soldiers who retired after 2000

The next category are retirees between 1970 and 2000

The next category comprises of retirees prior to 1970.

9. Indian Navy joins Group sail in South China Sea

Two Indian Navy ships INS Kolkata and INS Shakti carried out a six-day long 'Group Sail' with naval ships in the South China Sea (SCS). The exercise was held from 3rd May to 9th May.

The Group Sail was aimed at deepening the existing partnership and fostering mutual understanding among participating country's navies. Four countries namely, US, India, Japan, and the Philippines participated in the naval exercise.



Six Naval combatants from participating countries included India's INS Kolkata (Guided Missile Destroyer) and INS Shakti (Fleet Support Ship), Japna's JMSDF Izumo (Helicopter

Carrier) and JMSDF Murasame (Guided Missile Destroyer), Philippines's BRP Andres Bonifacio (Frigate and offshore patrol vessel) and USA's USS Williams P. Lawrence (Arleigh Burke Class guided Destroyer).

The exercise included formation exercises, communication drills, passenger transfers, cross-deck flying, replenishment runs, and exchange of Sea Riders. It showcased India's commitment to enhance interoperability with like-minded countries for ensuring a safe maritime environment.

10. Boeing delivered 22 AH 64E Apache Guardian attack helicopters to the IAF

US aerospace major, Boeing, handed over 22 AH-64E Apache Guardian attack helicopters to the Indian Air Force (IAF) at the Boeing production facility in Mesa, Arizona in the U.S. The first batch of these helicopters are scheduled to be shipped to India by July 2019.

The IAF had signed a multi-billion dollar contract with the US government and Boeing Ltd in September 2015 for 22 Apache helicopters.



AH-64E Apache Guardian attack helicopters

The AH-64E Apache is a leading multi-role attack helicopter and is flown by the US Army. The helicopter has the capability to carry out precision attacks at standoff ranges and operate in hostile airspace with threats from ground. The helicopters have the ability to transmit and receive the battlefield picture.

Selected aircrew and ground crew have undergone training at the training facilities at U.S. Army base Fort Rucker in Alabama. These personnel will lead the operationalisation of the Apache fleet in the IAF.

About Indian Air Force

Founded on: October 1932

Headquarters: New Delhi

Commander-in-Chief: President Ram Nath Kovind

CAS: Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh

VCAS: Air Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria

Part of: Indian Armed Forces

It aims to secure Indian airspace and to conduct aerial warfare during armed conflict

Boeing

Founder: William Boeing

Headquarters: Illinois, U.S.

The company designs, manufactures, and sells airplanes, rotorcraft, rockets, satellites, and missiles worldwide.

11. Chinese Navy launches two Type 052D new guided missile destroyers

Chinese Navy commissioned two new Type 052D guided missile destroyers in Dalian, a coastal city.

They are the 19th and 20th ships in the class and are named as Tangshan and Suzhou.

China, at present 20 Type 052Ds either in active service or to be launched for service soon

The destroyers are fast and warships are operated for long distances.

It is used to accompany the aircraft carriers.

The newly developed Type 052D destroyers are the upgrades of its previous version Type 052C.

The Type 052D destroyer is a large 7500 tone destroyer. It was introduced into the People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) in March 2014.

PLAN is the World's fastest growing Navy as it adds new vessels to the fleet every month.

Last month, PLAN celebrated its 70th anniversary in Qingdao, China. Indian naval ships including INS Kolkata along with tanker INS Shakti participated in it.

For the first time in its history, Chinese navy has logistics bases in Djibouti in the Indian Ocean. It is developing Pakistan's Gwadar port in the Arabian Sea and has also acquired Sri Lanka's Hambantota port for 99 years in a debt swap.



About China

- Capital: Beijing
- Currency: Renminbi
- President: Xi Jinping

12. ADMM Plus concluded in Changi Naval Base, Singapore

The sea phase of the ASEAN Defence 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. The ADMM-Plus Maritime Security Field Training Exercise was held from 30 April to 13 May. The exercise commenced on 30 April in Busan, South Korea and concluded in Singapore.



It was co-organized by Singapore and South Korea as both nations currently hold co-chairmanship of ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Group on Maritime Security. This is the fourth Maritime Security Field Training Exercise (MS FTX) was conducted under the ambit of the ADMM-Plus.

The exercise was held in two phases.

Phase I of ADMM-PLUS MS FTX was scheduled from 1 May to 3 May

Phase II was scheduled from 9 May to 12 May

Participants of the exercise

The ADMM-Plus comprises total 18 nation participants which include ten Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries and other 8 includes the United States, Australia, New Zealand, South Korea, Japan, Russia, China, and India. Significance: TIt involved 10 aircraft and 19 ships with about 700 personnel from the 18 ADMM-Plus countries.

Various activities during the exercise

The exercise included maritime security drills such as boarding operations and protection of key installations. They also practiced the Code for Unplanned Encounters at Sea and conducted information-sharing to track vessels-of-interest.

Participants also conducted helicopter cross-deck landings and replenishment at sea drills as they sailed, building confidence and practical cooperation. Upon reaching the waters off eastern Singapore, boarding teams from the Brunei, India, ROK and Singapore navies simulated a search on a vessel-of-interest.

13. DRDO conducted a successful flight test of ABHYAS

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted a successful flight test of ABHYAS, a High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) at Balasore, Odisha. It was tracked by various Radars & Electro Optic Systems. The system performance was as per the simulations carried out.



The test proved its performance in fully autonomous waypoint navigation mode, that is, a series of unique abstract GPS points that create artificial airways. It demonstrated the capability of ABHYAS to meet the requirement of mission for a cost-effective HEAT.

About ABHYAS

It is a high-speed expendable aerial target (HEAT) that offers a realistic threat scenario for practice of weapon systems. It is designed on an in-line small gas turbine engine.

It is designed for autonomous flying, with the help of an autopilot. For its guidance and navigation it uses indigenously developed Micro-Electro-Mechanical Systems (MEMS) based navigation system.

It has a Luneburg lens, that is, a spherically symmetric gradient-index lens, in the nose cone which improves the radar cross-section of target for weapons practice. It has an Acoustic Miss Distance Indicator (AMD I) to indicate the distance it missed.

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)

Formed on: 1958

Headquarters: New Delhi, India

Minister responsible: Nirmala Sitharaman

Chairman: G Satheesh Reddy

Parent agency: Ministry of Defence

DRDO is charged with the military's research and development

14. Indian Army, Navy and Air Force hold joint exercise in Andaman and Nicobar

Indian Army, Navy and Air Force hold joint exercise Bull Strike at Teressa Island in Andaman and Nicobar.

The objective is to enhance their coordination in dealing with major security challenges which are currently facing the country and also to showcase joint operation capability of the three forces, Indian Army, Navy and Air Force and further enhance operation coordination.

The Total 170 troops from all three services participated and carried out para drop operations in a Combat Free Fall and Static Line mode.



About Indian Army

Founded: 1 April 1895, India

Headquarters: New Delhi

15. Navys first full fledged SSB was inaugurated

The Indian Navy's first full-fledged Services Selection Board (SSB) was inaugurated by Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba at Diamond Harbour near Kolkata. This is the fifth SSB of the Indian Navy and will cater for a selection of both permanent and short service commission (SSC) officers.

The SSB, Kolkata is spread over 27 acres on the banks of the Hooghly. It has the capacity to screen 5,000 officer-candidates annually.



The SSB at Diamond Harbour, Kolkata will boost the induction of officers, both men, and women, into the Indian Navy. Its location will reduce the travel time and effort for candidates from Northern and North Eastern parts of the country.

The other boards of Indian Navy are located in

- Bhopal
- Bengaluru
- Visakhapatnam
- Coimbatore

Indian Navy

Founded on: 1612

Supreme Commander: President Ram Nath Kovind

Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS): Admiral Sunil Lanba

Vice Chief of Naval Staff (VCNS): Vice Admiral G Ashok Kumar

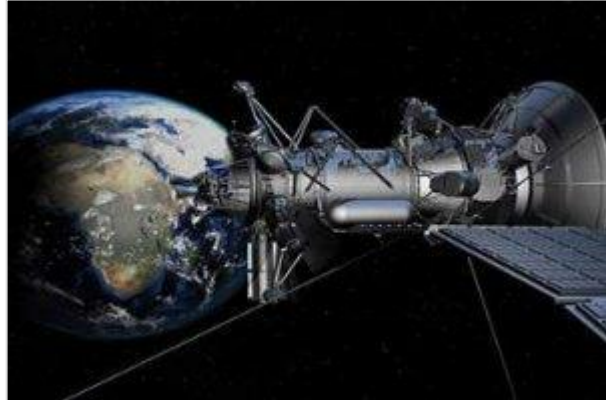
Deputy Chief of Naval Staff (DCNS): Vice Admiral MS Pawar

It is a part of the Indian Armed Forces. It is responsible to safeguard the nation's maritime borders.

16. India to set up military space agency headquartered at Bengaluru

India is to set up its military space agency headquartered at Bengaluru with the ace fighter pilot Air Vice Marshal SP Dharkar as its likely head. AVM Dharkar is an ace fighter pilot and is presently looking after the air defence operations of an important command along the borders. The tri-services defence space agency is expected to get operational by June 2019.

The tri-services Space agency is likely to command all the space assets of the three services including the A-SAT capability, which can be used to destroy enemy space-based satellites and other assets.



Why Bengaluru?

Bengaluru is chosen as the location of the space agency, as it is also the headquarters of ISRO, which manages all types of space programmes of the country.

Tri-services Special Operations Division

Ace Special Forces operative and Sri Lanka war veteran Maj Gen AK Dhingra has been appointed as the first head of Country's first tri-services Special Operations Division comprising commandos from all three services.

The Armed Forces Special Operations Division has been set up by the government to undertake joint operations by three services and will have elements from the Army's Parachute Regiments SF, Marine Commandos (MARCOS) of the Navy and the Garud Commandos of the Indian Air Force.

Rear Admiral Mohit Gupta has been appointed as the head of the Defence Cyber Agency set up in Delhi with people from all three services.

17. Indian Coast Guard Ship Vighraha decommissioned

The Indian Coast Guard ship (ICGS) Vighraha was decommissioned at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

The decommissioning ceremony was attended by eight former Commanding Officers who had been at the helm of the ship, along with former and the present crew.



About ICGS Vighraha Service

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 east coast of India for 29 years of service from 1990 to 2019.

Builder: It was the seventh OPV built by Mazagon Dock.

It was first of its class among other OPVs of third series.

It was also leased to Sri Lankan Navy on a dry lease from August 2008 to January 2011.

Later, it was re-inducted into Indian Coast Guard (ICG) in January 2019 after which it was continuously based at Visakhapatnam.

Participated: In major coast guard operations involved humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, pollution response, anti-poaching, repatriation, joint exercises and search and rescue.

18. Padmaja appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Nauru

Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, announced the appointment of Ms. Padmaja as the next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Nauru with residence in Suva.

She is currently serving as the High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Fiji.

She is set to take up her responsibility soon.



About Nauru

- Capital: No Official capital, but Government offices are located at Yaren District
- Currency: Australian Dollar
- President: Baron Waqa

19. Twenty Sixth edition of Singapore India Maritime Bilateral Exercise titled SIMBEX were held in Singapore

INS Kolkata Designed and built in India, it is an advanced stealth destroyer capable of engaging multiple threats from the air, sea and underwater and INS Shakti is a fleet support ship that provides fuel, provisions and munitions to warships at sea the 2 warships of the Indian Navy participated in a 3-day Asia Pacific naval and maritime event titled the International Maritime Defence Exhibition Asia (IMDEX Asia-2019) (it commenced on May 14, 2019) held in Changi Exhibition Centre, Singapore.



Some of India's leading engineering and ship building firms, including Larsen & Toubro and BrahMos participated in it.

Deputy Chief of Naval Staff, Vice-Admiral M S Pawar, led the delegation to the Asia Pacific gathering of the event.

After IMDEX, Indian Naval ships together with an Indian Navy surveillance aircraft P8I have participated in the 26th edition of Singapore India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX).

SIMBEX scheduled from 16th May 2019 to 22th May 2019, is the longest uninterrupted naval exercise that India has with any other nation.

The 25th edition SIMBEX took place in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal from 11th November to 21st November 2018.

Singapore's Minister of Defence, Dr Ng Eng Hen, witnessed it.

Thus, this 26th edition of SIMBEX is taking place 6 months after the last edition.

20. Indian Navy conducted missile tests to boost its anti air warfare capabilities

The Indian Navy conducted significant missile tests boosting its anti-air warfare capabilities. The first cooperative engagement firing of the Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM) or Barak-8 was held on the Western Seaboard.

The firing was undertaken on the western seaboard by the INS Kochi and the INS Chennai wherein the missiles of both ships were controlled by one ship to intercept different aerial targets at extended ranges. Interestingly, one of the ships controlled the complete mission through its automated data links. The firing trials were carried out by Indian Navy, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI).



This was achieved by network-centric operations that helped to combine the capabilities of all military platforms in a formation. The MRSAMs are fitted onboard the Kolkata Class Destroyers. These would also be fitted on all future major warships of the Indian Navy.

About Barak-8

Barak-8 also known as LR-SAM or as MR-SAM is an Indian-Israeli surface-to-air missile (SAM), designed to defend against any type of airborne threat including aircraft, helicopters, anti-ship missiles, and UAVs as well as ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, and combat jets. Both maritime and land-based variants of the system exist.

It was jointly developed by Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), India's Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO), Israel's Administration for the Development of Weapons and Technological Infrastructure, Elta Systems, Rafael and other companies. Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) produces the missiles.

Barak-8 is a two-way data link (GPS S-band), Active Radar Seeker Missile, 360-degree coverage, Vertical Launch, Multiple Simultaneous Engagements, Point defence anti-ballistic missile.

Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM)

It has an intercept range between 70-100 km.

MRSAM is equipped with a modern ground-based multi-function 3D rotating active phased array radar to provide high-quality Air Situation Picture (ASP) and weapon support under adverse operational and environmental conditions.

It will be capable of operating at the extreme condition of -30deg C and an altitude of 3.5 km.

21. India delivered the first pair of Mi 24 attack helicopters to Afghan Air Force

India delivered the first pair of Mi-24 attack helicopters as a replacement to the Afghan Air Force. The helicopters were handed over to the Acting Defence Minister Asadullah Khalid by the Indian Ambassador to Afghanistan Vinay Kumar at the Kabul Air Force base. The helicopters were Purchased from Belarus.



Aim

The Mi-24 helicopters shall boost the capability of the Afghan Air Force and enhance the effectiveness of the Afghan National Defence and Security Force in combating the scourge of terrorism.

India and Afghanistan in the past:

The helicopters are a replacement for the four attack helicopters previously gifted by India to Afghanistan in 2015. India has been one of the largest donors to Afghanistan and has committed \$3 billion in aid since 2001.

It is also said that two more of the same type will be purchased and supplied to the Afghan Air Force in order to make the aerial operations more effective.

Mi-24

National origin: Soviet Union/Russia

Manufacturer: Mil

First flight: 19 September 1969

Introduced in: 1972

Mi-24 is a large helicopter gunship, attack helicopter, and low-capacity troop transport that can contain eight passengers.

It has been designed to take on fortified enemy positions and locations prone.

22. Tech Mahindra signed a defence contract worth Rs.300 crore with Indian Navy

IT major, Tech Mahindra has signed a defence contract worth Rs.300 crore with Indian Navy. This contract is its biggest agreement to date. The IT major will implement RFID-based access control system across all naval bases and ships as part of 'Armed Forces Secure Access Card (AFSAC)' Project. AFSAC will replace the existing paper-based identity card for all Navy personnel, including dependents and ex-servicemen. As part of the AFSAC Project, Tech Mahindra will implement RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) based access control system across all naval bases and ships.



AFSAC Project

The Mumbai-based company will develop a secure application to manage the access control devices, network devices, and the AFSAC card through a data centre.

The security of Indian Naval establishments against unauthorized access is a thrust area and the AFSAC Project will be an important step towards achieving this aim.

Scheduled to be implemented over the next two years, the project will ensure smooth issuance, handling, administration, management and life-cycle support of AFSAC Cards on turnkey basis.

This project further cements the company's role as one of the leading system integrators globally. Tech Mahindra is already working with entities like Coal India, India Ports Association, Kanpur Smart City and others

Tech Mahindra

Type: Public

Founded on: 24 October 1986

Chairman: Anand Mahindra

MD & CEO: C.P. Gurnani

Services: Outsourcing, Consulting, Managed services

23. IMCOR 2019 began in Port Blair at Andaman and Nicobar Command

The 2019 Indo-Myanmar coordinated patrol (IMCOR) is taking place from 20 May to 28 May 2019 in Port Blair at Andaman and Nicobar Command. This is the 8th edition of the coordinated patrol (CORPAT) between India and Myanmar.

CORPAT

The coordinated patrol (CORPAT) initiative between the Indian Navy and Myanmar Navy seeks to address issues of terrorism, human trafficking, poaching, illegal fishing, drug trafficking and other illegal activities harmful to interest of both nations.

The CORPAT series was first started in Mar 2013. Since then it has fostered improved professional interaction and enhanced mutual understanding between the two navies for maritime interoperability.

MCOR 2019

The Indo-Myanmar coordinated patrol IMCOR began on 20th May 2019. For the Opening Ceremony of 2019 edition, Myanmar Navy Ships arrived on 20 May 2019 in Port Blair at Andaman and Nicobar Command.

It will be undertaken by Myanmar ships viz. UMS King TabinShweHtee (773) and UMS Inlay (OPV54) with Indian Naval Ship, INS Saryu.

The exercise includes the patrolling effort by participants will be augmented by Maritime Patrol Aircraft (MPA) from both the navies. The ships deployed would patrol along International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) between the two countries thus, covering a distance of about 725 Kms over a period of four days.

During the sea phase of coordinated patrol, prior to Closing Ceremony' of CORPAT onboard Myanmar Naval Ship, the deployed ships will also undertake joint drills and maneuvers.



24. IAF successfully test fired the aerial version of the supersonic BrahMos cruise missile

The Indian Air Force (IAF) successfully test fired the aerial version of the supersonic BrahMos cruise missile from a Su-30 MKI fighter aircraft at the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The test marked a major milestone to enhance its precision strike capability. The capability of the missile coupled with the superlative performance of the Su-30MKI aircraft gives the IAF the desired strategic reach.



Supersonic BrahMos cruise missile

The supersonic BrahMos cruise missile is a 2.5 tonne air-to-surface missile and it has a range of around 300 km, and it will significantly enhance the IAF's combat capability. The BrahMos cruise missile travels at a speed of Mach 2.8, nearly three times that of sound. The missile follows the desired trajectory before directly hitting the land target.

The BrahMos missile provides the IAF a much-desired capability to strike from large stand-off ranges on any target at sea or on land with pinpoint accuracy by day or night and in all weather conditions.

IAF's record

The IAF became the first air force in the world to have successfully fired an air-launched 2.8 Mach surface attack missile of this category on a sea target on November 22, 2017. BrahMos cruise missile, which was test now, was the second such live launch of the weapon.

Developers of BrahMos, 2.8 Mach surface attack missile

The software development of the aircraft was undertaken by IAF engineers, while the Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd carried out mechanical and electrical modifications on it.

Despite such complex integrations, IAF, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), BrahMos Aerospace Pvt Ltd and HAL have proven the capability by dedicated and synergetic efforts.

BrahMos Aerospace, an India-Russian joint venture, produces the supersonic cruise missile that can be launched from submarines, ships, aircraft, or from land platforms.

Further expansion

The IAF has already begun work to integrate the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile on 40 Sukhoi combat aircraft. Once the project to integrate the weapon on the combat fleet is over, the IAF capability to strike from large stand-off ranges on any target in sea or land is expected to go up manifold.

25. Flight Lieutenant Bhawana become the countrys first woman fighter to undertake to missions by day

Flight Lieutenant Bhawana Kanth has become the country's first woman fighter to be qualified to undertake missions by day on a fighter aircraft in the IAF. This comes after she completed her day operational syllabus as a fighter pilot on the MiG-21 Bison supersonic aircraft.



Bhawana, from Darbhanga in Bihar, has become the first of the three in her batch of women fighter pilots to successfully complete her day operational syllabus on the MiG-21s at the Nal airbase in Bikaner. The other two women fighter pilots in the batch are Flight Lieutenants Avani Chaturvedi and Mohana Singh.

IAF's induction of women fighter

The IAF has so far inducted six women into its fighter flying stream on an experimental basis for five years. It took around Rs.15 crore to train a single fighter pilot.

IAF had for long resisted inducting women in the combat stream because it felt it would disrupt tight fighter-flying schedules if they got married and had children.

IAF's training for the 3 fighters

IAF posted the women fighter batch to MiG-21 squadrons rather than the easier-to-handle modern fighters like Sukhoi-30MKIs or Mirage-2000s to ensure they undertake air defence missions over Indian territory in the event of war (MiG-21s are basically meant to intercept incoming enemy aircraft), and not go for strike missions deep into enemy territory.

The next woman fighter pilot to undertake missions by day is Flight Lieutenant Avani Chaturvedi. Flight Lieutenant Mohana Singh is also expected to reach this stage soon. The three women pilots were commissioned into the IAF's fighter stream in June 2016.

26. DRDO successfully flight tested Inertial Guided Bomb from an Su-30 MKI aircraft

Defence Research and Defence Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight tested a 500 kg class Inertial Guided Bomb from a Su-30 MKI aircraft at the Pokhran test range in Rajasthan.



The indigenously-developed guided bomb achieved the desired range and hit the target at a distance of 30 km away with high precision. All the mission objectives have been met. The weapon system is capable of carrying different warheads. India has carried out several such trials in 2019. DRDO is engaged in developing defence technologies covering various disciplines.

The test firing of the guided bomb comes two days after the Indian Air Force (IAF) successfully test fired the aerial version of the supersonic BrahMos cruise missile from a

Sukhoi jet at the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The 2.5-tonne air-to-surface missile has a range of around 300 km, and it will significantly enhance the IAF's combat capability.

27. DRDO successfully test-fired the new version of the Akash

The Defence Research Development Organization (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 on 27 May. This is the second successful test of the missile. 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.



About Akash

The supersonic missile has a range of around 25 km and up to the altitude of 18,000 metres. The missile uses high-energy solid propellant for the booster and ramjet-rocket propulsion for the sustainer phase. The missile system is said to be highly mobile.

Several variants of the missile, Akash MK1, Akash-MK2, with improved accuracy and higher ranges are under development by the DRDO.

India's missile system

The missile system was formally inducted into the IAF on July 10, 2015, and in the Army on May 5, 2015. In September that year, the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) cleared seven additional squadrons of the missile for the IAF.

However, it had been bogged in controversies with a Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report in 2017 stating that 30% of the missiles failed when tested.

The Army too had said in 2017 that the missile did not meet its operational requirements due to higher reaction time.

28. AN-32 aircraft to fly on blended aviation fuel containing up to 10% of indigenous bio-jet fuel

The Russian made AN-32 aircraft, IAF's formidable workhorse has formally been certified to fly on blended aviation fuel containing up to 10% of indigenous bio-jet fuel.

P.Jayapal, Chief Executive of the Centre for Military Airworthiness and Certification (CEMILAC) handed over the approval certificate to Air Commodore Sanjiv Ghuratia VSM, Air Officer Commanding at the aero-engine test facilities at Chandigarh.



This is a huge step in promoting the Make in India mission as this bio-fuel would be produced from Tree Borne Oils (TBOs) sourced from tribal areas and farmers, augmenting their income substantially.

Bio-jet fuel and IAF

The IAF has undertaken a series of evaluation tests and trials with this green aviation fuel for the last one year. The scope of these checks was in consonance with international aviation standards. IAF followed meticulous testing standards for the use of indigenous bio-jet fuel by the IAF.

Introduction of Biofuel

The indigenous bio-jet fuel was first produced by the CSIR-IIP lab at Dehradun in 2013, but could not be tested or certified for commercial use on aircraft due to lack of test facilities in the civil aviation sector. On 27 July 2018, Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa had formally announced IAF's intention to permit the use of all its resources for testing and certifying the indigenous fuel. Since then, IAF's flight test crew and engineers have been evaluating the performance of this fuel against international standards.

29. India's first all woman crew flies Mi - 17 V5 medium lift helicopter

Three women officers of Indian Air Force were part of India's first all-women crew to fly a medium-lift helicopter Mi-17 V5.

Flight Lieutenant Parul Bhardwaj (Captain), Flying Officer Aman Nidhi (co-pilot) and Flight Lieutenant Hina Jaiswal (Flight Engineer) were three women IAF officers flew the chopper, which took off from a forward air base in South Western air command.

All three women officers flew a Mi-17 V5 helicopter for Battle Inoculation Training mission.

Under this mission, the helicopter had taken off and landed from restricted areas at a forward airbase in South Western air command.

Flight Lieutenant Parul Bhardwaj became the first woman pilot to fly the Mi-17 V5.

Flight Lieutenant Hina Jaiswal became the first woman flight engineer of the IAF.

Flying officer Aman Nidhi from Jharkhand also became the first woman IAF pilot from the state.



About Indian Air Force

Founded: 8 October 1932

Commander-in-Chief: President Ram Nath Kovind

Chief of the Air Staff (CAS): Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh

30. Military tribunal allows Karambir Singh to take charge as new Navy Chief

The Armed Forces Tribunal made Vice Admiral Karambir Singh to become the next Navy Chief while it deferred for four weeks the matter of Vice Admiral Bimal Verma which seeks to quash Singh's appointment.

Karambir Singh, who is the Commander-in-Chief of the Eastern Naval Command, will take over as the Navy Chief on 31st May 2019.

He was commissioned into the Indian Navy in July 1980 and earned his wings as a helicopter pilot in 1982.

He has extensive experience with the HAL Chetak, Kamov Ka-25, and Kamov Ka-28 helicopters



About Karambir Singh

Born: 3 November 1959

Commands held : Chief of Naval Staff

Eastern Naval Command

INS Delhi

INS Rana

INS Vijaydurg

ICGS Chand Bibi

Awards: Param Vishisht Seva Medal

Ati Vishisht Seva Medal

31. IAF Golden Arrows 17 Squadron to be first Rafale combat aircraft unit

The Indian Air Force (IAF) and Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) signed an agreement with the selection of crew and training for Gaganyaan Programme.

It was signed between Air Vice Marshal (AVM) RGK Kapoor, Assistant Chief of Air Staff (ACAS) Operations (Space)

IAF and Shri R Hutton, Project Director of Gaganyaan Programme.

The Institute of Aerospace Medicine ('AM') will lead the selection and training of astronauts on behalf of IAF. ii. Gaganyaan Programme was announced the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 15, 2018.



Rs. 10,000 crore worth mission is scheduled to be launched in December 2021 and as a part of it, ISRO had set up the Human Spaceflight Centre at its headquarters in Bengaluru on January 30.

About IAF

Headquarters: New Delhi

Founded: October 8, 1932

Role: Aerial warfare • Attack: Jaguar, MiG-27, Harpy

Fighters: Sukhoi Su-30MKI, Dassault Mirage 2000, Mikoyan MiG-29, Mikoyan-Gurevich MiG-21, HAL Tejas • Chief of the Air Staff. Birender Singh Dhanoa

About ISRO

Headquarters: Bengaluru

Founder: Vikram Sarabhai

Director: K Sivan

32. Air Chief Marshal B S Dhanoa received baton of Chairman COSC

Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa received the baton of Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee from outgoing Chairman COSC and Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Sunil Lanba,

Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa will be the Chairman COSC with effect from May 31, 2019, consequent to relinquishment of charge by Admiral Sunil Lanba upon superannuation.

Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa, an alumnus of Rashtriya Indian Military College and the National Defence Academy, was commissioned in the Flying Branch of Indian Air Force in June 1978.

He is an experienced fighter pilot and a qualified CAT 'A' Flying Instructor with over 3000 hours of flying experience to his credit.

The Air Chief Marshal has mainly flown the MiG-21 aircraft with flying experience across the entire spectrum of fighter aircraft of the Indian Air Force.



Admiral Sunil Lanba is proceeding on retirement on May 31, 2019, after a distinguished career spanning over four decades.

Environment

1.Yeti's footprints sighted claims Indian Army tweet

The official Twitter account of the Indian Army's Additional Directorate General of Public Information tweeted that an Indian Army mountaineering expedition team has sighted mysterious footprints of mythical Himalayan creature "Yeti" measuring 32×15 inches (81 centimeters by 38centimeters) close to Makalu Base Camp, located in North-Eastern Himalayas on 09 April 2019.



2.Country's biggest stucco figurine unearthed in Telangana's Phanigiri

Indian archaeologists recently unearthed a life-sized stucco sculpture from a Buddhist site at Phanigiri in Suryapet, Telangana.

As per heritage department officials it represents one of Bhodhisattva in JathakaChakra. This is the largest stucco sculpture found from India till date.

It is considered to have been built during the peak time of Ikshavaku dynasty.



3.Bajirao, the last captive white tiger at Mumbai's national park, dies

The last captive white tiger at the Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP) in Borivali, Mumbai named Bajirao died due to old age related problems at the age of 18.

He was born at the SGNP in 2001 to tigress Renuka and tiger Sidharth.

He suffered from chronic ankylosis on left shoulderand chronic senile generalised arthritis for the last four years.



4. 40% of amphibian species and 1 million of insect and fauna under threat: UN Report

The UN Report termed as 'Global Assessment', stated that, among the approximated 8 million

plant, insect and animal species, around 1 million is at risk of extinction within decades due to human activity. The report was endorsed by 130 countries, including the U.S., Russia and China.

The research study was launched in Paris by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).



5. Water found in samples taken from Asteroid Itokawa

Maitrayee Bose, Indian-origin cosmochemist along with Ziliang Jin, a postdoctoral scholar in Arizona State University's School of Earth and Space Exploration, have found water in asteroid Itokawa samples collected by the Japanese space probe Hayabusa.

The research paper detailing the analysis of five of the particles from the asteroid samples was published in the journal Science Advances.



6. UNEP Report states that India & China tops a list of nations for illegal sand mining

According to the recent report released by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) titled 'Sand and Sustainability: finding new solutions for environmental governance of global sand resources'.

India and China top a list of nations where illegal sand mining has become a key environmental issue.



7. World's 1st parent-wise genome for water buffaloes developed

Anand-based National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has developed world's first complete parent-wise genome assembly of buffalo named "NDDB_ABRO_Murrah" of riverine buffaloes.

This comes on the back of the successful launch of a customized genotyping chip for indigenous cattle and their crosses, named INDUSCHIP.



8. New fish species discovered that can detect wavelengths

A team of researchers led by Professor Walter Salzburger from the University of Basel, Switzerland have discovered that certain deep-sea fish have expanded their rhodopsin genes to detect various wavelengths in near-total darkness in the deep sea, the largest habitat on Earth.

This was published in the Journal of Science. One species, named silver spinyfin (*Diretmus argenteus*), has the maximum rhodopsin gene i.e. 38 copies.



9. Non-venomous species of 'rain snake' discovered in Mizoram

A group of Taxonomists has unearthed a new non-venomous 'rain loving' snake species named "Smithophis atemporalis" from Mizoram in North-east India.

This was published in the taxonomic journal named Zootaxa. Varad Giri is the lead author of the paper.



10. White-throated rail, extinct bird of 136,000 Years Ago is "Back From the Dead"

The white-throated rail (*Dryolimnas cuvieri*) which was extinct for more than 136,000 years reappeared on Indian Ocean Island. This new finding was published in the Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society. This is now the last species of flightless bird left in the Indian Ocean.



11. India's Smallest Orchids "Lecanorchis Taiwaniana" discovered in Assam

India's Smallest Orchids named "Lecanorchis Taiwaniana", a parasitic bloom, was discovered in Assam by a forest officer Jatindra Sarma who is a Member Secretary of State Medicinal plants Board.

It is small in terms of size as well as its tenure of bloom. The discovery was published in a Japanese Journal named Journal of Botany.



12. Scientists of Germany found a new bird like Dinosaur "Alcmonavis Poeschli"

Researchers in Germany have unearthed a new bird-like Dinosaur in Bavaria, Germany and named it as "Alcmonavis Poeschli".

The lead author of the study is Oliver Rauhut from Ludwig-Maximilians University's (LMU) Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences. This new study is published in the journal called eLife Sciences.



Important Days

1. International Day for Biological Diversity celebrated on 22 May

The UN General Assembly proclaimed 22 May, the date of the adoption of its text, as the International Day for Biological Diversity on 20 December 2000.

The theme for International Day for Biological Diversity 2019 is '*Our Biodiversity, Our Food, Our Health*'.

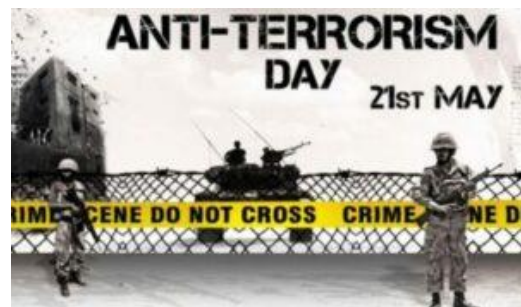


INTERNATIONAL DAY
for
**BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY**
*Our Biodiversity,
Our Food, Our Health*
== 22 MAY 2019 ==

2. Anti-Terrorism Day observed on 21 May

May 21 is chosen as Anti-terrorism day in India to commemorate the death Anniversary of former **Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi died in a terrorist attack**.

On this day Anti-Terrorism pledge is taken in all the government offices and other public institutions. He served as the prime minister from 1984 to 1989.



3. UAE Celebrates World Day For Cultural Diversity On May 21

On 21st May, the **UAE celebrated World Day for Cultural Diversity** for Dialogue and Development to highlight its efforts in promoting tolerance and cultural diversity.

The event coincides with the country's declaration of **2019 as the Year for Tolerance**. The UAE has cultural relations with many countries and is an active member of the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, UNESCO**.



4. World Bee Day celebrated on 20th May

To raise awareness of the **importance of pollinators (such as bees, butterflies, bats and hummingbirds)**, the threats they face and their contribution to sustainable development, the UN designated **20 May as World Bee Day**.

20 May coincides with the **birthday of Anton Janša**, who in the 18th century pioneered modern beekeeping techniques in his native Slovenia and praised the bees for their ability to work so hard, while needing so little attention.



5. World Metrology Day organized on 20 May

World Metrology Day is observed every year on **20 May**.

The theme for World Metrology Day 2019 is The International System of Units - Fundamentally better.



6. International Day of Light observed on 16 May

May 16th is celebrated globally as the **International Day of Light**. 2019 marks the global celebration of the **second** edition of the event.

It is an official observance of **UNESCO** that provides an annual focal point for the continued appreciation of light and the role it plays in science, culture, and art, education, sustainable development, communications, and energy.



7. World Telecommunication and Information Society Day observed on 17 May

World Telecommunication & Information Society Day is observed all over the world on 17th May.

The theme for World Telecommunication & Information Society Day 2019 is '**Bridging the Standardization Gap**'.



8. Sikkim Statehood Day organized on 16 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.



9. International Day of Families celebrated on 15 May

In 1993, the General Assembly decided in a resolution that 15 May of every year should be observed as The International Day of Families.

The Theme for 2019 International Day of Families is "*Families and Climate Action: Focus on SDG 13*".



10. World Migratory Bird Day observed on 11 May

In 2019, World Migratory Bird Day is celebrated on May 11 and October 12.

The theme for World Migratory Bird Day 2019 is 'Protect Birds: Be the Solution to Plastic Pollution.'



11. International Nurses Day observed on 12 May

International Nurses Day is celebrated around the world on **12 May**. It celebrates the birth anniversary of **Florence Nightingale**.

The theme for 2019 International Nurses Day 2019 is "*Nurses – A Voice to Lead – Health for All*". It was first celebrated by the International Council of Nurses (ICN) in 1965.



12. 5th United Nations Global Road Safety Week from May 6 to 12

The 5th United Nations Global Road Safety Week is being observed from **May 6 to 12, 2019**. It is celebrated once in two years.

The theme of the Road Safety Week is '**Leadership for Road Safety**'.



13. World Red Cross Day celebrated on 08 May

World Red Cross Day (also known as Red Crescent Day) is **observed every year on May 8**. It is a gentle nod to all the volunteers who have made an unparalleled contribution to people in duress or need.

The 2019 theme chosen by them is, '**#Love**'. Incidentally, the day is also the birthday of Henry Dunant, who had generated the Red Cross Committee of the International (ICRI) in 1863 in Switzerland, Geneva.



14. World Asthma Day 2019 observed on 7 May

World Asthma Day is an annual event organized by the **Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA)** on the **first Tuesday in May** to improve asthma awareness and control around the world. This year it was observed across the globe on **May 7, 2019**.

The **theme** of World Asthma Day 2019 was '**STOP for Asthma**'.



15. World Laughter Day 2019 celebrated on 5 May

World Laughter Day is celebrated on the **first Sunday of May** every year. It is a day to raise awareness about laughter and its many **healing benefits**.

The first celebration was on May 10, **1998**, in Mumbai, **India**, and was arranged by Dr. Madan Kataria, founder of the **worldwide Laughter Yoga movement**.



16. World Press Freedom Day organized on 3 May

World Press Freedom Day (WPDF) is celebrated all over the world on the **3rd of May**.

The theme for WPDF 2019 is "Media for Democracy: Journalism and Elections in Times of Disinformation".

India Ranked 140th in 2019 World Press Freedom Index.



17. 'Maharashtra Day' and 'Gujarat Day' celebrated on 1 May

May 1 is celebrated as '**Maharashtra Day**' and '**Gujarat Day**'. In **1960**, the **Bombay Reorganization Act** was passed by India's Parliament to divide the multilingual state of Bombay into Gujarat and Maharashtra. The legislation came into effect on **May 1, 1960**.

The state of **Bombay** formerly comprised of speakers of different languages such as Marathi, Gujarati, Konkani, and Kutchi. During the mid-1950s, a movement known as the **Samyukta Maharashtra Andolan** started demanding a separate Marathi-speaking state while **Mahagujarat Movement** aimed at the formation of a state for Gujarati-speaking people.



18. World Tuna Day observed on 2 May

The **United Nations (UN)** established **World Tuna Day on May 2** to raise awareness about the importance of tuna and to promote more sustainable fishing practices.

It was observed for the first time in 2017.



19. International Workers' Day celebrated on 1 May

International Labour Day (also known as May Day or International Workers' Day) is celebrated across the world on 1st of May every year.

The theme of International Labour Day 2019 is "Sustainable Pension for all: The Role of Social Partners".



20. International Everest Day celebrated on 29th May

International Everest Day is being observed on 29th May. Nepalese Tenzing Norgay and New Zealand's Edmund Hillary had climbed the Mt. Everest on this day (29th May) in 1953, as the first humans to achieve the feat.



Nepal decided to observe the day as International Everest Day since 2008 when the legendary climber Hillary passed away.

Everest Day on May 29 every year in memory of the first summit of Mt. Everest by Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay Sherpa on the day in 1953. The day is celebrated with memorial events, processions, and special events in Kathmandu and the Everest region.

International

1. Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz ousted in the no-confidence vote

Austrian Parliament has removed Chancellor Sebastian Kurz from office as he lost the no confidence in a special Parliamentary session. His previous coalition ally, the far-right Freedom Party (FPÖ) and the opposition Social Democrats (SPÖ) backed the no-confidence motions.



Austria's President Alexander Van der Bellen named Vice Chancellor Hartwig Löger as the interim leader. Löger will serve until a new transitional government can be appointed ahead of elections expected in September.

2. 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.

3. Trump becomes the 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.



4. Cyril Ramaphosa takes oath as South Africa's President

Cyril Ramaphosa, the head of the African National Congress, was sworn in for a five-year term as South Africa's president after being elected unopposed by Parliament following the sixth general elections.

He was elected earlier this month with a majority of 57.50%, the smallest since the party came to power 25 years ago. Mr. Ramaphosa initially took over from Jacob Zuma in 2018 after Mr. Zuma was accused of corruption. Mr. Ramaphosa is the country's fifth democratically elected president since apartheid ended in 1994.



5. 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.

6. Sri Lankan navy launches extra vigil over terrorists

Sri Lankan navy has launched extra vigil on its northern seas in wake of media reports that some terrorist elements may have left the country to land on Indian shores.

Earlier, several media outlets reported that a group of 15 suspected Islamic State terrorists were fleeing Sri Lanka towards the Kerala Coast. Coastal security has been beefed up across the Kerala coast in wake of reports.



7. British PM Theresa May Announces Resignation

British Prime Minister Theresa May announces resignation from her post. She will resign on 7 June.

Her announcement triggers the start of a contest to replace her as Conservative leader and Prime Minister.



8. SCO Meeting Of Council Of Foreign Ministers Held In Bishkek

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj represented India in the meeting of Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation to be held in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic.

Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi also attended the meeting.



9. Volodymyr Zelenskiy Sworn In As Ukraine's New President

Volodymyr Zelenskiy took the oath of office as the **president of Ukraine** and immediately announced that he is dissolving the Verkhovna Rada, the country's parliament.

In his inaugural speech, Zelenskiy called for the dismissal of several top security officials. **He has replaced Petro Poroshenko.**



10. TAPI Pipeline Meeting Held In Turkmenistan

The **Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI)** gas pipeline meeting was held in **Ashgabat, Turkmenistan**. The groundbreaking of the TAPI gas pipeline will be held in **Pakistan in October 2019**.

The TAPI gas pipeline project is expected to be completed by 2022 in Pakistan. The TAPI project, **supported by the United States and the Asian Development Bank (ADB)**, has been touted by Turkmenistan since the 1990s.



11. World Bank, CommBank Team Up For 'World 1st' Blockchain Bond Transaction

The **World Bank** and the **Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CommBank)** have teamed up to enable recording of secondary market bond trading using blockchain tech.

The institutions announced that their successful recording of a secondary transaction for **bond-i**, a blockchain-operated debt instrument, on a distributed ledger shows the "vast potential" of the technology, and **marks the first bond to have both issuance and trading recorded on a blockchain platform.**



12. 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.



13. WHO Declares Algeria, Argentina Malaria-Free

The **World Health Organization (WHO)** declared **Algeria** and **Argentina** as malaria-free, with no recorded cases of indigenous transmission of the disease since 2013 and 2010 respectively.

It accounted for an estimated 219 million cases from 87 countries and over 400,000 related deaths in 2017, according to WHO's World malaria report 2018.



14. US, Japan, South Korea, Australia Hold 1st Naval Drills In Western Pacific

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.



15. TAPI Pipeline Meeting Held In Turkmenistan

The **Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI)** gas pipeline meeting was held in **Ashgabat, Turkmenistan**. The groundbreaking of the TAPI gas pipeline will be held in **Pakistan in October 2019**.

The TAPI gas pipeline project is expected to be completed by 2022 in Pakistan. The TAPI project, **supported by the United States and the Asian Development Bank (ADB)**, has been touted by Turkmenistan since the 1990s.



16. EAM Sushma Swaraj To Attend SCO Foreign Ministers Meet In Bishkek

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj will attend the foreign ministers' meet of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)** in **Bishkek**, Kyrgyz Republic. Swaraj's Pakistani counterpart Shah Mehmood Qureshi will also attend the meeting.

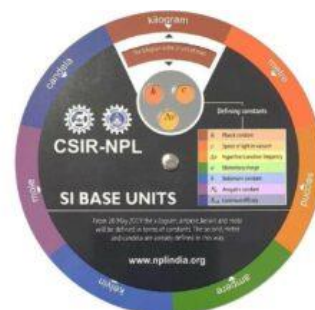
This will be the second Council of Foreign Ministers (**CFM**) meeting that India will be attending as a full member of **SCO**.



17. 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.

18. 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.



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%**.

19. Taiwan Becomes First Country In Asia To Legalise Same-Sex Marriage

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.

20. 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.

21. 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.



The **United Nations Security Council's 1267 Al Qaeda Sanctions Committee** sanctioned Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant - Khorasan (ISIL-K). It

is now subject to the assets freeze, travel ban and arms embargo.

22. Cannes Film Festival Begins In France

The Cannes Film Festival has begun in France. Information and Broadcasting Secretary Amit Khare is leading the Indian delegation at Cannes and will inaugurate India Pavilion.

The Pavilion will showcase Indian cinema across linguistic, cultural and regional diversity, with the aim of forging international partnerships in distribution, production, filming in India. Indian Delegation will also release a special poster to mark the golden jubilee of International Film Festival of India (IFFI-2019).



23. Vice President Venkaiah Naidu 4-Day Visit To Vietnam: Complete Highlights

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.



24. UN To Hold 2020 Ocean Conference In Lisbon

United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) decided to hold its 5-day long **2020 high-level conference early June in Portugal's Lisbon** to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development in Lisbon.



25. 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**.



26. Ireland Becomes 2nd Country To Declare Climate Emergency

Ireland has declared a climate emergency in their country, to be the second country after Britain to do so.

Britain's parliament became the first in the world to declare a climate emergency, passing the largely symbolic motion on May 1.



27. Australian Flight Carrier, Qantas Operated World's First Zero-waste Flight

The Australian flight carrier, Qantas has operated the world's first zero-waste commercial flight from Sydney to Adelaide which disposed of all waste through compost, reuse or recycle.



The Australian airline Qantas has planned to eliminate **100 million** single-use plastics by the end of **2020** and also to reduce 75% of airline's waste by the end of **2021**.

28. Facebook Chooses London As Base For WhatsApp Payments

Facebook has chosen London as the centre for the global roll-out of WhatsApp pay, before the social media giant launches its digital payments service on the mobile messaging platform in India.

WhatsApp would hire nearly **100 people in London** to focus on the digital payments service and additional operations staff would be hired in Dublin.



29. Vice President Embarks On 4-Day Official Visit To Vietnam

Vice President of India Venkaiah Naidu embarked on a four-day official visit to Vietnam to participate in 16th United Nations Day of Vesak.

During the visit, VP will deliver the keynote address at the inaugural session of the event themed as "**Buddhist Approach to Global Leadership and Shared Responsibilities for Sustainable Societies.**"



30. Singapore Passes 'Fake News' Law

Singapore's Parliament passed a law to curb the spread of **fake news under which offenders may face up to 10-year jail or fines of up to S\$1 million** (over Rs5.12 crore).

The law empowers the government to direct social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter to carry corrections or remove content it considers to be fake news.



31. The US Air Force Successfully Tested A Laser System To Shoot Down Multiple Missiles

The **US Air Force Research Laboratory** tested a laser system called **Self-Protect High Energy Laser Demonstrator (SHIELD)** at the US Army's White Sands Missile range in New Mexico which successfully shot down multiple air-launched missiles while in flight.

The system is designed for the purpose of protecting the aircraft from incoming **surface-to-air** and **air-to-air** launched missiles.



32. 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**.



33. Japan's First Privately Developed Rocket 'Momo-3' Reached Outer Space

A **Japanese** aerospace start-up **Interstellar Technology Inc.** has successfully launched a **first privately developed** rocket '**Momo-3**' into space.

The unmanned Momo-3 was launched from its test site in **Hokkaido** and reached about **110 kilometers** (68 miles) in altitude before falling



into the Pacific Ocean after **10** minutes of flight time.

34. ADB Launches \$5 Billion Healthy Oceans Action Plan

The **Asian Development Bank** (ADB) launched a \$5 Billion Action Plan for **Healthy Oceans and Sustainable Blue Economies for the Asia and Pacific region** at the 52nd Annual Meeting of ADB's Board of Governors in **Fiji**.

It will expand financing and technical assistance for ocean health and marine economy projects to **\$5 billion** from **2019 to 2024**.



35. 16th Ministerial Meeting of Asia Cooperation Dialogue Held in Qatar

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"**.



36. Vladimir Putin Signs Law To Create Independent Russian Internet

Russian President Vladimir Putin has signed into law a new measure that aims to expand government control over the Internet.

It would enable the creation of a **national network**, able to operate separately from the rest of the world. The new law aims to protect Russia from foreign online restrictions by creating a **"sustainable, secure and fully functioning"** local internet.



37. UK Parliament 1st In World To Declare Climate Emergency

The **UK parliament** became the **first** national legislative body in the world to declare a climate change **emergency**.

It also calls for the government to work towards carbon neutrality before **2050** and for ministers to draft proposals within the next 6 months to restore the country's environment and create a **"zero waste economy."**



38. UN Designates JeM Chief Masood Azhar As Global Terrorist

In a huge diplomatic win for India, **the United Nations Security Council** designated **Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Masood Azhar as a global terrorist** after China lifted its hold on a proposal to blacklist him under the Security Council's Sanctions Committee.

The announcement was made by India's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to UN, Syed Akbaruddin.



39. Akihito 1st Japanese Emperor To Step Down From Throne in 200 Years

Akihito became the first Japanese Emperor to step down from the throne in more than 200 years.

His son, **Crown Prince Naruhito**, will ascend the Chrysanthemum throne today, beginning a new era. 30 April was the last day of the Heisei imperial era.



Miscellaneous

1. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) became the largest party and won the majority by winning 303 Seats (271 seats required for majority). BJP led alliance NDA (National Democratic Alliance) won 352 Seats. It is the biggest ever Victory for BJP. Mr. Narendra Modi to be re-appointed as Prime Minister of India, for his 2nd consecutive term.
2. Andhra Pradesh Assembly Elections were held on 11th April 2019, to constitute 15th Legislative Assembly. These elections were held concurrently with Indian general elections 2019. In this elections, the YSR Congress party won record 151 seats out of 175 seats, leaving past the earlier ruling Telugu Desam party, who this time got only 23 seats. The YSRCP Chief Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy will be appointed as the new Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.
3. Arunachal Pradesh Assembly Elections held on 11th April 2019, concurrently with Indian general elections 2019. Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won the majority by winning 41 out of 60 legislative assembly seats. Pema Khandu will be appointed as Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh for his 2nd term.
4. Odisha Assembly Elections held in April 2019, concurrently with Indian general elections 2019. Naveen Patnaik Led Biju Janata Dal won the majority by winning 112 out of 146 seats. BJP won 23 seats and Indian National Congress won 9 Seats. Naveen Patnaik will be the CM of Odisha for his 5th Consecutive Term.
5. Sikkim Assembly Elections held in April 2019, concurrently with Indian general elections 2019. Sikkim Krantikari Morcha won majority by winning 17 out of 32 seats. It has ended Sikkim Democratic Front's 25 year long rule, led by Pawan Chamling. Prem Singh Tamang, better known as P. S. Golay, will be appointed as New Chief Minister of Sikkim. Prior to forming his own party SKM, he was a key member of Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF) Party.
6. IAF became the first Air Force to successfully fire an air launched 2.8 Mach surface attack missile of this category on a sea target, in Nov 17. This is the second such live launch of the weapon.
7. Indian author Ruskin Bond released his new memoir set against the backdrop of the partition, titled *Coming Round the Mountain*.
8. UNESCO added Indian part of Kailash Mansarovar to its tentative list of World Heritage Sites, under mixed category - both as a natural as well as a cultural heritage.
9. Kailash Mansarovar is expanded across an area of 6,836 sq km within India, flanked in east by Nepal and China on north.
10. Nepal banned popular Chinese digital payment apps WeChat Pay and AliPay, stating payments from unregistered systems were illegal and resulting in a loss of income to Nepal. Under Nepali laws, anyone found guilty of embezzling foreign exchange can be sentenced to up to three years in jail.

11. May 21 was observed as the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development. Also, May 21, was the death anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi is observed as Anti-Terrorism Day in India.
12. Google suspended all business with Chinese Telecom Equipment Maker Huawei, that includes transfer of hardware, software and technical services and cancelled its Android license.
13. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched its radar imaging satellite RISAT-2B, as radar imaging earth observation satellite. It was launched using launch vehicle PSLV-C46 from Sriharikota (Andhra Pradesh).
14. Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison won his first full term as PM of Australia, after his party won majority in 2019 Federal Elections.
15. Indian Comedian-actor Kapil Sharma named most viewed stand-up comedian Globally by World book of Records London.
16. Geological Survey of India (GSI) report reveals that about 35 % of India's total Graphite reserves is found in Arunachal Pradesh, highest in country. With such large deposits in Arunachal Pradesh, State could now be developed as leading producer of graphite in country.
17. Billionaire Indian Origin British Industrialists Hinduja brothers named as the wealthiest people in the UK for 3rd time, as per Sunday Times Rich List.
18. Mumbai Indians won Indian Premier League Cricket Tournament 2019 title by defeating Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in final at Hyderabad. Mumbai Indians' 4th Indian Premier League (IPL) trophy, now holding record for most IPL Titles.
19. May 7 is also the Birth Anniversary of India's first Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore. He started the Vishwa Bharati University in Shantiniketan. His birth anniversary is also known as Pochise Boishakh 2019.

National

1. 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.



2. JaganMohan 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.

3. NSIC signs MOU with Ministry of MSME

The National Small Industries Corporation Limited (NSIC) signed an MoU with Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) for the year 2019-20. The MoU envisages provision of enhanced services by NSIC under its marketing, financial, technology, and other support services schemes for MSMEs in the country.



The Corporation projects to increase Revenue from Operation by 22% from Rs. 2540 crore in the year 2018-19 to 3100 crore in the year 2019-20.

4. 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.



5. 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 toppled 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.

6. 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.

7. 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".

8. 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.



9. Madhya Pradesh to tentatively have new UNESCO heritage site

Orchha town in Madhya Pradesh has a plethora of historical sites with the Bundela dynasty architectural style. The Archaeological Survey of India has included that heritage town of Orchha in a tentative list of UNESCO world heritage sites. It was included in the proposal sent by the ASI to the UN body in April 2019.



UNESCO's rules state that to be a part of the World Heritage sites, the heritage or historical site must first be on the tentative list. After making it to that list, yet another proposal is sent to the UNESCO. In their initial proposal, the ASI had requested that Orchha be included as a cultural heritage site.

10. Government invites BIMSTEC leaders for the swearing-in ceremony on May 30

Leaders of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) have been invited for PM Modi's swearing-in ceremony to be held on 30th May. However, Bangladesh premier Sheikh Hasina will not attend the event due to her prior commitments. Myanmar State Councillor Aung Saan Suu Kyi's presence is also uncertain as she is travelling overseas. Kyrgyzstan, the current chair of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), too, has been invited for the event.



Apart from India, BIMSTEC comprises Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Myanmar. Indian-origin Mauritius PM Pravind Jugnauth, who visited India for Pravasi Bhartiya Divas in January, has also been invited for the May 30 event.

11. VD Savarkar's birth anniversary being celebrated

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.



12. India's first all-women medium-lift chopper crew flies the battle mission

Two women IAF officers from Punjab were part of the country's first all-women crew to fly a medium-lift helicopter Mi-17 V5.

Flight Lieutenant Parul Bhardwaj (Captain), Flying Officer Aman Nidhi (co-pilot) and Flight Lieutenant Hina Jaiswal (Flight Engineer) flew the chopper, which took off from a forward air base in South Western air command.



13. Govt sets up tribunal for adjudicating ban on LTTE

The government has constituted the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Tribunal to adjudicate whether or not there is sufficient cause for declaring the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) as an unlawful association. The Tribunal is comprised of sitting Judge of Delhi High Court Justice Sangita Dhingra Sehgal.

LTTE was banned in India after the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1991.



14. 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.



15. Narendra Modi to be sworn in as PM for 2nd term on May 30

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be administered the oath of office for his second term along with his new council of ministers on 30th May. President Ram Nath Kovind will administer the oath of office and secrecy to the prime minister and other members of the Union Council of Ministers at a ceremony in Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Modi is the first BJP leader who has been elected for the second time after completion of his five-year tenure. From BJP, Atal Bihari Vajpayee was also elected as a prime minister for two consecutive terms, but his first stint had lasted only for one year and seven months.



16. 25 states miss the 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.



17. 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.

18. High-level committee recommends strategy to reduce crude oil imports

In a report submitted to the oil ministry, a high-level committee (HLC) of companies has recommended strategies to reduce import dependency. The committee was formed to discuss research-related synergies and tax issues for state-run oil companies.



The committee consisted of Anil Kakodkar (scientist) and Sidharth Pradhan, an expert on financial and tax issues. "They also looked into mergers, acquisitions and consolidation of oil and gas public sector undertakings (PSUs) and the joint ventures". During 2018, India consumed 204.92 MMT petroleum products and 58.64 billion cubic meters (BCM) natural gas, whereas the domestic production of crude oil and natural gas has almost stagnated.

19. India bans Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh terror outfit

The **Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh** also called as Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen India or Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Hindustan has been declared as a banned terrorist organization by the government of India.



The home ministry stated the outfit has committed acts of terrorism, promoted acts of terrorism and has been engaged in radicalization and recruitment of youths for terrorist activities in India. Therefore, the **Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh** or Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen India or Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Hindustan and all its manifestations have been inserted in the First Schedule to the **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967**.

20. NSA Ajit Doval addresses 17th Investiture Ceremony of BSF in New Delhi

National Security Advisor Ajit Doval has stated that technology will play a pivotal role in guarding the borders in days to come as security challenges are increasing day by day.



Doval was addressing **17th Investiture Ceremony** of Border Security Force, **BSF in New Delhi**.

21. DRDO test fires guided bomb from Sukhoi combat Jet

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully test-fired an indigenously-developed 500 kg class guided bomb from a Sukhoi combat jet at Pokhran in Rajasthan.



The test firing of the guided bomb came two days after the Indian Air Force successfully test fired the aerial version of the supersonic BrahMos cruise missile from a Sukhoi jet at the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The **2.5-tonne air-to-surface missile** has a range of around **300 km**, and it will significantly enhance the IAF's combat capability.

22. MoU Signed Between DBT And DAE On Cancer Research

The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) under Ministry of Science and Technology and Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), under Prime Minister of India, has signed an MoU for supporting joint collaborative research programmes in the area of Cancer.



DAE was represented by its Tata Memorial Centre, which also functions as coordinating centre on behalf of The National Cancer Grid of India.

23. 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.

24. 2019 Lok Sabha Polls Record Highest Ever Voter Turnout In History

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.

The previous highest voter turnout of 66.44% was recorded in 2014.



25. Taiwan Expo 2019 Begins In New Delhi

Taiwan Expo 2019 began in Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

The representative of Taipei Economic and Cultural Centre Tien Chung-Kwang and Chairman of Taiwan External Trade Development Council, TAITRA James CF Huang inaugurated the three-day event in the presence of Joint Secretary Praveen Bonigala and ITPO Chairman LC Goyal.



26. 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.



27. 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**.



28. India, Singapore Conduct SIMBEX-19 Naval Exercise In The South China Sea

The 26th Edition of **Singapore India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX)-19** has commenced in the **South China Sea**. In addition to IN Ships **Kolkata** and **Shakti**, Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft **P8I** will also participate in the exercise.



The naval exercise will include various maritime combat drills such as advanced aerial tracking, coordinated targeting tactical exercises and weapon firing on aerial and surface targets.

29. NSG Commandos Summit Mount Everest In Maiden Attempt

Commandos of the premier counter-terror force **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**.



30. India Signs 'Christchurch Call to Action'

India signed the 'Christchurch Call to Action' in Paris. The agreement came in the backdrop of the attacks on mosques in March and is aimed at stopping the abuse of the Internet by **extremists**.

India was represented by **Ajay Prakash Sawhney**, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.



31. Lokpal Website Launched

The website of the Lokpal **www.lokpal.gov.in** has been launched. It was inaugurated by **Chairperson Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose** in presence of all the Members of Lokpal in New Delhi.

It provides basic information about the working and functioning of the anti-corruption ombudsman.



The Lokpal is the first institution of its kind in India established under the **Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013** to inquire and investigate into allegations of the corruption against public functionaries.

32. Captain Aaroohi Pandit Becomes 1st Woman In World To Cross Atlantic Ocean Solo In a LSA

Captain Aaroohi Pandit, a 23-year-old pilot from Mumbai became the world's first woman to cross the Atlantic Ocean solo in a Light Sports Aircraft (LSA).

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.



33. Nepali Sherpa Kami Rita Scales Mt Everest For 23rd Time; Creates World Record

Nepalese Sherpa climber **Kami Rita** has scaled Mount Everest for a **23rd** time, breaking his own record for the **most successful ascents** of the world's highest peak. He first scaled Everest in **1994**.

He reached the **8,850-metre** (29,035-feet) summit with other climbers via the Southeast Ridge route.



34. 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. This is the first time that the country has been afforded the opportunity of co-chairing the CG meeting of GFDRR.



35. Indian Navy's 1st Full-Fledged SSB Opened At Kolkata

The Indian Navy's first full-fledged Services Selection Board (SSB) was inaugurated by Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba at Diamond Harbour near Kolkata, West Bengal.

The SSB (Kolkata) is located at a place that was previously occupied by a Naval Coastal Battery. This is the **fifth SSB of the Indian Navy**. The other boards are located in **Bhopal, Bengaluru, Visakhapatnam and Coimbatore**.



36. MoU Signed For Rudraksh Plantation In Ganga Basin

A tripartite MoU was signed between National Mission for Clean Ganga, HCL Foundation and INTACH for taking up a project of '*Plantation of Rudraksh Trees in Uttarakhand*' as a part of CSR initiative under the 'Namami Gange' Programme.

The project aims at planting 10,000 Rudraksh trees in the catchment area of river Ganga in Uttarakhand in association with local community and other stakeholders.



37. 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.



38. Doordarshan Launches Online Souvenir Store In Partnership With Amazon India

Doordarshan has launched an online souvenir store for its viewers on Amazon India so that one can easily access it.

Doordarshan is India's first broadcaster which has started Souvenir store. A. Surya Prakash Chairman, Prasar Bharati launched DD souvenir store on Amazon India.



39. India-UK Sign Agreement To Boost Indo-Pacific Cooperation

India and the United Kingdom agreed to increase their collaboration in the fields of Indo-Pacific cooperation, climate change, disaster resilience, development in third world countries amongst other areas.

The two countries held Foreign Office consultations, where the Indian side was led by **Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale** and the UK side was represented by Sir Simon McDonald, Permanent Under-Secretary, Foreign and Commonwealth Office of British Government.



40. Rajiv Gandhi International Airport Ranked Among Top 10 In World-Air Help

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.



41. 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.

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.



42. Konkan Railways Signs Contract Agreement With Nepal To Supply DEMU Train Sets

Konkan Railways Corporation Ltd 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**. The train sets will be manufactured by the **Integrated Coach Factory, Chennai**.



43. New Heat-Sensing Snake Species Found, Named After Arunachal Pradesh

Pune-based **Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER)** team found a new species of reddish-brown pit viper snake with a unique heat-sensing system, the first in past 70 years in India.

The species is named '**Trimeresurus arunachalensis**' after Arunachal Pradesh, where it was discovered. This makes Arunachal Pradesh the only state to have a pit viper named after it.



44. Indian Army To Commemorate 2019 As 'Year of next of kin'

The Indian Army is commemorating this year as the '**Year of Next of Kin**' and plans to reach out to the next of kin of battle casualties, ex-servicemen and serving soldiers to inform them of entitled financial benefits, welfare schemes and help resolve pension-related problems.

The Directorate of Indian Army Veterans will be the nodal agency.



45. WTO Ministerial Meeting of Developing Countries To Held New Delhi

A WTO Ministerial meeting of developing countries is being hosted by India 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.



46. 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.

47. Chhattisgarh Deploys 1st Anti-Naxal Women Commando Unit

The Chhattisgarh police for the first time has inducted **women commandos in the District Reserve Guard (DRG)**, its frontline anti-Naxal force.

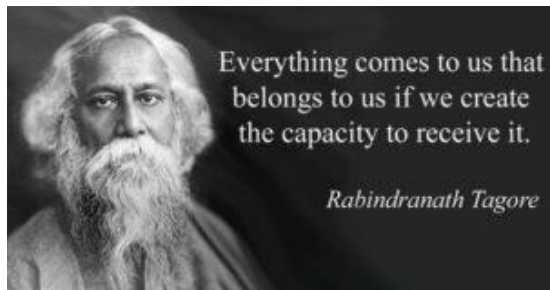
Comprising 30 women led by **Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Dineshwari Nand**, have received extensive training in jungle combat.



48. 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**.



49. TAFE, Petroleum Conservation Research Association Sign MoU

Tractor-manufacturer **Tractors and Farm Equipment (TAFE) Ltd** has signed an MoU with **Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA)** to aid conservation of resources.

Under the MoU, the association plans to jointly conduct agricultural workshops by involving TAFE's dealership network.



50. India and China Sign Protocol For Export of Indian Chilli Meal

Commerce Secretary, Anup Wadhawan and Vice Minister, General Administration of Customs of China (GACC), Li Guo, held a meeting in New Delhi to discuss trade-related issues of pending Indian request for clearance of agricultural products.



Both sides agreed to resolve market access issues expeditiously in order to achieve the vision of the leaders of both India and China by promoting a more balanced trade. At the end of the meeting, a protocol was signed for export of chilli meal from India to China.

51. 15th Finance Commission's Meeting With RBI Held In Mumbai

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.



52. Meeting of Regional Heads of Customs Administration of Asia Pacific Region of WCO Held in Kochi

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.



53. MNRE Holds 'Chintan Baithak' With Stakeholders of Renewable Energy Sector

Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) held a 'Chintan Baithak' with the stakeholders of the Renewable Energy sector in New Delhi.
ii. The 'Baithak' (meet) was chaired by Secretary, MNRE, Anand Kumar and saw good participation from Renewable Energy (RE) sector including the representatives of major



RE developers, equipment manufacturers, financiers, regulators, think-tanks, industry bodies and skill developers.

54. Gujarat Assembly Passes Act to Allow Shops & Businesses Remain Open 24x7

'**Gujarat Shops and Establishments** (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) **Act, 2019**' passed by Gujarat Assembly which came into force from May 1, 2019. The Act will allow the shops and other businesses in the state to operate **24x7**.

The Act replaced the Gujarat Shops and **Establishments Act, 1948** which prevented shops and other businesses from operating between **12 to 6 a.m.**



55. India To Purchase 10 Kamov-31 Choppers From Russia For INR 3,600 cr

The 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**.



56. BSNL Launches 'Bharat Fibre' Broadband Service In Kashmir Valley

State-owned telecom firm BSNL has become the first operator to start optical fibre-based high-speed broadband service in Pulwama with the launch of 'Bharat Fibre'.

This is the first such FTTH (**fibre-to-the-home**) service deployment in the (Kashmir) Valley. The service has been launched in a business partnership model with the local channel partner of **Pulwama** area, on a revenue sharing basis.



57. 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.



58. Government and IIT-Delhi To Set up a CoE For Waste to Wealth Technologies

The Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Government of India and Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (**IIT Delhi**) signed an MoU in New Delhi for setting up a **Centre of Excellence (CoE)** for **Waste to Wealth** Technologies for implementation of sustainable, scientific and technological solutions for waste management.



The waste to wealth mission project has been approved under the recently constituted Prime Minister's Science Technology and Innovation Advisory Council (**PM-STIAC**).

59. CBDT And GSTN Sign Pact To Nab Evaders

To nab tax evaders and reduce black money generation, **the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** and **Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN)** signed an agreement to facilitate the exchange of data between the two.

The I-T department will share key financial information, including the status of I-T return filings, turnover of business, gross total income, and turnover ratio among others with GSTN, the information technology backbone of the two-year-old indirect tax regime.



60. Green Number Plates Become Mandatory For All-Electric Vehicles

The Central government has asked the state transport departments to make it mandatory for **all EVs** to use the **green number plates**, irrespective of the year in which they were bought.

The new mandate is supposed to help provide preferential treatment to the vehicles with no carbon emissions, like parking, free entry in congested areas as well as a concessional toll on highways.



61. Indian And French Navies Conduct Varuna 19.1 Bilateral Exercise Off Goa Coast

The first part of the **Indo-French joint naval exercise, Varuna 19.1** was kicked off the Goa coast. The 17th edition includes the participation of the French Navy's aircraft carrier FNS Charles de Gaulle, two destroyers, FNS Forbin and FNS Provence, the frigate FNS Latouche-Treville, the tanker FNS Marne and a nuclear submarine.



The exercise will be conducted in two phases. The second part, **Varuna 19.2, is scheduled to be held at the end of May in Djibouti.** The bilateral naval exercise initiated in 1983 and christened as 'Varuna' in 2001, form a vital part of the Indo-French strategic partnership.

62. Environment Ministry Constitutes Committee To Implement National Clean Air Programme

The Union Environment Ministry has constituted a committee to implement the **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)**, which aims to reduce particulate matter (PM) pollution by 20%-30% in at least **102 cities by 2024.**

The committee will be chaired by the **Secretary, Union Environment Ministry.** It would be headquartered in **New Delhi.**



Resignations

1. Archery Association of India chief BVP Rao steps down following Supreme Court ruling

Archery Association of India (AAI) President B.V.P. Rao resigned after the Supreme Court's ruling to set aside the constitution of the national body of the sport as amended by Delhi High Court-appointed administrator S.Y. Quraishi. Justices AM Khanwilkar and Ajay Rastogi ordered that fresh elections be held for Archery Association of India within four weeks.



2. Emperor Akihito becomes the first Japanese monarch to abdicate in 200 years

The 125th Emperor of Japan, Emperor Emeritus Akihito abdicated, 85-year-old after 30 years of ruling because of his declining health and age-related problems. His rule was known as Heisei. While his son Emperor Naruhito, 59-year-old succeeded to the Chrysanthemum Throne on 1 May 2019, ushering in the Reiwa era.



3. Paytm president Bhushan Patil quits

Bhushan Patil, President of India's mobile payment and commerce platform, Paytm has quit the company. In March 2016, he had joined Paytm after serving five years at Alibaba.com.



4. Jet Airways top executives CEO, CFO, Company Secretary and Chief People's Officer resign

Jet Airways' four top Executives- Chief Executive Officer Vinay Dube, Chief Financial Officer and deputy CEO Amit Agarwal, Chief People's Officer Rahul Taneja and Company Secretary and Compliance Officer Kuldeep Sharma resigned from their positions with immediate effect. They have resigned after finding the possibility that Etihad's offer to invest in the airlines may not be sufficient to run the operations of the airlines. At present, Jet Airways is a debt-laden company.



5. Papua New Guinea PM Peter O'Neill resigns following series of high-level defections

The prime minister of Papua New Guinea, Peter O'Neill resigned following a series of high-level defections. He had been in power since 2011. He handed over the leadership of the country to former PM Julius Chan, who had served the nation twice from 1980 to 1982 and 1994 to 1997.



6. Independent director of IL&FS Units Venkataraman Janakiraman resigns

Independent Director of IL&FS Securities Services Ltd (ISSL), Venkataraman Janakiraman resigned from the post citing personal reasons. He was also the head of the risk management committee at ISSL and served the concern for more than 10 years. He has also resigned from the post of independent director of ISSL Settlement & Transaction Services Ltd.



7. Spain's former monarch Juan Carlos I to retire from public life on June 2, 2019

Five years after the abdication of the throne, Spanish former monarch Juan Carlos I, aged 81, will be retiring from public life on June 2, 2019. This was mentioned in a letter addressed to his son King Felipe VI, the current monarch on Spanish royals' website.



Reports

1. 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. Geological Survey of India (GSI) was founded in 1851 with primary 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.



2. India To Grow At 7.1% In FY'20: UN Report

As per the report by the United Nations, India's economy is projected to grow at 7.1% in the fiscal year 2020 on the back of strong domestic consumption and investment. Indian economy expanded by 7.2% in 2018.

According to the report, GDP growth is a downward revision from the 7.4% estimated in January 2019.

The **World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) 2019** Mid-year Update noted that growth projections for 2019 have been revised downward in all major developed economies.



3. 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.



Regional

1. Gujarat celebrates its foundation day on 1st May

Today is the 60th Foundation Day of Gujarat. Every year, 1st May is celebrated in different districts of Gujarat by launching various welfare schemes. This year, there is no official celebration due to the model code of conduct (MCC). The state of Gujarat came into existence on 1st May 1960 after division of Mumbai state.



2. Maharashtra Day is observed on 1st May to commemorate the statehood status of Maratha speaking region

Maharashtra Day is celebrated every year on 1st May to mark the Maratha speaking region that was founded on 1st May 1960. The state was formed under Bombay Reorganization Act in 1960. This year, the state government of Maharashtra organized the main function in Mumbai and celebrated this red-letter day at Shivaji Park, central Mumbai.



3. Mangaluru police gets an all-women patrol unit “Rani Abbakka Force”

Mangaluru Police Commissioner Sandeep Patil flagged off the all-women police patrol unit named 'Rani Abbakka Force' in the city to handle issues pertaining to Women and Children. The 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.



4. President named P.R. Ramachandra Menon as CJ of Chhattisgarh HC; Abhay Oka as CJ, Karnataka HC, and Shripathi Ravindra as CJ, Rajasthan HC

President of India, Ram Nath Kovind has appointed Kerala High Court judge, Justice Parappillil Ramakrishnan Nair Ramachandra Menon (P.R. Ramachandra Menon) as Chief Justice of Chhattisgarh High Court while exercising his powers conferred by clause (1) of Article 217 of the Constitution of India. At the same time, Bombay High Court Judge Justice Abhay Shreeniwas Oka elevated as the Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court and Justice Shripathi



Ravindra, a judge of the Delhi High Court was named as the Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court.

5. BSNL launches 'Bharat fibre' for high speed broadband Internet service with local channel partner in Pulwama

With the launch of 'Bharat Fibre', the state-owned telecom firm, BSNL (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited) became the 1st operator to start optical fibre-based high-speed broadband service in Pulwama. The Bharat Fibre services with reliable and high-speed internet are provided on the optical fibre by FTTH (fibre-to-the-home) service up to the customer premises.



6. New Act passed by Gujarat Assembly which allowed Shops and Businesses to remain open 24x7

'Gujarat Shops and Establishments (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 2019' passed by Gujarat Assembly which came into force from May 1, 2019. The Act will allow the shops and other businesses in the state to operate 24x7. The Act was passed by Gujarat Assembly earlier in February, 2019. The Act replaced the Gujarat Shops and Establishments Act, 1948 which prevented shops and other businesses from operating between 12 to 6 a.m.



7. Order of St George Award 2019 presented to Sri Sri Ravi Shankar

Indian spiritual leader, Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, was presented with the 'Order of St. George' Award for the year 2019 as part of the Commemorative Feast at the Puthuppally St. George Orthodox Church (462-year-old) in Kottayam, Kerala. In 1981, Sri Sri founded the Art of Living Foundation, a volunteer-based Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) providing social support to the people.



8. Karnataka Government limits the weight of school bags not more than 10% of the child's weight

Karnataka government issued a circular, following the order of the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development, directing all schools in the state, including government, aided and unaided institutions, to limit the weight of a schoolbag which is not more than 10% of the child's weight. The third Saturday of every month should be followed as "No School Bag Day".



9. Basava Jayanti 2019 observed on May 7

On 7th May 2019, Basava Jayanthi was celebrated in Karnataka, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh to commemorate the birth of Basavanna, a Hindu Kannada poet of the 12th century. It was traditionally observed by the Lingayats. He is believed to be the founding saint of the Lingayat sect. Basavanna was born in Karnataka's Ingaleswar, Bagewadi town on 20th March 1134, the third day of Vaisakha month of the Anandanama (Samvatsara) in the year 1134 A.D.



10. NIOS inked MoU with NHMPH to offer vocational programmes

The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) under Ministry of Human Resource Development and National Health Mission of Public Health Department (NHMPH), Government of Maharashtra inked Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which focused on the offerings of vocational programmes to the Health Service Providers of National Health Mission (NHM) with the help of NIOS.



11. Brahmakalashothsava Festival 2019

The Brahmakalashothsava festival 2019 has started in Karnataka. This is a 6-day festival celebrated annually in the ancient Chandkuru Sri Durga Parameshwari Temple situated in Polali, Dakshina Kannada district in Karnataka. Shri Rajarajeshwari is the presiding deity of the temple.



12. Thrissur Pooram festival was celebrated in Kerala and was attended by around 10,000 people

The opening of the popular Thrissur Pooram festival in Kerala was attended by around 10,000 people along with 54-year-old tusker, Kerala's tallest elephant 'Thechikottukavu Ramachandran' after it has cleared the fitness test. Earlier, a ban had been imposed on the elephant after it killed two people during an event in Guruvayur, Kerala.



13. Praveen Pardeshi assumed charge as the Commissioner of Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC)

Praveen Pardeshi, IAS Officer of 1985 batch, assumed charge as the Commissioner of Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC). He succeeded Ajoy Mehta who has recently assumed charge as the Maharashtra's Chief Secretary.



14. Kerala Assembly to digitize all its records under the project E-Vidhan

Kerala Assembly will go paperless by undertaking an initiative to digitize all its records under the project E-Vidhan. The project is assigned to the Cyber Park of Uralungal Labour Contract Cooperative Society. e-Vidhan, a Mission Mode Project (MMP) has been initiated as a part of Digital India program for State Legislatures and e-Sansad for Parliament. Himachal Pradesh is the first Digital Legislature of the country.



15. India's Organic State, Sikkim celebrated its Statehood Day on May 16

India's Organic State, Sikkim celebrated its 44th Statehood Day on May 16. On May 16, 1975, Sikkim was officially merged into the union of India. It was the 22nd state of India. The first Chief Minister of the state was Kazi Lhendup Dorjee. On April 29, 2019, CM of Sikkim Pawan Kumar Chamling set the new record of being the longest-serving chief minister.



16. Harda district of Madhya Pradesh becomes the first where women handle entire work of counting votes

In Harda district of Madhya Pradesh, women will handle the entire work of counting votes. This first of its kind initiative was taken for the empowerment of women. Harda district is a part of Betul parliamentary seat and the counting of votes of Timarni and Harda assembly segments will take place at Harda district headquarter. Besides counting of votes, only the women will be deployed for the security of the counting centre.



17. The Meghalaya government approved Farmers' Commission which would seek to look into the issues faced by farmers

The Cabinet of Meghalaya has given its consent for setting up of Farmers' Commission, which was proposed by the Agriculture Department following the resolution passed at the "farmers' parliament", for looking into the issues faced by farmers. The first of it's in India, 'farmers' parliament' was organised in December 2018.



18. Rajasthan Government to revamp 'Ujala Clinics' for adolescents

Rajasthan Government is set to revamp 'Ujala Clinics' for adolescents. It will appoint peer educators and shadow educators for counseling the youngsters in order to ensure coordination with other medical and health schemes. It is health program launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for adolescents between the age group 10 and 19 years.



19. Maharashtra proposed single-window registration of land titles

Maharashtra government has proposed to introduce the Maharashtra Land Titling Act which will be used for a single-window mechanism for authenticating land titles. This initiative will be first implemented in Mumbai as linking of various departments and digitising records.



20. MMOPL tied-up with Instamojo for card payments

The Reliance Infrastructure promoted Mumbai Metro One Private Limited (MMOPL) has announced a tie-up with Instamojo, a payment gateway. The purpose of this tie-up is to enable card payments aimed at boosting cashless travel. The total 4.50 lakh commuters can now pay for all kinds of ticketing products by using debit or credit cards.



21. Maharashtra government introduced ordinance to bring medical admissions under SEBC quota

Maharashtra government has introduced an ordinance to provide quota to candidates seeking admissions to medical courses under Socially and Economically Backward Class (SEBC) Reservation Act, 2018. Other than this ordinance, the Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (Amendment and Validation) Ordinance, 2019 will introduce reservation in appointments in public services and other posts in the state.



22. United Nation, not State under Article 12 as per the judgment of Delhi High Court

Delhi High court passed a judgment in Sanjaya Bahel v. Union of India & Others that United Nations Organization (UNO) is not a State under Article 12 of the Indian Constitution. So it is not amenable to its jurisdiction under Article 226 of the Indian Constitution. The decision was given by Justice Suresh Kumar Kait against a petition filed by a Sanjay Bahel, former UNO employee who was found guilty of misconduct. He was then convicted by a US Federal Court and sentenced to 97 months of imprisonment and 2 years of mandatory probation. He was released and deported to India in May 2014. He claimed that due process was not followed in his case.



23. Telangana records 15% GSDP growth in FY19 with Rs. 8,66,875 crore

Telangana recorded 15% Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) growth for the Financial year ended March 31, 2019 with Rs.8,66,875 crore. For the year 2018, it stood at Rs. 7,53,804 crore. After the formation of Telangana state, this was the first ever highest growth registered.



24. Telangana to set up country's first 'Blockchain District' in Hyderabad

Telangana has released a draft blockchain policy to set up country's first 'Blockchain District' in Hyderabad. It is aimed to create an ecosystem for major blockchain companies, start-ups for promoting research, innovation and industry collaboration. Telangana Government had signed an agreement with Tech Mahindra to set up the Blockchain district in 2018.



25. Karnataka cabinet approves cloud seeding programme

The cabinet of Karnataka has approved the Rs 93 crore cloud-seeding programme that would begin in June 2019 in order to tackle deficit rainfall in the state. It also promulgates an ordinance to protect gazetted officers, who will face demotion or lose their jobs, as their recruitment process in 1998 by the Karnataka Public Service Commission was found to be irregular.



26. Meghalaya CM Conrad Sangma launched a new project to boost medicinal plant cultivation

Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma launched a new project to boost medicinal and aromatic plants cultivation named "Aroma Mission". "Aroma Mission" is a project of Rs.18 crore launched to give importance for agriculture and allied sectors so that farmers earn the benefits from it.



27. MeitY in association with NASSCOM to jointly set up Internet of Things facility in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) in association with the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) will jointly set up Internet of Things (IoT) facility in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. Apart from Vizag, NASSCOM will set up Centres of Excellence (CoEs) for industries in Bengaluru, Gurugram and Ahmedabad to promote the use of Artificial Intelligence.



28. Jammu and Kashmir Government released Healthcare Investment Policy-2019

Jammu and Kashmir Government released Healthcare Investment Policy-2019. It follows the State Administrative Council decision taken on March 08, 2019. Jammu and Kashmir Government released Healthcare Investment Policy-2019. Among one of the incentive, Interest subsidy at 5% per annum on a term loan for a maximum of Rs 15 lakh per year for 5 years from the date of operation of the project will be granted.



Sports

1. G Sathiyam Becomes First Indian To Break Into Top-25 of ITTF Rankings

India's G Sathiyam has become the **first Indian** to break into the **top-25** of world rankings in Table Tennis.

Sathiyam rose four spots to be **24th** in the latest ITTF rankings, following his impressive sixth place finish in the Asia Cup in **Yokohama**.



2. Raheem Sterling named 2019 FWA footballer of the year

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



3. Apurvi Chandela Ranks World Number 1 In Women's 10 m Air Rifle Event

Indian shooting ace **Apurvi Chandela (fro Jaipur)** has been ranked the world number **one** in the **women's 10 metres** air rifle event while compatriot **Anjum Moudgil** rose to number **two** after consistent performances.



4. Bajrang Punia Wins Gold In Ali Aliyev Wrestling Tournament

World number one Bajrang Punia has become the **first Indian** to win gold at the **Ali Aliyev wrestling tournament** after defeating Viktor Rassadin of **Russia** in the 65 kg freestyle in Kapiisk.

Bajrang, who is part of the JSW Sports Excellence Program, will fight at the historic **Madison Square Garden** arena.



5. 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**.

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.



6. Spain Legend Xavi Hernandez Announces 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**.



7. 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.



8. 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.



9. 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.



10. Football: 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 **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.



11. 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.



12. Manchester City Legend Yaya Toure Retires From Football

Former Manchester City and Barcelona midfielder Yaya Toure has officially announced his retirement from football.

Achievements:

At Barcelona, he won **two LaLiga titles** and the **2009 Champions League**. Toure also captured the **2015 Africa Cup of Nations** playing for the Ivory Coast.

He was named the **African Footballer of the Year** in **2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014.**



13. Croatia's Igor Stimac To Become Indian Football Team Coach

Former Croatia international and manager Igor Stimac will be appointed as the **Indian men's team coach** after the **All India Football Federation's (AIFF)** technical committee recommended him for the post.

The committee, headed by Shyam Thapa, interviewed the four candidates for the post- Stimac, Albert Roca, Hakan Ericson, and Lee and zeroed in on Stimac.



14. MI Beat CSK By 1 Run 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. Kieron Pollard top-scored with his unbeaten 41-run knock. **Skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni became the most successful wicket-keeper** in the history of IPL by taking his dismissals tally to 132.



15. Madrid Open 2019: Complete List of Winners

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

16. 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.



17. Asia-Pacific Diamond Cup 2019: Japan's Yosuke Asaji Wins Title

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



18. 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.



19. 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.



20. Italian Open 2019: Complete List of Winners

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**.

Below is the Complete List of Winners



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)

21. 2nd India Open International Boxing Tournament Starts In Guwahati

2nd India Open International Boxing Tournament has started in Guwahati. India will field a strong contingent of 38 men and 37 women in the tournament including **Mary Kom in 51-kilogram category.**

In this 5-day event, 200 players from 16 countries will take part. The competition will be held in a total of 18 categories, 10 in men and 8 in women. The **gold medalist will get 2500 US dollar** and Silver medalist will earn 1000 US dollar.



22. 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.

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.



23. 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.**



Science and Technology

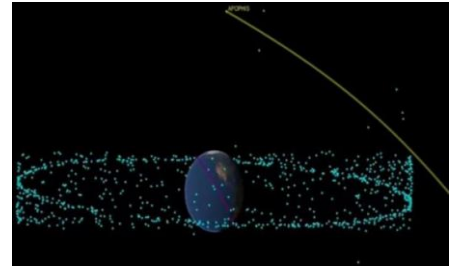
1. ICRISAT-led team collaborated with the BGI-Shenzhen to sequence genetic code to develop chickpeas resistant to vagaries of weather conditions

The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics' (ICRISAT) team partnered with the BGI-Shenzhen, China, involving 39 scientists from 21 research institutes worldwide, notified that scientists have successfully completed the largest-ever exercise of entire-genome re-sequencing of chickpea to identify genes that are resistant to various extreme factors. The study has been published in Nature Genetics online.



2. Giant asteroid '99942 Apophis' will fly past Earth in a decade

The 340m wide asteroid named 99942 Apophis will fly past Earth like a 'moving star- like point of light' on April 13, 2029. It will fly above the earth's surface at 30,500 km and first become visible with a naked eye in the night sky over the Southern Hemisphere from the east coast to the west coast of Australia.



3. Japan's first privately developed rocket "Momo-3" reached outer space

A Japanese aerospace start-up Interstellar Technology Inc. has successfully launched a first privately developed rocket 'Momo-3' into space. The unmanned rocket launched from its test site in Taiki on the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido. The rocket is 10 meters in length, 50 centimeters in diameter and weighs about 1 ton. 'Momo-3' rocket has the capability of putting payloads into the orbit.



4. Space X launched Falcon-9 rocket for space station resupply mission with Dragon Spacecraft

Space Exploration Technologies Corp. (Space X) launched its 17th commercial resupply mission to the International Space Station (ISS) by using Falcon 9 rocket with Dragon Spacecraft. The 213-

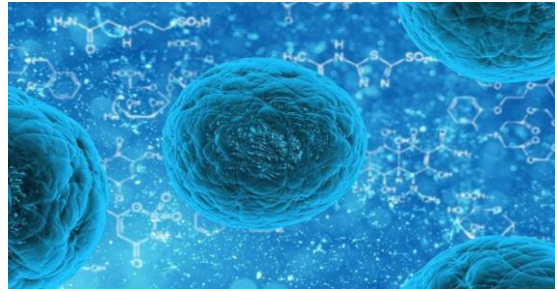
foot-tall rocket lifted off at about 2:48 a.m. local time from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in

Florida. The resupply mission contains almost 5,500 pounds of science, supplies and hardware.



5. Researchers identify drugs that block CRISPR-Cas9 genome editing

In the journal 'Cell' researchers authored that the discovery of the first small-molecule inhibitors of the *Streptococcus pyogenes* Cas9 (SpCas9) protein could enable more precise control over CRISPR-Cas9-based genome editing. The research was headed by Amit Choudhary of the Broad Institute, Harvard Medical School, and Brigham and Women's Hospital.



6. Ministry of Defence approved Indian Navy's Rs 3,600 crore deal for 10 'Kamov Ka-31' Helicopters

Ministry of Defence gave approval to Indian Navy to acquire 10 'Kamov Ka-31' Airborne Early Warning and Control Helicopter for a deal worth of Rs 3,600 crore from Russia. These 10 helicopters would be deployed on the aircraft carriers and warships of the Indian Navy including the INS Vikrant and Grigorovich-class frigates. The Kamov Ka-31 helicopters will strengthen the capability of Indian Navy against aerial threats to its aircraft carriers and large warships.



7. After 36 years of service, Indian Navy's frontline missile destroyer, INS Ranjit has been decommissioned

After 36 years of service, Indian Navy's frontline missile destroyer, INS Ranjit has been decommissioned at the naval dockyard in Visakhapatnam. INS Ranjit was commissioned on 15th September 1983 with Captain Vishnu Bhagwat as the chair. INS Ranjit was the 3rd of the 5 Kashin-class destroyers built by the former USSR (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics). INS Ranjit's motto was 'Sada Rane Jayate' or 'Ever Victorious in Battle'.



8. The US Air Force tested a laser system to shoot down multiple air launched missiles

The US Air Force Research Laboratory tested a laser system called 'Self-Protect High Energy Laser Demonstrator (SHIELD)' at the US Army's White Sands Missile range in New Mexico which successfully shot down multiple air-launched missiles while in flight. The system is designed for the purpose of protecting the aircrafts from incoming surface-to-air and air-to-air launched missiles.



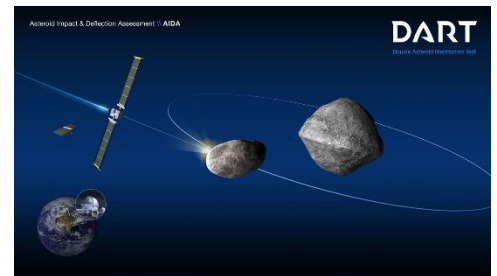
9. **INS Vela: Indian Navy's 4th Scorpene-class made in India submarine launched**

INS Vela, Indian Navy's 4th Scorpene-class submarine was launched at Mazagon Dockyard in Mumbai. This is the fourth submarine in the series of six submarines under Project 75 built by Mazagon Dock Ltd, Mumbai. The Scorpene-class submarine has been termed as the Kalavari Class.



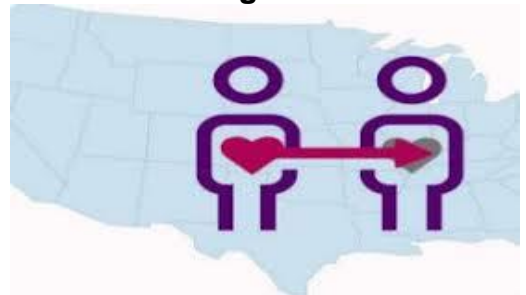
10. **NASA's first Planetary Defence Technology to collide with small moonlet in 2022**

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) will hit an asteroid named Didymoon or Didymos B with a spacecraft called Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) in 2022. This will be the first mission which demonstrates a planetary defence technique. The asteroid is 150 m tall which orbiting a larger body called Didymos A. This will help in understanding the state of the asteroid system.



11. **Approval from NOTTO required for organ allocation to foreign nationals**

The National Organ & Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO) has mandated that an organ could be allocated to a foreign national only after it gives its approval. Transplant Authority of Tamil Nadu (Transtan) has started following this guideline. In the last one year, the number of Indian patients receiving organs from brain-dead donors has gone up by 56% in Tamil Nadu. The number of lungs transplanted on Indians went up from 43 in 2017 to 84 in 2018.



The Transplant Authority of Tamil Nadu (Transtan) introduced steps to bring about greater transparency in the allocation of organs harvested from brain-dead people.

12. **Stress buster serotonin may help treat neurological decline**

Researchers at Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Mumbai have identified a new function for Serotonin, a monoamine neurotransmitter. The serotonin may help treat neurological diseases. The results of the study were published in the journal "Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)". Its Chemical name is 5-hydroxytryptamine (5-HT).



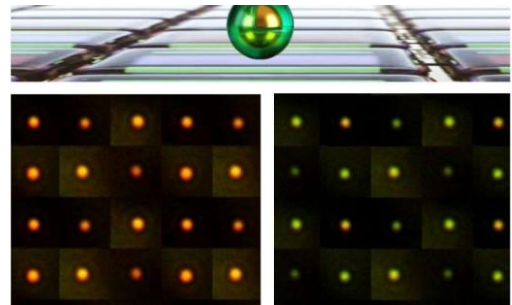
13. India receives its first Apache Guardian attack helicopter in Boeing's production facility in Mesa, Arizona US

The Indian Air Force legally received its 1st Apache Guardian attack helicopter AH-64E (I) during a ceremony at the Boeing production facility in Mesa, Arizona, US (United States). This first attack helicopter in India's defence arsenal was received by Air Marshal AS Butola, IAF.



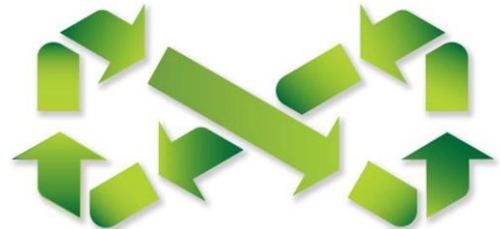
14. Scientists from the University of Cambridge create the World's Smallest Colour Pixels for large-scale flexible displays

Scientists from the University of Cambridge, UK created the World's Smallest Colour Pixels by trapping the particles of light under the tiny rocks of gold. These pixels can be used for new types of large-scale flexible displays and are big enough to cover entire buildings. The research is published in Journal Science Advances.



15. U.S. Department of Energy creates a new 100% recyclable plastic named Polydiketoenamine (PDK)

U.S. Department of Energy's Lawrence Berkeley National Lab in California created a new 100% recyclable plastic named Polydiketoenamine (PDK). This can be broken down and used without the loss of quality. It can be formed into a different shape and colour. The research is published in the journal Nature Chemistry.



16. Department of Biotechnology (DBT) launched MANAV- Human Atlas Initiative, to understand the role of tissues in human body

Department of Biotechnology (DBT) launched MANAV-Human Atlas Initiative, to understand the role of tissues and cell in the human body. It is a collaborated project between Indian Institute of Science, Education and Research (IISER) Pune, Persistent Systems and the National Centre for Cell Science(NCCS). It was launched by the DBT Secretary, Dr. Renu Swarup. The project is funded by the Department of Biotechnology which has invested Rs. 13 crore.



17. Chinese Navy launches two Type 052D new guided missile destroyers

Chinese Navy has commissioned two new Type 052D guided missile destroyers in Dalian, a coastal city. They are the 19th and 20th ships in the class and are named as Tangshan and Suzhou. China, at present, has 20 Type 052Ds either in active service or to be launched for service soon.



18. NASA dubbed its 2024 Mission to Moon as 'Artemis'

The US Space Agency announced that the National Aeronautics and Space Organization (NASA) is set for its Mission to Moon "Artemis" which is to be achieved by 2024. Earlier, its goal to achieve this feat was by 2028. The Mission is named 'Artemis' after the Greek mythological goddess of the Moon and twin sister to Apollo. The annual budget for this mission is approximately USD 21.5 billion (Nearly Rs. 1,51,000 crores)



19. Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) successfully conducted the flight test of ABHYAS in Odisha

Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) has successfully conducted the flight test of ABHYAS, a High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) drone which is to be used for autonomous flying with the help of an autopilot. The flight test was conducted from an Interim Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur, Odisha. It uses Micro-Electro-Mechanical Systems (MEMS) based navigation system for its navigation and guidance.



20. WHO partnered with IFBA to eliminate industrially produced trans fat (iTFA) from food supply worldwide by 2023

WHO (World Health organization) collaborated with the International Food and Beverage Alliance (IFBA) to eliminate industrially produced trans fat (iTFA) from food supply worldwide by 2023. Trans fat-intake leads to coronary heart disease, due to which 5,00,000 deaths occur every year globally.



21. FDA approved first Dengue vaccine named Dengvaxia

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA), United States has approved first vaccine named Dengvaxia for the prevention of dengue disease but with certain conditions that use dengue vaccine only in people who have a previous history of the disease. The vaccine is also known as CYD-TDV and made by company Sanofi Pasteur. Mexico was the first country to clear it in the year 2015.



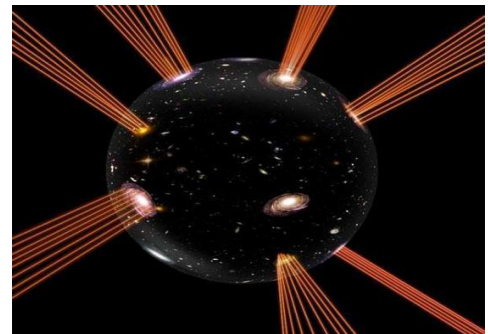
22. "ElectionGuard", an open source software unveiled by Microsoft for secure voting

Microsoft CEO, Satya Nadella has announced the launch of "ElectionGuard", a free open-source Software Development Kit (SDK) to help nations to carry out secure and verifiable voting. Developed by Galois, "ElectionGuard" is a supplement to paper ballots.



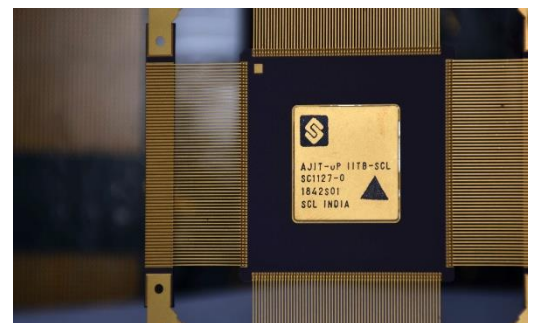
23. Experimental device generates electricity from the coldness of the universe for the first time

Scientists from Stanford University, Shanhui Fan along with Masashi Ono have demonstrated for the first time that it is possible to produce a measurable amount of electricity in an infrared photodiode from the coldness of the universe. The infrared semiconductor uses the temperature difference between Space and Earth to produce the electricity. The study was published in a journal named Applied Physics Letters.



24. A microprocessor named 'AJIT' developed by IIT Bombay

A group of researchers and professor Manav Desai from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay have developed a microprocessor named 'AJIT' which was indigenously conceptualised, designed, developed and manufactured. The chip of the microprocessor was developed at Semi-Conductor Laboratory in Chandigarh. This was the first time that academia, industry and government worked together for the development of new technology.



25. Samsung launched world's Highest Resolution Image Sensor

Recently, South Korea based Samsung company has launched the world's first highest resolution image sensor of 64 megapixels. This image sensor will be used in upcoming smartphones of Samsung and the objective is to meet the growing demand for smartphones with better image quality. Samsung has launched two new image sensors with 0.8 micrometer pixel:

- The 64-megapixel ISOCELL Bright GW1
- The 48-megapixel ISOCELL Bright GW2



26. Doordarshan launched online Souvenir Store on Amazon India

Public service broadcaster, Doordarshan has partnered with online retail giant Amazon India to launch a Souvenir Store. The store will offer a whole range of merchandise which includes T-shirts, coffee mugs and sippers with the tagline "I am in your DNA, I am your Doordarshan". The purpose of this initiative is to establish stronger relationship with viewers of Doordarshan channel.



27. Leading stock exchange 'BSE' launched 'BSE StAR MF' app to help mutual fund distributors to accelerate transactions process

BSE (Bombay Stock Exchange) notified that it has launched an app named 'BSE StAR MF' in order to enable more participation and aid mutual fund distributors to accelerate transactions process. It helps distributors in purchasing and redeeming the mutual fund units on behalf of their clients.



28. Indian Coast Guard Ship 'Vigraha' decommissioned at Vishakhapatnam

Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) 'Vigraha' decommissioned at Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. It is a frontline offshore patrol served for 29 years from 1990 to 2019. It was the seventh offshore patrol vessel built by the Mazagaon Dock Limited, Mumbai.



29. Indian Navy has enhanced its anti-air warfare capability by successfully test-firing MRSAM missile

The Indian Navy has achieved a significant milestone in enhancing its anti-air warfare capability by successfully test-firing a Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM) on the western seaboard. The test-firing was carried out by Indian naval ships Kochi and Chennai. The test-firing of the missile was collaboratively undertaken by the Indian Navy, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI).



30. India delivered 2 Mi-24 helicopters to Afghanistan

Indian Ambassador to Afghanistan, Vinay Kumar made the hand-over of the first pair of replacement Mi-24 attack helicopters to Afghanistan Defence Minister, Asadullah Khalid at the Kabul Air Force base with the main objective of strengthening the Afghan air force as it battles Taliban insurgency against the fact of US' lookout for exiting the Afghanistan after a 17-year stay.



31. Lokpal website inaugurated by Chairperson Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose

The Website of the Lokpal was inaugurated by the Chairperson, Justice Shri Pinaki Chandra Ghose. His oath was administered by President Ram Nath Kovind. The Government has also appointed 4 Judicial and 4 non-Judicial Members. The Website with (Uniform Resource Locator) URL <http://lokpal.gov.in> was developed by NIC (National Information Commission).



32. 'Flye' a new computer programme developed by Australian National University (ANU) can help develop precision medicine

Flye' a new computer program developed by Australian National University (ANU) can help develop precision medicine. It will be helpful to find out a person's genetic makeup. The research is published in Nature Biotechnology. Flye is a step-by-step procedure for computers to assemble genomes. A long DNA sequence ranges between 5,000 and 20,000 DNA letters, whereas short sequences are typically 200 letters.



33. ISRO announced Seven Mega Missions in next 10 years

Recently, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has announced to conduct seven Mega Missions for upcoming 10 years and also prepared a roadmap for the next 30 years. The seven Mega Missions includes India's second moon mission Chandrayaan-2, XPoSat and Aditya L-1 as Defined Missions while Undefined Missions are: Mangalyaan-2, Venus Mission, Lunar Polar Exploration and Exoworlds. Rs 800 cr, Chandrayaan-2 will be flight ready by the May 2019 end and its spacecraft will be launched in July 2019.



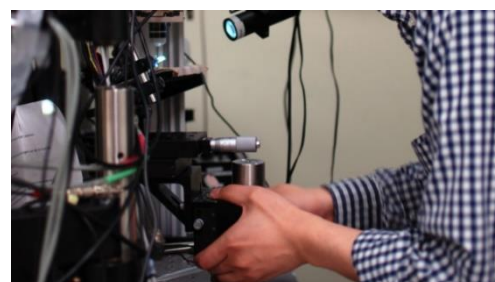
34. New Standards of measurement of kilogram, Kelvin, mole and ampere came into effect

On the occasion of World Metrology Day i.e. on 20th May 2019, the world's scientific and technical community has adopted the resolution to redefine four of the seven base units. The resolution has been adopted on the lines of the decision taken at the General Conference on Weights and Measures (CGPM) at BIPM (International Bureau of Weights and Measures) on 16 November 2018, which was passed by 60 countries. The four SI (International System of Units) base units that have been refined are the kilogram, ampere, kelvin, and mole. The second, metre, and candela are already defined by physical constants and are subject to correction to their present definitions.



35. Researchers from UBC developed microscope for surgery without cutting skin

Group of researchers from the University of British Columbia (UBC) has developed the microscope, which uses an ultrafast infrared laser beam, that can both scan skin and perform surgery by intensifying the heat its beam produces. It was published in the journal "Science Advances" titled "Precise closure of single blood vessels via multiphoton absorption-based photothermolysis".



36. NASA Researchers discovered water, 'organic molecules' on mysterious Ultima Thule

Researchers at National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) have discovered a mixture of methanol, water ice and organic molecules found on the surface of the Ultima Thule. The research has been published in Journal Science. Ultima Thule, also known as 2014 MU69, is a trans-Neptunian object located in the Kuiper belt. It is 4 billion miles away from Earth.



37. IAF test fired aerial version of BrahMos missile

Recently, Indian Air Force (IAF) has successfully test-fired an aerial version of supersonic BrahMos cruise missile from Su-30 MKI fighter aircraft in the Andaman and Nicobar archipelago. The aerial variant of BrahMos missile was developed with the help of IAF, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). This aerial version of air-to-surface BrahMos missile weighed 2.5 tonnes and a target range of around 300 km.



38. Nepal banned the use of Chinese digital wallets Alipay and WeChat

Nepal Rastra Bank, the central bank of Nepal, banned the use of Chinese digital wallets Alipay and WeChat Pay. This is done to prevent the loss of foreign currency earnings through its usage. The apps WeChat Pay and Alipay are operated by Tencent Holdings and Alibaba Group Holding's Ant Financial Services Group affiliate respectively. They had failed to secure licenses to operate in the country.

