

Current Affairs Of May 2019

Help Line No:-

Khanpur : +91-9311668899

South Ex : +91-9311556699

CONTENTS

National.....	2
International.....	09
Defence	15
Appointments or Resign/Retired.....	18
Honours/ Awards.....	23
Sports.....	26
Obituaries.....	31
Important Days with theme.....	34

National

Environment Ministry Constitutes Committee To Implement National Clean Air Programme

i. 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**.

ii. The committee will be chaired by the **Secretary, Union Environment Ministry**. It would be headquartered in **New Delhi**.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change- Dr. Harsh Vardhan.**

BSNL Launches 'Bharat Fibre' Broadband Service In Kashmir Valley

i. **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**'.

ii. 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.

Infosys Foundation's FCRA Licence Cancelled

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



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

Important Takeways from above news-

- Infosys Foundation was established in **1996**.
- **Sudha Murthy** is the chairperson of the Foundation.

158th Birth Anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore Observed

i. **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.

ii. Rabindranath Tagore's birth anniversary is also known as **Pochise Boishakh 2019**.

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

i. **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.



ii. 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.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Karnataka Capital:** Bengaluru, **CM:** H.D Kumaraswamy, **Governor:** Vajubhai Vala.

India Re-Elected As Observer To 'Arctic Council'

i. **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**.



ii. 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.

Important Takeways from above news-

- The Arctic Council, a high level intergovernmental organisation **set up in 1996** to promote cooperation, coordination and interaction among the Arctic States and protect the Arctic environment.
- The Arctic Council is formed of eight circumpolar countries- **Norway, Sweden, Finland, Iceland, Denmark, Canada, US and Russia**.

- India has its Arctic research station '*Himadri*' in Svalbard, Norway since 2008.

Chhattisgarh Deploys 1st Anti-Naxal Women Commando Unit

i. The Chhattisgarh police for the first time has inducted women commandos in the District Reserve Guard (DRG), its frontline anti-Naxal force.



ii. Comprising 30 women led by Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Dineshwari Nand, have received extensive training in jungle combat.

Important Takeways from above news-

- Chief minister: Bhupesh Baghel, Governor: Anandiben Patel.
- With the induction of the women commando contingent, the number of platoons of the DRG in Dantewada now stands at six.

15th Finance Commission's Meeting With RBI Held In Mumbai

i. The 15th Finance Commission headed by Chairman, N.K. Singh held a detailed meeting with the Governor and Deputy Governors of RBI in Mumbai.



ii. Key issues raised by RBI Governor, Shaktikanta Das and Finance Commission Chairman, N.K. Singh were discussed in detail at the meeting.

iii. These issues included the following:-

- The necessity of setting up State Finance Commissions for respective State Governments.
- Public Sector Borrowing Requirements.
- Continuity of the Finance Commission.
- Need for Expenditure Codes, especially given that expenditure norms vary from state to state.
- Role of States in Growth and Inflation, for instance, role of states in Ease of doing Business.

Gujarat Assembly Passes Act to Allow Shops & Businesses Remain Open 24X7

i. '**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.

ii. The Act replaced the Gujarat Shops and Establishments Act, 1948 which prevented shops and other businesses from operating between 12 to 6 a.m.

Important Takeways from above news-

- Gujarat Capital: Gandhinagar, Governor: Om Prakash Kohli, CM: Vijay Rupani.

Vodafone Idea Signs Multi-Million Dollar IT Deal With IBM

i. India's largest telecom operator Vodafone Idea Ltd announced a five-year multi-million-dollar IT outsourcing deal with tech giant IBM.



ii. The company did not divulge the size of the deal but some reports pegged it at about \$700 million.

Important Takeways from above news-

- Balesh Sharma is the CEO of Vodafone Idea.

Bandana Sets Guinness World Records On Longest Dancing Marathon

i. A 18-year-old Nepali girl, Bandana danced continuously for 126 hours to set a Guinness World Records on 'Longest Dancing Marathon by an



Individual', a feat previously held by an Indian.

ii. Bandana beat the record set by Kalamandalam Hemlatha, who danced continuously for 123 hours and 15 minutes in 2011.

Important Takeways from above news-

- Nepal PM: K P Sharma Oli, Capital: Kathmandu.

Bharatpe Launches India's 1st UPI Bahi Khata For Merchants

i. BharatPe - India's first Fintech start-up enabling payments for merchants through interoperable UPI QR



codes, has announced **its foray into merchant services with a new app.**

ii. Along with UPI payments, the app now allows merchants to **manage their entire Bahi Khata** and even note receivables and payables seamlessly.

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

i. 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.



ii. 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.

SpaceX Launches Falcon 9 Rocket With Dragon Spacecraft

i. 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**.



ii. The 213-foot-tall rocket lifted off from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in **Florida**. This mission is a part of NASA's **Commercial Resupply Services (CRS)** program, which uses commercial spacecraft to deliver cargo to the ISS.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Space X Headquarter:** Hawthorne, California, U.S, **Founder & CEO:** Elon Musk.

Shahid Afridi Released His Autobiography, Titled 'Game Changer'

i. Pakistan's former captain and star all-rounder **Shahid Afridi** released his autobiography, titled '**Game Changer**'. The book is co-authored by Afridi and journalist **Wajahat S Khan**.

ii. He played **27 Tests, 398 ODIs** and **99 T20Is** and retired from international cricket in 2017.

RIL Acquires British Toy Retailer Hamleys

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

Netherlands Becomes The Third Largest Foreign Direct Investor In India

i. 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.

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

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Netherlands**
Capital: Amsterdam, **Currency:** Euro and USD.

WTO Ministerial Meeting Inaugurated In New Delhi

i. The **World Trade Organisation, WTO ministerial meeting** of developing countries began in **New Delhi**. The meeting will provide an opportunity for the Ministers to discuss various issues and the way forward.

ii. **16 developing countries** and **6 Least Developed Countries (LDCs)** are participating in the meeting. It includes China, South Africa, Brazil, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Kazakhstan and Bangladesh.

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

i. **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**.



ii. The survey takes into account on-time performance, service quality and food & shops to determine the ranking. The **top 3 airports** in the list of world's best airports as per **Airhelp** are:

- **Qatar's Hamad International Airport**
- **Tokyo International Airport.**

- **Athens International Airport.**

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.

WTO Ministerial Meeting of Developing Countries To Held New Delhi

i. A WTO Ministerial meeting of developing countries is being hosted by India in New Delhi.



ii. 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.

Lokpal Website Launched

i. 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.



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

iii. 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.

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

i. 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.

Important Takeways from above news-

- 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.

Kapil Sharma Acknowledged As Most Viewed Stand-up Comedian In India And Abroad

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

ii. Having started his career as a stand-up comedian, Kapil initially performed on several comedy shows.

Kerala Becomes First Indian State To Tap Into Masala Bond Market

i. 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).

ii. 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.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Kerala CM:** Pinarayi Vijayan, **Governor:** P. Sathasivam.

HDFC Group Overtakes Tata Group As India's Most Valuable

i. The HDFC group has overtaken the 151-year-old Tata group to emerge as India's most valuable by



way of market capitalization (m-cap).

ii. The combined market value of the five listed companies of the **HDFC group - HDFC, HDFC Bank, HDFC Life, HDFC Asset Management and Gruh Finance** stood at Rs 11.66 lakh crore while the combined m-cap of 29 Tata group companies stood at Rs 11.64 lakh crore, about Rs 2,000 crore less than that of the HDFC group.

Kids Right Index 2019: India Ranks 117, Iceland Tops

i. **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.

ii. Countries are judged on five indicators: right to life, right to education, right to health, right to protection and enabling environment for child rights.



Shyam Saran To Be Conferred With Japan's 'Order of the Rising Sun' Award

i. **Former foreign secretary Shyam Saran** will be conferred with **Japan's second highest national award, 'Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star'**.



ii. He will be conferred with this award for his contributions to strengthen the strategic ties and enhancing mutual understanding between **India and Japan**. **Important Takeways from above news-**

- **'The Order of the Rising Sun'** is a Japanese government honour established in 1875 by Emperor Meiji.

Reliance Beats Indian Oil Corporation, Becomes Biggest Indian Company

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



ii. 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.

ISRO Successfully Launched Earth Observation Satellite 'RISAT-2B'

i. **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has

successfully launched the **'RISAT-2B'** Satellite from the Sriharikota's, Satish Dhawan Space Centre, SHAR.



ii. 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.

iii. The **RISAT-2B** is a radar imaging earth observation satellite, **weighing about 615 kg**. The satellite is intended to provide services in the field of agriculture, forestry and disaster management.

iv. The **all-weather, radar imaging satellite** has the capability to observe and image the earth from about 500 kms.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **ISRO Director: K. Sivan, Headquarters: Bengaluru, Established in: 1969.**

2019 Lok Sabha Polls Record Highest Ever Voter Turnout In History

i. 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**.



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

Important Takeways from above news-

- It was the **17th General Elections** that was conducted in India.
- **Sunil Arora** is the Chief Election Commissioner of India.
- **Ashok Lavasa (georgian)** and **Sushil Chandra** are 2 Election Commissioner of India.

India bans Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh terror outfit

i. 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.

ii. 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**.

Goa celebrates its statehood day

i. 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.

ii. 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.

Important Takeways from above news-

1. Pramod Sawant is the 13th and current Chief Minister of Goa.

2. Panaji is the state capital of Goa.

3. Mridula Sinha is present Governor of Goa.

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

i. 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**.



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

i. 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.

ii. 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.

Important Takeways from above news-

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

Nation pays homage to first PM Jawaharlal Nehru on his 55th death anniversary

i. The nation pays homage to first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on his 55th death anniversary on 27th May 2019. Jawaharlal



Nehru was the first Prime Minister of India. Jawaharlal Nehru emerged as an eminent leader of the Indian independence movement under the tutelage of Mahatma Gandhi.

ii. Nehru held the post from its establishment as an independent nation in 1947 until his death on 27th May 1964. Shantivan is the Samadhi of India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru.

US removes India, Switzerland from its currency monitoring list

i. 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.

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

i. India has moved up one place to rank 43rd most competitive economy in the world on the back of its robust economic growth, a large labour force and its

huge market size, while Singapore has topped the US to grab the top position, a global study showed.

ii. 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.

Record 78 women MPs elected to 17th Lok Sabha

i. 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.



ii. 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.

Saudi Arabia lifts export ban on fruits and vegetable from Kerala

i. Kerala's fruits and vegetable exporters have heaved a sigh of relief following the lifting of the export ban by Saudi Arabia after the Nipah virus attack last year. With the lifting of the embargo, he said Kozhikode airport was alone handling 20 tonnes of fruits and vegetables per day valued at \$50,000 to various destinations in Saudi.

ii. Kerala ships around 150 tonnes of fruits and vegetables on a daily basis to various gulf countries and of this, the consignment to Saudi alone was 30-40 tonnes.

SC extends the tenure of NCDRC's judicial member by one year

i. The Supreme Court has extended the tenure of Justice VK Jain, a judicial member of the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC), which was expiring on 30th May 2019. A vacation bench comprising Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justice Aniruddha Bose stated the



extension of tenure would be for one year or till the process of fresh appointment is completed.

ii. Justice Jain was appointed as a judicial member of the NCDRC on 30th May 2014.

Important Takeways from above news-

1. The NCDRC is a quasi-judicial commission in India which was set up in 1988 under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

2. The head office of NCDRC is in New Delhi.

Madhya Pradesh to tentatively have new UNESCO heritage site

i. 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.



ii. 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.

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

i. 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.

ii. 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.

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

i. 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.



ii. 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.

Govt sets up tribunal for adjudicating ban on LTTE

i. 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.



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

International

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

i. 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.



ii. 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**.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Australia** Capital: Canberra, Currency: Australian Dollar.

Facebook Chooses London As Base For WhatsApp Payments

i. 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.



ii. WhatsApp would hire nearly **100 people** in

London to focus on the digital payments service and additional operations staff would be hired in Dublin.

IBSA Sherpas Meet Concluded In Cochin

i. The IBSA (India, Brazil & South Africa) Sherpas' Meeting, following the 9th IBSA Trilateral Ministerial Meeting, was held in **Cochin**. Secretary (Economic Relations) in the Ministry of External Affairs, **Mr. T.S. Tirumurti** led the Indian delegation.



ii. Sherpas reviewed the progress made under IBSA, since their last meeting. The Sherpas also appreciated the work done by the **IBSA Fund on Poverty and Hunger Alleviation** which funded 31 projects spread over in 20 countries.

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

i. 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.

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

Important Takeways from above news-

- **USA Capital:** Washington D.C., **Currency:** United States Dollar.

Huawei Overtakes Apple To Become 2nd Biggest Smartphone Maker

i. **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.



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

Vice President Embarks On 4-Day Official Visit To Vietnam

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

ii. 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."**

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Vietnam Capital:** Hanoi, **Currency:** Vietnamese dong, **Vice President:** Dang Thi Ngoc Thinh.

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.

Vladimir Putin Signs Law To Create Independent Russian Internet

i. Russian President

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



ii. 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.

UK Parliament 1st In World To Declare Climate Emergency

i. The UK

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



ii. 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."**

Important Takeways from above news-

- **UK Capital:** London, **Currency:** Pound sterling.

Postage Stamp To Commemorate 750th Birth Anniversary of Sri Vedanta Desika Released

i. Vice President **M Venkaiah Naidu** released a postage stamp to commemorate the **750th birth anniversary of Sri Vedanta Desikan** in New Delhi. The stamp has been released by **Indian postal department**.

ii. Born in 1268 CE, Vedanta Desikan was **Sri Vaishnava philosopher** and one of the most brilliant stalwarts of Sri Vaishnavism in the post-Ramanuja period. The basis of his spiritual teachings was peace and humanity.

UN Designates JeM Chief Masood Azhar As Global Terrorist

i. 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.



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

Important Takeways from above news-

- The UN Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.
- It has 15 Members, and each Member has one vote.

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

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



ii. 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.

Important Takeways from above news-

- Japan Capital- Tokyo, Currency- Japanese yen, PM- Shinzo Abe.

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

i. 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.



ii. 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.

Important Takeways from above news-

- Iraq Capital: Baghdad, Currency: Iraqi dinar.

India To Attend G-7 Meet In France

i. 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.



ii. 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.

Important Takeways from above news-

- The G-7 groups together the US, Britain, France, Italy, Canada, Japan, and Germany.
- The grouping had included Russia but it was left out following tensions with Western nations over the annexation of Crimea in 2015.

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

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



ii. 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.

Important Takeways from above news-

- Japan Capital- Tokyo, Currency- Japanese yen, PM- Shinzo Abe.

Ireland Becomes 2nd Country To Declare Climate Emergency

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

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

Important Takeways from above news-

- Dublin is the capital city of Ireland.

UN To Hold 2020 Ocean Conference In Lisbon

i. 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.

400 KMPH: Japan Tests World's Fastest Bullet Train

i. 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.

ii. 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**.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Japan Capital-** Tokyo, **Currency-** Japanese yen, **PM-** Shinzo Abe.

Cannes Film Festival Begins In France

i. 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.



ii. 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)**.

Important Takeways from above news-

- For Cannes 2019, Mexican filmmaker **Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu** has been named the jury president.
- It was Founded in 1946 as International Film Festival.

UN Imposed Sanctions On Terror Group ISIS Khorasan

i. 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.

ii. 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.

Important Takeways from above news-

- ISIS-K is known as 'ISIS' South Asia Branch, ISIL Khorasan, Islamic State's Khorasan Province' and 'South Asian Chapter of ISIL'.

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

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



ii. 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.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Paytm Founder:** Vijay Shekhar Sharma.
- **Parent Organization:** One97 Communications.

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

i. 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**.



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

WHO Declares Algeria, Argentina Malaria-Free

i. 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.

ii. 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.

Important Takeways from above news-

- Malaria parasite was first discovered in Algeria by French physician Charles Louis Alphonse Laveran in 1880.
- **Algeria Capital:** Algiers, **Currency:** Algerian dinar.
- **Argentina Capital:** Buenos Aires, **Currency:** Argentine peso.

Facebook Registers New Fintech Firm in Switzerland

i. Social media giant Facebook has apparently formed a new financial tech firm, **Libra Networks LLC**, in Geneva, Switzerland.

ii. Libra Networks was registered in Geneva by Facebook Global Holdings II LLC. Facebook registered the trademark "Libra" with the United States Patent and Trademark Office back in June, which was reportedly part of its secretive in-house crypto project.

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

i. 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.



ii. The successful bill includes limited adoption rights for same-sex couples.

Saudi Arabia Approves Permanent Residency For First Time

i. 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.

ii. 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.

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

i. South African Saray Khumalo has reached the highest point on the planet becoming the first black African woman to scale Mount Everest.



ii. 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.

Important Takeways from above news-

- Mount Everest is the world's highest mountain at its official elevation of 8848m 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.

EAM Sushma Swaraj To Attend SCO Foreign Ministers Meet In Bishkek

i. 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.

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

Important Takeways from above news-

- SCO Headquarters in Beijing, China.

Historic Move: World Gets Redefined Units Of Measurement

i. 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).

ii. 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.

Trump becomes the first foreign leader to meet new Japanese emperor Naruhito

i. 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.



ii. 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.

Important Takeways from above news-

1. Japan is an island country in East Asia.
2. Tokyo is the capital city of Japan.
3. The yen is the official currency of Japan.

NASA unveils schedule for 'Artemis' 2024 Moon mission

i. 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.

ii. 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.

Facebook plans to launch 'GlobalCoin' cryptocurrency in 2020

i. Facebook is planning to launch its own cryptocurrency in early 2020, allowing users to make digital payments in a dozen countries. The currency, dubbed GlobalCoin, would enable Facebook's 2.4 billion monthly users to change dollars and other international currencies into its digital coins. The coins could then be used to buy things on the internet and in shops and other outlets or to transfer money without needing a bank account.

ii. Mark Zuckerberg, the founder, and chief executive of Facebook, last month met the governor of the Bank of England, Mark Carney, to discuss the plans.

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

i. 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.

ii. 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.

Important Takeways from above news-

1. Vladimir Putin is President of Russia.
2. Moscow is the capital city of Russia.
3. The Russian ruble is the currency Russia.
4. Dmitry Medvedev is PM of Russia.

Defence

Indian Army To Commemorate 2019 As 'Year of next of kin'

i. 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.



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

Important Takeways from above news-

- Chief of the Army Staff – General Bipin Rawat.

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

i. 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.



ii. 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.

Captain Aarohe Pandit Becomes 1st Woman In World To Cross Atlantic Ocean Solo In a LSA

i. Captain Aarohe 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).



ii. 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.

1st Apache Helicopter Formally Handed Over To IAF

i. First AH-64E (I) - Apache Guardian helicopter was formally handed over to the Indian Air Force at Boeing production facility in Arizona, USA.

ii. 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.

Important Takeways from above news-

- Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa is the present chief of Air Staff of Indian Air Force.

India To Purchase 10 Kamov-31 Choppers From Russia For INR 3,600 cr

i. The defence ministry has approved the procurement of 10 Kamov Ka-31 Airborne Early Warning and Control helicopters for the Indian Navy.



ii. 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.

Important Takeways from above news-

- Present Chief of the Naval Staff- Admiral Sunil Lanba.
- Vice Admiral Karambir Singh has been appointed as next Chief of the Naval Staff.

Indian And French Navies Conduct Varuna 19.1 Bilateral Exercise Off Goa Coast

i. 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.

ii. 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.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **France Capital:** Paris, **Currency:** CFP franc, euro.

Indian Navy Launches 4th Scorpene Class Submarine INS Vela

i. The fourth of Indian Navy's stealth Scorpene class Submarines of Project 75, **INS Vela** was launched at the Kanhoji Angre Wet Basin of Mazagon Dock Limited at Mumbai in **Maharashtra**.



ii. The submarine has been named '**Vela**' after an earlier submarine, which was the lead submarine, of the erstwhile Vela class, the second batch of the Foxtrot class submarines acquired from erstwhile **USSR**.

INS Ranjit To Be Decommissioned

i. **INS Ranjit**, an Indian navy **destroyer** built by erstwhile **USSR**, is set to be decommissioned. The third of the five Kashin-class destroyers, it was commissioned in **1983** and has rendered service to the Navy for over **36 years**.



ii. The ship will be decommissioned at a solemn ceremony at the Naval dockyard in **Visakhapatnam**.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **INS Ranjit** was constructed as Yard 2203 in the 61 Communards shipyard in the town of Nikolev in present-day **Ukraine**.
- The keel of the ship was laid on June 29, **1977**, launched on June 16, **1979**, and commissioned as **INS Ranjit** on September 15, **1983**.

DRDO Successfully Conducts Flight Test of ABHYAS

i. **India** successfully conducted the flight test of **ABHYAS - High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT)** from a test range in **Odisha**.



ii. 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.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **DRDO Chairman:** G Satheesh Reddy, **Estd. in:** 1958, **Headquarters in:** Bengaluru.

Brahmos Air Missile Successfully Launched From Su-30 MKI Aircraft

i. **Indian Air Force** successfully fired the **BrahMos** air version missile from its frontline **Su-30 MKI** fighter aircraft.



ii. The air-launched BrahMos missile is a **2.5-ton supersonic air to surface cruise missile** with ranges of close to 300 km, designed and developed by BAPL.

Important Takeways from above news-

- Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa is the present Chief of Air Staff of Indian Army.

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

i. **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.



ii. 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.

Lt Bhawana Kanth, 1st Woman To Qualify To Go To Day Missions On Fighter Jet

i. Flight Lieutenant **Bhawana Kanth** became the first woman pilot of the **Indian Air Force** to qualify to undertake missions by day on a fighter aircraft.



ii. She completed the Day Operational syllabus on **MiG-21 Bison**. Bhawana joined the fighter squadron in 2017 and flew the first solo on MiG-21 Bison in 2018.

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

- i. 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.
- ii. 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.

NSG Commandos Summit Mount Everest In Maiden Attempt

- i. 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**.
- ii. 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**.

Important Takeways from above news-

- A bill for the creation of NSG was introduced in the parliament in August 1986.
- It received the assent of the President on September 22, 1986, and it formally came into being from that date.
- Sudeep Lakhtakia is the Director General of NSG.

New version of Akash missile test-fired successfully

- i. 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**.



- ii. 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.

DRDO test fires guided bomb from Sukhoi combat Jet

i. 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.



- ii. 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.

Appointments or Resign/Retired

Ajoy Mehta Appointed As Maharashtra Chief Secretary

i. Mumbai municipal commissioner Ajoy Mehta has been appointed

as Maharashtra's new chief secretary.

ii. Ajoy Mehta succeeds UPS Madan who has been named as the special advisor to Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis.



Professor Tijjani Bande Announced As President, UN General Assembly

i. Professor Tijjani Mohammad Bande has been appointed as the new President of the United Nations General Assembly.

ii. His appointment was announced by María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, outgoing president of UNGA at a press conference in Abuja.



Important Takeways from above news-

- **Capital of Nigeria:** Abuja, **Currency:** Nigerian naira.

Gates Foundation Appoints Sanjay Ubale As India Policy Head

i. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has hired Sanjay Ubale, head of the infrastructure and urban solutions at Tata Sons, as its policy director for India.

ii. Sanjay will oversee the Seattle-based charity's healthcare, poverty alleviation, and educational activities in the country. Ubale, who has spent over a decade at Tata Group, was previously the CEO of Tata Realty & Infrastructure.

BILL & MELINDA GATES foundation

Paytm President Bhushan Patil Resigns

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

ii. Patil joined Paytm in March 2016.

Dragan Mihailovic Appointed As Coach Of Indian Volleyball Team

i. The Volleyball Federation of India appointed Serbian Dragan Mihailovic as head coach of the men's



national team in a move linked to the long term goal of Olympic Games qualification. Mihailovic has more than 25 years of experience as a coach.

ii. The VFI also announced the appointment of Pryemyslaw Gaszyoski and Valadimir Radosevic as the team's physio trainer and physiotherapist respectively.

Myntra Appoints Virat Kohli, Anushka Sharma As First Brand Ambassadors

i. Flipkart-owned fashion e-commerce platform Myntra announced that it had appointed celebrity couple Virat Kohli and Anushka Sharma as its first brand ambassadors.



ii. Myntra has launched the integrated campaign called 'Go Myntra-la-la' which will be promoted across television, print, digital and outdoor.

Important Takeways from above news-

- Amar Nagaram is the present head of Myntra-Jabong.

BharatPe Ropes In Salman Khan As Brand Ambassador

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



US Air Force General Tod Wolters Sworn In As NATO Commander

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



nation **NATO** military alliance.

ii. The former pilot, who has served in Afghanistan and Iraq, became Supreme Allied Commander Europe at NATO's military headquarters in **Mons**, southern **Belgium**.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **NATO-** North Atlantic Treaty Organization, **headquarters:** Brussels, Belgium.

BSE Appoints First Independent Woman Director Jayshree Vyas To board

i. **BSE**, formerly known as the Bombay Stock Exchange, has appointed its first independent woman director **Jayshree Vyas**.

ii. Vyas is a professionally-qualified chartered accountant, working as the managing director of Shree Mahila Sewa Sahakari Bank, Ahmedabad, since **1986**.

Important Takeways from above news-

- 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 board from **October 2014**.
- **BSE MD & CEO:** Ashishkumar Chauhan.

RBI Appoints R Gandhi On YES Bank Board

i. The Reserve Bank of India has appointed its former Deputy Governor, **R Gandhi**, on the board of private sector lender **YES Bank** as an additional director.

ii. The appointment has been done in exercise of powers conferred under sub-section (1) of **Section 36AB** of the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Yes Bank**
Headquarters: Mumbai, **Founder:** Rana Kapoor.

Maj Gen A K Dhingra(Georgian) Appointed As 1st Special Operations Division Commander

i. Ace Special Forces operative and Sri Lanka war veteran **Major General AK Dhingra** has been appointed as



the **first head of country's first tri-services Special Operations Division** comprising commandos from all three services.

ii. 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.

India's Jagjit Pavadia Re-Elected To International Narcotics Control Board

i. **India's Jagjit Pavadia** has been re-elected with the highest number of votes by the **UN Economic and Social Council** to a five-year term on **International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)**, while China's candidate Hao Wei lost.



ii. She posted the highest number of votes at 44. Ms Pavadia has been a member of the INCB since 2015 and her current term is set to expire in 2020.

Important Takeways from above news-

- INCB consists of 13 members who are elected by the ECOSOC and who serve in their personal capacity.
- Established in 1968, the INCB is an independent and quasi-judicial monitoring body for the implementation of the UN's international drug control conventions.

Actress Dia Mirza Selected Among 17 New 'SDG Advocates' Of UN

i. **Indian actress Dia Mirza** and **Alibaba chief Jack Ma** are among the 17 global public figures appointed by **UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres** as the new advocates to drive action and solidify global political will for the ambitious **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.

Kumar Sangakkara Named As 1st Non-British President of MCC

i. **Former Sri Lanka captain Kumar Sangakkara** has been named as the next **President of Marylebone Cricket**



Club (MCC), becoming the first non-British President of the club.

ii. Sangakkara will take up the post on October 1 and will serve for a period of one year. In 2012, Sangakkara was awarded Honorary Life Membership of the Club.

Dilip Kumar Appointed As Officer On Special Duty In Office Of Lokpal

i. Senior IAS officer **Dilip Kumar** was appointed as the **Officer on Special Duty (OSD)** in the office of Lokpal. Kumar, a 1995-batch IAS officer of **Punjab** cadre, is at present joint secretary, **National Human Rights Commission**.

ii. He has been appointed for a period of **six months** on additional charge basis or till a new incumbent joins the post.

Important Takeways from above news-

- Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose is the chairperson of Lokpal.

Sanjiv Puri Appointed ITC's New Chairman

i. ITC Managing

Director **Sanjiv Puri** has been appointed as the **chairman** by the Board of Directors. His new designation will now be **chairman and managing director**.



ii. He has been the Managing Director since **2018**. He was appointed on the board in December 2015 and as the CEO in February 2017.

British PM Theresa May Announces Resignation

i. **British Prime Minister**

Theresa May announces resignation from her post. **She will resign on 7 June**.



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

Joko Widodo Elected President Of Indonesia For 2nd Term

i. **Indonesia's Joko Widodo** has been re-elected as **president of the country**, beating rival Prabowo Subianto, a retired general.

ii. Widodo and his vice-presidential running mate Ma'ruf Amin **won the election by a 55.5% to 44.5% margin** over Subianto and Sandiaga Uno.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Indonesia Capital-** Jakarta, **Currency-** Indonesian rupiah.
- **Ambassador of India to Indonesia:** Pradeep Kumar Rawat.

Volodymyr Zelenskiy Sworn In As Ukraine's New President

i. **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.



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

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Ukraine Capital:** Kyiv, **Currency:** Ukrainian hryvnia.

Maldives Ex-Leader Mohamed Nasheed Tipped As New Speaker

i. The former Maldives president Mohamed Nasheed has been nominated as the country's parliamentary speaker. Nasheed was unanimously chosen to head the People's Majlis, or the parliament, by his Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) which won a near three-quarter majority in the 87-member assembly in April.



Important Takeways from above news-

1. Ibrahim Mohamed Solih is the current President of the Maldives.
2. Male is the capital of the Maldives.
3. The Maldivian rufiyaa is the currency of the Maldives.

Indian Army officer appointed the commander of UN Mission in South Sudan

i. UN Secretary, General Antonio Guterres, has appointed Indian Army officer, Lieutenant General Shailesh Tinaikar, as the new Force Commander of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).

ii. Mr. Tinaikar graduated from the Indian Military Academy in 1983 and is currently serving as the Commandant of the Infantry School since July 2018.

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

i. Muhammadu Buhari has been sworn in for a second term as Nigeria's president, following a campaign that focused on tackling security threats and rooting out corruption. He did not make a speech during the low-profile event attended by members of the diplomatic community.



ii. Buhari, 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 2019 election.

Important Takeways from above news-

1. Abuja is the capital city of Nigeria.
2. The naira is the currency of Nigeria.

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

i. The Armed Forces Tribunal cleared the way for 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.



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

Important Takeways from above news-

1. Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba will retire on 31st May after completion of his tenure.
2. The President of India is the Supreme Commander of the Indian Navy.

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

i. 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.

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

Cyril Ramaphosa takes oath as South Africa's President

i. 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.



ii. 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.

Important Takeways from above news-

1. Capitals of South Africa: Cape Town, Pretoria, Bloemfontein.
2. The rand is the official currency of South Africa.

PS Golay was sworn in as Sikkim Chief Minister

i. 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.



ii. 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.

Important Takeways from above news-

1. Gangtok is the capital of Sikkim.
2. The Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) was founded in 2013.
3. The PK Chamling government was ousted by the SKM after over 24 years.

Naveen Patnaik set for the fifth term as Odisha CM

i. Odisha's ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) headed by incumbent Chief Minister **Naveen Patnaik** is all set to form a government for a **fifth consecutive term**. The new Cabinet is likely to be sworn-in on 27th May.



ii. The **final Election Commission (EC)** tally shows that the BJD won 112 of the 146 Assembly seats for which elections were held. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) bagged 23, the Congress nine, the CPI(M) one and a solitary Independent was also elected.

Important Takeways from above news-

1. **Bhubaneswar** is the capital city of Odisha.
2. Professor **Ganeshi Lal** is the present Governor of Odisha.
3. **Utkal Divas or Odisha Day** falls every year on 01st April.

Scott Morrison sworn in as Australia's PM

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



ii. Also sworn in was Morrison's revamped Cabinet, which includes a record seven women, and Australia's first Aboriginal federal Cabinet member, Indigenous Affairs Minister Ken Wyatt, who wore a traditional kangaroo skin.

Walmart Appoints Suresh Kumar as Chief Technology Officer

i. US-based retail chain Walmart has appointed Suresh Kumar, an IIT Madras graduate and former Google executive, as chief technology officer and chief development officer. The appointment comes at a time when Walmart is transforming its customer and associate experiences.



Jagan Mohan Reddy To Be Sworn In As CM of Andhra Pradesh

i. In Andhra Pradesh, YSR Congress Chief **Jagan Mohan Reddy** will be sworn in as **chief minister of Andhra Pradesh** on 30th of May at Vijayawada.

ii. Once sworn in, he will replace N Chandrababu Naidu has resigned as Andhra Pradesh CM.

4 Judges Elevated To Supreme Court of India

i. The Centre has cleared **four names**

recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium for elevation as judges of the apex court. The four appointed judges are **Justice Aniruddha Bose, Justice A S Bopanna, Justice B R Gavai and Justice Surya Kant**.



ii. Law Ministry has issued the notification after **President Ram Nath Kovind signed their warrants of appointment**. Supreme Court will reach its **full sanctioned strength of 31 judges** after the appointment of four new judges.

Important Takeways from above news-

CJ Ranjan Gogoi is the present Chief Justice of

Honours/ Awards

IPS Officer Chhaya Sharma Receives McCain Institute Award

i. IPS officer Chhaya Sharma, who led the investigation team of the **infamous Nirbhaya gang-rape and murder case**, has been awarded the **2019 McCain Institute Award for Courage and Leadership**.



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

Important Takeways from above news-

- Some of the famous awardees of **McCain Institute Award** are - **Malala Yousafzai (2015)** and **Dikembe Mutombo (2016)**.

Goldman Environmental Prize Conferred On 6 Environmental Activists

i. Six grassroots environmental activists received the prestigious **Goldman Environmental Prize**. Known as the **Green Nobel Prize**, the Goldman Prize honors environmental activists from each of the six continental regions.



ii. The winners of the award are-

- Alfred Brownell, Liberia
- Bayarjargal Agvaantseren, Mongolia
- Ana Colovic Lesoska, North Macedonia
- Jacqueline Evans, Cook Islands
- Alberto Curamil, Chile
- Linda Garcia, United States

Important Takeways from above news-

- The Prize was established by late philanthropists and civic leaders, **Rhoda** and **Richard Goldman** in **1989** in San Francisco, California to celebrate grassroots environmentalists.

Actress Anne Hathaway Receives Star On Hollywood Walk Of Fame

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

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

i. GD 'Robert' Govender, an Indian-origin journalist in South Africa, has been honoured in the **UK with 2019 V K Krishna Menon award** for his outstanding contribution as a pioneer of decolonised journalism.



ii. The South Africa-born journalist was awarded posthumously during an event to mark the 123rd birth anniversary of the Indian diplomat and politician **V K Krishna Menon**.

Israel Honoured 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War Hero Lt. Gen JFR Jacob

i. Israel honoured **Lt. Gen. (retd) Jack Farj Rafael (JFR) Jacob**, who negotiated the historic surrender of **Pakistani** troops in Dhaka after the **1971 Bangladesh's** liberation war, with a plaque on the **Wall of Honour** at the Ammunition Hill.



ii. 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.

Important Takeways from above news-

- Israel**
Capital: Jerusalem, **Currency:** Israeli new shekel.

Former ISRO Chairman Awarded France's Highest Civilian Honour

i. Former ISRO chairman **A S Kiran Kumar** was conferred with France's highest civilian honour, **Chevalier de l'Ordre national de la Legion d'Honneur**, for his contribution to India-France space cooperation.



ii. **Kumar** was conferred with the prestigious honour by France's Ambassador to India **Alexandre Ziegler** on behalf of the French President.

Important Takeways from above news-

- A S Kiran Kumar served as the Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation from **2015 to 2018**.

Drake Sets Record With Most Wins At Billboard Awards

i. Rapper **Drake** set a record with the most wins ever, taking home **12** honours at the Billboard Music Awards. Drake surpassed



singer **Taylor Swift** to become the top award recipient in the Billboard Music Awards history.

ii. He won 12 awards, bringing his career total to **27**. Swift has won 23 Billboard Music Awards. Drake won the **top artist** and top Billboard 200 album, among others.

CEAT Cricket Rating Awards 2019 Announced: Complete List of Winners

i. CEAT Cricket Rating (CCR) Awards 2019 were announced in **Mumbai**.

ii. **India captain Virat Kohli** bagged the **International Cricketer and Batsman of the Year** award during the CCR International awards. **Pacer Jasprit Bumrah** was adjudged as International Bowler of the Year.

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

i. **United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)** conferred **Sasakawa Award 2019** for Disaster Risk Reduction to **Dr. Pramod Kumar Mishra**, Additional



Principal Secretary to Prime Minister of India.

ii. The award was announced at the Award Ceremony during the ongoing 6th Session of Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR) 2019 at Geneva.

Important Takeways from above news-

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

Anil Kapoor Felicitated By European Chambers of Commerce In India



i. **Anil Kapoor** was felicitated by **Council of European Chambers of Commerce in India** and a **European Union delegation in Mumbai**. He was awarded because of his continuous support in promoting the cause of children's rights.

ii. The event also marked the celebration of **EU Day 2019 on 17th May**. Anil Kapoor, who has been working in collaboration with Plan India, a child rights organisation, was the guest of honour at the event.

Important Takeways from above news-

- The EU, which consists of 28 countries, has the world's largest economy and its third largest population, after China and India.
- In 2012, the EU was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for advancing the causes of peace, reconciliation, democracy and human rights in Europe.
- The European Union Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium.

Indian Short Film Wins Nespresso Talents Award In Cannes

i. **Indian filmmaker, Achyutanand Dwivedi's film, "Seed Mother"**, won the third prize in the international section of **Nespresso Talents 2019** in Cannes.

ii. The three-minute film celebrates the exceptional spirit of **Rahibai Soma Popere**, a woman who champions the use of local seeds and traditional methods of farming in villages of Maharashtra.

Important Takeways from above news-

- The Nespresso 2019 first prize in the international section was won by New Zealand's **Josh Morrice** for "Subak", about rice cultivation in Bali.

Indian Peacekeeper To Be Honoured Posthumously By UN

i. **Police Officer Jitender Kumar**, an **Indian peacekeeper** is among the **119 military, police and civilian personnel** who



will be honoured with a prestigious UN medal 2019 for courage and sacrifice in the line of duty.

ii. Police Officer Jitender Kumar made the supreme sacrifice while serving in the United Nations

Organisation Stabilisation Mission in the Central African country of Congo.

iii. He will be honoured posthumously with the **Dag Hammarskjold Medal** as the world organisation observes the **International Day of UN Peacekeepers**.

Important Takeaways from above news-

- India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin.
- India is the fourth largest contributor of uniformed personnel to the UN peacekeeping.

Oman Author Jokha Alharthi Wins Booker International Prize

i. An author from Oman, Jokha Alharthi has won the prestigious **Man Booker International Prize** for "**Celestial Bodies**",

the story of three sisters of a desert country confronting its slave-owning past and a complex modern world.

ii. 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**.



Insurer Bharti AXA Bags Claims Excellence Award

i. **Bharti AXA Life Insurance**, a private life insurer, has been conferred with the **FICCI Claims Excellence Award**.

ii. The insurer improved its individual claim settlement ratio, the number of claims paid to the number of claims received, to **96.85% in the financial year 2017-18**.



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

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

ii. Mumbai-based Annie Zaidi,



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

Sports

G Sathyan Becomes First Indian To Break Into Top-25 of ITTF Rankings

i. India's G Sathyan has become the **first Indian** to break into the **top-25** of world rankings in Table Tennis.

ii. Sathyan rose four spots to be **24th** in the latest ITTF rankings, following his impressive sixth place finish in the Asia Cup in **Yokohama**.



Important Takeways from above news-

- **ITTF** - International Table Tennis Federation.
- **Headquarters:** Lausanne, Switzerland.

Raheem Sterling named 2019 FWA footballer of the year

i. Raheem Sterling has been named the **2019 footballer of the year** by the Football Writers' Association (FWA).

ii. 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.



Spain Legend Xavi Hernandez Announces Retirement

i. Spain and Barcelona legend Xavi Hernandez has announced that he will retire from professional football at the end of the current season.

ii. Xavi Hernandez spent 14 years in Barcelona, where he won 35 trophies, including 8 La Liga titles, before moving to Qatari club Al-Sadd.



Apurvi Chandela Ranks World Number 1 In Women's 10 m Air Rifle Event

i. Indian shooting ace Apurvi Chandela (from 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.

Bajrang Punia Wins Gold In Ali Aliyev Wrestling Tournament

i. 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.

ii. Bajrang, who is part of the JSW Sports Excellence Program, will fight at the historic **Madison Square Garden** arena.

Jaipur To Host Asian Youth Women Handball Championship

i. Jaipur will host the **8th Asian Youth Women Handball Championship** in which 10



teams will be participating.

It will be played in **August 2019**.

ii. 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.

Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton Wins Spanish Grand Prix

i. Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton won the **Spanish Grand Prix in Barcelona, Spain** and rose to the top of the Formula One world championship.

ii. Mercedes' V. Bottas finished second, while Red Bulls' M. Verstappen finished third.



Important Takeways from above news-

- Lewis Hamilton also won Bahrain and Chinese Grand Prix of 2019.

Football: Manchester City Wins Premier League Title 2019

i. 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.**

ii. Dominant Manchester City have successfully retained their Premier League title on the final day of an exhilarating 2018-19 campaign.

Important Takeways from above news-



- Liverpool defender Virgil van Dijk has been named the Premier League Player of the Season.

Sana Mir Becomes Highest Wicket-Taking Spinner In ODI

i. 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.



ii. Currently, Mir is placed on the third position in the ICC's ODI bowling ranking, which is topped by Indian pacer Jhulan Goswami.

Manchester City Legend Yaya Toure Retires From Football

i. Former Manchester City and Barcelona midfielder Yaya Toure has officially announced his retirement from football.



ii. 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.

Croatia's Igor Stimac To Become Indian Football Team Coach

i. 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.

ii. 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.

MI Beat CSK By 1 Run To Win IPL 2019

i. Mumbai Indians became IPL champions for the fourth time after

defeating Chennai Super Kings by one run in a thrilling final in Hyderabad.



ii. 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.

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

1. Orange Cap- David Warner of Sunrisers Hyderabad scored most runs: 692 Runs in 12 Matches.
2. Purple Cap- Imran Tahir of Chennai Super Kings took most wickets: 26 Wickets in 17 Matches.
3. Jonny Bairstow of Sunrisers Hyderabad Highest Individual Score: 114 Runs.

Asia-Pacific Diamond Cup 2019: Japan's Yosuke Asaji Wins Title

i. India's Rahul 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.



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

i. 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.



ii. 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.

Important Takeways from above news-

- The first woman on the ICC Development Panel of Umpires was Kathy Cross, who retired in 2018.

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

i. 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.



ii. 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.

- Matches.
- Jonny Bairstow of Sunrisers Hyderabad Highest Individual Score: 114 Runs.**

China To Host 2023 Asian Cup Football Tournament

i. **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.



ii. 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.

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**. It was the 18th edition of the event on the ATP World Tour and 11th on the WTA Tour.

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

Sl No	Event	Winner	Runner-Up
1.	Men's singles	Novak Djokovic (Serbia)	Stefanos Tsitsipas (Greece)
2.	Women's singles	Kiki Bertens (Netherlands)	Simona Halep (Romania)

Saurav Ghoshal & Joshna Chinappa Win Asian Individual Squash Championship Titles

i. Ace Indian squash players **Saurav Ghoshal** and **Joshna Chinappa** won their

respective Asian Individual Squash Championship titles in **Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**.



ii. Saurav Ghoshal defeated Leo Au Chun Ming of Hong Kong. Joshna Chinappa, on the other hand, retained her title as she beat top seed Annie Au of Hong Kong in the women's final event.

Indian Boxers Win 6 Medals At 36th Feliks Stamm International Boxing Tournament

i. 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.

ii. 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.

Important Takeways from above news-

- Poland Capital: Warsaw, Currency: Polish zloty.**

Amul To Sponsor Afghanistan In 2019 World Cup

i. **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**.

ii. 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.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Afghanistan** Capital: Kabul, Currency: Afghan Afghani.

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

i. **Brooks Koepka** (of USA) returned to the **top of the world rankings** after his nerve-jangling **second straight US PGA Championship victory at Bethpage Black**.



ii. The 29-year-old American has now won four major titles in his last eight starts and is the first man to ever hold back-to-back titles in two majors at the same time.

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

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



ii. Besides a trophy, the **World Cup winner will earn a cash award of 4 million US dollars** (about 28 crore rupees) which is the **highest prize money on offer in the history of the tournament**.

Important Takeways from above news-

- 2015 World cup was held jointly in Australia and New Zealand.
- Australia (5th title) was the champion team.
- New Zealand team was runner up.

2nd India Open International Boxing Tournament Starts In Guwahati

i. **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**.

ii. 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.

Important Takeways from above news-

- Ajay Singh is the President of Boxing Federation of India (BFI).

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**.



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

Sl No	Event	Winner	Runner-Up
1.	Men's singles	Rafael Nadal(Spain)	Novak Djokovic (Serbia)
2.	Women's singles	Karolina Pliskova (Czech Republic)	Johanna Konta (United Kingdom)

Double Olympic Biathlon Champion Dahlmeier Retires Aged 25

i. Germany's double Olympic biathlon champion **Laura Dahlmeier** announced her retirement at the age of



just 25 after struggling with health issues.

ii. 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.**

Lewis Hamilton wins Monaco Grand Prix

i. Lewis Hamilton won the Monaco Grand Prix to extend his championship lead over Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas. Hamilton struggled with grip in the latter stages and was under constant pressure from Red Bull's Max Verstappen.



ii. But Verstappen had earlier picked up a five-second time penalty. So even though he finished just behind Hamilton, Verstappen was fourth overall behind Bottas in third and Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel in second.

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

i. Indians had a good day at the year's third International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup Rifle and Pistol tournament in Munich, Germany. Apurvi



Chandela grabbed a gold, winning the women's 10m Air Rifle competition after a closely-fought contest. She shot a score of 251 in the final to outshine Wang Luyao of China, who shot 250.8.

ii. This was Apurvi's second ISSF World Cup gold of the year followed by a world record score in New Delhi in February. This was also her career's fourth ISSF medal.

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

i. In ISSF shooting World Cup, in Munich Germany, India's Saurabh Chaudhary has won 10m Air Pistol Gold beating his own World



Record. The 17-year old Chaudhary scored 246.3 bettering his previous best of 245 points that was set in New Delhi World Cup Shooting in February this year.

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

China beat Japan to win 2019 Sudirman Cup

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



ii. In the latest Men's singles match, Shi Yuqi stunned world champion Kento Momota 15-21, 21-5, 21-11. Japan have never won the Sudirman Cup.

India bags 57 medals at India Open International tournament

i. India bags a total of **57 medals** including 12 Gold, 18 Silver and **27 Bronze at India Open International**



Boxing tournament in Guwahati. MC Mary Kom, Shiva Thapa, L Sarita Devi, and Naman Tanwar won

gold in their respective finals. The London Olympic bronze medallist blew away the challenge of Vanlal Duati in a facile 5-0 win.

ii. This was Mary's second gold in the tournament, having won in 48 kg last year in the capital. On the other hand, Deepak defeated Govind Kumar in 49 kg final while in 52 kg category- Amit Panghal defeated Sachin.

ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2019 begins today

i. The ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2019 will begin today (30th May 2019).

England will open the tournament at The Oval in London when they will take on South Africa.



ii. The World Cup will span 48 matches in all, of which 45 will make up the group stage. Each team will play nine group stage matches,

and the top four will progress to the semifinals, similar to how the 1992 World Cup was held.

Europa League final: Chelsea beat Arsenal 4-1

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



Azerbaijan. Despite a bright start from the Gunners, Chelsea ran riot in the second half with three goals in quick succession.

ii. Chelsea won their fifth major Uefa European competition final, with only Liverpool winning more among eight English clubs.

Obituaries

Former Billiards Player Derek Sippy Passes Away

i. Former Indian Cue sports Player, Coach and administrator Derek Sippy passed away in Mumbai due to a massive heart attack.



ii. He was the Indian team's coach at recently concluded Asian Under-21 Boys Snooker and Asian Women Snooker tournament in Chandigarh.

Actor Peter Mayhew Passes Away

i. Peter Mayhew, the actor behind the character of Chewbacca has passed away. He was 74.



ii. Mayhew is most widely known for his portrayal of the more-than-200-year-old Wookiee Chewbacca in the Star Wars franchise. Mayhew was also an active philanthropist.

ITC's Non-Executive Chairman YC Deveshwar Passes Away

i. The Padma Bhushan awardee and ITC's Non-Executive Chairman YC Deveshwar passed away at the age of 72. He spearheaded the diversification of ITC to an FMCG company.



ii. He stepped down as chief executive of ITC in 2017. Between 1991 and 1994, he led state-owned carrier Air India as the Chairman and Managing Director.

Tamil Novelist and Sahitya Akademi Awardee Thoppil Mohamed Meeran Passes Away

i. Noted Tamil novelist and Sahitya Akademi awardee Thoppil Mohamed Meeran, passed away in Pettai, Tamil Nadu.



ii. Saaivu Naarkkaali (The Reclining Chair), released in 1995, bagged him the prestigious Sahitya Akademi Award in 1997.

Kannada Theatre Personality Master Hirannaiah Passes Away

i. Noted Kannada theatre personality, satirist and TV actor Master Hirannaiah has passed away. He was 85 years old.



ii. Narasimha Murthy hailing from Mysuru was the son of another theatre thespian K. Hirannaiah. Making his debut on the stage as a child, he went by the stage name Master Hirannaiah, a name that stuck with him forever.

Noted Writer, Academician Maramraju Satyanarayana Rao Passes Away

i. Prominent writer and academician, Maramraju Satyanarayana Rao passed away following a cardiac arrest. He was 84.

ii. He was born at Jayyaram village in Mahabubabad district in **Telangana**. He had worked as professor of political science and registrar of **Ambedkar Open University**, Hyderabad.

Renowned Economist Baidyanath Mishra Passes Away

i. Renowned economist Baidyanath

Mishra passed away due to old-age related problems. He was 99.

Mishra had started his career as a lecturer in Ravenshaw University in Cuttack in 1949.



ii. He was vice-chancellor of **Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (OUAT)** from 1981 to 1985. He was also the chairman of the **State Planning Board** from 1985 to 1990.

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

i. Prof N.R. Madhava Menon, an educationist, scholar, and the pioneering spirit behind modern **legal education in India**, has passed away. He was 84 years old.



ii. Menon was bestowed with the Padma Shri in **2003** for his outstanding contribution to public services.

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

i. Prof. Kirpal Singh, the first chronicler of Partition, who started building an archive in 1954, passed away at 95 in Chandigarh.



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

Padma Shri Awardee Bhojpuri Singer Hiralal Yadav Passes Away

i. Padma Shri awardee Bhojpuri vocal artist Hiralal Yadav passed away in Varanasi at the age of 93. Shri Yadav was a well known Bhojpuri folk singer from the 'Birha' genre.



ii. He received a **Padma Shri award**, the country's fourth highest civilian award, in January 2019.

Renowned Filmmaker & Film Historian Vijaya Mulay Passes Away

i. Renowned filmmaker, film historian, researcher and educationist Vijaya

Mulay passed away at the age of 98 in New Delhi.



ii. The film was entered into the Manheim Film Festival. She is most famously known for her **1974 film Ek Anek Aur Ekta**, which was awarded the National Film Award for Best Educational Film.

3 time Formula 1 World Champion Niki Lauda Passes Away

i. The former Formula One driver and three-time world champion Niki Lauda has passed away at the age of 70.



ii. He hailed from Austria. Niki Lauda, who **won titles in 1975, 1977 and 1984**, was hugely admired, respected and liked within F1. He won two titles for Ferrari and one for McLaren.

Veteran Telugu Actor Rallapalli Venkata Narasimha Rao Passes Away

i. Veteran Telugu actor Rallapalli Venkata Narasimha Rao passed away in Hyderabad following a **cardiac arrest**. He was 74.

ii. He was a **five-time winner of the prestigious Nandi award** in undivided Andhra Pradesh.

I M Pei, The Master Architect Passes Away

i. I M Pei, a dominant figure in American **architecture** for more than three decades who designed the **Louvre's crystal pyramid**, has passed away. He was 102.



ii. 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).

Comedian And Co-Founder of 'The Comedy Store', Sammy Shore Passes Away

i. Sammy Shore, an actor and stand-up comedian who **co-founded the Comedy Store**, passed away. He was 92.



ii. Shore co-founded **The Comedy Store** with screenwriter and actor Rudy de Luca in 1972.

Action choreographer-filmmaker Veeru Devgan passes away

i. Bollywood's most famous stunt and action choreographer, Veeru Devgan passes away in Mumbai. Born in Amritsar, Devgan was behind the fight and action scenes for over 80 Hindi films including 'Phool Aur Kaante' (1991), 'Mr. India' (1987), and 'Himmatwala' (1983) among various others.



ii. He even acted in three films and worked as a director on 'Hindustan Ki Kasam' (1999).

Godfather actor Carmine Caridi dies aged 85

i. Carmine Caridi, known for roles in The Godfather



franchise, has died at the age of 85. The veteran actor also appeared in the final part of "The Godfather" trilogy in a different role – Albert Volpe, an investor in Michael Corleone's casinos who is killed in an attack at a hotel in Atlantic City.

Important Days with theme

International Workers' Day: 1st May

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



ii. The theme of International Labour Day 2019 is *“Sustainable Pension for all: The Role of Social Partners”*.

'Maharashtra Day' and 'Gujarat Day': 1 May

i. 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**.



ii. 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.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Maharashtra** CM: Devendra Fadnavis, **Governor:** CH Vidyasagar Rao. **Capital:** Mumbai
- **Gujarat** CM: Vijay Rupani, **Governor:** Om Prakash Kohli. **Capital:** Gandhinagar.

World Tuna Day: 2nd May

i. 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.



ii. It was observed for

the first time in 2017.

World Press Freedom Day: 3rd May

i. World Press Freedom Day (WPF) is

celebrated all over the world on the **3rd of May**.



ii. The theme for WPF 2019 is *“Media for Democracy: Journalism and Elections in Times of Disinformation”*.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Norway** is ranked first in the 2019 World Press Freedom Index compiled by Reporters Without Borders (RSF).
- **India** Ranked **140th** in 2019 World Press Freedom Index.

World Laughter Day 2019: 5 May

i. 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**.



ii. 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**.

World Asthma Day 2019: 7 May

i. 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**.



ii. The **theme** of World Asthma Day 2019 was **‘STOP for Asthma’**.

World Red Cross Day: 08th May

i. 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.



ii. 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.

5th United Nations Global Road Safety Week

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



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

Important Takeways from above news-

- **WHO Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland, **Director-General:** Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

National Technology Day: 11th May

i. **National Technology Day** is observed every year on **11th of May in India**, acting as a reminder of the anniversary of Shakti.



ii. Shakti is the Pokhran nuclear test which was held on the 11th of May, 1998. The first nuclear test Pokhran with a codenamed as '**Smiling Buddha**' was carried out in May 1974.

World Migratory Bird Day: 11 May

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



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

International Nurses Day: 12 May

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



ii. 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**.

International Day of Families: 15 May

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



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

Sikkim Statehood Day: 16th May

i. **President Ram Nath Kovind** has greeted the people of **Sikkim on their statehood day**.



ii. It was on **16th May 1975** that **Sikkim** officially merged with the Indian union and became the 22nd state of the country.

International Day of Light: 16 May

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



ii. 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.

World Telecommunication and Information Society Day: 17th May

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



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

Important Takeways from above news-

- 17th May also marks the anniversary of the signing of the first International Telegraph

Convention and the creation of the International Telecommunication Union.

World Bee Day: 20th May

i. 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**.



ii. 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.

World Metrology Day: 20 May

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

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



Anti-Terrorism Day: 21st May

i. **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.

ii. 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.



Important Takeways from above news-

- Mr. Rajiv Gandhi was the youngest Prime Minister of India.



UAE Celebrates World

Day For Cultural Diversity On May 21

i. 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.

ii. 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**.

Important Takeways from above news-

- UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France.
- Director-General of UNESCO Audrey Azoulay.

International Day for Biological Diversity: 22 May

i. 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.

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

International Everest Day: 29th May

i. 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.



ii. 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.

Important Takeways from above news-

1. Mount Everest, known in Nepali as Sagarmatha and in Tibetan as Chomolungma, is Earth's highest mountain above sea level, located in the Mahalangur Himal sub-range of the Himalayas.
2. The international border between Nepal and China runs across its summit point.

Nepal celebrates its 12th Republic Day

i. Nepal is celebrating its 12th Republic Day on 29th May 2019. A number of programmes are being organized in different parts of the country to mark the occasion. The main function



was held at Army Pavilion in Kathmandu, which was attended by the President Bidya Devi Bhandari, Prime Minister K.P.Sharma Oli, cabinet ministers, senior government officials, heads and representatives of various diplomatic missions and other dignitaries.