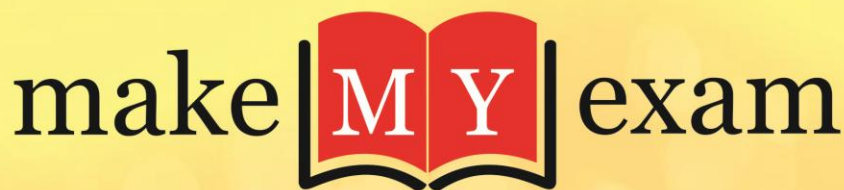


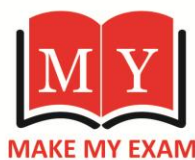
Monthly GK Capsule

May 2019



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National News

1. Arunachalam Muruganantham, Creator of Low-cost Sanitary Napkins, Named in Fortune's World Leaders List

- ✚ Coimbatore based Arunachalam Muruganantham, inventor of a low-cost sanitary napkins, has been featured on Fortune magazine's list of world's 50 greatest leaders. He was also awarded a Padma Shri in 2016 for his initiative.
- ✚ Bill and Melinda Gates top the list for the work of their charitable organisation Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.
- ✚ To bridge the gap, social entrepreneur Muruganantham invented a machine in 2004 that turns cellulose into low-cost sanitary napkins a huge boon for the India women.

2. IIT Madras team develops easy OCR system for nine Indian languages

- ✚ IIT Madras has, over the last decade, developed a unified script for nine Indian languages, named the Bharati script.
- ✚ The team has now gone a step further since developing the script: it has developed a method for reading documents in Bharati script using a multi-lingual optical character recognition (OCR) scheme.
- ✚ The team has also created a finger-spelling method that can be used to generate a sign language for hearing-impaired persons.

3. India to have Defence Cyber Agency in May

- ✚ In order to boost its capabilities to tackle threats emanating from hackers India is going to have Defence Cyber Agency (DCA).
- ✚ It include a lot of existing capability from the armed forces that will help tackle threats in the cyber domain and will also have the elements of DRDO working in it.
- ✚ One of the top Army officers, Eastern Army Commander Lt Gen MM Naravane had recently stated that the units of the Cyber agency will be spread across the country.

4. Sebi bars NSE from securities market for 6 months in co-location case

- ✚ The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) directed the National Stock Exchange (NSE) to disgorge Rs 625 crore, along with interest at 12 per cent per annum since 2014.
- ✚ The regulator also barred the exchange for a period of six months from accessing the securities market.
- ✚ In separate orders, Sebi imposed penalties on brokers OPG Securities, Way2Wealth Brokers, and GKN Securities.

5. BSNL launches 'Bharat Fibre' broadband service in Kashmir Valley

- ✚ State-owned telecom firm BSNL has become the first operator to start optical fibre-based high-speed broadband service in Pulwama with the launch of 'Bharat Fibre'
- ✚ "This is the first such FTTH (fibre-to-the-home) service deployment in the (Kashmir) Valley under this unique revenue share model
- ✚ The 'Bharat Fibre' service has been launched on a revenue sharing basis in a business collaborative model with the local channel partner of Pulwama area.

6. Chief economic advisor Krishnamurthy Subramanian included in Finance Commission's advisory council

- ✚ Chief economic advisor Krishnamurthy Subramanian has been included in the advisory council of the 15th Finance Commission as its member.
- ✚ The advisory council was set up in April 2018 to advise the commission on any issue or subject related to the terms of reference (ToR) of the commission.
- ✚ In December 2018, the government appointed Subramanian of Indian School of Business (ISB), Hyderabad, as the chief economic advisor in the finance ministry for three years.

7. Green Number Plates Are Now Mandatory For All Electric Vehicles

- ✚ Indian government had earlier proposed a special green-coloured number plate for all electric vehicles in the country. The measures are aimed to attract buyers towards electric vehicles over the coming years
- ✚ The Central government has now 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 special number plate is supposed to have the vehicle number spelled out in white colour on a green background.

8. Unicef, Niti Aayog tie up for children empowerment

- ✚ Niti Aayogs Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and Unicef India signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) to provide an open platform to promote participation, skilling and empowerment among young children across different communities.
- ✚ The LoI was signed by Yasmin Ali Haque, Unicef representative in India, and Ramanathan Ramanan, Mission Director, Atal Innovation Mission.
- ✚ This strategic partnership will also help effectively build capacities of adolescents, young entrepreneurs, mentors and teachers.

9. Nepali Girl Bandana Dances For 126 Hours Straight To Set New World Record

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

- ✦ Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli honoured the 18-year-old girl, Bandana Nepal, for achieving the feat.

10. Vodafone Idea signs multi-million dollar IT deal with IBM

- ✦ India's largest telecom operator Vodafone Idea Ltd announced a five-year multi-million-dollar IT outsourcing deal with tech giant IBM.
- ✦ The collaboration will provide Vodafone Idea with a hybrid cloud based digital platform to enable more intimate engagement with its over 387 million subscribers (as of 31 December, 2018), enhancing business efficiency.
- ✦ The deal will also provide a platform for fast-track joint initiatives in Artificial Intelligence and Internet of Things.

11. Gates Foundation Hires Senior Tata Official as India Policy Head

- ✦ The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has hired a senior executive from Tata Group, India's largest business group, for its operations in the country.
- ✦ Ubale, who has spent more than a decade at Tata Group, was previously chief executive officer of its closely-held property arm Tata Realty & Infrastructure Ltd.
- ✦ The Gates Foundation, the world's biggest private charity, has an endowment of \$50.7 billion.

12. E-Governance Services India ties up with IIT-Kanpur to upscale Unnat Bharat Abhiyan

- ✦ E-Governance Services India Limited, has tied up with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Kanpur to upscale 'Unnat Bharat Abhiyan'.
- ✦ 'Unnat Bharat Abhiyan' is an initiative of the Ministry of HRD, aims to find solutions to accelerate sustainable growth in rural India.
- ✦ Under the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, IIT-Kanpur has brought together 15 leading higher education institutions from Uttar Pradesh.

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

- ✦ The Gujarat state Assembly has passed a new Act 'Gujarat Shops and Establishments (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 2019' that will allow shops and other businesses in the state to operate 24 hours.
- ✦ The act, passed by the state Assembly in February, was notified on May 1, a government release.
- ✦ The shops and commercial entities operating near state highways and within municipality limits can now operate between 6 am to 2 am.

14. Vice President to embark on a four-day visit to Vietnam

- ✦ The Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu will embark on a four-day official visit to Vietnam from May 09. His visit is expected to enhance India's comprehensive strategic partnership with the Southeast Asian nation.
- ✦ Upon his arrival in Vietnam's Capital Hanoi, Shri Naidu will address the Indian Community at a reception hosted by the Ambassador of India.
- ✦ Shri Naidu's participation at the event is expected to further strengthen ties between India and Buddhist communities worldwide.

15. Indian giant Amul to sponsor Afghanistan in 2019 World Cup

- ✦ Amul has been announced as the principal sponsor of the Afghanistan cricket team for the upcoming World Cup, slated to be held in England and Wales from May 30.
- ✦ The logo of brand Amul will appear on the leading arm of the Afghanistan team playing jerseys as well as on the training kits throughout the showpiece event.
- ✦ Afghanistan will play two warm-up matches against Pakistan and England on May 24 and 27 respectively before beginning their World Cup campaign against Australia on June 1.

16. PM Modi 2nd most followed politician globally on social media

- ✦ Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the second most followed politician in the world on social media after former US President Barack Obama.
- ✦ Modi has a total audience of 110.9 million on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Obama's total following stood at 182.7 million.
- ✦ Congress party President Rahul Gandhi has accumulated 12 million followers on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

17. Kerala linked Aadhaar to attendance government offices.

- ✦ Kerala's Left Democratic Front (LDF) government has made Aadhaar-based attendance mandatory for all government offices in the state.
- ✦ All government offices are to install Aadhaar-based biometric attendance systems within six months, according to the 6 May order.
- ✦ 560,000 officials, from those in the secretariat to government school staff, will need an Aadhaar number to draw their salaries.

18. WTO meeting began in Delhi.

- ✦ The World Trade Organisation ministerial meeting of developing countries began in New Delhi.
- ✦ The meeting will provide an opportunity for the Ministers to discuss various issues and way forward. 16 developing countries and 6 Least Developed Countries, LDCs are participating in the meeting including China, South Africa, Brazil, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Kazakhstan and Bangladesh.

19. Kerala State to go paper less under E Vidhan initiative

- ✦ The Kerala Legislative Assembly recently announced an initiative to digitize all its records and proceedings under its ambitious project called E-Vidh.
- ✦ It is expected that if Kerala Assembly shifts completely into e-space it will save time as well as printing costs of about Rs.35 crore to Rs.49 crore . This will make their functioning transparent, responsive, productive, more accountable and participative to public.

Foot Notes :-

- ✓ **Capital** - Thiruvananthapuram
- ✓ **CM** - Shri Pinarayi Vijayan
- ✓ **Governor**-Shri Justice (Retd.) Palaniswamy
- ✓ **National Park** -Periyar

20. Kerala became first state to list Masala Bond in overseas market

- ✦ Recently, 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). The masala bond has tenor of 5-year and a 9.723% coupon.
- ✦ This was the brainchild of Kerala's state finance minister Thomas Issac. The objective of this initiative was to tap masala bond market and to rebuild the infrastructure in Kerala from the proceeds of masala bond.

Foot Notes :-

- ✓ **National Parks/Wildlife Sanctuaries**-Eravikulam National Park, Periyar National Park, Chinnar Wildlife Sanctuary etc.
- ✓ **Dance Forms** -Kathakali, Mohiniyattam, Koodiyattam, Chakyar Kothu, Theyyam etc
- ✓ **About London Stock Exchange (LSE)**
- ✓ **Location** - London, U.K
- ✓ **CEO** - David Schwimmer

21. AaroHi Pandit the world's first woman to cross the Atlantic Ocean solo in a Light Sports Aircraft

- ✦ Captain AaroHi Pandit, a 23-year-old pilot from Mumbai became the world's first woman to cross the Atlantic Ocean solo in a Light Sports Aircraft (LSA), thrilling her family, friends and aviation circles in Mumbai.
- ✦ En route, she set another world record as the first woman pilot to fly solo above the treacherous Greenland ice-cap in an LSA, and is due for at least half a dozen other records by the time she reaches India, Lynn told IANS.

Foot Notes :-

- ✓ **Chief of the Air Staff (CAS)** - Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh
- ✓ **Founded** - 8 October 1932
- ✓ **Commander-in-Chief** - President Ram Nath Kovind
- ✓ **first Indian woman Pilot** - Sarla Thakral
- ✓ **Chief Minister of Maharashtra** - Devendra Fadnavis
- ✓ **Governor of Maharashtra** - C. Vidyasagar Rao

22. Afghanistan's High Peace Council Secretary- Umer Daudzai's visit to India

- ✚ Sushma Swaraj, External Affairs Minister met Umer Daudzai, (during his visit to India) Afghanistan's High Peace Council Secretary who briefed her on the outcome of the recently held the historic 'Loya Jirga' or peace meeting in Kabul.
- ✚ Loya jirga" peace summit in Kabul was held in May, 2019 which had around **3,200** religious and tribal leaders, politicians and representatives.

Foot Notes :-

- ✓ **Capital** - Kabul
- ✓ **Currency** - Afghani
- ✓ **President** - Ashraf Ghani
- ✓ **Official languages** - Pashto, Dari

23. India's fastest train 'Vande Bharat Express' completed 1 Lakh kilometers without missing single trip

- ✚ India's fastest train 'Vande Bharat Express' completed 1 Lakh kilometers without missing single trip. It was flagged off by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi under 'Make In India' Initiative, on February 15, 2019 from New Delhi to Varanasi. This 16 coach train began its commercial run from February 17, 2019.
- ✚ 'Make in India' is a flagship program formally launched by PM Narendra Modi on 25th September 2014. The campaign was dedicated to Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya who was born on the same the date in 1916. The logo of 'Make In India' consists of lion and Ashoka Chakra. 25 sectors are included under Make in India campaign.

Foot Notes :-

- ✓ The indigenously-built high-speed train was manufactured by the Integral Coach Factory in Chennai.
- ✓ This high speed train is expected to replace Shatabdi Express trains soon.

24. India sets Guinness World Records of 'largest laundry lesson' with the participation of 400 young men

- ✚ On May 17, 2019, India achieved a Guinness World Records of 'largest laundry lesson' with the participation of 400 young Indian men. The event was a part of #sharetheload campaign. It was done to share the responsibility of cleaning clothes at home along with the female members of the family.
- ✚ Earlier, the largest laundry lesson was achieved by Lion NANOX Team (Japan) at Lion Hirai Research Laboratory in Edogawa, Tokyo, Japan on November 29, 2017. It had 318 people.

Foot Notes :-

- ✓ **Originally Published** - 1955
- ✓ **Subject** - World Records
- ✓ **Publisher** - Jim Pattison Group
- ✓ **Genre** - Reference work
- ✓ **Authors** - Craig Glenday, Norris McWhirter

25. Harda district of Madhya Pradesh becomes the first where women handle entire work of counting votes

- ✚ In Harda district of Madhya Pradesh, women will handle the entire work of counting votes. This first of its kind initiative was taken for the empowerment of women.

Foot Notes :- Madhya Pradesh

- ✓ **Known as** - 'Heart of India' (due to its geographical location)
- ✓ **MP has** - the largest reserves of **diamond and copper**
- ✓ **Chief minister** - Kamal Nath
- ✓ **Capital** - Bhopal
- ✓ **Governor** - Anandiben Patel
- ✓ **Districts** - 52

26. 26 Maharashtra dams hit zero water storage level

- ✚ In a far cry from last year's situation, 26 reservoirs in Maharashtra have reached "zero storage" as on May 18, according to statistics put out by the Water Conservation department of the state government.
- ✚ The dams in these division are Paithan, Manjara, Majalgaon, Yeldari, Siddeshwar, Lower Terna, Sina Kolegaon and Lower Dhudna, all of which have zero storage at the moment, the department informed.

Foot Notes:-

- ✓ Capital: Mumbai
- Governor: C. Vidyasagar Rao

Dams: Dhamapur, Vihar, Ekrukha, Shirsufal

27. Reliance beats Indian Oil Corp to become biggest Indian company by revenue.

- ✚ Richest Indian Mukesh Ambani's oil-to-telecom conglomerate Reliance Industries has toppled state-owned Indian Oil Corp (IOC) to become the country's biggest company by revenue.
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Foot Notes:

✓ About Reliance

- ◆ CEO: Mukesh Ambani
- ◆ Owner: Mukesh Ambani
- ◆ Founder: Dhirubhai Ambani
- ◆ Founded: 8 May 1973, Maharashtra
- ◆ Subsidiaries: Jio, JioSaavn, Indiavidual Learning.

28. Niti Aayog pushes for Rs 7,500-crore proposal for AI platform, research institutes.

- ✚ Niti Aayog has circulated a cabinet note to provide Rs 7,500 crore for the establishment of AIRAWAT, a cloud computing platform along with research institutes.
- ✚ This is part of the policy think tank's proposal to create an institutional framework for artificial intelligence (AI) in the country.

Foot Notes:

✓ About NITI Aayog

- ◆ NITI Aayog: National Institution for Transforming India.
- ◆ NITI Aayog CEO: Amitabh Kant.
- ◆ Vice Chairman: Rajiv Kumar.

29. Mumbai at topmost risk of cyber attack

- ✚ In India, the financial capital Mumbai faces the highest highest threat from cyberattacks, which makes Maharashtra to which makes Maharashtra top the list of Indian states vulnerable to risk.
- ✚ Top 15 Indian Cities At Most Risk

1. Mumbai
2. Delhi
3. Bengaluru
4. Kolkata
5. Pune
6. New Delhi

7. Hyderabad
8. Jaipur
9. Ahmedabad
10. Chennai

30. Tech Mahindra signs Rs 300 crore defence contract with Indian Navy

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

Foot Notes:

♦ Defence Minister: Nirmala Sitharaman

✓ **About Tech Mahindra**

- ♦ CEO: C. P. Gurnani
- ♦ Headquarters: Pune
- ♦ Parent organization: Mahindra Group
- ♦ Founder: Anand Mahindra

31. MoU signed between DBT and DAE on Cancer Research

- ✦ The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) under Ministry of Science and Technology and Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), under Prime Minister of India has signed an memorandum of understanding (MoU) for supporting a joint collaborative research programmes in area of Cancer.
- ✦ The MoU for Joint Collaboration on Cancer Research was signed between DBT and DAE. The DAE was represented by its Tata Memorial Centre, which also functions as coordinating centre on behalf of The National Cancer Grid of India.

MoU shall help strengthen various initiatives mandatorily for cancer by:

1. Strategizing and prioritizing cancer research.
2. Developing new and affordable technologies.
3. Jointly designing and funding clinical trials.
4. Coordinating and collaborating for translational research, interventions, training of manpower and infrastructure development.

Foot Notes:

✓ **About Department of Biotechnology (DBT)**

- ♦ Formed on: 1986
- ♦ Headquarters: New Delhi
- ♦ Secretary: Dr. Renu Swarup

- ♦ Affiliated with: Ministry of Science and Technology
- ♦ The Ministry is responsible for administrating development and commercialization in the field of modern biology and biotechnology in India.

✓ **About Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)**

- ♦ Formed on: 3 August 1954
- ♦ Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- ♦ Minister responsible: Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India
- ♦ Deputy Minister responsible: Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of State for PM's Office
- ♦ Secretary and Chairman: Dr. K.N.Vyas
- ♦ Parent Department: Prime Minister's Office
- ♦ DAE is engaged in the development of nuclear power technology, applications of radiation technologies in the fields of agriculture, medicine, industry and basic research.

32. Delhi HC ruled that United Nations is not a State

- ✚ The Delhi High Court has ruled that the United Nations is not a State under Article 12 of the Constitution of India and is not amenable to its jurisdiction under Article 226 of the Constitution.
- ✚ The Ministry replied that the consent of the Government of India is not required to initiate a legal suit against UNO as it is not a foreign state and is only an Internal Organization. It said UNO and its officials enjoy immunity under the United Nations (Privileges and Immunities) Act, 1947.
- ✚ It also said as per Section 2 of Article II of the Schedule of Act, 1947, UNO has immunity from every form of legal process except insofar as in any particular case it has expressly waived its immunity

Foot Notes:

✓ **About United Nations**

- ♦ Headquarters: New York
- ♦ Founders: Denmark • Turkey • Norway • Panama • Saudi Arabia • United Kingdom • Poland • Netherlands • Dominican Republic • Argentina
- ♦ Founded: 24 Oct 1945

33. Sony to stop selling its smartphones in India

- ✚ Japanese technology giant Sony has revealed it will stop selling its smartphones in several countries including India.
- ✚ Sony added it presently considers Japan, Europe, Taiwan and Hong Kong as the “focus regions” — to drive profit for the smartphone business.
- ✚ Sony reported an operating loss of 97.1 billion yen (\$879.45 million) in the year ended March.
- ✚ Samsung with shipment of 71.9 million units, Huawei with 59.1 million, Apple with 36.4 million, Xiaomi with 25 million, Vivo with 23.2 million and Oppo with 23.1 million are the top smartphone brands in the first quarter of 2019.

Foot Notes:

- ✓ **About Sony**
 - ◆ Headquarters: Minato, Japan
 - ◆ CEO: Kenichiro Yoshida
 - ◆ Founded: 07 May 1946 • Tokyo, Japan

International News & Foreign Affairs

1. Israel's 21st parliament sworn-in, inaugurating Netanyahu's 5th term as prime minister

- ✚ Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was sworn in following his victory in the April 9 elections and will seek to form a governing coalition in the days ahead.
- ✚ He demanded that both the opposition and the ruling majority lay down their guards and unite in order to serve the Israeli public.
- ✚ Netanyahu faced a hard-fought battle for the premiership against former army chief and leader of the centrist Blue and White faction Benny Gantz.

2. Sri Lanka great Kumar Sangakkara named new MCC president

- ✚ Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) is the greatest cricket club in the world, with its global reach and continued progress for cricket on and off the pitch.
- ✚ The Sri Lankan legend is an active member of MCC's World Cricket committee since 2012, and also owns the Honorary Life Membership of the club.
- ✚ Sangakkara's one-year tenure will encompass two England Tests against West Indies and Pakistan, and the launch of The Hundred competition before winding up on 30 September 2020.

3. 14th edition of Sino-Indian border trade opens at Nathu La

- ✚ The 14th edition of the annual Sino-Indian border trade opened at Nathu La in Sikkim.
- ✚ The bilateral border trade between the two countries is organised four days a week for six months.
- ✚ India's trade list comprised of two sections. Export list comprised of 36 items from dairy products to utensils and Import list includes a total of 20 items, namely carpets, quilts and jackets.

4. Iraq remains India's top oil supplier in FY19, imports from US up 4-folds

- ✚ India is world's third largest importer of crude oil (7% of total crude oil imports) after China (world's largest importer with 20.2% of total crude oil imports) and USA (13.8%).

- ✦ Saudi Arabia has traditionally been India's top oil source, but it was for the first time dethroned by Iraq in 2017-18 fiscal year.
- ✦ According to data sourced from the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Iraq sold 46.61 million tonne of crude oil to India during April 2018.

5. G7 Countries gathered in France to discuss climate crisis

- ✦ Environmental ministers from G7 countries gathered in the French city of Metz, to discuss concrete climate actions and adopt a charter on biodiversity.
- ✦ The G7 countries of France, Canada, Germany, the United States, Japan, Italy, the UK, along with delegations from Mexico, Chile, Niger, Gabon, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Fiji, Norway and the European Union, are all attending the summit.
- ✦ The aim of this is to combat inequalities, deforestation, drought, plastic garbage along with coral reef protection and adopt a charter on biodiversity.

6. India and U.S. Hold Bilateral Trade Meeting

- ✦ India and the United States held the India-U.S. Bilateral Trade meeting in New Delhi.
- ✦ Both sides agreed to deepen economic cooperation and bilateral trade by ensuring greater cooperation amongst stakeholders, including Government, businesses and entrepreneurs.
- ✦ Both sides expressed satisfaction over the progress during the year 2018, with bilateral trade in Goods and Services registering a growth of 12.6% from \$ 126 billion in 2017 to \$142 billion in 2018.

7. Microsoft unveils its own Blockchain-based service

- ✦ Microsoft has unveiled fully-managed Azure Blockchain Service that would simplify the formation, management and governance so that businesses can focus on workflow logic and application development.
- ✦ Microsoft has also announced a partnership with J.P. Morgan to make "Quorum" the first ledger available in Azure Blockchain Service.
- ✦ IBM and Amazon Web Services (AWS) have already started Blockchain-based services.

8. Tiger Woods receives highest civilian honour in the US from Donald Trump

- ✦ Tiger Woods, who stunned the sports world when he won his fifth Masters title last month, received his country's highest civilian honour, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, from U.S. President Donald Trump.
- ✦ Trump, an avid golfer, described the 15-times major champion as a "a global symbol of American excellence, devotion and drive".
- ✦ It is awarded annually to people who have made outstanding contributions to the security or national interests of the country.

9. Visa appoints Sujatha V Kumar as Head of Marketing for India and South Asia

- ✦ Visa announced the appointment of Sujatha V Kumar as Head of Marketing for India and South Asia.
- ✦ She will be driving overall marketing strategy and execution including consumer, retail and digital marketing initiatives for India and the emerging markets of Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal and the Maldives.
- ✦ Prior to this, Sujatha was with Google as Head - Brand & Reputation, Marketing and Strategy.
- ✦ Sujatha started her career at Procter & Gamble and, over the years, has gathered rich experience in sales and marketing across companies such as Gillette, Nokia, The Royal Bank of Scotland and Coca-Cola.

10. India's Jagjit Pavadia re-elected to International Narcotics Control Board

- ✦ In a significant victory, India's Jagjit Pavadia was re-elected to the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) for another term.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ The victory added to India's successful record of winning crucial elections at the UN and to the world organisation's subsidiary bodies.

11. India, Bangladesh to produce movie on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

- ✦ India and Bangladesh will jointly produce a movie based on the life of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. It will be directed by eminent Indian filmmaker Shyam Benegal.
- ✦ A meeting was held between delegation of Information and Broadcasting Ministry led by Secretary Amit Khare and visiting Bangladeshi delegation in this regard in New Delhi.
- ✦ A working agreement on cooperation between All India Radio and Bangladesh Betar was also agreed upon between the two countries, implementation of which would start from June.

12. Airtel and Hughes to merge their India VSAT (Very Small Aperture Terminal) operations

- ✦ Bharti Airtel has decided to merge its broadband satellite, or VSAT, business with that of market leader Hughes Communications India, to create a stronger no. 1 in the space.
- ✦ VSAT is used to provide satellite based telecom and internet access to individuals and enterprise users. The new company will continue to be called Hughes Communications India Ltd., but the name could be changed in future.
- ✦ Hughes Communications will own 67% share of the new entity while Airtel will own the rest.

13. Microsoft unveils open source software 'ElectionGuard' for secure, verifiable voting

- ✦ In a bid to help countries ensure secure and verifiable voting, Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella has announced "ElectionGuard" -- a free open-source software development kit (SDK).
- ✦ ElectionGuard" will enable end-to-end verification of elections, open results to third-party organisations for secure validation.
- ✦ During the process of vote-casting, voters have an optional step that allows them to confirm that their trackers and encrypted votes accurately reflect their selections.

14. Singapore passes controversial 'fake news' law which critics fear will stifle free speech

- ✦ Singapore has passed a controversial bill that could equip the government with extensive powers to police online media and free speech.
- ✦ The bill was first drafted last month and, as had been expected, it passed 72-9 in Singapore's parliament, dominated by the ruling People's Action Party (PAP).

15. World's first 'zero waste' flight takes off in Australia

- ✦ The first-ever commercial flight to produce "zero waste" has taken to the skies as part of a new initiative from the Australian airline Qantas to cut single-use plastics that end up in landfill.
- ✦ Flying from Sydney to Adelaide, all products and packaging onboard QF739 will either be reused, recycled or disposed of as compost.
- ✦ As well as all-digital boarding passes and electronic bag tags, around 1000 single-use plastic items were swapped for more environmentally friendly alternatives.

16. Council of European Chambers of Commerce(CEUCC) to honour Anil Kapoor for promoting Children's Rights

- ✦ Actor Anil Kapoor will be felicitated by the Council of European Chambers of Commerce (CEUCC) in India and an European Union delegation as part of the 'Europe Day' celebrations here on Friday, an official spokesperson said.
- ✦ The event will highlight how Europe has always been a favourite shooting destination for Indian filmmakers for many decades. Bollywood movies have for long been using the picturesque locales of the United Kingdom, France, Spain, Portugal, Switzerland, Italy and now even places like Greece, Hungary, Austria and Romania are gaining popularity for their natural beauty.

Foot Notes:-

- ✓ Europe Day is celebrated every year on May 9 to mark the formation of the European Union (EU).
- ✓ Brussels, the capital of Belgium is sometimes called Capital of Europe, The euro is the official currency of 19 of the 28 member states of the European Union.
- ✓ London is the largest city of European union.

17. China set to host Asian Cup 2023 after withdrawal from South Korea

- ✚ Recently, Korea Football Association (KFA) had withdraw their bid to host Asian Cup 2023 which leave the sole other bidders China with a free run to become hosts. KFA announced that they are pulled out to strategically focus on a joint bid with North Korea to host Women's World Cup in 2023
- ✚ The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) will confirm on June 4 about China's bid to hold Asian Cup 2023 in China.

Foot Notes:-

- ✓ Last time China hosted Asian Cup in 2004 when China lost to Japan by 3-1 in the final held in Beijing.
- ✓ This year the Asian Cup was held in UAE in which Qatar defeated Japan by 3-1 in the final.
- ✓ Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Headquarter is in: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and President is Salman Bin Ibrahim Al-Khalifa

18. Jeffrey Rosen Confirmed As US' Next Deputy Attorney General

- ✚ Jeffrey Rosen was confirmed as the United States' latest deputy attorney general by the US Senate on Thursday after his predecessor, Rod Rosenstein, left the department last week.
- ✚ The latest deputy attorney general previously served at the Department of Transportation as the deputy secretary. He also served in former US President George W. Bush's administration.

Foot Notes:-

- ✓ **Capital** - Washington, D.C.
- ✓ **President** - Donald Trump
- ✓ **Currency** - United States dollar
- ✓ **Largest city** - New York City

19. Saudi Arabia Approves Permanent Residency For First Time

- ✚ The Saudi government has approved for the first time a scheme that gives permanent residency to certain expatriates, allowing them to own real estate in the kingdom and reside with their families without a Saudi sponsor.
- ✚ The "Privileged Iqama" system will offer a permanent residence scheme and one that can be renewed annually
- ✚ The decision, approved by Saudi Arabia's Cabinet, is aimed at attracting long-term investments

Foot Notes:-

- ✓ **Capital and largest city** - Riyadh
- ✓ **Official language** - Arabic
- ✓ **Currency** - Saudi riyal
- ✓ **King** - Salman of Saudi Arabia

20. Donald Trump Unveils Merit-Based Immigration System

- ✚ US President Donald Trump has rolled out a merit-based immigration system from which foreigners, including hundreds and thousands of Indian professionals and skilled workers, waiting to get Green Cards or permanent legal residency stand to benefit.
- ✚ As per the proposed system, permanent legal residency would be given based on points for their **age, knowledge, job opportunities and civic sense**. The proposals significantly increase the quota for skilled workers from the existing nearly **12% to 57%**.

Foot Notes:-

- ✓ Washington DC was formerly known as District of Columbia

21. Taiwan approves same-sex marriage in a first for Asia

- ✚ Taiwan's parliament has become the first in Asia to legalise same-sex marriage following a vote on Friday.
- ✚ Taiwan's Constitutional Court ruled in May 2017 that the constitution permits same-sex marriages. The court gave parliament two years to amend the island's marriage laws.

Foot Notes:-

- ✓ **Capital** - Taipei
- ✓ **Largest city** - New Taipei
- ✓ **National languages** - Mandarin (de facto), Formosan languages, Taiwanese, Hakka
- ✓ **President** - Tsai Ing-wen

22. BSNL partnered with Google for expanding WiFi footprint

- ✚ Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has partnered with Google on the occasion of World Telecom Day. The objective is to expand BSNL's Wi-Fi footprint in the country. Currently, there are around 38,000 BSNL Wi-Fi hotspot locations working across the country and one can use these after buying the Wi-Fi vouchers worth of Rs 19 and more.

Foot Notes :-

- ✓ BSNL Headquarter: New Delhi , CEO: Anupam
- ✓ Google Headquarter: California(US),CEO: Sundar Pichai

23. Google has barred the world's second biggest smartphone maker, Huawei.

- ✚ Huawei Technologies Co. Ltd. is a Chinese multinational telecommunications equipment and consumer electronics manufacturer

- ✚ New designs of Huawei smartphones are set to lose access to some Google apps. The move comes after the Trump administration added Huawei to a list of companies that American firms cannot trade with unless they have a licence.
- ✚ Google said it was "complying with the order and reviewing the implications".
- ✚ Future Huawei devices may no longer have apps such as YouTube and Maps.

Foot Notes:

- ✓ **About Huawei.**
 - ◆ CEO: Ren Zhengfei (1988–)
 - ◆ Headquarters: Shenzhen, China
 - ◆ Founder: Ren Zhengfei
 - ◆ Founded: 15 September 1987, Shenzhen, China
 - ◆ Parent organization: Huawei Investment & Holding Co., Ltd.

24. Joko Widodo secures second term as Indonesia's president

- ✚ Indonesia's Joko Widodo has been re-elected as president of the country, beating rival Prabowo Subianto, a retired general.
- ✚ 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.
- ✚ The presidential inauguration is expected to be held in October.

Foot Notes:

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

25. Amazon likely to get the .amazon domain name

- ✚ Jeff Bezos-led Amazon has bagged a seven-year dispute over the '.amazon' domain name from the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN). The Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organisation (ACTO), a group with member countries including Brazil backed the dispute.
- ✚ The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) decided to proceed with designation requested by Amazon pending a 30-day period of public comment.
- ✚ Amazon intends to use the domain with its multiple business streams so internet addresses like 'books.amazon' and 'alexa.amazon' can be used by 2019.

Foot Notes:

- ✓ **About Amazon**
 - ◆ Founded: 05 Jul 1994
 - ◆ Headquarters: Seattle
 - ◆ CEO: Jeff Bezos

26. UAE launched the Gold card visa scheme for expatriates

- ✚ The UAE has launched a Golden Card visa scheme, a permanent residency scheme, for expatriates. The announcement was made by the country's Vice President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai.
- ✚ The scheme is open to investors and exceptional talents such as doctors, engineers, scientists, students and artists as it will grant permanent residency.
- ✚ The scheme will attract greater foreign investment and stimulate the local economy, making it more efficient and attractive for investors.

Foot Notes:✓ **About UAE**

- ◆ The United Arab Emirates, sometimes simply called the Emirates, is a country in Western Asia at the southeast end of the Arabian Peninsula on the Persian Gulf, bordering Oman to the east and Saudi Arabia to the south, as well as sharing maritime borders with Qatar to the west and Iran to the north.
- ◆ Founded: 02 Dec 1971
- ◆ The Indian expatriate community is the largest ethnic community in the UAE

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

- ✚ U.S. Navy ships conducted joint drills with warships from allies Japan, Australia and South Korea in their first combined exercise in the Western Pacific, the U.S. Navy said on Thursday
- ✚ The six-day exercise involves two Japanese destroyers, two Australian frigates and a destroyer from South Korea, with as many as 3,000 sailors participating.
- ✚ US State Department approved to sell air-defense missiles for worth of more than USD 600 million to Japan and South Korea. This approval was result of rising tension with North Korea when a pair of missile was tested by North Korea last week.
- ✚ The US government has approved sale of 94 SM-2 missiles used by ships against air threats along with 12 guidance systems for a total cost of USD 313.9 million.

Foot Notes:✓ **About South Korea**

- ◆ Capital: Seoul
- ◆ Currency: South Korean Won
- ◆ President: Moon Jae-in

✓ **About Japan**

- ◆ Capital: Tokyo
- ◆ Currency: Japanese Yen
- ◆ Prime Minister. Shinzo Abe

✓ **About USA**

- ◆ Capital: Washington D.C.

- ♦ Currency: United States Dollar
- ♦ President: Donald Trump

28. Microsoft stopped online sale of Huawei laptops after US ban on Chinese tech companies

- ✚ Huawei is set to face yet another major setback after President Trump's executive order called for a clampdown on Chinese technology companies. Less than a week after Google announced that it would revoke Huawei's Android licence; two leading tech giants are about to follow suit.
- ✚ Currently searching for any Huawei hardware on Microsoft's online store in the US won't yield any results. On the other hand, Microsoft has remained silent on whether it would allow Huawei to obtain Windows licenses for its laptops. Revoking Huawei's Windows OS license would have more adverse effects in Huawei's server solutions.
- ✚ For now, Huawei has been granted a 90-day extension to provide software updates to Android-powered handsets and maintain continued operation of existing networks and equipment. However, this narrow extension does not seem to apply to Windows licenses for laptops.

Foot Notes:

✓ About Google

- ♦ Founded: 04 Sep 1998
- ♦ Headquarters: Mountain View
- ♦ CEO: Sundar Pichai (Since 2015)
- ♦ Founders: Sergey Brin ,Larry Page ,Dred Hoang ,Ralia Shop

✓ About Microsoft

- ♦ Founded: 04 Apr 1975
- ♦ Headquarters: Redmond
- ♦ CEO: Satya Nadella (Since 2014)

✓ About Huawei

- ♦ Founded: 1987
- ♦ Headquarters: Shenzhen, China
- ♦ CEO: Ren Zhengfei
- ♦ Founder: Ren Zhengfei

29. WHO declares Algeria and Argentina as malaria-free countries

- ✚ World Health Organization officially declared Algeria and Argentina as malaria-free countries after recording no new cases for more than three years. Now, the numbers of malaria free countries increased to 38 from 36.
- ✚ Argentina reported the last indigenous case in 2010 while in Algeria it was reported in 2013. Algeria is the second African nation to have eliminated the disease after Mauritius which achieved the goal in 1973.

Foot Notes:

✓ **About WHO**

- ◆ Founded: 7 April 1948
- ◆ Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland
- ◆ Head: Tedros Adhanom

30. British PM Theresa May Announces Resignation

- ✚ British Prime Minister Theresa May announces resignation from her post.
- ✚ She will resign on 7 June.
- ✚ Her announcement triggers the start of a contest to replace her as Conservative leader and Prime Minister.

Foot Notes:✓ **About United Kingdom**

- ◆ Capital: London
- ◆ Currency: Pound sterling

31. WhatsApp to put ads on Status in 2020, confirms Facebook

- ✚ WhatsApp Status will start displaying ads from 2020, the messaging platform's parent firm Facebook has confirmed.
- ✚ It added its already monetized WhatsApp Business app will get richer messaging formats, including viewing text alongside image or PDF in a single message.
- ✚ Notably, WhatsApp Co-founders Brian Acton and Jan Koum had left after disagreements with Facebook over monetizing it.

Foot Notes:✓ **About Whatsapp Messenger**

- ◆ Founded: February 24, 2009; 10 years ago
- ◆ Headquarters: Mountain View, California, United States
- ◆ Founder: Jan Koum, Brian Acton

Banking

1. Canara Bank's Life Insurance Branch Launches Webassurance

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

- ✦ It aims at empowering customers to address their financial needs in a completely paperless manner.

2. RBI to issue new Rs 20 denomination banknote with greenish-yellow color

- ✦ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced that it will issue new Rs 20 denomination banknotes soon.
- ✦ The new banknote will have a base colour of greenish -yellow and will be 63 X 129 mm in size. The apex bank had first introduced the Rs 20 note in the Mahatma Gandhi Series in August 2001.
- ✦ The new note will have a motif of Ellora caves on the back side, depicting India's cultural heritage.

3. Finance Ministry approves 8.65% interest on EPF for 2018-19

- ✦ The Finance Ministry has approved 8.65 per cent rate of interest on Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) for 2018-19 as decided by retirement fund body EPFO.
- ✦ The interest rate on EPF was hiked to 8.65 per cent for the last fiscal from 8.55 per cent provided in 2017-18.
- ✦ This move will benefit more than 6 crores formal sector workers.

4. Paytm launches recurring payments service for merchants

- ✦ Paytm has launched recurring payment (auto pay) service for merchants that are working on a digital subscription model.
- ✦ The move will allow the subscription-based businesses to collect payments from their subscribers effortlessly.
- ✦ The service is being offered as an additional mode of payment other than credit/debit cards, internet banking and other Paytm proprietary instruments.

5. PhonePe introduces new keyboard for seamless transaction

- ✦ Digital payments platform PhonePe launched a special keyboard that will allow users to transact conveniently and securely with just a click, anytime and anywhere while using their Android phone.
- ✦ The PhonePe keyboard will allow users to send and request money, check their account balance and invite friends.
- ✦ Currently, Flipkart-owned PhonePe is the only player in India to introduce this user-friendly feature.

6. State Bank of India links interest rates to RBI's repo rate

- ✦ SBI had announced that it will link its interest rate on savings account with balance above ₹1 lakh and short-term loans like overdraft and cash credit facility to Reserve Bank of India's repo rate, effective 1 May 2019.
- ✦ The interest rates on large SBI savings account deposits and interest rate on some short-term loans will automatically change as and when RBI changes its repo rate.

- ✦ This will help in better transmission of RBI's policy rates into the banking system.

7. SBI Card raises ₹700 crore from banks, including parent bank to fund growth

- ✦ SBI Card raised ₹700 crore from several financial institutions including its parent State Bank of India (SBI) in the second half of FY19 as it aims to grow above the industry average.
- ✦ SBI Card is over 4 million cards behind the private sector lender at 7.9 million outstanding credit cards in the same period.
- ✦ The ₹700-crore fundraise is part of SBI Card's plan to raise ₹1,500 crore in a few tranches.

8. RBI directs banks to enhance housing loan limits for eligibility under priority sector lending

- ✦ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has directed banks to enhance the housing loan limits for eligibility under priority sector lending (PSL) to Rs 35 lakh in metropolitan centres (with population of ten lakh and above) and Rs 25 lakh in other centres.
- ✦ In order to bring the RRBs and SFBs at a level playing field with other Scheduled Commercial Banks, it has now been decided to enhance the housing loan limits for eligibility under PSL.
- ✦ Earlier, loans to individuals up to Rs 28 lakh in metropolitan centres and Rs 20 lakh in other centres, were eligible to be classified under priority sector.

9. Mastercard commits Rs 7,000 crore investment in India in next 5 years

- ✦ Global payments giant Mastercard plans to invest \$1 billion in its India operations over the next five years
- ✦ Mastercard is expected to invest the remaining amount to grow locally and to expand the team that services its overseas operations.
- ✦ This investment will help foster innovation and increase Mastercard's speed-to-market capabilities and value-added services.

10. 15th Finance Commission to hold meetings with RBI, banks, financial institutions

- ✦ The 15th Finance Commission will have meetings with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), banks and financial institutions on May 8 and 9 in Mumbai.
- ✦ The Commission is likely to discuss views on key macro-economic assumptions, cost of borrowings for the Centre and states, requirements for the recapitalisation of banks.
- ✦ The other issues that would come up during the deliberation include market driven borrowing cost and debt trajectories of states.

11. Max Life Insurance to Mark 6th of Every Month as Protection Day

- ✦ Max Life Insurance Co Ltd, one of industry's foremost life insurance companies, announced that it will dedicate 6th day of every calendar month as 'Protection Day' towards driving awareness around the concept of financial protection.
- ✦ As a part of this initiative, a wide range of initiatives will be rolled out across Max Life's network of over 240 Max Life's offices and a wider network of its distribution partners.
- ✦ As a part of the initiative the Company will also drive a "Super Customer Week", where customers across the board will be educated about various aspects of financial protection.

12. RBI proposed new mobile app.

- ✦ The RBI proposes to come out with a mobile application to aid visually impaired persons in identifying Indian currency notes.
- ✦ At present, banknotes in the denominations of ₹ 10, 20, 50, 100, 200, 500 and 2,000 are in circulation, besides Re 1 notes issued by the Government of India. Mobile application shall provide multi-
- ✦ lingual support as well as audio notications.

13. Paytm collaborated with Citibank to launch its 1st credit card called 'Paytm First Card'

- ✦ Paytm collaborated with Citibank to launch its 1st credit card called 'Paytm First Card' Dinesh Pangtey.
- ✦ Vijay Shekhar Sharma, chairman and CEO, One97 Communications, the parent of Paytm, said the offering should increase payments flexibility for Paytm users, and will help spur large-ticket cashless payments.
- ✦ The Paytm First Card offers 1% universal unlimited cashback and has no restrictions on rewards for any transaction.

14. ICICI Bank joins hands travel Goibibo to launch multi-currency card

- ✦ ICICI Bank announced the launch of a co-branded multi-currency card with online travel booking portal Goibibo. Anyone travelling abroad, whether they hold an ICICI Bank savings account or not, can apply for the Goibibo ICICI Bank Travel Card on the Goibibo website and mobile app.
- ✦ The card also includes benefits of up to ₹20,000, including gift vouchers of ₹15,000 from Goibibo. Additionally, customers get 40 paise discount on currency conversion rate on loading of a minimum of \$1,000.
- ✦ Further, they get the advantage of complimentary card protection from theft and loss up to ₹5 lakh. It also provides flat 15 per cent discount at more than 100 Indian restaurants across six foreign cities, including Kuala Lumpur, Dubai, London, Singapore, Hong Kong, and Bangkok. The card also offers travel insurance between ₹2 lakh and ₹10 lakh.

15. Tripura Gramin Bank among top RRB performer in country

- ✦ Tripura Gramin Bank is among India's top three Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) in terms of profit, business and growth. Currently India has 46 Regional Rural

Bank out of which Tripura Gramin Bank ranked 3rd in the country. Tripura Gramin Bank has posted a profit for 7 successive years to Rs 125.45 crore in the fiscal 2018-19.

- ✚ The Tripura Gramin Bank is the first RRB in India which have been granted a permission by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to start treasury function of the Tripura government and open a currency chest.

Foot Notes:-

- ✓ Headquarter : Agratala
- ✓ Chairman : Mahendra Mohan Goswami

16. SBI ties up with FMCG arm of The Art of Living

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

Foot Notes:

- ✓ **FMCG stands for Fast Moving Consumer Goods.**
 - ◆ SBI Chairperson: Rajnish Kumar
 - ◆ Headquarters: Mumbai
 - ◆ Founded: 1 July 1955.

17. World Bank, CommBank Team Up for 'World First' Blockchain Bond Transaction

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

Foot Notes:

- ✓ **About World Bank**
 - ◆ Motto: Working for a World Free of Poverty
 - ◆ CEO: Kristalina Georgieva
 - ◆ Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States
 - ◆ Membership: 189 countries (IBRD); 173 countries (IDA)
 - ◆ Parent organization: World Bank Group

- ♦ Subsidiaries: International Finance Corporation, MORE
- ♦ Founders: John Maynard Keynes, Harry Dexter White
- ♦ Type: Monetary International Financial Organization

✓ **About CommBank**

- ♦ CEO: Matt Comyn
- ♦ Founded: 22 December 1911
- ♦ Headquarters: Sydney, Australia

18. Asian Development Bank to provide USD 750 million loan to India for railway track electrification project

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

Foot Notes:

✓ **About Indian Railway:**

- ♦ Railway Minister : Piyush Goyal
- ♦ Headquarters : New Delhi, India
- ♦ About Asian Development Bank
- ♦ Founded: 19 Dec 1966
- ♦ Headquarters: Mandaluyong, Philippines
- ♦ President: Takehiko Nakao

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

- ✚ The Reserve Bank of India said all non-deposit-taking non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) with an asset size of Rs 5,000 crore and above, and all deposit-taking NBFCs irrespective of their asset size, have to maintain a liquidity buffer in terms of a Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR).
- ✚ In a draft on liquidity risk management framework for NBFCs and core investment companies, these measures will promote resilience of NBFCs to potential liquidity disruptions by ensuring they have sufficient High-Quality Liquid Asset (HQLA) to survive an acute liquidity stress scenario lasting for 30 days. The banking regulator proposed that it will implement LCR through a glide path from 01st April 2020 to 01st April 2024.

Foot Notes:

✓ **About RBI**

- ♦ Headquarters: Mumbai, India
- ♦ Governor: Shaktikanta Das

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

- ✦ Corporation Bank has launched 'Corp SME Suvidha', a product for GST-registered MSMEs. The product has been designed as part of the bank's efforts to provide the best products to the MSME sector.
- ✦ PV Bharathi, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation bank, launched the product in Mangaluru recently.

Foot Notes:

- ✓ **About Corporation Bank**
 - ♦ Headquarters: Mangalore, India
 - ♦ Founder: Khan Bahadur Haji Abdullah Haji Kasim Saheb Bahadur
 - ♦ Founded: 12 Mar 1906 • Udupi, India

New Appointments & Person in News

1. Vice president issued Postage Stamp to commemorate 750th Birth Anniversary of Sri Vedanta Desika

- ✦ The Vice President, Shri. M. Venkaiah Naidu released a postage stamp to commemorate the 750th birth anniversary of Sri Vedanta Desikan in New Delhi.
- ✦ Sri Vedanta Desikan is one of the most prominent preceptors in the Srivaishnava tradition and one of the most effulgent luminaries to have graced this land.
- ✦ He had authored brilliant poems, prose, drama, epics, commentaries, scientific texts and philosophical treatises in many languages, mainly Sanskrit, Tamil, Prakrit and Manipravalam.

2. Myntra appoints Virat Kohli, Anushka Sharma as first brand ambassadors

- ✦ Flipkart-owned fashion e-commerce platform Myntra announced that it had appointed celebrity couple Virat Kohli and Anushka Sharma as its first brand ambassadors.
- ✦ Myntra has launched an integrated campaign called 'Go Myntra-la-la' which will be promoted across television, print, digital and outdoor.
- ✦ According to the 2018 Duff & Phelps celebrity brand valuation report, Kohli and Sharma, or 'Virushka' as they are popularly known, are the biggest 'power couple' in terms of brand promotions after Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh.

3. Paytm president Bhushan Patil quits

- ✦ 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.
- ✦ With Paytm focusing on its domestic commerce business, he was one of the key executives for Paytm Mall. Patil joined Paytm in March 2016.

4. Bombay Stock Exchange appoints first independent woman Director Jayshree Vyas to board

- ✦ BSE, formerly known as the Bombay Stock Exchange, has finally appointed its first independent woman director Jayshree Vyas.
- ✦ BSE already has two non-executive women directors namely Usha Sangwan and Rajeshree Sabnavis on its Board.
- ✦ The Companies Act of 2013 mandates a certain class of companies to have at least one woman director on board.

5. Barcelona legend Xavi Hernandez announces retirement

- ✦ Barcelona midfielder Xavi Hernandez has announced that the 2018/19 season will be his final one as a professional footballer.
- ✦ Xavi, who currently plays for Al-Sadd in Qatar, holds the all-time appearances record at FC Barcelona with 767, and scored 85 goals from 1998 to 2015.
- ✦ Xavi was the first captain of the team for his final season, following the retirement of Carles Puyol.

6. Serbian Dragan Mihailovic appointed new Indian men's team coach

- ✦ 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.
- ✦ The VFI also announced the appointment of Pryemyslaw Gaszyoski and Valadimir Radosevic as the team's physio trainer and physiotherapist respectively.
- ✦ All the three have been appointed for five months and will work with the team for the Asian Championships scheduled to be held in Iran during September.

7. Sanjiv Puri appointed as ITC's New Chairman on May 14, 2019 by ITC Group'

- ✦ FMCG major ITC Ltd on Monday said its board of directors has appointed company Managing Director Sanjiv Puri as its Chairman with immediate effect following the demise of Y. C.
- ✦ Deveshwar, who was the company's longest-serving corporate head, died on Saturday. He was 72.
- ✦ He was first appointed as an Executive Director in April, 1984 and became Chairman in 1996.

8. India's GS Lakshmi became the first woman female ICC match referee

- ✦ India's GS Lakshmi became the woman female ICC match referee
- ✦ A 51-year old former Indian cricketer GS Lakshmi became the first ever female match referee to be included into the International Cricket Council (ICC)'s International Panel of Match Referees

9. RBI has published 'Payment and Settlement Systems in India: Vision 2019 – 2021'

- ✚ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released its statement on 'Payment and Settlement Systems in India: Vision 2019–2021', which notifies the steps that RBI will take to promote innovation, cyber-security, financial inclusion, customer protection, and competition through which the vision looks forward to achieve a 'highly digital' and 'cash-lite' society.
- ✚ The RBI has notified the requirement for a self-regulatory organisation for the digital payment space, that would serve as a 2-way communication channel between the players and the regulator. The number of digital transactions would rise over 4 times, from 20.69 billion in December 2018 to 87.07 billion in December 2021.

Foot Notes:-

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India was established following the Reserve Bank of India Act of 1934, it was nationalised in 1949.
- ✓ Shaktikanta Das is the twenty-fifth governor of the Reserve Bank of India from 12 December 2018 and the first Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor was Sir Osborne Smith
- ✓ The first Headquarters of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) was in Kolkata.

10. BSE Launches BSE StAR MF App For Its Mutual Fund Platform

- ✚ Leading stock exchange BSE said it has launched 'BSE StAR MF' app to enable more participation and help mutual fund distributors process transactions faster.
- ✚ As per the **BSE**, this mobile app supports real-time client registration and paperless transactions, creates and uploads mandate for SIPs, generates the basket of multiple orders, tracks and allows the distributor to analyse his business at his fingertips.

Foot Notes:-

- ✓ **Bombay Stock Exchange Ltd.) is Asia's first stock exchange.**
- ✓ **BSE CEO** - Ashishkumar Chauhan.
- ✓ **Founded** - 9 July 1875

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

- ✚ Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Limited has appointed Nitin Chugh as its next Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) from December 1, 2019.
- ✚ The bank has received the approval of its application for Chugh's appointment, from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on May 14, 2019. Nitin Chugh will join the bank by August 2019 as President and will work closely with Samit Ghosh, existing MD and CEO to ensure a smooth transition

Foot Notes:-

- ✓ **Founded** - 1 February 2017
- ✓ **Founder** - Samit Ghosh
- ✓ **Headquarters** - Bangalore, Karnataka, India
- ✓ **MD and CEO** - Samit Ghosh,

12. Kapil Sharma is the Most Viewed Stand-up Comedian in India and Abroad

- ✚ The King of Comedy, Kapil Sharma, has been named as most viewed stand-up comedian in India and abroad by World Book of Records London.
- ✚ He had started his career as a stand-up comedian from different comedy shows and got fame from "Comedy Nights with Kapil".

13. Saray Khumalo First Black Woman To Climb Mount Everest Says It "Needed To Be Done"

- ✚ South African climber Saray Khumalo, 47, reached the peak of the 8,848-metre mountain last week after three previous failed bids to conquer the world's highest peak.
- ✚ She has also climbed Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, Aconcagua in Argentina and Mount Elbrus in Russia.
- ✚ In 2003, South African park ranger Sibusiso Vilane became the first black person to summit Mount Everest.

Foot Notes:

- ✓ **About Mount Everest**
 - ◆ Mount Everest is the world's highest mountain
 - ◆ First ascenders: Edmund Hillary, Tenzing Norgay Trending
 - ◆ Elevation: 8,848 m
 - ◆ First ascent: 29 May 1953
 - ◆ Countries: Nepal, China
 - ◆ Mountain range: Himalayas, Mahalangur Himal
- ✓ **About South Africa**
 - ◆ President: Cyril Ramaphosa Trending
 - ◆ Capitals: Cape Town, Pretoria, Bloemfontein
 - ◆ Currency: Currency: South African rand

14. Volodymyr Zelensky sworn in as the 6th President of Ukraine

- ✚ Ukrainian TV star Volodymyr Zelensky won the presidential election in April 2019 and sworn in as 6th President of Ukraine recently. He succeeded Petro Poroshenko.
- ✚ According to the Central Election Commission, Zelensky won the second round with 73.22% of the votes.
- ✚ In his speech, he announced the dissolution of the parliament. It is a strategic move to bring the October 27 parliamentary elections forward to boost his party's chances of securing a majority at the height of his popularity.

Foot Notes:✓ **About Volodymyr Zelenski**

- ♦ He hails from the south-eastern city of Kryvyi Rih.
- ♦ His election campaign slogan was 'unify Ukraine'.
- ♦ During his first address as president, he pledged to protect the sovereignty and independence of Ukraine.

✓ **About Ukraine**

- ♦ President: Volodymyr Zelensky
- ♦ Prime Minister: Volodymyr Groysman
- ♦ Capital: Kyiv
- ♦ Currency: Ukrainian hryvnia

15. Naveen Patnaik set for the fifth term as Odisha CM

- ✚ 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 oath-taking ceremony will be a low key affair as the State is still recovering from the devastation caused by Cyclone Fani, which hit Odisha on May 3.

Foot Notes:✓ **About Odisha**

- ♦ Capital : Bhubaneswar
- ♦ Governor: Professor Ganeshi Lal
- ♦ Odisha Day : 01st April.

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

- ✚ On May 16, 2019, the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, announced the appointment of Ms. Padmaja as the next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Nauru with residence in Suva.
- ✚ She is currently serving as the High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Fiji. She is set to take up her responsibility soon.
- ✚ She succeeds Vishvas Vidu Sapkal.

Foot Notes:-

- ✓ No Official capital, but Government offices are located at Yaren District.
- ✓ Australian Dollar is currency of **Nauru** .
- ✓ Baron Waqa Is president of **Nauru**.

17. TIME's 100 Most Influential People list released

- ✚ The TIME's 100 Most Influential People-2019 list was released on April 17, 2019 naming the world's most influential pioneers, artists, leaders, titans and icons of the year.

- ✦ Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani, public-interest litigators Arundhati Katju and Menaka Guruswamy, who spearheaded a historic legal battle for LGBTQ rights in India, are among the Indians who have been included by TIME in its 100 most influential people in the world list.
- ✦ The list includes Indian-American comedian and TV host Hasan Minhaj, US President Donald Trump, Pope Francis, Chinese President Xi Jinping, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, iconic golfer Tiger Woods and Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg.

Science Tech & Defence

1. Wipro Consumer Care and Lighting acquires Philippines' Splash Corporation

- ✦ Wipro Consumer Care and Lighting (WCCL), the consumer care business of software provider Wipro Ltd, has acquired the Philippines-based personal care maker Splash Corporation for an undisclosed amount
- ✦ Splash Corporation is among the top five local companies in the Philippines, where it gets 85% of its annual revenue of around \$80 million.
- ✦ Its product categories such as exfoliants and leave-in hair care range are new for WCCL.

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

- ✦ Indian Navy's 2 warships, INS Kolkata and INS Shakti had gone to Qingdao in China to participate in the International Fleet Review (IFR).
- ✦ During the visit, the Indian Navy ships will have professional interaction with ADMM-Plus Navies towards further enhancing co-operation between the navies.
- ✦ At Singapore, the ships will also participate in the International Maritime Defence Expo, IMDEX-19 and the Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise, SIMBEX-19.

3. China launches 2 satellites for 'scientific' pursuits

- ✦ China launched two Tianhui II-01 satellites into orbit from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center.
- ✦ The satellites are meant to be used for scientific experiments, land resource survey, geographic survey, and mapping, as per state-run news agency Xinhua.
- ✦ The satellites were reportedly launched by a Long March 4B carrier rocket, which marked the 303rd mission of the Long March series carrier rockets.

4. India set to launch second mission to the moon Chandrayaan-2 in July

- ✦ India's second mission to the moon - Chandrayaan 2 is now all set to be launched in July.

- ✦ All the modules are getting ready for the Chandrayaan-2 launch during the window of July 9 to July 16.
- ✦ The Orbiter and Lander modules will be interfaced mechanically and stacked together as an integrated module and accommodated inside the GSLV MK-III launch vehicle.

5. France, India begin 'Varuna' naval exercise off Goa coast

- ✦ Navies of India and France began the first phase of a mega naval exercise off the coast of Goa which is aimed at developing inter-operability between the two forces in dealing with various security challenges.
- ✦ The exercise aims at developing interoperability between the two navies and fostering mutual cooperation by learning from each other's best practices to conduct joint operations.
- ✦ The bilateral naval exercise was initiated in 1983 and it was christened as 'Varuna' in 2001.

6. Air Marshal Ghotia assumes charge as IAF's Training Command chief

- ✦ Indian Air Force (IAF) officer Air Marshal SK Ghotia took over as Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Training Command.
- ✦ He is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy (NDA) and was commissioned in the fighter stream of IAF in December, 1981.
- ✦ He is a Qualified Flying Instructor, with more than 1000 hours of instructional experience.

7. First Indian Army Mountaineering Expedition to Mt Makalu led to discovery of 'Yeti' footprints

- ✦ Indian Army has claimed that its Mountaineering Expedition Team sighted a series of huge mysterious footprints measuring 32 inches by 15 inches.
- ✦ The footprints are believed to be that of elusive snowman 'Yeti'. The expedition team collected videos and photographic evidence.

8. ISRO plans to launch radar imaging satellite in May

- ✦ India is planning to launch its radar imaging satellite RISAT 2BR1 sometime towards the end of May 2019 on one of the variants of its Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) rocket.
- ✦ The rocket that would carry RISAT 2BR1 is designated as PSLV-C46 as per ISRO's numbering system and will blast off from the first launch pad at the country's rocket port in Sriharikota.
- ✦ Its launch was earlier scheduled in 2020 after RISAT-2A but is now preponed.

9. Japanese private firm sends first rocket into space

- ✦ An aerospace startup in Japan has successfully launched a rocket into space. It's the first privately developed Japanese spacecraft to reach orbit.

- ✦ The unmanned rocket named MOMO-3 took from a test site in Taiki on the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido. The successful flight lasted about 10 minutes, and came after two failed launches by the same company in 2017 and 2018.
- ✦ The MOMO-3 rocket weighs about 1.15 metric tons and is capable of carrying payloads of up to 20 kilograms (44 pounds) — although it cannot yet send them into orbit.

10. SpaceX Launches Cargo Mission For NASA To The International Space Station

- ✦ SpaceX has successfully launched a cargo mission for NASA to the International Space Station (ISS), its fifth launch of the year, after being delayed by a few days due to a couple of issues.
- ✦ The launch had originally been scheduled to take place earlier, But an electrical problem on the ISS caused the mission to be pushed back while the problem was resolved. The spacecraft will now make its way to the ISS, and is set to arrive in the early morning of Monday, May 6.
- ✦ It carries 2,500 kilograms of research, supplies and hardware for astronauts living and working on ISS as part of the CRS-17 mission (17th resupply mission).

11. Indian Navy's frontline missile destroyer INS Ranjit to be decommissioned on May 6

- ✦ Indian Navy's frontline missile destroyer - INS Ranjit - would be decommissioned at the naval dockyard in Visakhapatnam on May 6 after serving for 36 years.
- ✦ INS Ranjit is the third of the five Kashin-class destroyers built by erstwhile USSR. It was commissioned in 1983.
- ✦ The ship was commissioned as INS Ranjit on September 15, 1983, with Captain Vishnu Bhagwat at the helm.

12. Chhattisgarh Deploys All-Women Anti-Naxal Commando Unit

- ✦ The Chhattisgarh police for the first time has inducted thirty women commandos in Dantewada of Bastar region and have deployed them in Malangir.
- ✦ The 30 women are surrendered women Maoists and this is also a bid to lure Maoists women to join mainstream forces.
- ✦ Of the 30 recruits, 10 are surrendered women Naxals, while 10 others are assistant constables who were part of the erstwhile Salwa Judum (anti-Naxal militia) movement.

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

- ✦ A group of Taxonomists have unearthed a new non-venomous 'rain loving' snake species named "Smithophis Atemporalis" from Mizoram in North-east India. It was published in the taxonomic journal named Zootaxa. VaradGiri is the lead author of the paper.

- ✦ The locals commonly referred to the snake as 'ruahlawmrul', a rain-loving snake.

14. Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) successfully conducted the flight test of ABHYAS in Odisha

- ✦ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted the flight test of 'Abhyas', a high-speed expendable aerial target (HEAT), which offers a realistic threat scenario for practice of weapon systems. The test was tracked by RADAR and Electro Optic Systems.
- ✦ It was conducted in Chandipur in Odisha.
- ✦ HEAT here stands for **speed expendable aerial target**.

15. Young Scientist Programme (Yuvika-2019) Inaugurated by ISRO Chairman Dr. K. Sivan

- ✦ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has launched the Young Scientist Programme 'Yuvika 2019'. ISRO Chairman Dr. K. Sivan inaugurated Yuvika (Yuva Vigyani Karyakram) 2019. It was launched by ISRO in tune with the Centre government's vision of Jai Vigyan, Jai Anusandhan.
- ✦ This is the first time it is being held.
- ✦ It will be conducted across 4 centres of ISRO, Department of Space (DOS)- (a) Space Applications Centre (SAC), Ahmedabad. (b) North Eastern Space Applications Centre (NESAC), Shillong. (c) Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), Thiruvananthapuram. (d) U R Rao Satellite Centre (URSC), Bengaluru.

16. India's Smallest Orchids discovered in Assam

- ✦ *Lecanorchis taiwaniana* (The parasitic bloom), a type of orchid was accidentally discovered in Assam by Assam's forest officer's named Jatindra Sharma.
- ✦ It is a variant of a Japanese orchid.
- ✦ The discovery of *Lecanorchis taiwaniana* adds to the orchid wealth of northeast India (NEI). India has about 1,300 species of orchids out of which 800 are found in NEI, about 300 species are found in Western Ghats and 200 in northwestern Himalayas.

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

- ✦ All three services, Indian Army, Navy and Air Force hold joint exercise Bull Strike at Teressa Island in Andaman and Nicobar.
- ✦ The objective is to enhance their coordination in dealing with major security challenges which are currently facing the country and also to showcase joint operation capability of the three forces, Indian Army, Navy and Air Force and further enhance operation coordination.
- ✦ Total 170 troops from all three services participated and carried out para drop operations in a Combat Free Fall and Static Line mode.

18. For the first time India will host the 5th Army International Scout Masters Competition

- ✦ India for the first time will host and participate in a major army competition involving eight countries, including China and Russia, in Jaisalmer, defence ministry officials said.
- ✦ The event called the 'Army International Scout Masters Competition 2019' will be held in August this year.
- ✦ The fifth Army International Scouts Masters Competition 2019 is being held in Jaisalmer. Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Zimbabwe, Armenia, Belarus and China besides India are participating.
- ✦ The competition is being held in India for the first time under the Indian Army and being organised by its Konark Corps at Jaisalmer Military Station.

Foot notes:-

- ✓ Jaisalmer is the largest district of Rajasthan and 3rd largest district by territorial region in the country. Jaisalmer is also called the "Golden City of India" because of the yellow sandstone.
- ✓ The Desert National Park is situated in Jaisalmer city.
- ✓ (d.) On May 11 and May 13, 1998 five nuclear tests were performed in **Pokhran** is a city located in the Jaisalmer district under the leadership of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee

19. NSG commandos summit Mt Everest in maiden attempt

- ✦ Commandos of the National Security Guard, NSG, scaled the Mount Everest, the world's highest peak, in their maiden attempt.
- ✦ The NSG in a statement said in New Delhi today that a seven-member team led by Lt Col J P Kumar, successfully unfurled the Indian flag at the 8,848-metre tall peak at about 7 am today. The team adopted the southeastern approach via South Col in Solukhumbu region of Nepal.

Foot Notes:-

- ✓ **Founded** - 1984
- ✓ **Headquarters:** - New Delhi
- ✓ **Lt Col** - J P Kumar

20. Indian Navy successfully test-fires MRSAM missile

- ✦ Indian Navy test-fired a Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM) to enhance its anti-air warfare capability.
- ✦ It was undertaken on the western seaboard by INS Kochi & Chennai. DRDO has developed the missile in alliance with Israel Aerospace Industries.

Foot Notes:-

- ✓ Govt has appointed Karambir Singh as next chief of naval staff.

21. SIMBEX-2019: scheduled from 16 May to 22 May 2019

- ✦ After the completion of naval exercise IMDEX-19 recently, the Kolkata Class Destroyers Indian Naval ships namely INS Kolkata and INS Shakti are participating in SIMBEX-2019.
- ✦ SIMBEX (Singapore India Maritime Bilateral Exercise) is an annual bilateral naval exercise between India and Singapore. It is being held from 16 May to 22 May 2019.

Foot Notes:-

- ✓ Capital: Singapore
- ✓ Official languages: English, Malay, Chinese, Tamil
- ✓ President : Halimah Yacob
- ✓ Currency: Singapore dollar

22. National Cadet Corps Girls expedition team of 20 from Sikkim flagged off to Mt Tenchenkhang

- ✦ On May 17, 2019, National Cadet Corps girls mountaineering expedition team of 20 from Sikkim was flagged off to Mt Tenchenkhang, situated in Western Sikkim. This is the first girls expedition team ever since 1970. This expedition was flagged off by Additional Director General Major General Sanjay Gupta in New Delhi.
- ✦ The expedition team is led by Lt Col Madhab Boro. It constitutes 3 officers (including Medical Officer), 17 Permanent Instructional staff and 20 NCC Girl Cadets from All India NCC directorates.

Foot Notes:-

- ✓ Sikkim: Capital: Gangtok
- ✓ Chief Minister: Pawan Kumar Chamling
- ✓ Governor: Ganga Prasad
- ✓ National Parks- Khangchendzonga National Park
- ✓ Wildlife Sanctuaries: Barsey Rhododendron WLS, Fambong Lho WLS, Kitam (Bird) WLS, Kyongnosla Alpine WLS, Maenam WLS, Pangolakha WLS, Shingba (Rhododendron) WLS

23. IMCOR: 8th Indo-Myanmar Coordinated Patrol Begins

- ✦ The 2019 Indo-Myanmar coordinated patrol (IMCOR) is taking place from 20 May to 28 May 2019. This is the 8th edition of coordinated patrol (CORPAT) be.
- ✦ The coordinated patrol (CORPAT) initiative between the Indian Navy and Myanmar Navy seeks to address issues of terrorism, human trafficking, poaching, illegal fishing, drug trafficking and other illegal activities harmful to interest of both nations.
- ✦ The Indo-Myanmar coordinated patrol IMCOR will be conducted from 20 May 2019 to 28 May 2019. For the 'Opening Ceremony' of 2019 edition, Myanmar Navy Ship namely UMS King TabinShweHtee (773) and UMS Inlay (OPV-54) arrived on 20 May 2019 in Port Blair at Andaman and Nicobar Command.

Foot Notes:✓ **About Myanmar**

- ♦ Capital: Naypyitaw
- ♦ Currency: Burmese kyat
- ♦ President: Win Myint

24. ISRO launches 'cloud-proof' earth observation spy satellite RISAT-2B to keep an eye on Pakistan

- ✚ Indian space research agency (ISRO) today successfully launched an earth observation spy satellite RISAT-2B that can take high resolution images of the earth during day and night, and also under cloudy conditions to keep an eye also on terror camps across the border in Pakistan.
- ✚ This would enhance the country's surveillance capabilities many times. The satellite is equipped with a synthetic aperture radar that can take pictures in any condition.
- ✚ The Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C46) lifted-off from the First Launch Pad and injected RISAT-2B into an orbit of 556 km, about 15 minutes and 25 seconds after lift-off. The RISAT-2B is a radar imaging earth observation satellite, weighing about 615 kg.

Foot Notes:✓ **About ISRO**

- ♦ The Indian Space Research Organisation
- ♦ ISRO Director: K. Sivan,
- ♦ Headquarters: Bengaluru,
- ♦ Established in: 1969.

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

- ✚ The Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), which was blamed for the terror attack at a cafe in Dhaka in 2016 in which 22 people including 17 foreigners were killed, has been declared as a banned terrorist organisation by the government.
- ✚ In a notification, the home ministry said the outfit has committed and promoted acts of terrorism and has been engaged in radicalization and recruitment of youths for terrorist activities in India.

Foot Notes:✓ **About Bangladesh**

- ♦ Capital: Dhaka
- ♦ Currency: Bangladeshi taka
- ♦ Prime Minister: Sheikh Hasina

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

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

Foot Notes:

- ✓ **About Andhra Pradesh**
 - ♦ Capitals: Hyderabad -Amaravati.
 - ♦ Chief Minister: N. Chandrababu Naidu
 - ♦ Governor: E.S.L Narsimhan.

27. IAF successfully test fires aerial version of BrahMos missile

- ✚ The Indian Air Force has successfully test fired the aerial version of the supersonic BrahMos cruise missile from a Su-30 MKI fighter aircraft.
- ✚ 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, military officials said.
- ✚ The BrahMos cruise missile travels at a speed of Mach 2.8, nearly three times that of sound.

Foot Notes:

- ✓ **About Indian Air Force**
 - ♦ Founded: 08 Oct 1932
 - ♦ Headquarters: New Delhi, India
 - ♦ Air Chief Marshal :S. Krishnaswamy

28. Researchers suspects gas insulation could be protecting an ocean inside Pluto

- ✚ Researchers said that computer simulations provide compelling evidence that an insulating layer of gas hydrates could keep a subsurface ocean from freezing beneath Pluto's icy exterior. The researchers conducted computer simulations covering a timescale of 4.6 billion years when the solar system began to form.
- ✚ The simulations showed the thermal and structural evolution of Pluto's interior and the time required for a subsurface ocean to freeze and for the icy shell covering it to become uniformly thick.
- ✚ They simulated two scenarios: one where an insulating layer of gas hydrates existed between the ocean and the icy shell, and one where it did not.

Foot Notes:

✓ **About Sputnik Planitia**

♦ In July 2015, NASA's New Horizons spacecraft flew through Pluto's system, providing the first-ever close-up images of this distant dwarf planet and its moons. The images showed Pluto's unexpected topography, including a white-colored ellipsoidal basin named Sputnik Planitia, located near the equator and roughly the size of Texas.

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

- ✚ Researchers in Germany have unearthed a new bird like Dinosaur and named it as "Alcmonavis Poeschli". The lead author of the study is Oliver Rauhut from Ludwig-Maximilians University's (LMU) Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences.
- ✚ This new study is published in the journal called eLife Sciences which described Alcmonavis Poeschli as "the most bird-like bird discovered from the Jurassic".
- ✚ For the first time, it was discovered in 1861 as Archaeopteryx which was a small feathered dinosaur around the size of a crow. It lived in marshland around 150 million years ago and was named as the oldest flying bird.

Foot Notes:-

- ✓ Germany is the seventh-largest country in Europe. The first printed book was in German. The first magazine ever seen was launched in 1663 in Germany. Germany is one of the most densely populated countries in the world.
- ✓ Berlin is the capital of Germany and Euro is the capital of Germany.
- ✓ Germany was the first country in the world to adopt Daylight saving time – DST, also known as summer time. This occurred in 1916, in the midst of WWI.

30. Air Marshal RKS Bhadauria to take over as IAF Vice Chief

- ✚ Air Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria will take over as the Vice Chief of Indian Air Force on May 1 succeeding Air Marshal Anil Khosla.
- ✚ Bhadauria is at present heading IAF's Bengaluru-based Training Command and in his earlier avatar as the Deputy Chief, he was the chairman of the Indian negotiating team for the 36 Rafale combat aircraft deal with France.
- ✚ Air Marshal Bhadauria will take over as the Vice Chief on May 1 and would be looking after all the air operations being carried out by the force.

Important days

1. International Dance Day observed on 29th April

- ✚ International Dance Day, also called Dance day was observed on 29th April 2019 entire the world to attract the attention of the wider public to the art of dance. The theme for this year is "Dance and Spirituality".

- ✦ Jean Georges Noverre's birthday was chosen as the date of World dance day. He is a French dancer and ballet master and a great reformer of dance who born in 1727.

2. International Labour Day observed on 1 May

- ✦ Labour Day is observed on 1 may every Year
- ✦ The theme of Labour Day 2019 is "Uniting Workers for Social and Economic Advancement"
- ✦ The Labour Day annually celebrates the achievements of the workers. While the day has different story for different countries, the main reason for Labour Day is unfair treatment of the labour class.

3. Gujarat celebrates its foundation day on 1st May

- ✦ 60th Foundation Day of Gujarat is celebrated on 1 May
- ✦ Every year, the day is celebrated in different districts by launching various welfare schemes.
- ✦ AIR correspondent reports that the state of Gujarat came into existence on 1st May 1960 after bifurcation of erstwhile Mumbai state.

4. World Press freedom day observed on 3 May

- ✦ World Press Freedom Day is annually observed on May 3 to inform the international community that freedom of the press and freedom of expression are fundamental human rights.
- ✦ The Theme of 2019 is : Media for Democracy: Journalism and Elections in Times of Disinformation.
- ✦ World Press Freedom Day was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in December 1993, following the recommendation of UNESCO's General Conference.

5. May 7th observed as World Asthma Day

- ✦ World Asthma Day 2019 is observed on May 7. Asthma is referred to a chronic disease of airways - which transport air from the lungs.
- ✦ The theme of this year is "STOP for Asthama"
- ✦ World Asthma Day was first celebrated in the year 1998 by the GINA in more than 35 countries. The first "World Asthma Meeting" was held in Barcelona, Spain.

6. The second International Day of Light is celebrated globally on 16th May 2019

- ✦ Globally, May 16 is celebrated as International Day of Light. This the 2nd edition of the International Day of Light
- ✦ UNESCO (The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) officially observes the International Day of Light so as to continuously appreciate light and for the exemplary role it plays in science,

culture and art, education, sustainable development, medicine, communications, and energy.

Foot Notes:-

- ✓ The Director-General of UNESCO is Audrey Azoulay.
- ✓ On 16th May 2019, globally, more than 300 events took place in 60 countries.
- ✓ UNESCO headquarters are located at Place de Fontenoy in Paris, France

7. World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 17 May

- ✚ **World Telecommunication & Information Society Day** is observed all over the world on **17th May**.
- ✚ The theme for World Telecommunication & Information Society Day 2019 is '*Bridging the Standardization Gap*'.

Foot Notes:-

- ✓ 17th May also marks the anniversary of the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention and the creation of the International Telecommunication Union

8. International Museum Day is observed on 18th May

- ✚ International Museum Day (IMD) is an international day that is celebrated on 18th May every year. It is coordinated by the International Council of Museums (ICOM). The objective of International Museum Day (IMD) is to raise awareness of the fact that, Museums are an important means of cultural exchange, enrichment of cultures and development of mutual understanding, cooperation and peace among peoples.
- ✚ The theme for International Museum Day (IMD) 2019 is Museums as Cultural Hubs: The future of tradition.

Foot Notes :-

- ✓ The purpose of ICOM is Conservation, continuation and communication to society of the world's natural and cultural heritage.
- ✓ Formed on -1946
- ✓ Location - Paris, France

9. May 20 observed as World Metrology Day

- ✚ World Metrology Day is observed on May 20, 2019 with a theme "The International System of Units – Fundamentally better". This theme was chosen because last year on 16th November 2018, the General Conference on Weights and Measures agreed to revise the International System of Units (SI).
- ✚ The World Metrology Day was celebrated every year because of the signature of the Metre Convention on May 20, 1875.

Foot Notes:-

- ✓ International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML)
- ✓ Headquarter: Paris, France
- ✓ International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM)

1. Location: Sevres, France
2. Director: Martin Milton
3. Motto: Use the measure

10. May 21: celebrated as Anti-terrorism day

- ✚ May 21, is chosen as Anti-terrorism day in India to commemorate the death Anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi died in a terrorist attack.
- ✚ On this day Anti Terrorism pledge is taken in all the government offices and other public institutions.
- ✚ Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated in 1991 by a woman operative of the separatist Lankan Tamil outfit LTTE, who greeted him at a rally in Tamil Nadu's Sriperumbudur town with a bomb strapped to her chest.

Foot Notes:

- ✓ **About Rajiv Gandhi**
 - ◆ Mr. Rajiv Gandhi was the youngest Prime Minister of India.
 - ◆ Born: 20 August, 1944
 - ◆ Place of Birth: Bombay (now Mumbai), Maharashtra
 - ◆ Parents: Feroze Gandhi (Father) and Indira Gandhi (Mother)
- ✓ **About Tamil Nadu**
 - ◆ Capital and Largest city: Chennai(Madras)
 - ◆ Districts: 33
 - ◆ Governor: Banwarilal Purohit
 - ◆ Chief Minister : Edappadi K. Palaniswami
 - ◆ National Parks : Indira Gandhi, Gulf of Mannar Marine, Mukurthi

11. International Day for Biological Diversity: 22 May

- ✚ The UN General Assembly proclaimed 22 May, the date of the adoption of its text, as the International Day for Biological Diversity on 20 December 2000.
- ✚ The theme for International Day for Biological Diversity 2019 is 'Our Biodiversity, Our Food, Our Health'.

Foot Notes:

- ✓ **About UN General Assembly**
 - ◆ President: Maria Fernanda Espinosa
 - ◆ Headquarters: New York, New York, United States
 - ◆ Founder: United Nations
 - ◆ Founded: 1945, New York, United States
 - ◆ Abbreviation: GA; UNGA; AG

♦ Subsidiaries: UNICEF, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations System Staff College

12. World Tortoise Day is observed on 23rd May

- ✚ World turtle day is observed on 23rd May. It is sponsored yearly since 2000 by American Tortoise Rescue.
- ✚ The aim is to bring attention to, and increase knowledge of and respect for, turtles and tortoises, and encourage human action to help them survive and thrive. This year the day spotlights on freshwater turtles.
- ✚ The herpetologists, one who studies about amphibians and reptiles, have launched a unique initiative to gather more information about India's freshwater turtles and tortoises.

Foot Notes:

- ✓ ♦ American Tortoise Rescue (ATR) is an animal rescue organization dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation, adoption and protection of all tortoise and turtle species, and the protection of their environments. Located in Malibu, CA, ATR is a United States nonprofit corporation.
 - ♦ Founded: 1990

13. International Day to End Obstetric Fistula 23 May

- ✚ Obstetric fistula is one of the most serious and tragic injuries that can occur during childbirth. It is a hole between the birth canal and the bladder or rectum caused by prolonged, obstructed labour without treatment.
- ✚ The condition typically leaves women incontinent, and as a result they are often shunned by their communities. Sufferers often endure depression, social isolation and deepening poverty. Many women live with the condition for years – or even decades – because they cannot afford to obtain treatment.
- ✚ The theme for 2019 is “Fistula is a human rights violation, end it now”. In 2012, United Nations announced to celebrate May 23 as International Day to End Obstetric Fistula every year starting from 2013.

Foot Notes:

- ✓ **About United Nations**
 - ♦ The United Nations is an intergovernmental organization tasked with maintaining international peace and security,
 - ♦ Founded: 24 Oct 1945
 - ♦ Headquarters: New York
 - ♦ Founders: Denmark • Turkey • Norway • Panama • Saudi Arabia • United Kingdom • Poland • Netherlands • Dominican Republic • Argentina
- ✓ **About Obstetric fistula**
 - ♦ An obstetric fistula is a hole between the vagina and rectum or bladder that is caused by prolonged obstructed labor, leaving a woman incontinent of urine or

feces or both. Obstructed labor means, labor that goes unattended, the labor can last up to six or seven days

Books & Authors

1. Shahid Afridi recently released his autobiography, titled 'Game Changer'.

- ✚ Pakistan's former captain and star all-rounder Shahid Afridi recently released his autobiography, titled 'Game Changer'.
- ✚ The book, co-authored by Afridi and journalist Wajahat S Khan, details some interesting and exciting information from the cricketer's life.
- ✚ He also holds the distinction of having hit the most number of sixes in the history of ODI cricket.

2. 'Politics of Jugaad: The Coalition Handbook', released

- ✚ The "Politics of Jugaad: The Coalition Handbook" new book authored by journalist Saba Naqvi examines possibility of coalition government after 2019 Lok Sabha polls.
- ✚ It strikes perfect balance between argument and prose, and discusses possible direction in politics and policy of India's next coalition government.

Sports

1. Badminton World Federation launched 2 new formats of Badminton

- ✚ Recently, Badminton World Federation (BWF) launched two new formats of Badminton named as Air Badminton & Triples. BWF launched Air Badminton at Guangzhou with new dimensions of the court and an innovative shuttlecock called Air shuttle.
- ✚ The Air Badminton will be an outdoor game as compared to traditional badminton which is indoor games.
- ✚ In new Triples format, the match will be played between a team which consists of three players each with at least one female player in both the team.

Foot Notes:-

1. Badminton World Federation (BWF)
2. Headquarter: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
3. President: Poul-Erik Hoyer Larsen

2. Shakib tops ODI all-rounders list, no Indian in top 10

- ✚ Senior Bangladesh cricketer Shakib Al Hasan jumped to the top of the latest MRF Tyres ICC ODI rankings for all-rounders, which doesn't feature a single Indian in the top-10 chart.
- ✚ In the three matches of the series, Shakib totalled 140 runs, including two unbeaten half-centuries and also picked up two wickets.
- ✚ Shakib now has 359 points, 20 clear of Afghanistan's Rashid Khan, the previous holder of the top ranking, who has now slipped to No. 2.

Foot Notes:

- ✓ **About Bangladesh**
 - ♦ Capital: Dhaka
 - ♦ Currency: Bangladeshi taka
 - ♦ Prime Minister: Sheikh Hasina

3. Pankaj Advani wins inaugural Asian Snooker Tour title

- ✚ India's ace cueist Pankaj Advani defeated Ehsan Heydari Nezhad of Iran 6-4 to claim the inaugural Asian Snooker Tour title.
- ✚ Advani, a 21-time world snooker and billiards champion, beat Nezhad in the final.
- ✚ Advani was leading the ranking before the final leg of the Tour in Bengaluru.

4. Australia's Claire Polosak became first female umpire to stand in men's ODI

- ✚ Australia's Claire Polosak will create history as the first woman umpire ever to stand in a men's One-Day International when she takes the field in the final of the ICC World Cricket League Division 2.
- ✚ The 31-year-old, who is breaking new ground for women cricket officials has previously stood in 15 women's ODIs, the first one in November 2016 between Australia and South Africa.
- ✚ She was the first woman to stand in a men's domestic fixture in Australia in her first List A match in Australia in 2017.

5. Bajrang Punia To Become First Indian Wrestler To Fight At New York's Iconic Madison Square Garden

- ✚ Bajrang Punia is set to become the first wrestler from India to fight at the iconic Madison Square Garden in New York.
- ✚ The 25-year-old, who won the gold medal in the 65-kg category at the ongoing Asian Wrestling Championships earlier this week, is the first Indian wrestler to be invited by the American governing body.
- ✚ Bajrang Punia has eight gold medals from his previous nine international tournaments including last year's Commonwealth and Asian Games.

6. Former Indian footballer Pungam Kannan dies of prolonged illness

- ✦ Former India footballer Pungam Kannan, who was facing acute financial crisis, died at a city hospital Sunday evening following prolonged illness.
- ✦ A forward, Kannan played 14 matches for India and suffered a cardiac arrest earlier this month.
- ✦ Kannan lived with his two daughters and wife in a one-bedroom apartment in a narrow bylane of Jawpur road in Dumdum.

7. Barcelona wins La Liga title 2019 in Spain

- ✦ Barcelona were confirmed as La Liga champions for the fourth time in five years after defeating Levante 1-0.
- ✦ The first Clasico in 11 years without Lionel Messi or Cristiano Ronaldo marked the end of an era while also bringing to a close Julen Lopetegui's turbulent three months as Real Madrid coach.
- ✦ This was Barcelona's overall 26th La Liga league title in club history and eight in last 11 years.

8. Apurvi Chandela Becomes World Number One In 10m Air Rifle ISSF Rankings

- ✦ Shooter Apurvi Chandela became the world number one in women's 10m Air Rifle category with 1,926 rankings points, according to the latest rankings released by International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF).
- ✦ The shooter, won the gold medal in 10m Air Rifle event in the New Delhi Shooting World Cup earlier this year.
- ✦ Anjum Moudgil, who was sixth in the eight-member final, occupies the second spot in world rankings.

9. Bajrang Punia bags gold in Ali Aliyev wrestling tournament

- ✦ World number one Bajrang Punia won the gold medal as he defeated Viktor Rassadin in the finals of men's 65kg freestyle in the Ali Aliyev wrestling tournament in Kaspiisk, Russia.
- ✦ Bajrang got the better of the local favourite 13-8 in his final bout after being down 0-5 at one stage.
- ✦ The 25-year-old Indian grappler had won a gold medal last week at the Asian Championships in Xi'an, China.

10. Mumbai Indian became the first team in the IPL history to win title.

- ✦ Mumbai Indian became the first team in the IPL history to win 4 title in total 12 editions. Earlier Mumbai Indians won in 2013, 2015 and 2017. Chennai Super Kings (CSK) won 3 titles in total 10 editions they have played in the IPL.
- ✦ David Warner of Sunrisers Hyderabad got Orange Cap for scoring the highest runs in the IPL in 2019.
- ✦ Chennai Super Kings got the Purple Cap for the highest wickets.

11. Manchester City Wins Premier League Title 2019.

- ✦ Manchester City clinched their fourth Premier League title (football) after winning the 2018-19 season. Manchester City registered a victory against

Brighton to accumulate 98 points, while Liverpool, who were also in the title race, finished second with 97 points.

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

12. Virat Kohli and Smriti Mandhana won International Cricketers of Year Award

- ✚ The CEAT International Cricket Awards 2019, Indian skipper Virat Kohli bagged the International Cricketer of the Year Award and Smriti Mandhana won International Woman Cricketer of Year Award. Virat Kohli won the Best Batsman Award.
- ✚ Kohli scored 10,843 runs in the One-Day Internationals (ODI) and 6613 runs in the longest format. Smriti Mandhana has scored 1951 runs in the ODIs and 1298 runs in the shortest format.
- ✚ The Lifetime Achievement Award was given to Mohinder Amarnath who is the former Indian all-rounder and he was the member of the winning team of World Cup 1983.

13. Brooks Koepka returns to world No. 1 after fourth major golf title.

- ✚ Brooks Koepka returned to the top of the world golf rankings, after his US PGA Championship victory at Bethpage Black.
- ✚ He has now won 4 major titles in his last 8 starts and is the 1st man to ever hold back-to-back titles in two majors at the same time.

Foot Notes:

- ◆ Dustin Johnson & Justin Rose: at 2nd & 3rd ranks respectively.

14. India bags 57 medals at India Open International tournament

- ✚ India bags a total of 57 medals including 12 Gold, 18 Silver and 27 Bronze at India Open International Boxing tournament in Guwahati. MC Mary Kom, Shiva Thapa, L Sarita Devi, and Naman Tanwar won gold in their respective finals. The London Olympic bronze medallist blew away the challenge of Vanlal Duati in a facile 5-0 win.
- ✚ This was Mary's second gold in the tournament, having won in 48 kg last year in the capital. On the other hand, Deepak defeated Govind Kumar in 49 kg final while in 52 kg category- Amit Panghal defeated Sachin.

Awards

1. 2nd India Open Int'l Boxing Tournament begins in Guwahati

- ✚ The Second India Open International Boxing Tournament began at Karmabir Nabin Chandra Bordoloi Indoor Stadium in Guwahati from Monday. The five-day boxing tournament will continue till Friday.
- ✚ With the international boxing tournament being held in a northeastern state of the country, the people of the region awaiting participation of a lot star boxers like Mary Kom, Shiva Thapa and Lovlina Borgohain.

Foot Notes:

- ✓ **About Assam**
 - ◆ Capital: Dispur
 - ◆ Chief minister: Sarbananda Sonowal
 - ◆ Official song: O Mur Apunar Desh
 - ◆ Governor: Jagdish Mukhi

2. Oman Author Jokha Alharthi Wins Booker International Prize

- ✚ Omani author Jokha Alharthi has become the first Arabic-language writer to win the prestigious Man Booker International Prize for *Celestial Bodies*, a novel that deals with family connections and history in the coming-of-age account of three sisters.
- ✚ Alharthi's book beat five other shortlisted novels from Europe and South America to take the prize, which celebrates translated fiction from around the world and included a \$64,000 award divided equally between author and translator.

Foot Notes:

- ✓ **About Oman**
 - ◆ Capital: Muscat
 - ◆ Currency: Omani rial
 - ◆ Government: Absolute monarchy, Parliamentary system, Unitary state, Islamic state
 - ◆ Points of interest: Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque, Sharqiya Sands.

3. Indian peacekeeper to be honoured posthumously with UN medal

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

Foot Notes:

✓ **About United Nation Organisation**

- ♦ Headquarters: New York, New York, United States
- ♦ Founded: 24 October 1945,
- ♦ Official languages: Arabic; Chinese; English; French; Russian; Spanish;
- ♦ Secretary general: António Guterres

4. AIFF recommends Gurpreet Sandhu and Jeje for Arjuna Award

- ✚ All India Football Federation (AIFF) has recommended the names of Gurpreet Singh Sandhu and Jeje Lalpekhlua for the prestigious Arjuna Award this year.
- ✚ Both Sandhu and Jeje are the national team's longest serving footballers after Sunil Chhetri, who has received both the Arjuna and Padma Shri.
- ✚ Sandhu is the only second footballer (the other being Sunil Chhetri) in India to play the Asian Cup final rounds twice in 2011 and 2019.

5. Former ISRO chief AS Kiran Kumar conferred France's highest civilian award

- ✚ The former chairperson of the Indian Space Research Organisation, was conferred France's highest civilian award – Chevalier of Order of the Legion of Honour – for his contribution to India-France space cooperation.
- ✚ The National Order of the Legion of Honour was set up in 1802, and is the highest civilian award given by the French government for outstanding service to the country, regardless of the nationality of the recipient.
- ✚ France's highest civilian honour comes in recognition of AS Kiran Kumar's invaluable contribution to the development of India-France space cooperation.

6. India's Saurav Ghosal and Joshna Chinappa claim individual titles in Malaysia

- ✚ In a memorable day for India, Saurav Ghosal and Joshna Chinappa won the individual titles in the Asian Squash Championship. Saurav Ghosal defeated Leo Au Chun Ming of Hong Kong.
- ✚ Joshna Chinappa, the second seed, successfully defended her title, beating the top seed Annie Au of Hong Kong 11-5, 8-11, 11-6, 11-6 in the summit clash.
- ✚ Joshna last beat Annie Au in September 2017 in the Hong Kong International Open.

7. Indian-origin journalist conferred with V K Krishna Menon award

- ✚ G D 'Robert' Govender, an Indian-origin journalist in South Africa, has been honoured in the UK with 2019 V K Krishna Menon award for his outstanding contribution as a pioneer of decolonised journalism.
- ✚ The South Africa-born journalist was awarded posthumously during an event to mark the 123rd birth anniversary of Indian diplomat and politician V K Krishna Menon.
- ✚ Govender's books include 'The Martyrdom of Patrice Lumumba' which exposed the role of Western intelligence agencies in the murder of the Congolese independence leader.

8. IPS Officer Chhaya Sharma Receives McCain Institute Award

- ✚ IPS officer Chhaya Sharma, who led the investigation team of the infamous Nirbhaya gang-rape and murder case, has been awarded the 2019 McCain Institute Award for Courage and Leadership.
- ✚ The award is given to those who show courage on behalf of human
- ✚ rights, humanitarian compassion, justice, freedom, and human dignity.

9. Sunny Pawar won the Best Child Actor award for his performance in 'Chippa' at 19th New York Indian Film Festival

- ✚ Child actor, **Sunny Pawar** aged 11, won the Best Child Actor Award for his performance in 'Chippa' at the 19th New York Indian Film Festival. He hails from a slum in Kunchi Kurve Nagar in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ✚ His film 'Lion' directed by Australian Garth Davis', which was nominated for Oscars 2017, had awarded him the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts Awards (AACTA Awards). He has also won a Special Mention Grand Jury Prize at the Asia Pacific Screen Award

Foot Notes :-

- ✓ Film 'Chippa' is directed by **Safdar Rahman**

10. Bengaluru based Doctor Hema Divakar gets 'Global Asian of the Year' Award for Contribution to Women's Healthcare Ecosystem

- ✚ Bengaluru based doctor Hema Divakar received the 'Global Asian of the Year 2018-19' Award for women services and contribution towards Women's Healthcare Ecosystem.
- ✚ Dr. Hema was conferred the award at the Asian Business & Social Forum 2019 under the 'In Service of the Society and the Nation' category from UAE's Trade Promotion Director Mohammed Naser Hamdan Al Zaabi.

Foot Notes:

- ✓ **About Asian Awards**
 - ◆ Country: United Kingdom
 - ◆ Awarded for : Honouring Asian Excellence
 - ◆ Presented by: Paul Sagoo
 - ◆ First awarded: 2010

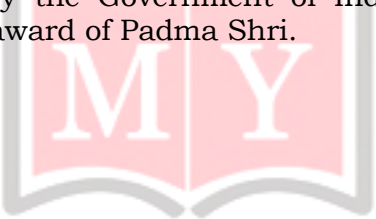
Obituaries

1. Former Ethiopian president Negasso Gidada dies aged 75

- ✚ Germany - Former Ethiopian president Negasso Gidada has died in Germany.
- ✚ Negasso, who was 75, was president between 1995 and 2001 and was the first head of state after Ethiopia adopted a new constitution transforming the country into a federal state.
- ✚ In 2015, Negasso was elected to parliament as an independent, but then joined the opposition three years later.

2. Father of Indian Modern Legal Education Dr. NR Madhava Menon Passes Away

- ✚ Father of modern legal education in India, Dr.NR Madhava Menon has passed away.
- ✚ He is known for changing the face of Indian legal education by pioneering the establishment of National Law Schools.
- ✚ He was the founder Director of the National Law School of India University (NLSIU) and the National Judicial Academy, Bhopal and the founder Vice Chancellor of the West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences (NUJS).
- ✚ Menon was honored by the Government of India, in 2003, with the fourth highest Indian civilian award of Padma Shri.

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LIST OF ALL INDIA TOPPERS FROM IBT

SUBHOJIT CHAKRABORTY SBI PO - 2016 Roll No.: 38407295966  	SACHIN ZANWAR SBI PO - 2018 Roll No.: 2550139022  	SHALINI SINGH IBPS PO - 2017 Roll No.: 1580179828  	LOVE GUPTA SSC CGL - INSPECTOR Roll No.: 2201295176  	MOHA VASHISTHA SSC CGL - INSPECTOR Roll No.: 3840729596  	AASTHA SIHAG SSC CGL - INSPECTOR Roll No.: 2201399971  
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