

CURRENT AFFAIRS - CAPSULE

MAY

BANKING

- **SBI** has moved to **new interest rate regime** on **large savings account deposits** with balance **above Rs. 1 lakh** as well as **short-term loans** like **overdraft** and **cash credit** from **1st May**.
- **Bandhan Bank Ltd** has planned to trim its **promoter stake to 40percent** through the **offer-for-sale (OFS) route** and is not considering more acquisitions currently.
- **World Bank** has given **USD 700 million** for cyclone-hit southern African countries **Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi**, which were hit by **Cyclone Idai** in March 2019.
- **RBI** has imposed penalty aggregating **Rs. 6.10 crore** on **five Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI) issuers for non-compliance with regulatory guidelines**.

Vodafone's m-pesa	Rs. 3.05 crore
PhonePe	Rs. 1 crore
GI Technology	Rs. 1 crore
Y-Cash Software Solutions	Rs. 5 lakh
- **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has agreed to **finance metro rail projects in India** and funding for the **Mumbai project (USD 1 billion)** is the **largest extended to India**.
- **RBI** has imposed penalty of **Rs. 1 crore** on **Yes bank** for **non-compliance of regulatory directions of SWIFT-related operational controls**.
- **ADB** has launched the **USD 5 billion Action Plan for Healthy Oceans and Sustainable Blue Economies** for the **Asia and Pacific region**.
- According to **RBI, Banks** need to expand their **global banking relationship** and shift towards **globally accepted trade finance instruments** instead of **indigenous instruments**.
- AI-based HR solutions provider **Talocity** would provide its AI-supported **touchless technology** for the **bank's hiring process** and **human resource (HR) operations** to **Yes Bank**.
- **SBI Card** raised **Rs. 700 crore** from various financial institutions including its parent SBI in the 2nd half of FY19 (Financial Year) to grow above the industry average.
- **Reserve Bank of India** has decided to enhance the housing loan limits for **Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)** and **Small Finance Banks (SFBs)** for eligibility under priority sector lending, in a bid to give them a level playing field with other Scheduled Commercial Banks.
- **India Ratings** has downgraded the **YES bank's** long-term rating to '**IND AA-**' with a negative outlook, while reaffirming short-term rating.
- **State Bank of India** has reduced its **Marginal Cost Lending Rate (MCLR)** by **5 basis points** to **8.45 per cent** from 8.50 per cent across all tenors with effect from **May 10**.
- **Pakistan** has reached an accord with the **IMF** for a 3-year **USD 6 billion** bailout package aimed at shoring up **fragile public finances** and **strengthening a slowing economy**.

- A subsidiary of NABARD '**Nabventures**' notified its 1st time funding **Rs. 700 crore** venture capital fund termed as '**NABVENTURES Fund I**' for **equity investments** to provide support for **agriculture, food and rural start-ups**.
- **The Reserve Bank of India** proposes to come out with a mobile application to aid **visually impaired persons** in **identifying Indian currency notes**.
- **RBI** has imposed a monetary penalty of **Rs. 1 crore** on **Nainital Bank** for its failure to fully automate the **non-performing asset identification process**.
- **ICICI Bank** has announced the launch of a **co-branded multi-currency card** with online travel booking portal '**Goibibo**'.
- The digital payments company '**Paytm**' has collaborated with '**Citibank**' to launch its 1st credit card called '**Paytm First Card**'.
- **HDFC Limited** has partnered with **India Mortgage Guarantee Corporation (IMGC)** to offer a **mortgage-guaranteed home loan product**.
- **Indian Bank** has posted a net loss of **Rs. 190 crore** for the Q4 of financial year 2018-19, against a net profit of Rs. 132 crore in the same period last year.
- **RBI** has released a vision document '**Payment and Settlement Systems in India: Vision 2019 - 2021**', with its core theme of '**Empowering Exceptional E-payment Experience**' for ensuring a **safe, secure, convenient, quick and affordable e-payment system**.
- **Reserve Bank of India's annual inspection** has found **bad loan divergence** of **Rs.3,370 crore** loss in the January-March period of 2018-19 in **Union Bank of India**.
- **SIDBI** has launched a **pilot scheme** to **extend financial assistance** of up to **Rs. 10 crore** to **new-age fintech non-banking finance companies (NBFCs)**.
- **RBI** has told **non-banking finance companies (NBFCs)** with assets more than **Rs. 5,000 crore** to appoint a **chief risk officer** to improve **standards of their risk management**.
- **World Bank** and **Commonwealth Bank** have enabled **secondary market trading** recorded on the blockchain for **bond-i** (blockchain operated new debt instrument).
- According to the **RBI**, the **financial transactions** done by the **debit cards** at **PoS terminals** increased by **27percent** compared to March 2018.
- **Bank of Baroda** is looking to rationalize **800-900 branches across the country** to improve **operational efficiency**, following its merger with Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank.
- According to the **RBI**, **India's foreign exchange reserves** increased by **USD 1.368 billion** to overall **USD 420 billion** up to **May 10, 2019**.
- **Tripura Gramin Bank** is among **India's top 3 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)** out of 45 RRB in terms of **profit, business and growth**. It has emerged as **one of the top performers in the banking sector** in the **2018-19 FY** by investing heavily to **promote entrepreneurship**.
- **SBI** has announced MoU with the **FMCG** arm of **The Art of Living-Sri Sri Tattva**, under this partnership, **YONO users** can avail a discount of **15 per cent** on the entire range of products offered by **Sri Sri Tattva**.
- **Karnataka Bank** has launched a new Savings Bank product '**KBL SB Salary**' for the salaried class with three variants- **SB Salary Executive, SB Salary Prime and SB Salary Classic**.
- **ICICI Bank** has set to acquire a **9.9 per cent** stake in **India International Exchange**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of **Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)** for **Rs. 30.5 crore**.

- **RBI** will allow **large modern currency chests** to increase **service charges** from **Rs. 5 per packet of 100 pieces** to **Rs.8 per packet** on **cash deposits** by **non-chest bank branches**.
- **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has signed an agreement to provide **USD 750 million** equivalent in Indian rupee **long-term financing** to **electrify railway tracks** in **India**.
- According to **RBI** data, **Bank credit** to **infrastructure sector** grew by **18.5 per cent** to **Rs. 10.55 lakh crore** as of **2018-19** and the highest since **2012-13** fiscal.
- **Corporation Bank** has launched '**Corp SME Suvidha**', a product for **GST-registered MSMEs** designed to provide the **best products to the MSME sector**.
- The **RBI** stated that **all non-deposit-taking NBFCs** with an asset size of **Rs. 5000 crore & 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)**.
- **Public sector banks (PSBs)** have recovered close to **Rs 1.2 lakh crore** from bad loans during the financial year **2018-19**.
- **RBI** will conduct an auction on **June 13** to purchase **government securities** under **Open Market Operation (OMO)** for **Rs. 15,000 crore** to infuse **durable liquidity**.
- **RBI** has fixed the investment limit at **Rs. 54,606.55 crore** for **foreign portfolio investors (FPIs)** under the **voluntary retention route (VRR)**.
- **Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)** has launched '**Bank on Wheels**' mobile van facility in **14** of its lead districts in **Tamil Nadu** and **Kerala** to enable **door-step banking facility**.
- **Srei Equipment Finance** has tied up with **Oriental Bank of Commerce** to offer **loans for purchase of equipment** under a **co-lending arrangement**.
- **SBI** is preparing to raise capital **Rs. 15,000 crore – Rs. 18,000 crore** through **Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP)**.
- **RBI** has extended timings for customer transactions in the **Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS)** system from **4:30 pm to 6:00 pm** and will come into effect from **1st June 2019**.
- **RBI** has constituted a 6-member committee headed by **TN Manoharan** on the **Development of Secondary Market for Corporate Loans** to increase the efficiencies of the **debt market**.
- **Punjab National Bank** is looking to raise **Rs. 10,000 crore** in **2019-20** from sale of **non-core assets, rights issue and expected write-backs**.
- **RBI** has constituted a 6-member committee headed by **Harsh Vardhan** on development of **Housing Finance Securitisation Market** to review the existing state of **mortgage securitisation** in **India**.

ECONOMY

- **NASSCOM** has entered a strategic partnership with **GE Healthcare** to bring **digital healthcare solutions to the market**.
- **BHEL** and **Automotive Research Association of India** have signed MoU for effective cooperation on different projects related to **e-mobility**.
- **SEBI** directed **NSE** to pay **Rs. 625 crore** in the case of **misuse of its co-location facility**.
- **India Ratings & Research** has lowered **India's growth** for **FY20** to **7.3 percent** from **7.5**.
- **LIC Housing Finance (LIC HFL)** has launched '**Udyam**', a skilling center in **Bengaluru**.

- **Netherlands** has emerged as the **3rd largest foreign direct investor** in **India** during **2017-18** with investments pegged at about **USD 2.67 billion** across sectors.
- **PayPal India** launched **One Touch** with the help of Google Smart Lock for seamless transactions.
- **Vodafone Idea Ltd** notified a 5-year multi-million-dollar IT outsourcing deal with **IBM**.
- According to **ADB's report**, **Asia-Pacific** is estimated to grow **5.7percent** in **2019** and **5.6percent** in **2020**.
- **CBDT** and **GSTN** have signed MoU to **seize evaders** to decrease **black money generation**.
- **London** topped in attracting **Indian investments** with an all-time high record of **52 investment projects** in **2018**.
- According to Income Tax Department's '**e-filing**' website, **income tax e-filings** in **2018-19** have dropped by over **6.6 lakh**.
- According to RBI data, India's foreign exchange has risen by **USD 4.368 billion** and the foreign exchange of India is **USD 418.515 billion**.
- **Microsoft** has released its own fully managed **Azure Blockchain Service**.
- **Direct tax collections** fell short by **Rs. 82,000 crore** in **FY2019** and one of the major reasons for this shortage is **low corporate tax collections**.
- **MasterCard** has announced its plan of investing **USD 1 billion** in **India** operations over the period of **next 5 years**.
- **Bharti Airtel** and **Hughes Communication India** have agreed to merge their **broadband satellite or VSAT (very small aperture terminal) business**.
- The bilateral trade between **India** and **USA** has grown by **12.6percent** from **USD 126 billion in 2017** to **USD 142 billion in 2018** in **merchandise and services**.
- **The Standard Life (Mauritius Holdings)** will sell its stake of **1.78percent** in **HDFC Life Insurance Company** for **Rs 1,404 crore**.
- **Max Life Insurance Co Ltd** has notified that it will commemorate the **6th day of each month** as '**Protection Day**' to raise awareness on **financial protection**.
- **India Ratings** downgraded **YES bank's long-term rating** to '**IND AA-**' with negative outlook.
- **Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL)** acquired **British toy retailer 'Hamleys'** in an all-cash deal in **67.96 million pounds**. (about **Rs. 620 crore**)
- **BharatPe** launches India's **first UPI Bahi Khata (Digital Ledger)** for merchants.
- As per BSE data, **TCS** (Rs. 8.13 trillion) surpassed the **Reliance Industries Limited** (Rs.7.95 trillion) in terms of **Market Capitalisation**.
- **Konkan Railways Corporation Ltd (KRCL)** signs contract agreement with **Nepal's Department of Railways** to supply **Two 1600 HP DEMU trains**.
- **Facebook** has selected **London** to be the center to launch **WhatsApp Pay**.
- **HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company** (non-life insurance provider) has launched a scheme termed '**Mosquito Disease Protection Policy**'.
- **Bharti Airtel** has tied up with **Housing Development Finance Cooperation (HDFC) Life** to provide **life cover** for its **prepaid customers**.
- Under the NGO foundation, **Infosys Foundation** registration was **cancelled** by the **Home Ministry** for violating the norms of **receiving foreign grants**.
- **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based Inflation** for **April** eased to **3.07 percent** from **3.62 percent** in April 2018.
- According to **Ministry of Commerce**, **India's overall exports** in April 2019 are estimated to be around **USD 44 billion** with a positive growth of **1.34 percent** over April 2018.

- **Tech Mahindra** and **Rakuten Aquafadas** (French digital content publishing firm) signed MoU to collaborate on building enhanced **customer experience offerings**.
- **HDFC ERGO** has partnered with **IBM** to jointly setup data lab in **India** to improve **business efficiency and profitability**.
- **Bajaj Finserv** has launched a specialized insurance cover titled **Mumbai Local Train Cover** for passengers travelling in local trains in **Mumbai**.
- **BSNL** has partnered with **Google** for expanding its **Wi-Fi footprint**.
- **Facebook** registered a new Cryptocurrency firm named '**Libra Networks LLC**' in **Geneva, Switzerland**.
- **NITI Aayog** has circulated a cabinet note to providers **Rs. 7500 crores** for the establishment of **AIRAWAT**, a cloud computing platform along with research institutes.
- **Reliance Industries** has toppled state-owned **Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)** to become the country's biggest company by revenue.
- **The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)** has reduced the prices of 9 non-scheduled cancer drugs by up to **87percent**.
- **SEBI** allowed mutual funds to participate in **exchange-traded commodity derivatives**.
- **OECD** has reduced the global growth forecast to **3.2percent** from earlier 3.3percent.
- According to **UN**, **Indian economy** is projected to **7.1percent** for the **FY20**.
- **HDFC Group** (Rs. 11.53 lakh crore) has surpassed the **Tata Group** (Rs 11.43 lakh crore) in terms of **market capitalisation** to become the **most valuable business house**.
- According to UN, **Global economic growth** is projected to **2.7percent** for the year 2019.
- **SIDBI** along with **IRDAI** introduced Regulatory **Sandbox Framework for Fintech Startups**.
- **Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ)** multi-port operator will setup **its first container terminal** outside India in **Myanmar**.
- **WireCard** collaborated with **India** to issue **PAN Cards**.
- **Under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, Directorate General of foreign Trade has to permit bio-fuel imports like **ethyl alcohol, bio-diesel and petroleum oils**.
- **R Khan** is the head of the **SEBI** constituted panel that suggested significant changes to **Foreign Portfolio investors (FPI) Regulations** recently.
- **Motilal Oswal Asset Management Company** has become the **1st Indian fund house** to launch **WhatsApp transaction Platform** for **mutual fund transactions**.
- According to SBI, GDP growth of the **India** for the **4th quarter** is **6.1-5.9 percent**.
- **NSICL** signed a MoU with **Ministry of MSME** to increase revenue from operation by **22 percent** from Rs. 2540 cr in 2018-19 to **3100 cr** in **2019-20**.
- **USA** has removed **India** from its **currency monitoring list**.
- According to **FICCI**, **India's GDP** forecasts at **7.10 percent** for FY20 and **7.2 percent** for **FY21**.
- According to **DIPP**, **FDI inflows** have declined for the **1st time** in last 6 years in **FY19** by **1 percent** to **USD 44.37 billion**.

INTERNATIONAL

- **Pakistan** will observe the **Pakistan Air Force's (PAF)** retaliatory action on **27th February 2019** against India as '**Operation Swift Retort**'.
- **UK Parliament** becomes the first national government to pass an exemplary measure, that is, a national declaration of **Environment and Climate Emergency**.
- **Donald Trump** discussed a **3-way nuclear deal involving Russia and China**.
- **Malaysia** is set to become **World's 1st Crypto Powered City**, where cash will be shunned in favor of a new crypto currency.
- **G7 Environment Ministers** gathered in **Metz, France** to discuss about **climate crisis**.
- **Senegal** parliament has approved a constitutional reform to remove the post of **PM**.
- **Ibrahim Boubacar Keita** is the **New Prime Minister** of **Mali**.
- **Australian** flight carrier '**Qantas**' has operated **world's first zero waste commercial flight** named '**QF739**'.
- Vice President of India **Venkaiah Naidu** embarked on **4-day visit** to **Vietnam** to participate **16th United Nations Day of Vesak**.
- **New Zealand** introduced **groundbreaking zero carbon Bill** to reduce **greenhouse gases** (except biogenic methane) to net zero by **2050**.
- Wildlife Experts from **Institute for Conservation of Nature and Forests (ICNF)** have confirmed that the reappearance of **brown bear** in **Portugal**.
- **Singapore Parliament** passed a law to curb the spread of **fake news** under which offenders may face up to **10-year jail** or fine of up to **Rs. 5.12 crore**.
- **India and Vietnam** reiterated the importance of building a peaceful and prosperous Indo-pacific region on the basis of respect for **national sovereignty and international law**.
- The rare **monkey pox virus** for the first time reported in **Singapore**.
- **USA** has released first of its kind '**Global Health Security Strategy**' in order to prevent, detect and respond to **threats from infectious diseases**.
- **Konkan Railways Corporation Ltd (KRCL)** signed MoU with **Nepal's Department of Railways** in **Kathmandu** to supply two **1600 HP DEMU train sets**.
- **Japan** has started testing the **ALFA-X version** of its fastest **Shinkansen bullet train** that could reach **400 km** per hour.
- **Ireland** declared a **climate emergency**, to be the **2nd** country after **Britain** to do so.
- **The National Dairy Development Board** has developed the world's **1st** complete parent-wise genome assembly called '**NDDB_ABRO_Murrah**' of riverine buffaloes.
- A total of **186 countries** (except USA) have signed a **legally-binding agreement** aimed to reduce the **export of plastic waste**.
- After 8 years **India** has again marked its presence at the **58th Venice Biennale, Italy** which will be held from 11th May till 24th November 2019.
- **72nd Cannes Film Festival** has begun in **France**.
- According to a report by the **Open Observatory of Network Interference (OONI)**, **China** has blocked of online encyclopedia **Wikipedia** to include all language editions.
- **India** joins global initiative termed '**Christchurch Call to Action**' to fight against **online terrorism** and **extremism**, this initiative was held at **Paris**.
- **Saudi Arabia** government has for the **1st** time approved '**Privileged Iqama**' scheme that gives **permanent residency to certain expatriates** and **allowing them own real estates**.

- **The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization** has offered **India** an **Observer status** and an access to **International Monitoring System (IMS)** data.
- **Taiwan** has become the 1st place in **Asia** to pass **same-sex marriage legislation**.
- **Donald Trump** has rolled out a **merit based immigration system** for **foreigners**.
- **Israel** proposes **India** to be the focus country in **Jerusalem Film Festival, 2020**.
- **Face book** has formed a new financial tech firm **Libra Networks LLC** in **Geneva, Switzerland**.
- **UAE** has launched a **permanent residency scheme** to woo wealthy individuals and exceptional talents.
- **The WHO** has declared **Algeria and Argentina** as **malaria-free**, with no recorded cases of indigenous transmission of the disease since **2013 and 2010** respectively.
- **England** is going to introduce a ban on single-use plastic items including straws, cotton buds and drink stirrers from April 2020 over **environmental concerns**.
- **2nd Shanghai Cooperation Organization Mass Media Forum** held in **Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan**.
- The **WHO** on unveiled a new strategy to dramatically cut deaths and injuries from **snakebites**, warning a dearth of anti venoms could soon spark a '**public health emergency**'.
- According to a recent **research published in journal Nature**, **China** continues to use the banned ozone depleting chemical called **CFC-11 in violation of Montreal Protocol**.
- **Donald Trump** becomes the **1st leader** to meet with Japan's new emperor '**Naruhito**'.
- **Sri Lankan** navy has launched **extra vigil** on its northern seas in wake of media reports that some terrorist elements may have left the country to land on Indian shores.
- **India-China** industry cooperation forum held in **Guizhou, China** to encourage IT companies.
- **India** has elected to the **Executive Board** of the **1st UN-Habitat Assembly** held in **Nairobi**.
- **USA** has removed **India** from **currency monitoring list**.
- The **US** and the **UAE** have announced that mutual defense cooperation agreement had come into force, amid increasing tensions between **Washington and Tehran**.
- **USA** has imposed **tariffs** on all goods coming from **Mexico** to curb **illegal immigration**.

NATIONAL

- **Environment Ministry** has constituted a committee to implement **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)** to reduce **air pollution** in **102 cities** by **2024**.
- **Indian archaeologists** recently unearthed a **stucco Buddhist Sculpture** in **Telangana**.
- **Venkaiah Naidu** has released a postage stamp to commemorate the **750th** birth anniversary of **Sri Vedanta Desikan** in **New Delhi**.
- **Mangalore city police** has launched all-women police patrol unit '**Rani Abbakka Force**'.

- **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute** has launched a new initiative '**Global Registry of Violent Deaths**' to establish the annual number of violent deaths worldwide.
- **CSC e-Governance Services India Limited** has tied up with **IIT-Kanpur** to up-scale '**Unnat Bharat Abhiyan**' to find solutions to **accelerate sustainable growth in rural India**.
- **Bajirao** the last captive **white tiger** died in the **Sanjay Gandhi National Park** in **Mumbai**.
- Indian Navy's frontline missile destroyer '**INS Ranjit**' was decommissioned at the **naval dockyard, Visakhapatnam** after serving for **36 years**.
- According to **CII**, The government's **FAME-II plan** for electric mobility stands to reduce 64% of the anticipated road-based energy demand and 37% of carbon emissions by **2030**.
- Indian film director '**Shyam Benegal**' is going to direct a film on **Sheikh Mujibur Rahman**.
- For the 1st time under '**Honey Mission**' initiative, **Khadi and Village Industries Commission** distributed more than **1 lakh bee-boxes** among **farmers and jobless youths across India**.
- **Shri Anand Kumar**, Secretary of MNRE headed the '**chintan baithak**' session for stakeholders in renewable energy industry held in **New Delhi**.
- **Turkey** Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs **Mr. Sedat Onal** had visited India.
- **Indian Army** is commemorating this year as the '**Year of Next of Kin**' and plans to reach out to the next of kin of battle casualties, ex-servicemen and serving soldiers.
- **Chhattisgarh police** have deployed 1st ever Danteshwari Ladake **Anti-Naxal women's force**.
- **Odisha** govt. announced a **Rs. 1,600 crore** relief package for livelihood support for farmers, fishermen, women self-help group members and others affected by **Cyclone Fani**.
- The Central Government has extended the ban on the **Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)** for an additional **5 years**.
- **Doordarshan** has launched an online souvenir store for its viewers on **Amazon India**.
- **India** has extended **USD 1 billion** LoC to **Mongolia** to set up its **1st ever grass-root refinery** at **Sainshand** in **Dornogobi Province**.
- **Admiral Sunil Lanba** has inaugurated Indian Navy's 1st full-fledged **Service Selection Board (SSB)** at **Diamond Harbour** in **Kolkata**.
- **India** is set to co-chair of the Consultative Group (CG) of **Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR)** for the **FY20**.
- **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)** has introduced a **weight age system** for appointments under compassionate grounds.
- The website of the Lokpal www.lokpal.gov.in has been launched by **Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose** in **New Delhi**.
- **India's** fastest train **Vande Bharat Express** has completed **1 lakh running kilometers without missing a single trip** at a top speed of **160 km/h**.

- The **Indian Navy** has successfully test-fired a **Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM)** to **enhance its anti-air warfare capability**.
- The Indian Coast Guard ship (ICGS) '**Vigraha**' was decommissioned at **Visakhapatnam, AP**.
- **Union government** plans to introduce **AI system in the MCA 21 portal** to make the compliance process easier as well as ensure routine enforcement activities are done round-the-clock on autopilot basis.
- **Tech Mahindra** announced its defence order worth over **Rs. 300 crore** with **Indian Navy**.
- **Venkaiah Naidu** called to protect and promote **Ongole cattle** breed and released a compendium on Ongole breed of cattle in **Vijayawada**.
- An affiliation charter was signed between **3rd (Naga Hills) Battalion of the Assam Rifles** and the Indian Coast Guard Ship '**Shaurya**' with an aim to enhance **inter-armed forces cooperation** and utilise **each other's assets for training and sports**.
- The **Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh** also called as **Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Hindustan** has been declared as a banned terrorist organization by the **government of India**.
- **Border Security Force** Investiture Ceremony and **Rustomji Memorial Lecture 2019** was organized at Vigyan Bhawan in **New Delhi**.
- The government has approved the merger of **National Sample Survey Office (NSSO)** with the **Central Statistics Office (CSO)** to become **National Statistical Commission (NSO)** under the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation**.
- Lt Governor of Delhi **Anil Baijal** inaugurated Sahara Naval Hostel for the '**Veer Naris**' at **Vasant Kunj, New Delhi**.
- For the 1st time in the Tamil Nadu a unique '**Tree Ambulance**' service - an initiative to provide care to trees was launched by **Venkaiah Naidu**.
- Over **25 states** were penalized with **Rs. 1 crore** each for not submitting their respective action plans on systematic disposal of plastic waste to the **Central Pollution Control Board**.
- Leaders of **BIMSTEC** have been invited for Modi's swearing-in ceremony on **30th May**.
- **SpiceJet** announced the induction of a **Boeing 737**, taking its fleet size to **100 aircraft**.
- **DRDO** has successfully test-fired the new version of the **Akash surface-to-air defence missile** system with a new indigenously-developed seeker in Balasore off the **Odisha coast**.
- **Sri Lanka** has signed a **tripartite agreement** with **India** and **Japan** for development of eastern terminal of Colombo port.
- According to the Election Commission **78 women** candidates have been elected to the Lok Sabha in the recently held general elections.
- **The National Green Tribunal** has directed the government to ban water purifiers where Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) in water are below **500 mg per liter**.
- On occasion of the **World Environment Day**, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change launched a theme song '**Hawa Aane De**' on air pollution.

➤ **Important MoUs:**

Signed Between	Purpose
BHEL and ARAI	Cooperation on projects related to e- mobility
Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) and IIT-Delhi	Centre of Excellence for Waste to Wealth Technologies in India
NIOS and NHMPH of Government of Maharashtra	Offering Vocational programmes to the Health Service Providers of NHM
India and Japan's ISE Foods	To improve poultry farms
TAFE and PCRA	To promoting conservation of resources across the country
India and China	For exportation of Indian chilli meal to China
NMCG, HCL Foundation and INTACH	For Plantation of Rudraksh Trees in Uttarakhand under the Namami Gange Programme
Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)	For supporting joint collaborative research programmes in the area of Cancer
India and Australia	On counter-terrorism
India and UK	To strengthen in the field of Indo-Pacific cooperation, climate change, disaster resilience

STATE

- **Maharashtra Day** is celebrating every year on **1st May** to mark the **Maratha speaking region** that attained statehood on **1st May 1960**.
- **Mangaluru Police Commissioner** flagged off the all-women police patrol unit '**Rani Abbakka Force**' in the city to handle issues pertaining to **Women** and **Children**.
- **Cyclone Fani** hits **Odisha & West Bengal** and the word '**Fani**' suggested by **Bangladesh**.
- **Gujarat Shops and Establishments Act, 2019** passed by **Gujarat Assembly** which allowed **Shops and Businesses** to remain **open 24×7**.
- **Karnataka government** has directed **all schools** in the state to **limit the weight of a schoolbag** which is **not more than 10 percent** of the **child's weight**.
- **Basava Jayanthi** was celebrated in **Karnataka, Maharashtra** and **Andhra Pradesh** to commemorate the birth of **Basavanna**.
- **Chhattisgarh police** have deployed **1st Anti-Naxal women's** commando unit '**Danteshwari Ladake**' (Fighters of Goddess Danteshwari).
- **India's 1st Natural Ice Cafe** has started at a height of **14,000 feet** in **Leh, Ladakh** which was created by **Border Road Organisation (BRO)** officials recently.
- **Bengal Tiger** has become **endangered** due to **climate change** and the **unprecedented rise in sea levels** and may loss vital habitat in **2070**.
- The **Brahmakalashothsava festival 2019** was celebrated annually in the ancient Chandkuru Sri Durga Parameshwari Temple situated in Polali, Dakshina Kannada district in **Karnataka**.
- **Thrissur Pooram festival** was celebrated in **Kerala**.

- On **16th May 1975**, **Sikkim** became the **22nd state of the country**.
- **Kerala Assembly** will go paperless by undertaking an initiative to digitize all its records under the project '**E-Vidhan**'.
- **Meghalaya government** has approved setting up of a commission to look into the **problem faced by farmers** with the resolution passed at the '**farmers**' **parliament**.
- **Harda** district of **Madhya Pradesh** **women** handle entire work of counting votes as well as manage security.
- **Rajasthan Government** set to revamp '**Ujala Clinics**' for adolescents.
- Reliance Infrastructure promoted **Mumbai Metro One** announced a tie-up with payment gateway '**Instamojo**' to enable card payments aimed at boosting cashless travel.
- **Telangana** has released a draft blockchain policy to setup country's **1st Blockchain District** in **Hyderabad**.
- **Orchha** town of **Madhya Pradesh** has been added to the tentative list of **UNESCO's World Heritage Sites**.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- **ISRO** plans to launch **radar imaging satellite RISAT 2BR1** on **22nd May**.
- **India's** second lunar mission **Chandrayaan-2** to be launched in **July 2019** and will **land on Moon** in **September**.
- **China** successfully sent **two Tianhui II-01** satellites into orbit for **scientific experiments** from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in north China's Shanxi Province.
- According to **NASA** scientists, the 340m wide Giant Asteroid '**99942 Apophis**' will **fly dangerously close to Earth** on **April 13, 2029**.
- Japanese aerospace start-up **Interstellar Technology Inc.** has successfully launched their first privately developed rocket '**Momo-3**' into space.
- **Space X** has launched its **17th** commercial resupply mission to the International Space Station (ISS) by using '**Falcon 9 rocket**' with **Dragon Spacecraft**.
- **Samsung Electronics** has launched a new sensor '**ISOCELL Bright GW1**', which is a 64MP image sensor for **ultra-high resolution mobile photography**.
- The **Indian Navy** launched fourth Stealth Scorpene-Class submarine '**INS Vela**' at state owned Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**.
- **North Korea** has conducted a '**strike drill**' for multiple launchers, firing tactical guided weapons in a military drill supervised by leader Kim Jong-un.
- **Microsoft** has unveiled a free open-source software development kit '**ElectionGuard**', which can be incorporated into voting systems, aimed at making voting more secure.
- **Researchers** at **Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Mumbai** have identified a new function for **Serotonin**, which may help treat **neurological diseases**.
- Engineers from the **IIT-Bombay** have developed a microprocessor '**AJIT**', the first to be conceptualised, designed, developed and manufactured in India.
- Amazon's **Jeff Bezos** has unveiled a lunar lander project '**Blue Moon**' that would be used to transport **equipment** and possibly **human beings** to the **south pole of the Moon by 2024**.

- USA aerospace major **Boeing** has handed over first of the 22 **AH-64E Apache Guardian attack helicopters** to the **Indian Air Force (IAF)**.
- **Chinese navy** has launched **two new 052D guided missile destroyers** in **Dalian** taking the total of such warships to 20 with more in the pipeline.
- **Department of Biotechnology (DBT)** has launched **MANAV: Human Atlas Initiative** to understand the **role of tissues and cell in the human physiology**.
- **DRDO** has successfully conducted flight test of '**ABHYAS**' - a high-speed expendable aerial target (HEAT) from **Interim Test Range, Chandipur, in Odisha**.
- **The white-throated rail** (*Dryolimnas cuculieri*) which was extinct for more than **136,000 years** reappeared on **Indian Ocean Island**.
- **Bombay Stock Exchange** has launched '**BSE StAR MF**' app to enable **more participation** and help **mutual fund distributors' process transactions faster**.
- **Scientists of Germany** led by **Oliver Rauhut** from Ludwig-Maximilians University have found a new bird like Dinosaur '**Alcmonavis Poeschli**'.
- **MG Motor** has unveiled its **hybrid SUV Hector** which has been dubbed as **India's first Internet enabled car**.
- China's 1st-ever lander on the Moon's far side '**Chang'e-4**' has found the **first signs of lunar mantle material on the Moon**.
- **India** has delivered **two Mi-24 attack helicopters** to **Afghanistan** to strengthen its **air force** and support **Kabul's fight against the Taliban**.
- **ISRO** is planning several missions apart from **Gaganyaan manned mission** and **Chandrayaan-2**, they would include **Mars Orbiter Mission 2, Chandrayaan 3, a mission to Venus, EXPOSat (to study Polarisation), Aditya L1 (to study Sun's corona)**.
- **Researchers from Cambridge University** has created **world's 1st living organism** with a fully **synthetic DNA structure**.
- **ISRO** has successfully launched **RISAT-2B** satellite by using **PSLV-C46** from **Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota**.
- **NASA Scientists** has found evidence for a unique mixture of **methanol, water ice and organic molecules** on **Ultima Thule** surface.
- A **Group of researchers** from **University of British Columbia** has developed a **microscope** that has the potential to perform **precise surgery without cutting skin**.
- **Space X** has launched a **Falcon 9 rocket** from **Florida** on a mission to carry the **first batch of five dozen small satellites** into **low-Earth orbit** for new **Starlink internet service**.
- **DRDO** has successfully test-fired indigenous **500 kg inertially guided Bomb** at the **Pokhran test firing range in Rajasthan** and the bomb can hit its target at

300 km with high precision.

- **Scientists** have discovered **18 Earth-sized planets beyond solar system**, one of which is smallest known so far while the other could offer **life-friendly conditions**.
- **ISRO chairman - K. Sivan** flagged off the shipment of **India's largest liquid hydrogen storage tank** at **VRV Asia Pacific production plant** in **Sri City, Andhra Pradesh** and the **storage tank of 120 kilo liters** capacity handles **liquid hydrogen** used as **fuel** for **satellite launch vehicles**.
- **Russian** made '**AN-32**' transport aircraft of **Indian Air Force** has got the formal fleet certification to fly on **blended aviation fuel** containing up to **10 per cent bio-jet fuel**.
- **ISRO** has inaugurated its new commercial arm '**New Space India Limited** in **Bengaluru**.
- **Nepal** has banned popular **Chinese digital wallets AliPay** and **WeChat** to prevent the loss of foreign currency earnings from tens of thousands of Chinese tourists.
- **Pakistan** has test fired a ballistic missile '**Shaheen-II**' with strike range of up to **1500 km**.
- **Researchers of Belgium** in collaboration with **University of Liege** have discovered **Earth's oldest fungi fossil 'Ourasphaira giraldae'** aged 1 billion years in **Canada**.
- **India's Air Force** test fired **BrahMos Supersonic Cruise Missile** from **Su-30MKI Fighter**.
- **NASA** has unveiled calendar for the '**Artemis**' **2024 Moon mission** that will return astronauts to the Moon for the 1st time in half a century.
- **Facebook** is planning to launch its own cryptocurrency '**GlobalCoin**' in **2020** by allowing users to make **digital payments in a dozen countries**.
- **DRDO** has successfully test fired '**Akash-MK-1S**' missile from integrated test range in **Odisha** and the missile has a **strike range of 25 km** and capability to carry **warhead of 60 kg**.
- **Russia** has launched the **world's largest** nuclear-powered icebreaker '**Ural**'.
- Planetologists at the **University of Munster** have revealed that **water came to earth** by the **formation of Moon**.
- World's rarest **Albino Panda** caught on camera for the **first time** in **Wolong National Nature Reserve** in **Sichuan, China**.
- **Researchers** from the **University of Chicago** have discovered **seawater from ice age tucked in rocks** in the middle of **Indian Ocean**.
- **IIT-Guwahati** has signed MoU with **ISRO** to set up '**IITG-ISRO Space Technology Cell (STC)**'.
- **Astronomers** have discovered a forbidden planet '**NGTS-4b**' in **Neptunian Desert**.

SEMINARS AND MEETINGS

Seminars and Meetings	Place	Theme/tagline
Indo-French Navies joint exercise	Goa-coast	Indo-French strategic partnership
14 th edition of Sino-Indian border trade	Sikkim	To symbolise the beginning of the border trade
The 16 th Ministerial Meeting of Asia Cooperation Dialogue	Doha, Qatar	Partners in Progress
India-Australia Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism	Canberra, Australia	
Group of 7 Industrialised Nations meet	France	Fighting terrorism in cyberspace
India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) Sherpas meet	Cochin, Kerala	
India-US Bilateral Trade Meeting	New Delhi	
11 th Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting	Finland	
Indian Navy undertook group sail exercise with Japan, Philippines & USA	South China Sea	Existing partnership and foster mutual understanding
WTO Ministerial Meeting of Developing Countries	New Delhi	
11 th India Iran Joint Consular Committee Meeting (JCCM)	New Delhi	Review the status of ongoing cooperation in consular and visa related issues
Singapore India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX)	Singapore	
8 th Indo-Myanmar Coordinated Patrol (IMCOR)	Andaman and Nicobar Command	To address issues of terrorism, human trafficking, poaching, illegal fishing, drug trafficking and other illegal activities
Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline meet	Ashgabat, Turkmenistan	
Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Foreign Ministers Meet	Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan	Exchange views on topical issues of international and regional importance
5 th Smart Cities 2019 India Expo	New Delhi	
576 th meeting of The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Central Board	Chennai	Current economic situation, global and domestic challenges
2 nd Urban 20 (U20) Mayors summit	Tokyo, Japan	Climate Action, Circular Economy, Social Inclusion and Integration, Sustainable Economic Growth and Gender Equality
Sino-India IT and DT Industry Cooperation Forum 2019	Guiyang, China	India-China cooperation in the new era of the digital transition
India and South Asia Regional Conference 2019	Mumbai	The future of innovation and cyber security
The 2 nd part of the Indo-French naval exercise christened as Varuna 19.2	Djibouti in Africa	High-level demonstration of military cooperativeness between the two navies
Global Influence of Asian Civilizations forum	Beijing, China	Exchanges and Mutual Learning among Asian Civilizations and a Community with a Shared Future
6th session of the biennial Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction	Geneva, Switzerland	Resilience Dividend: Towards Sustainable and Inclusive Societies

PLACES IN NEWS

- **Geological Survey of India (GSI) North Eastern Region installed two geological display boards at Mawmluh cave and Therriaghat in Meghalaya.**
- **Purple frog (Nasikabatrachus sahyadrensis) will designate as Kerala's state amphibian.**
- **The Char Dham Yatra in Garhwal Himalayas began with the portals of Gangotri and Yamunotri temples in Uttarakhand on the auspicious occasion of Akshay Tritiya.**
- **A new species of Pit Viper named 'Trimeresurus arunachalensis' was found in West Kameng district, Arunachal Pradesh.**
- **Largest tiger population has found at Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary (WWS) in Kerala.**
- **India's smallest orchids 'Lecanorchis Taiwaniana' discovered in Assam.**
- **Geological Survey of India (GSI) has notified the highest graphite reserves of India are found in Arunachal Pradesh.**
- **Kerala became the 1st state to tap into masala bond market by listing the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB)'s masala bond worth of USD 312 million in London Stock Exchange (LSE)'s International Securities Market.**
- **Karnataka cabinet has approved a cloud seeding programme, following reports that there would be deficit rainfall in the state.**
- **The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology will set up a Centre of Excellence in Internet of Things in Visakhapatnam in association with NASSCOM.**
- **Delhi government announced to build a water museum in the capital.**

AWARDS AND HONOURS

- **Goldman Environmental Prize honoured 6 grassroots environmental activists for their exemplary work in protecting the nature.**

Name of recipient	country
Bayarjargal Agvaantseren	Mongolia
Alfred Brownell	Liberia
Ana Colovic Lesoska	North Macedonia
Alberto Curamil	Chile
Jacqueline Evans	Cook Islands
Linda Garcia	United States

- **Liverpool defender Virgil Van Dijk won the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) Players' Player of the Year Award for 2018-19.**
- **Former ISRO chief A.S. Kiran Kumar conferred 'Knight of the Legion of Honour Award' for his contribution to the development of the India-France space cooperation.**
- **Article 'Coalgate 2.0' written by Nileena MS has won the Asian College of Journalism's (ACJ) Award for Investigative Journalism, 2018.**
- **Dr. Devi Prasad Shetty (Cardiac surgeon and humanitarian) was awarded 27th P.C. Chandra Puraskar.**
- **Bandana (Nepal) danced continuously for 126 hours to set a Guinness World Records on 'Longest Dancing Marathon by an Individual'.**
- **Indian origin journalist G D 'Robert' Govender conferred with V K Krishna Menon Award 2019 in UK for his contribution as a pioneer of decolonized journalism.**

- **Israel** has honoured **1971 war hero** Lt. Gen. (retd) **Jack Farj Rafael (JFR) Jacob** with a plaque on **Ammunition Hill Wall of Honour** in **Jerusalem**.
- **Sri Ravi Shankar (spiritual leader)** was presented with the '**Order of St. George Award for the year 2019**.'
- **FIFA** has introduced **two new award** categories '**Women's goalkeeper of the year**' and '**women's team of the year**' to promote **women's football** across the globe.
- 2 Indians **Jitender Kumar** and **Shikha Garg** among **115 UN personnel** staff honoured for laying down their lives in **UN peace service**.
- **Chhaya Sharma (IPS)**, who oversaw Nirbhaya gang-rape and murder case, has been conferred with the **2019 McCain Institute Award** for **Courage and Leadership**.
- **CEAT Cricket Rating Awards 2019:**

CATEGORY	WINNER
International Cricketer and Batsman of the Year	Virat Kohli
International Bowler of the Year	Jasprit Bumrah
International Test Cricketer of the Year	Cheteshwar Pujara
International ODI Cricketer of the Year	Rohit Sharma
International T20 Player of the Year	Aaron Finch (Australia)
Outstanding Performance of the Year	Kuldeep Yadav
International T20 Bowler of the Year	Rashid Khan(Afghanistan)
Lifetime Achievement Award	Mohinder Amarnath
Domestic Player of the Year	Ashutosh Aman
International Woman Cricketer of the Year	Smriti Mandhana
Junior Cricketer of the Year	Yashasvi Jaiswal

- **Aarohi Pandit** became the **world's 1st women** to cross the **Atlantic Ocean solo** in a **Light Sports Aircraft (LSA)**.
- Sherpa climber from Nepal **Kami Rita** climbed **Mt. Everest** for the **23rd time** and broke his own record for **most summits on Mt. Everest**.
- **Anil Kapoor** will be honoured by **Council of European Chambers of Commerce (CEUCC)** for promoting **Children's Rights** and his efforts to protect the **rights of girls**.
- **Antano** and **Harini** have received '**Award for Honour**' from **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** for their work to **help people change the trajectory of their lives**.
- **Dr. Pramod Kumar Mishra** has won **Sasakawa Award 2019** presented by **United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)**.
- **Ajey Nagar** was named among **Top 10 'Next Generation Leaders 2019'** by **Time Magazine**.
- **Sunny Pawar (Child Actor)** has won the **Best Child Actor Award** in **19th New York Indian Film Festival** for Film '**Chippa**', is directed by **Safdar Rahman**.

- **India** has created a new Guinness World Records for '**largest laundry lesson**' with participation of **over 400 young men**.
- **National Security Guards (NSG)** has created history by scaling **Mount Everest** in 1st attempt.
- **Kapil Sharma** has been acknowledged as **most viewed standup comedian** in **India** and **aboard** in the **world book of records London**.
- The **Nespresso 2019 first prize** in the **international section** was won by **New Zealand's Josh Morrice for Subak**, about rice cultivation in Bali.
- **Saray Khumalo** has become **1st black African woman** to conquer **Mount Everest**.
- **India's 'Mount Kailash'** included by **UNESCO** in the **tentative list of world heritages sites**.
- **Joginder Singh Salaria** runs the charity '**Pehal Charitable Trust**' in **UAE** that entered into **Guinness world records** for '**longest line of Hunger Relief Package**' in **Abu Dhabi**.
- **Nancy Pelosi** was conferred with the **John F Kennedy (JFK) Profile in Courage Awards 2019**.
- **Anish Kapoor** ranked **1st** in **Hurun India Art list 2019** with estimated sales of **Rs.168.25 cr**.
- Former Indian foreign secretary **Shyam Saran** was honoured with **Japan's 2nd** highest national award '**Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and silver Star**'.
- Oman's **Jokha Alharthi** has become **1st Arabic author** to win **Man Booker International Prize 2019** for her novel '**Celestial Bodies**'.
- **Yale University** honoured **Indra Nooyi** with **Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters** recognizing her achievements in Business.
- The Indian scientist **Ankur Patwardhan** has secured **2nd** place in '**German Chemistry Prizes**' in **4th Green and Sustainable Chemistry Conference** held in **Dresden, Germany** for her project '**Butterfly attractant for pollination and ecosystem health**'.
- **Bharti AXA Life Insurance** was conferred with '**Claims Excellence Awards**' by **FICCI**.
- **Hema Divakar** (Bengaluru) won '**Global Asian of the Year Award**' for contribution to **Women's Healthcare Ecosystem**.
- Police officer **Jitender Kumar** honoured with **UN Dag Hammarskjold Medal** (Post-humously).
- **Nalini Malani** has become the **1st Indian** to be awarded with **Joan Miro Prize**.
- Director General of the Indian Council of Medical Research **Balram Bhargara** has been honoured with **Dr.Lee Jong Wook Memorial Prize** for public health.
- Sri Lankan writer **Guy Gunaratne** has been honoured with the **2019 Swansea University International Dylan Thomas Prize** for '**Mad and Furious City**'.
- **Acharya Balkrishna** conferred with United Nations Sustainable Development Goals **10 Most Influential People in Healthcare Award** in **Geneva, Switzerland**

- 1st South Korean Director **Bong Joon-Ho** won the **Palme d'Or award** for the film '**Parasite**' in **72nd Cannes film festival**.
- Vice-Chancellor of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University **N Kumar** conferred with the **lifetime recognition award** by the **Confederation of Horticulture Association of India**.
- Indian writer **Annie Zaidi** has won **2019 Nine Dots Prize** for her book '**Bread, Cement, Cactus**'.

PERSONS IN NEWS

- **Archery Association of India (AAI) President B.V.P. Rao** was resigned.
- **Spain** and **Barcelona** legend **Xavi Hernandez** has announced his retirement from football.
- **Bhushan Patil, President of Paytm** has resigned.
- Indian actress **Dia Mirza** and Alibaba chief **Jack Ma** are among the 17 global public figures appointed by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres as the **new advocates to drive action**.
- Former Manchester City and Barcelona midfielder **Yaya Toure** retired from football.
- Germany's Double Olympic biathlon champion **Laura Dahlmeier** announced the retirement at the age of 25 after struggling with health issues.
- Flight Lieutenant **Bhawana Kanth** became the first woman pilot of the Indian Air Force to qualify to undertake missions by day on a fighter aircraft.
- **Priyanka Mohite** becomes first Indian Woman to scale World's 5th Highest Mountain Mount **Makalu** (8,481 meters).
- Former national football player **Gopal Shrestha** from Pokhara in **Nepal** became first HIV infected climber to scale Mount Everest in second attempt.
- **British** Prime Minister **Theresa May** announces resignation from her post.
- **Papua New Guinea** pm **peter O'Neil** resigns following series of high-level defection.
- The nation pays homage to first Prime Minister Pandit **Jawaharlal Nehru** on his **55th** death anniversary on **27th May**.
- **Swatantryaveer Vinayak Damodar Savarkar's** birth anniversary celebrated on **28th May**.
- Flight Lieutenant **Parul Bhardwaj** (Captain), Flying Officer **Aman Nidhi** (co-pilot) and Flight Lieutenant **Hina Jaiswal** (Flight Engineer) IAF officers from Punjab were part of the country's first all-women crew to fly a **medium-lift helicopter Mi-17 V5**.
- **Venkataraman Janakiraman**, independent director of IL&FS Securities Services Ltd. (ISSL), resigned for personal reasons.

APPOINTMENTS

Name of the Organization	Name of the Person
Prime Minister of Israel	Benjamin Netanyahu
1st non-British president of Marylebone Cricket Club	Kumar Sangakkara
1st Independent Woman Director to the Bombay Stock Exchange board	M Jayshree Vyas
Training Command Chief of Indian Air Force	SK Ghotia
NATO Commander	Tod D. Wolters
Next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Senegal	Shri Godavarthi Venkata Srinivas
Member of the Advisory Council to the 15 th Finance Commission	Dr. Krishnamurthy Subramanian
India Policy Head of Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	Sanjay Ubale
Acting president of Archery Association of India	Sunil Sharma
1 st Brand Ambassadors of Myntra	Virat Kohli and Anushka Sharma
New head coach of the Indian Men's Volleyball team	Serbia's Dragan Mihailovic
New President of Panama	Laurentino Cortizo
New president of North Macedonia	Stevo Pendarovski
Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP)	Dr. Reza Baqir
Head of Marketing for India and South Asia in the digital payments technology for Visa	Sujatha V Kumar
UN Economic and Social Council of INCB	Jagjit Pavadia
Vice-President of International Motorcycle Manufacturers Association (IMMA)	Rakesh Sharma
New chief justice of the Chhattisgarh High Court	Justice PR Ramachandran Menon
Additional and independent director of Tata Global Beverages	Shikha Sharma
Member of Commonwealth Secretariat Arbitral Tribunal	Former Supreme Court judge KS. Radhakrishnan
New President of United Nations General Assembly	Tijjani Mohammad Bande
Chief Operation Officer (COO) and Chief Business Officer (CBO) of Karnataka Bank	Balachandra Y V
Coach of Indian men's football team	Igor Stimac
Next Ambassador of India and Eritrea	Subhash Chand
Country Director of India	M. Hari Menon
Chief Secretary of Maharashtra	Ajoy Mehta
Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court	Justice Abhay Shreeniwasa Oka
CEO of LIC Mutual Fund	Dinesh Pangtey
1st woman female ICC International Panel of match referee	GS Lakshmi
Fiji's non-resident panel of Supreme Court	Madan Bhimrao Lokur
Chairman of ITC Ltd	Sanjiv Puri
Brand ambassador of BharatPe	Salman Khan
1st chief of Armed Forces Special Operations Division	AK Dhingra
Additional director on the board of Yes Bank	Rama Subramanian Gandhi
Next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Nauru	Ms. Padmaja
Next Ambassador of India to Bosnia and Herzegovina	Shri Kumar Tuhin
Next Deputy Attorney General	Jeffrey Rosen

MD and CEO of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	Nitin Chugh
Next High Commissioner of India to the Kingdom of Eswatini	Radha Venkataraman
New PM of Australia	Scott Morrison
New President Of Indonesia	Joko Widodo
New President of Ukraine	Volodymyr Zelenskiy
Pakistan's new High Commissioner to India	Mueenul Haq
New President of South Africa	Cyril Ramaphosa
CEO after merger of Indus Towers and Bharti Infratel	Bimal Dayal
CM of Andhra Pradesh	Y.S Jagan Mohan Reddy
Judge of the apex court	Justice Aniruddha Bose
Brand ambassador of TAFE	Akshay Kumar
5 th term CM of Odisha	Naveen Patnaik
New Force Commander of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan	Lieutenant General Shailesh Tinaika r
Judge of the Jharkhand high court	Justice D N Patel
CM of Sikkim	PS Golay
President of Badminton Asia	Anton Aditya Subowo
President of Malawi	Peter Mutharika
Maldives parliamentary speaker	Mohamed Nasheed
Chief Justice of Meghalaya HC	Justice Ajay Kumar Mittal
President of Nigeria	Muhammadu Buhari
Chairman of COSC (Chief of Staff Committee)	Birender Singh Dhanoa
Next Navy Chief	Vice Admiral Karambir Singh
Chief Staff of Eastern Naval Command	Vice Admiral Atul Kumar Jain
PM of Papua New Guinea	James Marape
2 nd term CM of Arunachal Pradesh	Prema Khandu

SPECIAL DAYS

DATE	SPECIAL DAY	THEME
1 st May	International Labour Day or Workers day	Sustainable Pension for all: The Role of Social Partners
2 nd May	World Tuna Day	
3 rd May	World Press Freedom Day	Media for Democracy: Journalism and Elections in Times of Disinformation
	National Space Day (First Friday of May)	
4 th May	Coal Miners Day	
	International Firefighters' Day	
5 th May	World Laughter Day (First Sunday of May)	
	International Midwives' Day	Midwives: Defenders of Women's Rights
6 th May	International No Diet Day	
6 th to 12 th May	5th United Nations Global Road Safety Week	Leadership for road safety
7 th May	World Athletics Day	
	World Asthma Day (First Tuesday of May)	STOP for Asthma
8 th May	World Red Cross Day or Red Crescent Day	#Love
	World Thalassaemia Day	Universal Access to Quality Thalassaemia Healthcare Services: Building Bridges with and for Patients
11 th May	World Migratory Bird Day	Protect Birds: Be the Solution to Plastic Pollution!
	National Technology Day	
12 th May	International Nurses Day	Nurses – A Voice to Lead – Health for All
15 th May	International Day of Families	Families and Climate Action: Focus on SDG 13
16 th May	International Day of Light	
	International Day of Living Together in Peace	
	The National Dengue Day	
17 th May	World Telecommunication and Information Society Day	Bridging the Standardization Gap

18 th May	World Hypertension Day (WHD)	Know Your Numbers
	World AIDS Vaccine Day	
	International Museum Day	Museums as Cultural Hubs: The future of tradition
20 th May	World Metrology Day	The International System of Units – Fundamentally better
	World Bee Day	Save the Bees
21 st May	Anti-Terrorism Day	
	Day For Cultural Diversity	
22 nd May	International Day for Biological Diversity	Our Biodiversity, Our Food, Our Health
23 rd May	World Tortoise Day	
	International Day to End Obstetric Fistula	
24 th May	The Commonwealth Day	A Connected Commonwealth
25 th May	International Missing Children's Day	
26 th May	World Thyroid Day	
28 th May	World Hunger Day	#Sustainabilitys
	Menstrual hygiene day	It's Time for Action
	Amnesty International Day	
29 th May	International Day of UN Peacekeepers	Protecting Civilians, Protecting Peace
	World Digestive Health Day	Early Diagnosis and Treatment of GI Cancer
30 th May	World Multiple Sclerosis Day	Visibility
31 st May	World No Tobacco Day	Tobacco and lung health

SPORTS

- **Barcelona FC** won **La Liga title 2019** by defeating **Levante FC** held at **Barcelona, Spain**.
- **Apurvi Chandela** has become **World No.1 ISSF rankings** in **10m Air Rifle**.
- **Jaipur** will host **Asian Youth Women Handball Championship 2019** for **1st time**.
- **Bajrang Punia** won a gold medal at **Ali Aliev Tournament** by defeating **Viktor Rassadin (Russia)** in **65-kg category** held at **Russia**.
- **Saurav Ghoshal** and **Joshna Chinappa** won **Asian Individual Squash Championship 2019** Titles held at **Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**.
- **Gaurav Solanki** (52-kg) and **Manish Kaushik** (60-kg) won **gold** medals in **36th Feliks Stamm International Boxing Tournament 2019** held in **Warsaw, Poland**.
- West Indies players **John Campbell** and **Shai Hope** are first-ever opening pair to get **350 plus (365)** runs in the history against **Ireland**.
- **Amul** has announced to sponsor **Afghanistan** team in upcoming **World Cup 2019**.
- The inaugural issue of world's 1st exclusive women's cricket magazine '**Criczone**' was released with Indian team vice-captain **Smriti Mandhana** as the cover story.

- **Mumbai Indians** became **IPL champions 2019** for the **4th** time by defeating **Chennai Super Kings** in **Hyderabad**.
- **Orange Cap- David Warner (692 runs) - Sunrisers Hyderabad**
- **Purple Cap- Imran Tahir (26 Wickets) - Chennai Super Kings**
- **Sana Mir** (Pakistan) has become the **most successful women's ODI spinner**.
- **USA** has won the **International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) World Relays 2019** held in **Yokohama, Japan**.
- **Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes)** has won the **Spanish Grand Prix** in **Barcelona**.
- **Asia-Pacific Diamond Cup 2019** held in **Japan**, title won by **Yosuke Asaji** (Japan) while **Indian golfer Rahil Gangjee** finished tied **39th**.
- **Manchester City** wins **Premier League Title 2019** by defeating **Brighton**.
- Indian-American student **Shiv Chopra** won **ESPN Esports championship** held in **Houston**.
- **India** will host the **5th Army International Scout Masters Competition-2019**.
- **The Squash Rackets Federation of India (SRFI)** tie-up with **HCL** to improve **Indian Squash**.
- **China** will host **Asian Cup 2023 Football tournament** after withdrawal from **South Korea**.
- **Harsh Bhogle, Sourav Ganguly** and **Sanjay Manjrekar** inducted in **ICC commentary panel** from **India** for **World Cup 2019**.
- **The Badminton World Federation (BWF)** has launched two new formats of badminton game **AirBadminton** and **Triples**.
- **Italian Open 2019** held in **Rome, Italy**.
- **Men's Singles: Rafael Nadal** (Spain) won against **Novak Djokovic** (Serbia)
- **Women's Singles: Karolina Pliskova** (Czech Republic) won against **Johanna Konta** (UK).
- Indian social media platform '**Helo**' became sponsor of **Indian Wheelchair Cricket Association (WCA)** for **Team India** for **Asia Cup 2019**.
- **ICC** released its official song '**Stand By**' for the forthcoming **Men's Cricket World Cup 2019**.
- **Indian women's hockey** team beat **South Korea** in the in **Jincheon**.
- **India** bags **57** medals (12 Gold, 18 Silver and 27 Bronze) at **2nd India Open International Boxing tournament** in **Guwahati**.
- **Mahesh Mangaonkar** clinched the **8th PSA** title **Sekisui Open tournament** in **Switzerland**.
- **Apurvi Chandela** bags **gold** in **10m Air Rifle** in **ISSF World Cup** held in **Munich, Germany**.
- **Lewis Hamilton** won **Monaco Grand Prix** by defeating **Valtteri Bottas**.
- **Croatia's Ivo Karlovic (46)** became the **oldest man** to win a game in **French Open 2019**.

SURVEYS

- **India's G Sathiyan** has become the first Indian to break into the top-25 of world rankings in Table Tennis.
- **YES Bank Ltd**, in terms of market valuation, has slipped by **3** levels to come down to the **10th spot**.
- The '**India Inbound Tourism: Unlocking the Opportunity**' published that **India's MICE Tourism is growing at 8 percent** and **India has ranked 24th in MICE tourism worldwide**.
- According to **WHO** report titled '**Global Status Report on Road Safety**', on-going road safety week revealed that over **1.35 million** people (5-29 age group) was **dying every year** and around **50 million** people sustain **injuries** due to **road accidents**.
- According to **Air Help**, **Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Hyderabad** has been ranked as the world's **8th Best Airport** and topped by **Hamad International Airport, Qatar**.
- **Huawei Technologies** overtook **Apple Inc** to claim the **2nd spot** in **smart phones making**.
- **WHO** has released the report titled **Forecasting the future need and gaps in requirements for public health professionals in India** up to **2026**.
- As per the **Mint Globetrotter Index**, **Amsterdam** has become the **most expensive city**.
- As per the researchers from **Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (US)**, **India** has the **highest mortality rate** among **children below 5 years of age** in **2015**.
- According to the 8th edition of **Global Drug Survey (GDS) 2019**, **Indians** are seeking help **more than any other countries** to reduce their **alcohol intake**.
- As per the report titled '**Annual Threat Report 2019**' by quick heals security labs, **Mumbai city** has become the **most vulnerable cites** to **cyber attacks** in **2019**.
- According to the **Kids Right Index 2019** was released by **Kids Right Foundation**, **Iceland** was ranked **1st** and **India's** rank was **117th position** out of 181 countries.
- **International Labour Organization** released report '**Women in Business and Management: The Business case for Change**', revealed **gender diversity** good for **business** and **economy**.
- According to **Oakla's Speedtest Global Index for April 2019**, **India's** rank remaining at **68th position** in **fixed broadband speeds** and has decreased in ranking to **121** in **mobile speeds**.
- **India** has moved up to **43rd most competitive economy** in the world and **Singapore (1st)**.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Name of the Book	Author	Speaks About
Work of Beauty: Architecture and Landscape of Rashtrapati Bhawan	–	Coffee Table book on Architecture and Landscape of Rashtrapati Bhawan
Game Changer	Shahid Afridi & Wajahat S Khan	The Autobiography of Shahid Afridi
Dopehri	Veteran actor Pankaj Kapur	Based on his popular one-act play of the same name
Voynich Manuscript	deciphered by Dr. Gerard Cheshire	About astrological sex tips, parenting and psychology
Coming Round the Mountain	Ruskin Bond	Set against the backdrop of 1947 Indian Independence and the Partition
Hindi version of 'Digital Dilemma'	–	This book will help film makers in understanding and planning the storage of born-digital material
I, Anupam (Translated from Bengali to English)	Authored by- Nabaneeta Dev Sen Translated by- Paulami Sengupta, Tias Basu	The book deals with a conflict between integrity and expediency on the Naxal movement in West Bengal
Voyage to Antarctica	Dr. Felix Bast	Antarctic expedition right from the inspiration for undertaking the expedition, acclimatization training at the Himalayas
Story of Consciousness	Dr. Govind Bhattacharya	Focuses on multiple disciplines like biology, neuroscience, psychology, semiotics, linguistics, philosophy and theology
An Autobiography of Moon	Dr. Ramesh Shishu	Deals with a lot of secrets like its origin, how it changes its shape daily
Shambhu Nath De- The Discovery of Cholera Toxin	Dr. M S S Murthy	About the great inventor S N De
Darkness to light	Lamar Odom	The book reveals the dark secrets of his life

OBITUARIES

Name of the Person	Field/Importance
Damon J. Keith	US Judge and Civil Rights Icon
John Singleton	American Film Director
Justice B Subhashan Reddy	Former Chief Justice of Madras and Kerala high courts
Negasso Gidada	Former President of Ethiopia
Master Hirannaiah	Noted Kannada theatre personality, satirist and TV actor
Peter Mayhew	Chewbacca actor from 'Star Wars'
V. Viswanatha Menon	Former Finance Minister of Kerala
Thoppil Mohamed Meeran	Noted Tamil novelist and Sahitya Akademi Awardee
Kirpal Singh	Renowned Sikh historian and 1 st chronicler of India
Baidyanath Mishra	Renowned economist
Mrinal Mukherjee	Veteran Bengali actor
Neelakanta Rao Jagdale	Chairman & MD of Amrut Distilleries
YC Deveshwar	Padma Bhushan Awardee and ITC's Non-Executive Chairman
Nebburu Narayana Hegde	Noted singer
Seymour Nurse	Former West Indies Cricketer
Derek Sippy	Former Billiards Player
Neelakanta Ramakrishna Madhava Menon	Father of modern legal education in India and Padma Shri awardee
Hiralal Yadav	Padma Shri awardee and Bhojpuri vocal artist
Clement von Franckenstein	Famous British actor
Peggy Lipton	1971 Golden Globe award winning actress
Maramraju Satyanarayana Rao	Noted Writer, Academician
Doris Day	Famous Singer and Actress
M.B. Balakrishnan	Indian Athletic (swimmer)
Bob Hawke	Former 23 rd Prime Minister of Australia
I M Pei	Famous Architect
Naik Narayan Singh	A member of Indian Army Mountaineering Expedition team to Mt Makalu
Shivappa Shetty	Former FIFA Panel Referee
Sammy Shore	Legendary stand-up comedian and the Co-Founder of Comedy Store
Niki Lauda	Former 3-time world champion in Formula 1
Vijaya Mulay	Filmmaker and film historian
Sultan Ahmad Shah	Malaysia's seventh King
Zakir Musa	Chief of Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind (a group affiliated with Al-Qaeda)
Kalpana Dash	Odisha's 1 st woman mountaineer
Surya Prakash	Eminent Artist
John Pinto	World War 2 Navajo Code Talker and Lawmaker
Murray Gell-Mann	Nobel Prize-winning physicist
Prem Tinsulanonda	Former prime minister of Thailand
Benu Mishra	Eminent Artist from Assam
Carmine Caridi	The Godfather actor