

## GK DIGEST – 1st Week of May 2018

### May 1st - May 6th

#### International Affairs

#### International Buddhist Conference held in Lumbini, Nepal

- Lumbini is the birthplace of Gautama Buddha, founder of the Buddhist religion.
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- The basic objective of the conference was to disseminate teachings of Buddha and spread messages of nonviolence, brotherhood, coexistence, love, and peace.

#### 14 Indian Cities Figure In World's 20 Most Polluted Cities List: WHO

- As per the data released by the World Health Organisation (WHO), 14 Indian cities figure in a list

of world's 20 most polluted cities in terms of particulate matter PM2.5 levels in 2016.

- The particulate matter PM2.5 includes pollutants like sulfate, nitrate and black carbon, which pose the greatest risk to human health.
- The WHO Global Urban Ambient Air Pollution Database ranked Kanpur as the most polluted city among 4300 world cities which were monitored for their air pollution levels in the year 2016.
- The other Indian cities that registered very high levels of PM2.5 pollutants were Faridabad, Varanasi, Gaya, Patna, Delhi, Lucknow, Agra, Muzaffarpur, Srinagar, Gurgaon, Jaipur, Patiala, and Jodhpur.

## Twelfth Informal Meeting Of SAARC Finance Ministers Held In Manila

- The 12th informal meeting of SAARC Finance Ministers was held in Manila, Philippines, on the sidelines of the 51st Annual Meeting of Asian Development Bank (ADB).
- The meeting was attended by the Finance Ministers/Heads of Delegations from the SAARC member states. Finance Minister of Nepal Yuba Raj Khatiwada chaired the meeting.

- The Finance Ministers/Heads of Delegation briefed the meeting about the current status of economic progress achieved by their countries.
- They also appreciated ADB for its contribution in the economic growth of SAARC countries.

## California Surpasses UK To Become World's 5th Largest Economy

- US state California's economy surpassed that of the UK to become the world's fifth largest, according to new federal data released. With a GDP of \$2.7 trillion, California is now only behind the US, China, Japan, and Germany.
- The UK and India are next on the list, followed by France, Brazil, and Italy respectively.
- Despite having a population of only 40 million compared with the UK's 65 million people, California's gross domestic product of \$2.7tn has overtaken the UK's \$2.6tn.

## Cognizant Acquires Belgium-Based Hedera Consulting

- IT firm Cognizant acquired privately-held Belgium based Hedera Consulting, a move that will strengthen the former's consulting and digital transformation capabilities for clients in Belgium and the Netherlands.
- The size of the deal was however not disclosed. Founded in 2009, Hedera specializes in business

advisory and data analytics services across sectors, helping clients in areas like growth strategy, innovation, marketing, sales and customer service.

## National Affairs

### West Bengal to promote cultural tourism at Darjeeling hills

- Taking on an enhancing route of tourism in the state, West Bengal chalked out development plans so as to promote cultural tourism in the hilly chilled region of Darjeeling.
- The state tourism department will be showcasing the customs, food habits and rituals of the tribal groups residing there.
- West Bengal Khadi and Village Industries Board (WBKVIB), which comes under the aegis of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Department, will be executing the project. Exhibiting cultural variability, West Bengal Khadi and Village Industries Board (WBKVIB) has inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with 15 of the culture and development boards set up by the government. Taking cognizance of each of these boards, the WBKVIB will set up folk art centers, where the tribal people will be able to display their traditional dress, weapons, musical instruments and other specialties.

## Surat Railway Station to be third in country to have airport-like facilities

- The Surat railway station will be the third in the country and the second in Gujarat after Gandhinagar to be developed as a world-class facility under a Railway Ministry station redevelopment programme.
- The station will be equipped with several “airport-like” amenities under the ministry’s ‘Rs 1 lakh crore station redevelopment’ programme,.
- ITCO, a joint venture between the IRSDC, the Surat Municipal Corporation, and the Gujarat State Road Transport Corporation invited request for qualification (RFQ) and request for proposal (RFP) for the development of a multi-modal transportation hub at the station.

## Maharashtra Becomes first To Provide digitally-Signed Documents

- Maharashtra became the first state to provide digitally-signed land record receipts (also known as 7/12 receipts), which Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis claimed would check irregularities and bring in transparency.
- The 7/12 receipt is the most important document which establishes the ownership of the land and is primarily used by farmers while applying for loans.

- It is also used by the government during crop surveys and to extend various facilities.

## India Rises To 5th Spot In World's Top Five Defense Spenders

- India surpassed France to become one of the world's five largest military spenders, Swedish arms watchdog Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) Report.
- India spent \$63.9 billion on its military in 2017, an increase of 5.5% compared with 2016.
- The other countries in top five include the US, China, Saudi Arabia, and Russia.

## 'Go To Village' Mission Launched In Manipur

- Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh launched 'Go to Village' mission throughout the state from Konuma ground.
- The mission was launched in 60 villages of all the 60 Assembly constituencies.
- The mission is aimed at identifying the eligible and deserving beneficiaries in every corner of the state and delivering government services at their doorstep.

## EPFO launches View Pension Passbook Service on Umang App

- Retirement fund body Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) launched View Pension Passbook Service for pensioners on Umang App.
- Umang app UMANG (Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance) app aims to build common, unified platform and mobile app to facilitate single was launched part of EPFO's plan to go paperless by August this year and provide all services online.
- It will allow pensioners view their pension passbook on mobile phones with the help of Umang app.
- EPFO is already providing various e-services for its stakeholders through Umang.

## HRD Ministry Launches Initiatives For Online Professional Development Using SWAYAM

- Human Resource Development Ministry launched a major and unique initiative of online professional development of 1.5 million higher education faculty using the Massive Open Online Courses platform SWAYAM.



- In the first phase, 75 discipline-specific National Resource Centres (NRCs) have been identified.
- National Resource Centres are tasked to prepare online training material with focus on new and emerging trends, pedagogical improvements and methodologies for transacting revised curriculum.

### Legendary Singer Asha Bhosle Honored With PC Chandra Puraskaar

- Legendary singer Asha Bhosle was honored with 26th PC Chandra Puraskaar for her contribution in the field of Indian music.
- Sharmila Tagore was the Chief Guest at the event who also presented the prestigious award to Asha Bhosle.
- Asha Bhosle made her singing debut in 1943 and she has sung in a great variety of musical genres. Her career spans over almost seven decades.

### Vibrant North East 2018 Held In Guwahati

- The 'Vibrant North East 2018', an event in which people would be made aware of central government schemes and programmes, was held in Guwahati, Assam.
- Players from the agriculture, food processing, consumer affairs, civil supply, drinking water and



sanitation sectors participated in the three-day event. The event is organized by Delhi-based NGO, Centre for Agriculture and Rural Development (CARD).

- The main purpose of the event is to disseminate information about the schemes, grants, and projects of the Central Government to ensure that they are implemented as envisaged officially.

### India's Neeraj Goyat Is WBC Asia Boxer Of The Year

- Indian pugilist Neeraj Goyat has been conferred with the 'WBC Asia Boxer of the Year Award'. Neeraj is the current WBC Asia champion in welterweight category.
- Since turning pro in 2011, Neeraj won nine fights including two knockouts.
- Neerav Tomar, promoter of IOS Boxing Promotions which manages Neeraj and Vijender Singh, was bestowed with 'WBC Asia honorary Promoter of the year 2017 Award' by the Asian Boxing Council at WBC Asia and WBC Muaythai annual awards presentation ceremony in Bangkok, Thailand.

## Sports

### Mohamed Salah Named Writers Footballer Of The Year

- Liverpool forward Mohamed Salah named the Football Writers' Association Footballer of the Year.
- Manchester City midfielder Kevin de Bruyne came second with Tottenham striker Harry Kane third. Salah, 25, has scored 31 goals in 34 league appearances for Liverpool this season.
- The Egypt star - the first African winner of the award - also won the Professional Footballers' Association player of the year award.

### Wimbledon Champions' Prize Money Hiked By 50,000

- According to the Wimbledon officials, the 2018 men's and women's singles champions will receive £2.25 million, an increase of £50,000 on last year.
- Lower-ranked players at Wimbledon will enjoy a greater uplift, with an increase of 10% across qualifying and the first to fourth rounds of the singles, boosting the overhaul prize money total to £34 million this year.

- Wimbledon officials warned players they face losing prize money if they withdraw after competing with an existing injury and are not perceived to have given maximum effort.
- There were a total of seven mid-match withdrawals in the 2017 tournament.

### India loses top spot to England in ICC ODI Team Rankings; slips to second position with 122 points

- India lost the top position to England in the annual update of ICC ODI team rankings.
- England topped the ODI rankings in January 2013 have gained eight points and moved to 125 points while India is on the second place with a total of 122 points.
- Notably, England overtook India to seize the top spot in the MRF Tyres ICC ODI Team Rankings following the annual update while Nepal has rejoined the T20I ratings but will need to play one more match before they are ranked on the MRF Tyres ICC T20I Rankings.
- England, who last topped the ODI rankings in January 2013 have gained eight points and moved to 125 points. India, who were at the top before the update, have lost a solitary point and are in second place with a total of 122 points.
- South Africa, who was second, have dropped down to third place after losing four points, from 117 to 113,

leaving them nine points adrift of India and only one point ahead of fourth-placed New Zealand.

## Justin Langer appointed as Head Coach Of Australian Cricket Team

- Former Australian cricketer Justin Langer appointed as Australian cricket team's head coach for all three formats.
- Langer replaces Darren Lehmann, who had stepped down after Australia's tour of South Africa amid the ball-tampering controversy.
- The 47-year-old, who represented Australia in 105 Tests, will begin his four-year term ahead of limited-overs series against England in June.

## Important Quiz Questions - Weekly

- 1) Who won Azerbaijan Grand Prix 2018?
  - a) Lewis Hamilton
  - b) Don Garlits.
  - c) Alain Prost
  - d) Jackie Stewart

2) Which country rises to 5th Spot In World's Top Five Defense Spenders?

- a) Pakistan
- b) Saudi Arabia
- c) Indonesia
- d) India

3) Which rank did India obtained in the World Press Freedom Index Report recently?

- a) 152
- b) 138
- c) 148
- d) 168

4) Which company acquires Belgium-Based Hedera Consulting recently?

- a) Cognizant
- b) Infosys
- c) Tech mahindra
- d) Flipkart

5) Which scheme To Collaborate With IBM To Develop Precision Agriculture Using AI ?

- a) Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana
- b) NITI Aayog
- c) Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana
- d) Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojna

6) Who Introduces 'Tap Card' Offline Payments Solution ?

- a) Snapdeal
- b) Payzapp
- c) Mobikwik
- d) Paytm

7) How many megawatts Union Government Launches Pilot Scheme For Procurement Of Aggregate Power?

- a) 2500
- b) 4500
- c) 1500
- d) 1850

8) Who is the First Woman Lawyer Appointed As SC Judge ?

- a) R Banumathi
- b) Indira Jaising
- c) Indu Malhotra
- d) Sujata Manohar

9) Who is honoured with PC Chandra Puraskaar recently?

- a) Anil Kapoor
- b) Asha Bhosle
- c) Sunil Raj
- d) Dinesh Karthik

10) Which day is celebrated on 3rd May ?

- a) World Press Freedom Day
- b) World Heritage Day
- c) World Heart Day

d) World Organs Day

11) Among the online search engine, who is the Most Trusted Internet Brand In India?

a) Yahoo

b) Look smart

c) Google

d) Lookup

12) Which day is observed on 26 April recently?

a) World Intellectual Property Day

b) World Laughter Day.

c) World War Orphan Day.

d) World Day for Water

13) Who is sworn in as As New US Secretary Of State recently?

a) Mike Pompeo

b) Ryan Zinke

c) Wilbur Ross.

d) R. Alexander Acosta.

14) Who chairs the 27th GST Council meeting intending to simplify returns filing process ?

a) Shri Suresh Kumar

b) Shri Naresh Singh

c) Shri Naresh Iyer

d) Shri Arun Jaitley

15) Who took Oath As Jammu & Kashmir Deputy chief Minister recently?

- a) Shri Kavinder Gupta
- b) Shri Suresh menon
- c) Shri Vijay Raghavan
- d) Shri Naresh Singh

**Answers:**

1) A 2) D 3) A 4) A 5) B 6) D 7) A 8) C 9) B 10) A  
11) C 12) A 13) A 14) D 15) A

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