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BANKING & FINANCE

RBI proposes guidelines for large Non-Banking Financial Companies

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released draft guidelines on liquidity risk management framework for non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and core investment companies (CICs) with an aim to help them deal with severe liquidity problems and prevent re-occurrence of IL&FS type of debt crisis.
- The guidelines were released after an analysis of the recent developments in the NBFC sector.

**The guidelines are about:**

**Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR) regime:**
- The proposal said that a Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR) regime would be introduced in all deposit-taking Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) and non-deposit taking shadow banks with an asset size of Rs.5,000 crore and above in a phased manner.
- The LCR regime RBI will be implemented in a calibrated manner through a glide path over a period of four years commencing April 2020 and up to April 2024.

**High-Quality Liquid Assets (HQLA):**
- An NBFC shall maintain an adequate level of unencumbered High-Quality Liquid Assets (HQLA), so that under a significantly severe liquidity stress scenario that can be converted into cash to meet its liquidity needs for a 30 calendar-day time horizon.
- HQLA means liquid assets that can be readily sold or immediately converted into cash at little or no loss of value or used as collateral to obtain funds in a range of stress scenarios.

**Asset Liability Management (ALM):**
- The draft guidelines also cover the application of generic asset liability management (ALM) principles, granular maturity buckets in the liquidity statements and tolerance limits, liquidity risk monitoring tool and adoption of the 'stock' approach to liquidity.

**Asset-Liability Management Committee (ALCO):**
- RBI also proposed that Asset-Liability Management Committee (ALCO) consisting of the NBFC's top management should be responsible for ensuring adherence to the risk tolerance/limits set by the Board as well as implementing the
liquidity risk management strategy of the NBFC.

- **Why the guidelines:**
  - Since 2018, the IL&FS crisis erupted banks have been averse in lending to this sector, which has further put NBFC's in a tight spot. There are rising concerns that NBFCs may run out of money, which will further lead to defaults.
  - Many large NBFCs, such as **DHFL and Indiabulls Finance** came under severe liquidity pressure which compelled them to bring down their reliance on **commercial papers (CPs)**. The CPS is a debt instrument which is issued by companies to raise funds for a time period of up to 1 year.
  - As per estimates about **Rs.1 lakh crore of commercial papers (CPs)** raised by NBFCs from investors will be coming up for redemption in the next 3 months. But since NBFCs are cash-strapped, there is a looming fear that they will default on CPs.

**RBI approved Modern Currency Chests to hike the rate of service charges**

- The **Reserve Bank of India** has announced that it is to allow **large modern currency chests** to increase the service charges on **cash deposited by non-chest bank branches** from the existing rate of **Rs.5 per packet of 100 pieces** to a higher rate subject to a maximum of **Rs.8 per packet**.
- For this, only a **currency chest (CC)** that fulfills the minimum standards will be eligible to be classified as a **large modern currency chest**. The increased rates can be charged only after such classification by the issue office concerned.

- **What is a Currency Chest?**
  - Distribution of notes and coins throughout the country is done through designated bank branches, called chests. The chest is a receptacle in a commercial bank to store notes and coins on behalf of the Reserve Bank. Deposit into chest leads to the credit of the commercial bank's account and withdrawal, debit.

- **Functions of Currency Chests:**
  - The Functions of the Currency Chests include:
    - to meet currency requirement of public
    - to withdraw unfit notes
    - to provide an exchange facility from one denomination to another
    - to make payment requirement of the Government
    - to exchange the mutilated notes
to avoid frequent movement of cash

- Apart from having its own chests at certain places, RBI also has arrangements with other banks which are entrusted with the custody of the currency notes and coins for the same purpose.

RBI extended time window for using the RTGS for customer transactions

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced that the time-window for using the Real Time Gross Settlement System (RTGS) for customer transactions will be extended from 4:30 pm to 6 pm on all working days. It will be effective from June 1, 2019.
- The current RTGS service window for customer transactions is available to banks from 8 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. on a working day.
- Transactions will now take place under three windows:
  - 1.8 am to 11 am
  - 2.11 am to 1 pm
  - 3.1 pm to 6 pm
- Charges for the transactions:
  - There shall be no charge for transactions between 8 am and 11 am.
  - A charge of Rs.2 will be levied on every transaction conducted between 11 am and 1 pm.
  - Rs.5 shall be charged for every transaction between 1 pm and 6 pm.
- Reason:
  - The decision is after a robust year-on-year increase in the number of transactions by 8% to Rs.1,335 crore in March 2019. The aggregate amount of transactions rose 12% year-on-year to 1,255.51 crore. In the month of April, banks and customers combined used RTGS for 1.14 crore transactions worth Rs.112 lakh crore.
- Real Time Gross Settlement System (RTGS):
  - Real-Time means the processing of instructions at the time they are received
  - Gross Settlement means that the settlement of funds transfer instructions occurs individually
  - RTGS is an electronic form of funds transfer where the transmission takes place on a real-time basis. RTGS is considered to be fasted payment method mandated for high-value interbank transactions by the central bank.
  - The RTGS system is primarily meant for large value transactions. The minimum
amount to be remitted through RTGS is Rs.2 lakh with no upper or maximum ceiling.

- The beneficiary account receives the funds transferred, on a real-time basis. Customers with Internet banking accounts can do RTGS transactions on their own.

**RBI set up task force for secondary market in corporate loans**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) constituted a task force to suggest policy and regulatory interventions required for the development of a secondary market in corporate loans, including loan transaction platform for stressed assets. The six-member body, headed by Canara Bank chairman T. N. Manoharan, has been set up to review the existing state of the market for loan sale/transfer in India as well as international experience in loan trading. **Role of the task force:**

- The task force will make recommendations for the creation of a loan contract registry to remove information asymmetries between buyers and sellers, its ownership structure and related protocols such as standardisation of loan information, independent validation, and data access. The task force has been asked to submit its report by the end of August 2019.

- **Secondary loan Market:**

  - The secondary loan market refers to the sale of loans that occurs after syndication of the original loan has been closed and allocated. It includes sales or trades of syndicated loans made by lenders in the original syndicate and those made by subsequent purchasers.

  - **Secondary loan market in India** is largely restricted to Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs) and ad hoc sale to other lenders, including banks, and no formalized mechanism has been developed to deepen the market.

  - A well-developed secondary market for debt will aid in the transparent price discovery of the inherent riskiness of the debt being traded.

**RBI constitutes a committee for Housing Finance Securitisation Market**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) constituted a committee to review the existing state of mortgage securitisation in India and suggest measures to deepen it. The six-member committee on Development of Housing Finance Securitisation...
Market is headed by Harsh Vardhan, Senior Advisor, Bain & Co.

Role of the panel:
- The panel will review the regulations relating to mortgage-backed securitisation (MBS) currently in place, and make specific recommendations on suitably aligning the same with international norms.
- It will assess the role of various counterparties, including servicers, trustees, rating agencies, in the securitisation process and suggest the steps required.

MBS in India:
- Data from rating company ICRA showed that the securitisation volume in FY19 more than doubled as against FY18 to Rs.2 lakh crore, of which major chunk of loans sold was by housing finance companies (HFCs) to banks in order to raise funds owing to tough liquidity conditions.
- The mortgage securitisation market in India is primarily dominated by direct assignments among a limited set of market participants on account of various structural factors impacting both the demand and the supply side, as well as certain prudential, legal and tax and accounting issues.

Mortgage-Backed Security (MBS):
- Mortgage-Backed security (MBS) is a type of asset-backed security that is secured by a mortgage or collection of mortgages.

Bandhan Bank plans to open 16 more branches by June
- City-based Bandhan Bank plans to open 16 more branches by June following the approval received from the Reserve Bank of India in 2018-19 to open 64 new branches.
- 48 branches were opened by March 2019 and the remaining branches would be opened this quarter. The Bank also plans to open a branch at Boral in South 24 Parganas and in West Bengal.

Bandhan Bank:
- Founded: 23 August 2015
- Founder: Chandra Shekhar Ghosh
- Headquarters: Kolkata, West Bengal
- Number of branches: 986
- Chairman: Dr. Anup Kumar Sinha
- MD & CEO: Chandra Shekhar Ghosh
- Bandhan Bank is the 8th largest bank in India by market capital (by March 27, 2018).
Goldman Sachs to invest USD250 mn to construct one of its largest global workspaces in Bengaluru

- New York-based investment and financial services major **Goldman Sachs** have pumped in **$250 million** to construct one of its largest global workspaces in **Bengaluru**.
- **Bengaluru workspace:**
  - Bengaluru, with 2,500 techies, is the **second-largest** engineering talent base of Goldman Sachs after **New York**.
  - Goldman Sachs Service, Bengaluru has become one of the firms global centres of innovation focused on the development and application of artificial intelligence, machine learning, and data analytics to help solve business problems for our worldwide network.
  - The investment bank has seen significant technology value-addition from Bengaluru during the past one-and-a-half decades, and software solutions developed in the city have been used in many business verticals. It has also undertaken automation of key services such as client onboarding.

**Goldman Sachs:**
- **Founded:** 1869
- **Headquarters:** New York, U.S
- Goldman Sachs is an **American multinational investment bank and financial services company**.

NCLT approved the resolution plan of Tata Steel to acquire Bhushan Energy Ltd.

- The **National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)** approved the resolution plan of **Tata Steel** to acquire debt-ridden **Bhushan Energy Ltd.** for about **Rs.800 crore** on **30 May**. The principal bench of **NCLT-Delhi** also rejected objections from Bhushan Energys former promoter Neeraj Singal opposing Tata Steels bid.

**Resolution plan:**
- Under the resolution plan, Tata Steel will offer an upfront payment of **Rs.730 crore**. It would also pay **Rs.50 crore** additionally to operational creditors of the company. Besides, Tata Steel would also infuse **Rs.367 crore** into the company as a
part of equity infusion. A detailed order is still awaited in this matter.

- **Acquisition of Bhushan Steel Ltd.:**
- **Bhushan Energy** was a subsidiary of **Bhushan Steel Ltd.**, which was also taken over by Tata Steel last May and later renamed as Tata Steel BSL Ltd.
- Tata Steel had offered **Rs.35,200 crore** in cash to acquire Bhushan Steel besides **Rs.1,200 crore** to creditors and convert the remaining debt owed to banks to equity.
- Earlier in June 2018, in this matter, NCLT had extended the insolvency resolution period for 90 days after the creditors failed to find a suitable buyer within the initial period of 180 days as mandated under the **Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code (IBC)**.
INTERNATIONAL

China rejected US call for dialogue with Dalai Lama

- China rejected U.S. Ambassador Terry Branstads call to Beijing to engage in substantive dialogue with the Dalai Lama. China cited the reason as it firmly opposes the foreign interference in Tibet and its internal affairs.
- **The visit:**
  - Mr. Branstad visited Tibet from May 19 to 25, the first such visit by a U.S. ambassador to China to the remote Himalayan region since 2015, where access is restricted for diplomats and journalists.
  - He expressed concerns regarding the Chinese governments interference in Tibetan Buddhists freedom to organize and practice their religion. China had briefed the Ambassador about Chinas religious and ethnic policies and also about socio-economic development in Tibet.
- **Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act:**
  - Beijings permission to Branstad came after the U.S. in early 2019 passed the Reciprocal Access to Tibet Act of 2018, warning equal and reciprocal measures if Beijing denied access to American citizens, government officials and journalists to Tibet.
  - The new U.S. law would impose a visa ban on Chinese officials who deny American citizens, government officials and journalists access to Tibet.
- **China and Dalai Lama:**
  - China, which accuses the Dalai Lama as a splittist working for Tibetan independence, has held talks with the Dalai Lamas representatives to find an amicable solution to the Tibetan issue in the past. The last such dialogue took place in 2010.
  - The 14th Dalai Lama had fled to India in early 1959 to escape from the Chinese occupation and lives in exile in the hill town of Dharamshala.
  - Beijing criticises the Dalai Lamas demand for autonomy, saying that it is a ploy for separation of Tibet from China.China has said that Dalai Lamas demand to unify all the Tibetan prefectures with the present Tibetan Autonomous Region and provide greater autonomy is unacceptable to Beijing.
  - Over 120 Tibetans committed self-immolations in recent years calling for the return of the Dalai Lama from his exile in India.
US removed India, Switzerland from its currency monitoring list

- **US Government** removed **India** and **Switzerland** from its currency monitoring list. US Government has removed India and Switzerland from its currency monitoring list. The monitoring list includes countries with potentially questionable foreign exchange policies and practices currency manipulation. It is prepared by the **US Treasury Department**. India had a significant trade surplus while Switzerland had a material current account surplus. In its semi-annual report to US Congress on International Economic and Exchange Rate Policies, the Treasury Department removed India and Switzerland from the list.

- **Criteria:**
  1. Countries with a current-account surplus equivalent to 2% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) are eligible for the list, according to modifications made in the new list, down from 3% earlier.
  2. repeated intervention in the currency markets
  3. a trade surplus with the US of at least $20 billion

- **Why was India removed?**
  - India was placed in the bi-annual currency watch list in October 2018. In 2018, there was a decline in the scale and frequency of foreign exchange purchases in Switzerland and India. Neither Switzerland nor India met the criteria for having engaged in persistent, one-sided intervention in either the October 2018 report or the recent report.
  - India had met one out of three criteria which were necessary for inclusion on the monitoring list, a significant bilateral surplus with the US for two consecutive reports.
  - India for the first time was placed by the US in its currency monitoring list of countries with potentially questionable foreign exchange policies in May 2018. As per the Report of October 2018, India had made improvements in this regard.
  - The **US Treasury Department** reported that India maintains ample reserves according to the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** metrics for reserve adequacy.

- **Countries in the list:**
  - At present, the list includes 9 countries namely **China**, **Japan**, **South Korea**, **Germany**, **Italy**, **Ireland**, **Singapore**, **Malaysia**, and **Vietnam**.
The US Treasury Department urged the Asian nations to take necessary steps to avoid a "persistently weak currency".

About the USA:
- President: Donald Trump
- Capital: Washington, DC
- Currency: US Dollar

WHO concluded that Burnout is not a medical condition

- The World Health Organization (WHO) has for the first time recognised "burn out" in its International Classification of Diseases (ICD), collectively known as the ICD-11. The decision was taken during the World Health Assembly (WHA) in Geneva.

- **Burn-out:**
  - WHO has now defined burnout as a syndrome conceptualised as resulting from chronic workplace stress that has not been successfully managed. Burn-out refers specifically to phenomena in the occupational context and should not be applied to describe experiences in other areas of life.

- The syndrome was characterised by:
  1) feelings of energy depletion or exhaustion
  2) increased the mental distance from one's job or feelings of negativism or cynicism related to one's job
  3) reduced professional efficacy.

- **Significance:**
  - Classifying "burn-out" in ICD could help put to rest years of debate among experts about how to define burnout, and whether it should be considered a medical condition or not.

- **International Classification of Diseases (ICD):**
  - It is the global health information standard for mortality and morbidity statistics. It was created in 1948 and WHO was entrusted with it. ICD is revised periodically and this year is currently its 10th revision.
  - It is widely used as a benchmark for diagnosis and health insurers. The updated 'CD list, dubbed as ICD-11, was drafted in 2018 following recommendations from health experts from all around the world. It was approved on 25 May 2019 and will take effect in January 2022.
Huawei challenged U.S.s NDDA bill as sanctions fight ramps up

- World's largest telecom equipment maker Huawei filed a motion in a US court to declare National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) as "unconstitutional". The U.S. court had agreed on a schedule to hold hearings in September on motions by opposing sides.

- **NDDA Bill:**
  - The NDAA bill, passed by the U.S. Congress in 2018, places a broad ban on federal agencies and their contractors from using Huawei equipment on national security grounds, citing the companys ties with the Chinese government.

- **Huawei's accusation:**
  - In its petition, Huawei said that NDAA illegally targets without opportunity for rebuttal or escape. It provides no opportunity to present evidence as defence. The company repeatedly denied it is controlled by the Chinese government, military or intelligence services.

- **Ban on Huawei:**
  - In early May 2019, the U.S. Commerce Department put Huawei on a trade blacklist that bans companies from doing business with the Chinese firm, a move which immediately disrupted the global tech sector. The ban affected the company's more than 1,200 suppliers and threatened to affect its 3 billion customers in 170 countries.
  - Huawei, which has been given a 90-day reprieve from the ban, has denied its products pose a security threat and protested Washingtons attempts to limit its business.

WHO says being transgender is not a mental disorder but a sexual health condition

- The World Health Organization (WHO) will no longer categorise being transgender as a mental disorder. According to the newly-revised version of the International Classification of Diseases (known as ICD-11), published by the WHO, gender identity disorders have been reframed as gender incongruence." Gender incongruence has now been listed under sexual health conditions.
• The change was brought in after a major resolution to amend the WHO health guidelines were approved earlier this week on \textbf{May 25}.

• \textbf{Classified under ICD:}
  • Evidence is now clear that gender incongruence is not a mental disorder, and indeed classifying it as such can cause enormous stigma for people who are transgender. Also, there remain significant health care needs that can best be met if the condition is coded under the ICD (International Classification of Diseases). It is expected that the \textbf{ICD-11} will be \textbf{implemented} by the \textbf{WHO's 194 member states} over the next three years.
  
• WHO also said that a significant change in the mental disorders section of ICD-11 is the attempt of statisticians to simplify the codes as much as possible to allow for coding of mental health conditions by primary health care providers rather than by mental health specialists. This will be a critical move since the world still has a scarcity of mental health specialists, up to 9 out of 10 people needing mental health care don't receive it.

• \textbf{Benefits:}
  • The WHO's removal of gender identity disorder from its diagnostic manual will have a \textbf{liberating effect} on transgender people worldwide

• \textbf{In India:}
  • In India, psychiatrists at an individual level have stopped treating transgender as a mental health condition. With this move, the Indian government will have to make the changes in the medical systems and laws that require this now officially outdated diagnosis.
**INDIAN AFFAIRS**

CM Patnaik to swear in as Chief Minister of Odisha on 29th May

- **Odisha Governor Ganeshi Lal** invited Chief Minister and Biju Janata Dal president **Naveen Patnaik** to form the next government in the State. The swearing-in is scheduled to be held on **May 29** at the Exhibition Ground, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

- Set to be sworn in as the Chief Minister for a **record fifth consecutive term**, Mr. Patnaik met the Governor and staked claim to form the government after being elected the leader of the **BJD Legislature Party**.

- Earlier, Mr. Patnaik was chosen as the leader by the MLAs-elect at a meeting at the party headquarters here. Mr. Patnaik said that the new government would **work hard for the States development**. He also met the BJD MPs-elect separately and asked them to forcefully push for the demand for a **special category status** for the State.

**NSIL, the commercial arm of ISRO, was inaugurated in Bengaluru**

- **NewSpace India Limited (NSIL)**, the commercial arm of **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**, was inaugurated in **Bengaluru**. NSIL's main objective is to scale up industry participation in Indian space programs. NSIL was inaugurated by ISRO's honorary adviser, **Dr. K Kasturirangan** in the presence of chairman **Dr. K Sivan**.

- **NSIL for commercial purpose:**
  - NSIL was incorporated on **March 6, 2019**, for commercially utilizing research and development activities carried out by ISRO in the area of space with an authorized **share capital of Rs.100 crore** and initially paid-up capital of **Rs.10 crore**.
  - **NSIL** will act as an aggregator for all space-related activities in industry and develop private entrepreneurship in space-related technologies.
  - It will be responsible for manufacturing the and production of **Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) and Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)** through technology transfer mechanisms. It will also cater to emerging global commercial SSLV market demand, providing satellite building and satellite-based services, including the supply of sub-systems for various domestic and international
application needs and will enable space technology spin-offs through Indian industry interface.

- NSIL would soon be organizing an interactive workshop with industry in Bengaluru, wherein it would seek industry's feedback as well as their expression of interest to take a newer and larger share of work with ISRO.

**PM Narendra Modi to swear in on 30th May**

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will take the oath of office on May 30 (Thursday) at 7 pm at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. The President will administer the oath of Office and secrecy to the Prime Minister and other members of Union Council of Ministers.
- The names of ministers who will constitute NDA's new cabinet are yet to be announced. The BJP on May 23 got an overwhelming majority in the Lok Sabha, crossing on its own the 300 marks while storming back to power for the second consecutive term.
- Modi was appointed as Prime Minister for the second term by President Ram Nath Kovind after he was unanimously elected as the leader of the NDAO at a meeting in which he asked its members to work without discrimination, stressing on the need to win over the trust of minorities.

**Prem Singh Tamang sworn in as the Chief Minister of Sikkim**

- Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) president **Prem Singh Tamang**, who is famously known as P.S. Golay, **took oath as the Chief Minister of Sikkim** on 27th May. Fifty-one-year-old Tamang was administered the oath by Governor **Ganga Prasad** at Paljor Stadium in Gangtok, Sikkim. He took the oath in Nepali.
- SKM won 17 seats in the 32-member assembly, ousting former CM Pawan Kumar Chamling-led Sikkim Democratic Front after over 24 years.
- He succeeds **Pawan Kumar Chamling**, the founder president of the Sikkim Democratic Front.
- Mr. Golay assured the people that his government would work to ensure peace in Sikkim, and for the welfare of all sections. He also announced that Saturdays would be a holiday for government employees.

**Previously:**
In the 2014 Assembly election, the SKM bagged 10 seats. Mr. Golay was later convicted and served a prison term till his release in August 2018.

**Khandu to swear-in as the CM of Arunachal Pradesh**

- **Pema Khandu** will be sworn-in as the **Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh** on **May 29**. This comes after Arunachal Pradesh BJP MLAs unanimously selected Pema Khandu as the leader of BJP Legislature Party on 27 May.
- BJP had won 41 seats in the 60-member Arunachal Pradesh Assembly. On the other hand, the **Janata Dal-United (JDU)** won **seven seats**, while Congress and **National People's Party (NPP)** could manage to win only four seats each.
- **Previously:**
  - In 2014 Assembly polls, altogether 19 newcomers were elected in this remote northeastern state while in the 2009 polls 17 new entrants tasted luck.

**ADR says nearly half of the newly-elected Lok Sabha members have criminal charges**

- **According to the Association of Democratic Reforms (ADR)**, nearly half of the **newly-elected Lok Sabha members** have criminal charges against them, a **26% increase as compared to 2014**.
- Of the 539 winning candidates analyzed by the ADR, as many as 233 MPs or **43% have criminal charges**. The BJP has 116 MPs or 39% of its winning candidates with criminal cases, followed by 29 MPs (57%) from the Congress, 13 (81%) from the JDU, 10 (43%) from the DMK and nine (41%) from the TMC.
- In 2014, 185 **Lok Sabha members (34%)** had criminal charges and 112 MPs had serious criminal cases against them. In 2009, 162 (nearly 30%) out of the 543 Lok Sabha MPs had criminal charges and 14% had serious criminal charges.
- In the new Lok Sabha, nearly **29%** of the cases are related to rape, murder, attempt to murder or crime against women. There is an increase of **109%**, in 2019, in the number of MPs with declared serious criminal cases since 2009.
- It also said the eleven winners, five from the BJP, two from the BSP, one each from the Congress, the NCP and the YSR Congress Party, and an Independent, have murder charges against them.
Ministry of Petroleum appointed a high level committee to make strategies to reduce crude oil imports

- A high-level committee appointed by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has recommended a higher natural gas price for producers from existing discoveries among measures to bring down Indias dependence on crude oil imports.

- Members of the committee:
  - The High-Level Committee constituted by the Centre consisted of Dr. Anil Kakodkar, an eminent Scientist and Sidharth Pradhan, an expert on financial and tax issues.

- Aim:
  - The committee was formed to discuss research-related synergies and tax issues for state-run oil companies.

- Analysis:
  - It also explored the need and possibility of formation of new entity dealing with oil services and supply of qualified manpower to the oil and gas sector around the world.
  - It looked into mergers, acquisitions and consolidation of oil and gas public sector undertakings (PSUs) and the joint ventures.

- During 2018, India consumed 204.92 MMT petroleum products and 58.64 billion cubic metres (BCM) natural gas, whereas the domestic production of crude oil and natural gas has almost stagnated. The import dependency of crude oil and liquified natural gas (LNG) during the year was 82.59% and 45.89%, respectively, and is expected to increase.

- Recommendation of the committee:
  - The committee has recommended short-term, medium-term and long-term strategies in the report to help reduce the import dependency of the nation.
  - The recommendation is significant as at present only new difficult discoveries have been allowed a higher price of natural gas by the Ministry. The committee recommendation covers those discoveries that have been awarded under the New Exploration Licence Policy (NELP) and pre-NELP regimes.

Madhya Pradesh to tentatively have new UNESCO heritage site
Orchha town in Madhya Pradesh has a historical site with the Bundela dynasty architectural style.

The Archaeological Survey of India included that heritage town of Orchha in a tentative list of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) world heritage sites.

It was included in the proposal sent by the ASI to the UN body in April 2019.

UNESCOs rules state that to be a part of the World Heritage sites, the heritage or historical site must first be on the tentative list.

After making it to that list, yet another proposal is sent to the UNESCO.

About the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- Formation: 4 November 1946
- Headquarters: Paris, France
- Director-General: Audrey Azoulay

SpiceJet became fourth Indian airline to have a 100 aircraft in its fleet

- **SpiceJet** became **fourth Indian airline** to have a **100 aircraft** in its fleet. **Budget airline SpiceJet** has added a **new Boeing 737 aircraft** to its fleet, taking its total strength to **100 aircraft**.

- The other **three domestic airlines with 100 Aircraft** fleet are:
  - Air India
  - Jet Airways
  - IndiGo

- **Eight domestic** carriers namely Air India, IndiGo, SpiceJet, GoAir, Air India Express, Vistara, AirAsia and Alliance together have **595 planes in their fleet** at the moment.

- **Spicejet**
  - It is a **Gurugram based budget carrier**. It has an aircraft fleet of 30 Bombardier Q-400s, 68 Boeing 737s, and two Boeing 737 freighters. At present SpiceJet on an average operates 575 daily flights to around 62 destinations 53 domestic and 9 international.
  - SpiceJet is a key player in Union government's regional connectivity scheme called UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) as it operates **42 flights per day** to and from various regional destinations.
**Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) scheme:**

**Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) scheme** is a regional airport development and Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS). It was launched by **Ministry of Civil Aviation of Government of India.**

- It was launched in 2016 to provide affordable air travel at Rs.2,500 per hour of flight for people through subsidized ticket rates and to provide air connectivity to smaller towns.
- It aimed at making air travel affordable and widespread, to boost inclusive national economic development, job growth and air transport infrastructure development of all regions and states of India.

**IAF chief paid tribute to Kargil heroes by flying missing man formation**

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) **Chief Air Chief Marshal B.S. Dhanoa** visits **Air Force Station in Bhisiana and Sarsawa** to pay homage to the **air warriors** who made supreme sacrifice during **Operation Safed Sagar at Kargil.** It took India two months of a joint effort between the Indian army and Air Force to evict the intruders.

- Dhanoa paid tribute to **Late Squadron Leader Ajay Ahuja** and other fallen heroes who lost their life 20 years back during the Kargil war. CAS B.S. Dhanoa flew the 'missing man' formation flypast in a **Mig-21 aircraft.** He was accompanied by Air Marshal R Nambiar, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief (AOC-in-C) Western Air Command in the 'missing man' flypast organised at Air Force Station in Bhisiana in Bhatinda to honour the valour and supreme sacrifice of men killed in action during Operation Safed Sagar at Kargil, J&K. On 28 May the CAS visited Air Force Station Sarsawa and flew in a Mi-17 V5 'Missing Man' formation flypast to commemorate the Kargil martyrs.

**Background:**

- India detected infiltrators in **Kashmir's Kargil area** in the latter half of May and sent a **five-man Indian army team** led by **Lieutenant Saurav Kalia to investigate.**

- The Indian government on **25 May** ordered air strikes to dislodge the infiltrators, believed to be Pakistani army regulars from the Northern Light Infantry.

- **On 28 May 1999,** Squadron Leader Ajay Ahuja who was at that time the Flight Commander of 17 Squadron laid down his life along with Squadron Leader R
Pundhir, Flight Lieutenant S Muhilan, Sergeant R K Sahu and Sergeant PVNR Prasad died in that Mi-17 helicopter while attempting to evict the infiltrators in Drass sector (J&K).

**Centre sets up tribunal for adjudicating ban on LTTE**

- The Centre set up a tribunal for adjudicating whether or not there is sufficient reason to continue the ban on the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).
- **Tribunal to adjudicate:**
  - A tribunal has been set up by the Government of India under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (37 of 1967) for the purpose of adjudicating whether or not there is sufficient cause for declaring the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam as an unlawful association.
  - The Tribunal constituted by GoI is comprised of a sitting Judge of Delhi High Court (HC) Justice Sangita Dhingra Sehgal.
- **Ban on LTTE:**
  - LTTE has been banned in India since 1991, after the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi by its member. In early May 2019, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) issued a notification about extending a ban on LTTE in India for a further period of five years.
  - As per the notification GoI under the provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967 declared LTTE as an unlawful association.

**Narendra Modi took oath as the Prime Minister of India**

- **Narendra Modi**, who was elected for a second term at the Centre, took oath as the Prime Minister at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on 30 May. President Ram Nath Kovind administered the oath of office and secrecy at the function.
- **Delegations:**
  - The oath-taking ceremony was attended by leaders of the BIMSTEC member countries (Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Nepal, and Bhutan). Several foreign and Opposition leaders attended the ceremony including Congress’ Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi.
- **Pro-Term Speaker:**
  - Senior BJP leader and eight-time MP Maneka Gandhi is likely to be the pro-tem
speaker in the 17th Lok Sabha. She was not administered the oath of office in the swearing-in of the new government at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi.

- Gandhi, 62, a veteran BJP leader, had won from the Sultanpur seat in Uttar Pradesh. She has likely been selected to become the pro-tem speaker in the 17th Lok Sabha. Gandhi is the outgoing Union Minister for Women and Child Development.

- The main duty of the pro-tem Speaker is to administer the oath of office to new members of the Lok Sabha.

Ministers sworn-in:

- By winning 303 seats, the Bharatiya Janata Party got the decisive mandate to rule the country for the next five years. Even though the party has the required numbers to form the government on its own, it has decided to accommodate its allies in the Ministries. A total of 57 ministers sworn in as Prime Minister Narendra Modi begins the second term.

- The list of Ministers who took the oath are given below:
Indias last Orangutan Binny died due to prolonged illness

- Binny, a 41-year-old orangutan, at Odisha's Nandankanan Zoological Park died on 29 May following a prolonged illness. She was suffering from cold and old age related respiratory tract issues. Accordingly, the treatment was going on.
- The lone female orangutan Binny was brought to Nandankanan Zoo from Pune's Rajiv Gandhi Zoological Park on 20 November 2003, when she was 25 years old. Since her arrival, she has been alone in her zoo enclosure and zoo officials failed to arrange a male partner for her.

Orangutan:

- Orangutans are one of the world’s three extant species of great apes and are native to Indonesia and Malaysia. Orangutans are currently found only in the rain forests of Borneo and Sumatra.
They are considered to be among the most intelligent primates. An orangutan can live up to 45 years in the wild and even more in zoos.

They have been extensively studied by researchers for their learning abilities.

They use a variety of sophisticated tools and even construct elaborate sleeping nests from branches and foliage.

The Sumatran and Bornean species are both critically endangered according to the IUCN Red List of mammals.

Y S Jaganmohan Reddy was sworn in as second Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh

Y S Jaganmohan Reddy, who got a massive mandate for his party YSRCP in the Assembly elections, was sworn in as second Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh after bifurcation on 30 May. Governor E.S.L. Narasimhan administered the oath to Mr. Jagan at the Indira Gandhi Municipal Stadium, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh.

His immediate announcements:

In his first major announcement after taking the oath, Reddy immediately announced Rs.3,000 as pension per month for senior citizens in the state. The scheme would begin with Rs 2,250 and it will be increased up to Rs 3,000 within three years.

He asserted there would be corruption-free governance in the state. A call centre would be set up at the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) to address the corruption charges. Everyone will have access to the CMO.

He said over one lakh jobs will be created by October 2.

The Chief Minister also said that he will request the Andhra Pradesh High Court to constitute a judicial commission with the sitting judge to monitor and execute tenders and contracts.

2019 LS election:

The YSRCP got an absolute majority in the 175-member Assembly, ousting N Chandrababu Naidu-led Telugu Desam Party (TDP) from power in the state. The party won 151 seats, whereas TDP's strength was drastically reduced from 102 in the 2014 Assembly elections to a mere 23. In the Lok Sabha, YSRCP bagged 22 seats out of the state's 25 with rest three going to the TDP.
Operations of Jewar airport in Uttar Pradesh is expected to begin from 2023

- The proposed **Jewar airport in Uttar Pradesh** is expected to begin operations from **2023** with a capacity to handle 1.2 crore passengers annually. It will serve as the **second airport for the National Capital Region**. The State government floated a tender document regarding the project.
- The last date for submission of bids by interested bidders is October 30 and the financial bids will be opened on November 29. The concession period for the airport is for **40 years**, which can be extended by another 30 years.
- **Reason for the new airport:**
  - The airport is expected to **reduce congestion at Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport** in New Delhi which witnessed **63.5 million passengers in 2017**, exceeds the built capacity of 6 crore passengers. IGI is expected to see 10.9 crore passengers by 2024, which is its structural capacity of the airport beyond which it cannot be expanded.
- **Construction phases:**
  - The airport, to be known as **Noida International Airport**, will be developed in **four phases** between **2020 and 2040** at a cost of **Rs.30,000 crore** on 1,300 hectares of land.
  - The first phase will be built by financial year 2023 and is proposed to have one runway, parallel taxiway, parking bays for 25 aircraft, an Air Traffic Control building, cargo terminal building, among others.
  - When fully built by 2040, the airport will have two runways, two terminal buildings, parking bays for 102 aircraft and will be able to handle 7 crore passengers per annum.
  - The nodal authority, **Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA)**, overseeing Jewar airport concluded that the Rapid Metro from Meerut to Delhi will connect **IGI to Noida International Airport**. An elevated road from IGI to Jewar is planned and the U.P. government has written to the Ministry of Urban Development.

**Rajasthan government banned e cigarettes in the State**

- **Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot** announced the banned on the **sale of e-cigarettes in Rajasthan**. Gehlot issued the order on the occasion of **World No
Tobacco Day on May 31.

- **Ban:**
  - The government had banned the **online or offline sale, storage, production, distribution, and advertisement of e-cigarettes** in the state. The CM said that the ban follows his party's manifesto to discourage the youth from addiction.

- **Harmful effects of E-cigarettes:**
  - E-cigarettes are too new for researchers to have found their adverse impact like **cancer associated with tobacco**. Researchers have found that initially many youngsters start smoking e-cigarettes and gradually shift to tobacco cigarettes later in life.
  - Thus the ban will be an important step to curb e-cigarette addiction among youths and will prove effective to discourage them from consumption.

- **Committee to analyze:**
  - The State government has set up a **committee of experts** to look into the **adverse impacts of e-cigarettes** and it found that there were indeed many. The committee will do a detailed study on the rising use of e-cigarettes.

- **Criticism on the ban:**
  - But this is a surprise move in a state where the sale of tobacco products and cigarettes is allowed. Questions are being raised whether the ban has been done to safeguard interests of the tobacco lobby. Smoking tobacco has been found to be more dangerous than an e-cigarette. While public smoking of cigarettes is banned in the state, no steps to ban chewing of tobacco have been taken.

**India's FDI equity inflows declined for the first time in 6 years**

- India's **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** equity inflows declined for the first time in six years in **2018-19**. Data released by the **Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion** and internal trade showed FDI equity inflows into India **declined 1% to $44.4 billion** in the year to 31 March. The decline signals a squeeze in **long-term foreign investment** into the country.
  - The two sectors where FDI inflows dropped the most are telecommunications (fell 57% to $2.7 billion) and pharmaceuticals (dropped 74% to $266 million). Singapore dislodged Mauritius as a top source of FDI, accounting for $16.22 billion inflows.
  - **What is Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)?**
Foreign direct investment (FDI) is an investment made by a firm or individual in one country into business interests located in another country. Generally, FDI takes place when an investor establishes foreign business operations or acquires foreign business assets, including establishing ownership or controlling interest in a foreign company. Foreign direct investments are distinguished from portfolio investments in which an investor merely purchases equities of foreign-based companies.

Union Ministers and their portfolios

- The government on 31 May announced the portfolios of the Union ministers. Total 57 Council of ministers, 24 cabinet ministers had taken oath including Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, Nirmala Sitharaman, Smriti Irani and Piyush Goyal, 9 as Minister of State with Independent Charge and another 24 as Minister of State.
- BJP President Amit Shah being named home minister and Rajnath Singh will be defence minister
- Nirmala Sitharaman is the new finance minister while former foreign secretary S Jaishankar will be the new External Affairs Minister
- The full list of the Union council of ministers with portfolio:
- Cabinet Ministers:
  -
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No</th>
<th>Cabinet Ministers</th>
<th>Portfolio</th>
<th>Constituency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Narendra Modi</td>
<td>Prime Minister and also in-charge of: Ministry of Personnel, Public</td>
<td>Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Grievances and Pensions; Department of Atomic Energy; Department of</td>
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<td>Space; and All important policy issues; and all other portfolios not</td>
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<td>allocated to any Ministers</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Raj Nath Singh</td>
<td>Minister of Defence</td>
<td>Lucknow, UP</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Amit Shah</td>
<td>Minister of Home Affairs</td>
<td>Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Nitin Jairam</td>
<td>Minister of Road Transport and Highways; and Minister of Micro, Small</td>
<td>Nagpur, Maharashtra</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Gadkari</td>
<td>and Medium Enterprises</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>D.V. Sadananda</td>
<td>Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers</td>
<td>Bangalore North, Karnataka</td>
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<td>Gowda</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Nirmala Sitharaman</td>
<td>Minister of Finance; and Minister of Corporate Affairs</td>
<td>Rajya Sabha (Karnataka)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Ramvilas Paswan</td>
<td>Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution</td>
<td>Not contested in election</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Narendra Singh</td>
<td>Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare; Minister of Rural Development;</td>
<td>Morena, M.P</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tomar</td>
<td>and Minister of Panchayati Raj</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Ravi Shankar</td>
<td>Minister of Law and Justice; Minister of Communications; and Minister of</td>
<td>Patna Sahib, Bihar</td>
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<td>Prasad</td>
<td>Electronics and Information Technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Harsimrat Kaur</td>
<td>Minister of Food Processing Industries</td>
<td>Bathinda, Punjab</td>
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<td>Badal</td>
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<td>No.</td>
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<td>Constituency</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Shri Thaawar Chand Gehlot</td>
<td>Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment</td>
<td>Rajya Sabha (M.P)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Subrahmanyan Jaishankar 'Nishank'</td>
<td>Minister of External Affairs</td>
<td>Not contested in election</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Ramesh Pokhiyial 'Nishank'</td>
<td>Minister of Human Resource Development</td>
<td>Haridwar, Uttarakhand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Arjun Munda</td>
<td>Minister of Tribal Affairs</td>
<td>Khunti, Jharkhand</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Smriti Zubin Irani</td>
<td>Minister of Women and Child Development; and Minister of Textiles</td>
<td>Amethi, U.P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Dr. Harsh Vardhan</td>
<td>Minister of Health and Family Welfare; Minister of Science and Technology; and Minister of Earth Sciences</td>
<td>Chandni Chowk, New Delhi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Prakash Javadekar</td>
<td>Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change; and Minister of Information and Broadcasting</td>
<td>Rajya Sabha (M.P)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Piyush Goyal</td>
<td>Minister of Railways; and Minister of Commerce and Industry</td>
<td>Rajya Sabha (Maharashtra)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Dharmendra Pradhan</td>
<td>Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas; and Minister of Steel</td>
<td>Rajya Sabha (M.P)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi</td>
<td>Minister of Minority Affairs</td>
<td>Rajya Sabha (Jharkhand)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Pralhad Joshi</td>
<td>Minister of Parliamentary Affairs; Minister of Coal; and Minister of Mines</td>
<td>Dhanbad, Karnataka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey</td>
<td>Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship</td>
<td>Chandauli, U.P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Arvind Ganpat Sawant</td>
<td>Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprise</td>
<td>Mumbai South, Maharashtra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Giriraj Singh</td>
<td>Minister of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries</td>
<td>Begusarai, Bihar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Gajendra Singh Shekhawat</td>
<td>Minister of Jal Shakti</td>
<td>Jodhpur, Rajasthan</td>
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</tbody>
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- **Minister of State (Independent Charge):**
  
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<th>S.No</th>
<th>Minister of State</th>
<th>Portfolio</th>
<th>Constituency</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Santosh Kumar Gangwar</td>
<td>Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Labour and Employment</td>
<td>Bareilly, U.P</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Rao Inderjit Singh</td>
<td>Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation; and Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Planning</td>
<td>Gurgaon, Haryana</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Shripad Yesso Naik</td>
<td>Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH); and Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence</td>
<td>North Goa, Goa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Dr. Jitendra Singh</td>
<td>Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Development of NorthEastern Region; Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office; Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Minister of State in the Department of Atomic Energy; and Minister of State in the Department of Space</td>
<td>Udhampur, J&amp;K</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Kiren Rijiju</td>
<td>Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Minority Affairs</td>
<td>Arunachal West, Arunachal Pradesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Prahalad Singh Patel</td>
<td>Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Culture; and Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Tourism</td>
<td>Damoh, M.P</td>
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<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Raj Kumar Singh</td>
<td>Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Power; Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship</td>
<td>Arrah in Bihar</td>
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<td>No.</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>Hardeep Singh Puri</td>
<td>Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs; Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Civil Aviation; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry</td>
<td>Lost in Lok Sabha election</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Mansukh L. Mandaviya</td>
<td>Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Shipping; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers</td>
<td>Rajya Sabha, Gujarat</td>
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- Minister of State:
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Faggansingh Kulaste</td>
<td>Minister of State in the Ministry of Steel</td>
<td>Mandla, M.P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Ashwini Kumar Choubey</td>
<td>Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare</td>
<td>Buxar, Bihar</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Arjun Ram Meghwal</td>
<td>Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises</td>
<td>Bikaner, Rajasthan</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>General (Retd.) V. K. Singh</td>
<td>Minister of State in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways</td>
<td>Ghaziabad, U.P</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Krishan Pal</td>
<td>Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment</td>
<td>Faridabad, Haryana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Danve Raosaheb Dadarao</td>
<td>Minister of State in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution</td>
<td>Jalna, Maharashtra</td>
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<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>G. Kishan Reddy</td>
<td>Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs</td>
<td>Secunderabad, Telangana</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Parshottam Rupala</td>
<td>Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare</td>
<td>Rajya Sabha (Gujarat)</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Randas Athawale</td>
<td>Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment</td>
<td>Rajya Sabha (Maharashtra)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti</td>
<td>Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development</td>
<td>Fathpur, U.P</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Babul Supriyo</td>
<td>Minister of State in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change</td>
<td>Asansol, West Bengal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Dhotre Sanjay Shamrao</td>
<td>Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource Development; Minister of State in the Ministry of Communications; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology</td>
<td>Akola, Maharashtra</td>
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<tr>
<td>No.</td>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Position</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Anurag Singh Thakur</td>
<td>Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs</td>
<td>Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Angadi Suresh Chanabasappa</td>
<td>Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways</td>
<td>Belgaum, Karnataka</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Nityanand Rai</td>
<td>Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs</td>
<td>Ujjainpur, Bihar</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Rattan Lal Kataria</td>
<td>Minister of State in the Ministry of Jal Shakti; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment</td>
<td>Ambala, Haryana</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>V. Muraleedharan</td>
<td>Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs</td>
<td>Vadakara, Kerala</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Remuka Singh Saruta</td>
<td>Minister of State in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs</td>
<td>Surguja, Chhattisgarh</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Som Parkash</td>
<td>Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry</td>
<td>Hoshiarpur, Punjab</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>Rameswar Teli</td>
<td>Minister of State in the Ministry of Food Processing Industries</td>
<td>Dibrugarh, Assam</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Pratap Chandra Sarangi</td>
<td>Minister of State in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries</td>
<td>Balasore, Odisha</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Kailash Choudhary</td>
<td>Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare</td>
<td>Barmer, Rajasthan</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>Sushri Debasisree Chaudhuri</td>
<td>Minister of State in the Ministry of Women and Child Development</td>
<td>Raiganj, West Bengal</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
NASA unveiled the plans about the Artemis program

- NASA unveiled the calendar for the "Artemis" programme that will return astronauts to the Moon for the first time in half a century, including eight scheduled launches and a mini-station in lunar orbit by 2024.
- **Artemis**:
  - The original lunar missions were named for Apollo - Artemis was his twin sister in Greek mythology, and the goddess of hunting, wilderness, and the Moon.
  - **Artemis 1** will be an uncrewed mission around the Moon planned for 2020.
  - **Artemis 2** will orbit Earth's satellite with a crew around 2022.
  - **Artemis 3** that will put astronauts on lunar soil in 2024, including the first woman.
- **Aim**:
  - It consists of a spacecraft to measure what happens when Sun's radiation hits our rocky moon, where there is no magnetic field to protect it.
- **Benefits**:
  - Artemis mission uses two out of five in-orbit spacecraft from another NASA Heliophysics constellation of satellites called The Time History of Events and Macroscale Interactions during Substorms i.e. "THEMIS". NASA's THEMIS mission began in 2007 and was successfully completed in 2010. The Artemis mission thus allows NASA to repurpose its two in-orbit spacecraft and to extend their useful science mission, saving millions of taxpayer dollars instead of building and launching new spacecraft.
- **Partners of NASA**:
  - The three, Artemis 1, Artemis 2 and Artemis 3, will be launched into space by the biggest rocket of all time, the Boeing-led Space Launch System (SLS), which is currently under development. Affixed to its summit will be the Orion capsule, for which Lockheed Martin is the primary contractor.
- **Lunar mini-station "Gateway"**:
  - In addition to these missions, which will be all NASA's efforts, there will be five launches carrying the building blocks of the lunar mini-station "Gateway" which will serve as a staging point for the Moon landing.
  - It is located about 250,000 miles from Earth.
  - These will be carried out between 2022 and 2024 by private space companies,
which NASA will pay for their services.

- The orbital station will initially consist of a simple power and propulsion element and a small habitat module. In 2024, astronauts will stop there en route to the Moon. They will then descend to the surface on a lander.
- A part of the lander will remain on the Moon while the other part will take off and allow the astronauts to return to their station, where they will board the Orion capsule and return to Earth.

**IIT Madras launched Integrated Database on Infrastructure Projects**

- **Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras)** launched a data platform called **Integrated Database on Infrastructure Projects (IDIP)** on **29th May**. IDIP is aimed at **enhancing the efficiency of infrastructure development** in India and to enable effective **decision-making** among different stakeholders involved in the infrastructure sector.

- **Reason to build Database:**
  - The quality data on infrastructure projects in the country is scarce. While data sets provided by the government are often very dated, those from external agencies such as banks and funding institutions lack details

- **Focus on road sector:**
  - IDIP was launched at the **World Conference of Transport Research at IIT Bombay**. While the database will expand to cover other infrastructure in the country, the initial focus of IDIP would be on the road sector, which has received the highest private investment among all infrastructure sectors
  - Comprehensive infrastructural data on 250 roads across the country, built on a **public-private partnership (PPP) model**, has been made available at a single destination.
  - The Road PPP in India is the largest in the world. IIT-Madras is soon to work on adding around 680 roads built on the Engineering Procurement and Construction model.

**Gujarat traffic police to use laser guns to curb overspeeding**

- The **Gujarat government** has decided to equip the traffic police with 'laser guns' for detection of **over-speeding by vehicles**. The state police's traffic branch
has purchased **39 such high-tech guns at a cost of Rs.3.9 crore.**

- Five of these US-made devices will be given to the Ahmedabad city police, and every district police force will also be provided one of these guns.
- A three-day workshop was organised recently at the Karai Police Academy here to impart training to over 200 traffic policemen on operating the device.

**Laser gun:**
- The gun uses **laser technology** to detect the speed of a vehicle. It can record the speed of **three vehicles** simultaneously in a second, even if the vehicles are a km away.
- The device is equipped to record speeds from **0-320 kilometre per hour.**
- The speed gun is an online device which can send an e-memo to the owner with a photo of the vehicle. If required, the speed gun can also generate and print the challan offline on the spot.
- It is also capable of recording videos of the over-speeding vehicles which will serve as proof if the vehicle owner confronts the police.

**ISS spacewalk successfully carried out for the 217th time by 2 cosmonauts**

- **Two Russian space agency** Roscosmos' cosmonauts have successfully carried out the **217th spacewalk** for **International Space Station's** support, maintenance and upgrade. The spacewalk, fourth for 2019, was done by Expedition 59 **Commander Oleg Kononenko** and Flight Engineer **Alexey Ovchinin** and lasted six hours and one minute.
  - This was Commander Kononenko's fifth spacewalk and the first-ever for Ovchinin.
  - The cosmonauts retrieved science experiments, install handrails on the Russian segment of the complex, and conduct maintenance on the orbiting laboratory.

**Roscosmos State Space Corporation:**
- **Formation:** 25 February 1992
- **Headquarters:** Moscow, Russia
- **Administrator:** Dmitry Rogozin
- **Parent organization:** The Russian government
- It is responsible for the wide range and types of space flights and cosmonautics programs for the Russian Federation.
Facebook plans to launch its cryptocurrency, GlobalCoin, by the first quarter of 2020

- **Facebook** plans to launch its **cryptocurrency** by the first quarter of **2020**. The company is expected to reveal more details about the currency before testing begins later in 2019. The currency, which is being referred to internally as **GlobalCoin**, will reportedly be available in around a dozen countries at launch, where its expected to offer people affordable and secure payments without the need for a bank account.

- The currency will need to overcome numerous technical and regulatory hurdles before it can be launched. **Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg** met with the **Bank of Englands governor** Mark Carney to discuss the opportunities and risks of the planned **digital currency**.

- **India-Key focus:**
  - However, Facebook might have a harder job on its hands in **India**, which has taken a hostile attitude towards virtual currencies. India is reported to be a **key focus for the new currency**, where Facebook hopes it will allow Indian workers abroad to send money back home to their families using **WhatsApp**.

- **What is a Cryptocurrency**
  - A cryptocurrency is a **digital or virtual currency** that uses cryptography for security. A cryptocurrency is **difficult** to counterfeit because of this security feature. It is **not issued by any central authority**, rendering it theoretically immune to government interference or manipulation.

  - The first blockchain-based cryptocurrency was Bitcoin, which still remains the most popular and most valuable. Today, there are thousands of alternate cryptocurrencies with various functions or specifications.

**ISRO partnered with IAF for Gaganyaan astronaut selection, training**

- **The Indian Air Force (IAF)** has signed an agreement with the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** for **crew selection and training** for the prestigious **Gaganyaan, the country's maiden manned mission**.

  - AVM RGK Kapoor, ACAS Ops (Space), IAF handed over the MoU to Shri R Hutton, Project Director of Gaganyaan Programme.

- **Agreement:**
- Under the programme, a **three-member crew** will spend a minimum of **seven days in space**.
- A human-rated **GSLV Mk-lll** will be used to carry the orbital module, which will have necessary provisions for sustaining a three-member crew for the duration of the mission.
- The **Institute of Aerospace Medicine (IAM)** will lead the selection and training of astronauts **on behalf of IAF**.
- The necessary infrastructure for crew training, a realization of flight systems and ground infrastructure will be established to support the program.
- The ISRO will collaborate extensively with national agencies, laboratories, academia, and industry to accomplish the objectives of the prestigious mission.

**Gaganyaan Mission:**
- **Gaganyaan** ("Sky Craft") is an Indian crewed orbital spacecraft intended to be the basis of the **Indian Human Spaceflight Programme**.
- Gaganyaan was announced by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** in 2018.
- The mission worth **Rs. 10,000 crore**.
- The Programme is aimed to be launched by December 2021.
- It was **approved by the Union Cabinet** in 2018.
- In its maiden crewed mission, ISRO's largely autonomous 3.7-tonne capsule will orbit the Earth at 400 km (250 mi) altitude for up to seven days with a three-person crew on board.
DEFENCE

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

- Defence Research and Defence Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight tested a 500 kg class Inertial Guided Bomb from a Su-30 MKI aircraft at the Pokhran test range in Rajasthan.
- The indigenously-developed guided bomb achieved the desired range and hit the target at a distance of 30 km away with high precision. All the mission objectives have been met. The weapon system is capable of carrying different warheads. India has carried out several such trials in 2019. DRDO is engaged in developing defence technologies covering various disciplines.
- The test firing of the guided bomb comes two days after the Indian Air Force (IAF) successfully test fired the aerial version of the supersonic BrahMos cruise missile from a Sukhoi jet at the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The 2.5-tonne air-to-surface missile has a range of around 300 km, and it will significantly enhance the IAF's combat capability.

DRDO successfully test-fired the new version of the Akash

- The Defence Research Development Organization (DRDO) successfully test-fired the new version of the Akash surface-to-air defence missile system with a new indigenously-developed seeker in Balasore off the Odisha coast on 27 May. This is the second successful test of the missile. The medium range multi-target engagement capable missile was developed as part of the Integrated Guided-Missile Development Programme (IGMDP) other than Nag, Agni, Trishul, and Prithvi missiles.
- **About Akash:**
- The supersonic missile has a range of around 25 km and up to the altitude of 18,000 metres. The missile uses high-energy solid propellant for the booster and ramjet-rocket propulsion for the sustainer phase. The missile system is said to be highly mobile.
- Several variants of the missile, Akash MK1, Akash-MK2, with improved accuracy and higher ranges are under development by the DRDO.
India's missile system:
The missile system was formally inducted into the IAF on July 10, 2015, and in the Army on May 5, 2015. In September that year, the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) cleared seven additional squadrons of the missile for the IAF. However, it had been bogged in controversies with a Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report in 2017 stating that 30% of the missiles failed when tested. The Army too had said in 2017 that the missile did not meet its operational requirements due to higher reaction time.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Director General of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Professor Balram Bhargava jointly won the 2019 Dr. Lee Jong-wook Memorial Prize for Public Health at the 72nd World Health Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland. He bagged the award for his achievements as a clinician, innovator, researcher, and trainer.
- **Professor (Dr) Balram Bhargava:**
- **Professor (Dr) Balram Bhargava**, Secretary, Department of Health Research, (Ministry of Health & Family Welfare) and Director General of ICMR joined on 16th April 2018. He is *Professor of Cardiology at AIIMS*, New Delhi and also serves as the Executive Director for Stanford India Biodesign Centre, School of International Biodesign (SiB). He is an outstanding cardiologist, one of the foremost leaders in biomedical innovation, public health, medical education, and medical research.
- Professor Bhargava has **excellent leadership qualities** and has established the India-Stanford Biodesign program, a unique interdisciplinary fellowship program to foster innovation, design in low-cost implants/devices. He set up the c-GMP Centre for Excellence for Stem Cell Studies, at AIIMS which has initiated treatment of patients with dilated cardiomyopathy which has benefitted a number of no-option heart failure patients waiting on the cardiac transplant list.
- **Awards:**
- He has been awarded the SN Bose Centenary award, Tata Innovation Fellowship and Vasvik Award for Biomedical Technology Innovation, Ranbaxy Award and the OP Bhasin Award in the field of Health and Medical Sciences. He has been awarded the **Padma Shri** high civilian award by the Honourable President of India and the UNESCO Equatorial Guinea International Prize for research in Life Sciences at Paris.
- **Dr. Lee Jong-wook Memorial Prize:**
- The Dr. LEE Jong-wook Memorial Prize for Public Health was **established in 2008**. It is awarded to individuals, institutions, and governmental or nongovernmental organizations who have made an outstanding contribution to public health. The Prize aims at rewarding work that has extended far beyond the
call of normal duties, and it is not intended as a reward for an excellent performance of duties normally expected of an official position of a governmental or intergovernmental institution.

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

Guy Gunaratne received the 2019 Swansea University International Dylan Thomas Prize

- Sri Lankan writer Guy Gunaratne was announced as the winner of 2019 Swansea University International Dylan Thomas Prize.
- He won the award for his debut novel 'In Our Mad and Furious City'. Guy Gunaratne is a 35 years old British-Sri-Lankan human rights documentary filmmaker, turned debut novelist. He won over 5 other shortlisted authors.
- The other titles shortlisted for the Swansea prize were: House of Stone by Novuyo Rosa Tshuma, Friday Black by Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah, Trinity by Louisa Hall, FOLK by Zoe Gilbert and Melmoth by Sarah Perry.
- 2018's winner Kayo Chingonyi won for his critically-acclaimed debut poetry collection, Kumukanda, which explores black masculinity.

About Swansea University International Dylan Thomas Prize:

- It is awarded every year for the best published literary work in the English language, written by an author aged 39 or under.
- The prize includes a prize sum of 30,000 and celebrates the international world of fiction in all its forms including novels, poetry, drama, and short stories.
- The year 2019 marks the 11th year of worlds largest English language literary prize for young authors.

Zaidi wins USD 100,000 Nine Dots Prize

- Mumbai-based Writer Annie Zaidi was announced as the 2019 winner of the $100,000 Nine Dots Prize, an award for creative thinking that tackles contemporary societal issues. She won the prize for her entry titled Bread, Cement, Cactus, a piece that combined memoir and reportage to explore concepts of home and belonging.
• Her proposed book, based on the prize-winning essay, will be **published in May 2020** and will examine how a citizen's sense of home might collapse, or recover. The varied themes it will address include the politics and economics of death in India, the crossing of caste and religious lines in a marriage, and the Partition of India as a great cultural and emotional sundering.

• **Annie Zaid:**
  - She is a freelance writer whose work includes reportage, essays, short stories, poetry, and plays.
  - She has published both fiction and non-fiction, including a collection of essays *Known Turf: Bantering with Bandits and Other True Tales* and *Love Stories #1 to 14*, a collection of short fiction published in 2012.

• **Nine Dots Prize:**
  - The Nine Dots Prize is sponsored by the **Kadas Prize Foundation**, a U.K.-registered charity, with support from the **Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (CRASSH)** at the University of Cambridge and Cambridge University Press.
  - It aims to promote, engage and encourage innovative thinking so as to address problems facing the modern world. The prestigious book prize is awarded for creative thinking that tackles contemporary societal issues. The winner receives US$100,000 to write a short book expanding on their ideas.
  - Entrants are asked to answer the given question in **3,000 words**. All entrants with a minimum of 18 years of age can write. Responses and the resulting book will be in English.
**SPORTS**

**Bayern Munich clinched 2019 German Cup**

- **Bayern Munich** clinched **German Cup 2019**. Bayern Munich defeated **RB Leipzig**. Bayern Munich won the **final 30 for their 19th DFB-Pokal title**. With the win, Bayern completed their **12th domestic double**.
- Therefore the team will play away to 201819 Bundesliga runners-up Borussia Dortmund in the 2019 DFL-Supercup in August 2019. Because Bayern qualified for the Champions League through the Bundesliga, the sixth-place team in the Bundesliga, VfL Wolfsburg, earned qualification for the group stage of the 201920 edition of the UEFA Europa League, and the league's third second-round spot went to the team in seventh, Eintracht Frankfurt.

**2019 DFB-Pokal Final**:
- **Date**: 25 May 2019
- **Venue**: Olympiastadion, Berlin
- **Man of the Match**: Robert Lewandowski (Bayern Munich)

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**Saurabh Chaudhary won his second gold medal in 10m Air Pistol event in 2019 ISSF Gold Cup**

- India's 17-year-old shooter **Saurabh Chaudhary** broke his own junior and senior world record to win his second gold medal **in 10m Air Pistol event in ISSF Gold Cup 2019**. Saurabh won 10m Air Pistol event with **246.3 points**, breaking his own **senior record of 245 points** and **junior record of 245.5 points**. This is Saurabh's second gold in the same event. Saurabh had booked a quota for 2020 Olympics during his maiden World Cup in February.
- Earlier, in February 2019 he had bagged gold during the ISSF World Cup in Delhi. The youngster shot 246.3 in the finals fetching gold while Russia's Chernousov Artem won silver with 243.8 and China's Pang Wei had to settle with bronze with a score of 220.7.
- Saurabh is the only Indian shooter to win the gold medal in ISSF World Championship, ISSF World Cup, Youth Olympic Games, Asian Games, and Asian Air Gun Championship.
Others:

While another Indian and former world no.1 Rizvi Shahzar finished at 5th spot in the finals with a score of 177.6.

Earlier, on 26th May India's Apurva Chandela had clinched gold in the women's 10m air rifle event.

2019 ISSF World Cup:

The 2019 ISSF World Cup is the annual edition of the ISSF World Cup in the Olympic shooting events, governed by the International Shooting Sport Federation.

The World Cup series will be also as the qualification tournaments for the 2020 Olympic Games.

Rahi Sarnobat clinched gold in the womens 25m pistol in 2019 ISSF World Cup

- Rahi Sarnobat clinched gold in the womens 25m pistol at the seasons third International Shooting Sport Federation World Cup in Munich, Germany. By this win, she sealed an Olympic quota place for India in style.
- She secured 37 (out of 50 shots) in the final. This is Indias first Olympic quota spot in this event.
- Sarnobat, the Asian Games champion, was second in the final behind compatriot Bhaker. However, once she got the lead, she maintained it till the gold medal shot.
- Olena Kostevych of Ukraine won silver with 36 hits while Bulgarias Antoaneta Boneva won bronze with 26.

Ivo Karlovc-Oldest Man to win a match at the French Open 2019 for 46 years

- Croatias Ivo Karlovic became the oldest man to win a match at the French Open 2019 for 46 years on 28 May. He beat Spains fellow veteran Feliciano Lopez in a first-round duel.
- Forty-year-old Ivo Karlovic became the oldest player to win a match at Roland
Garros and defeated 37-year-old Feliciano Lopez to secure 7-6(4), 7-5, 6-7(7), 7-5 in three hours and six minutes to reach the second round at the clay-court Grand Slam for the sixth time.

- This was the oldest mens match in combined age at Roland Garros during the Open Era, and the seventh-oldest match at a Grand Slam. Karlovic hit 35 aces and saved five of the six break points he faced to win his first match since Indian Wells. **Previous records:**
  - Karlovic became the oldest man to win at Roland Garros since Torben Ulrich in 1973 at the age of 44. He is also the oldest male player to win a Grand Slam match since Ken Rosewall, also 44, did so at the 1978 Australian Open.
  - The last player to contest a Grand Slam singles match having turned 40 was American Jimmy Connors at the U.S. Open in 1992.

**Chelsea clinched the UEFA Europa League 2019 Cup**

- Chelsea clinched the **UEFA Europa League 2019 Cup.** It scored four goals in a devastating second-half display to beat Arsenal 4-1 on 29 May at the **Baku Olympic Stadium in Azerbaijan.**
- It gave Italian manager Maurizio Sarri a major trophy in his first season in charge and Chelsea a first European title since the **2013 Europa League.**
- The triumph in Baku means Chelsea have won **three European titles in seven years,** with the Champions League triumph in 2012 followed by their first Europa League victory in 2013.
- By contrast, Arsenal have lost five of their six major European finals, with their only victory coming in the 1994 Cup Winners' Cup against Parma.

**UEFA Europa League:**

- **Founded:** 1971
- **Region:** Europe (UEFA)
- **Number of teams:** 48
- **Current champions:** Chelsea
- It is an annual football club competition organised by UEFA since 1971 for eligible European football clubs.
- It is the second-tier competition of European club football, ranking below the UEFA Champions League.
SUMMITS & CONFERENCE

Sino-India IT and DT Industry Cooperation Forum 2019 was held in Guiyang, China

- To create a new chapter in India-China cooperation in the new era of digital transition, 2019 Sino-India IT and DT Industry Cooperation Forum was held on 27th May in Guiyang, China.
- The objective was to create a new chapter in India-China cooperation in the new era of the digital transition. To make progress and boost development, the big data, and artificial intelligence, the countries need to have in-depth exchanges.
- NIIT Technology, Shanghai signed cooperation agreements with Guizhou University and Guiyang Education Bureau.

Highlights:
- The National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) has also opened an Information Technology (IT) corridor for the purpose of better exchanges between two countries in the IT sector.
- The idea is also to help Indian companies especially small and medium enterprises to connect with China businesses looking for partners in the IT sector.
- This event was held on the sidelines of the International Big Data Industry Expo 2019. The 4-day event is being attended by 448 enterprises from 59 different countries.

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

About NASSCOM
- Chairman: Keshav Muruges
- Headquarter: Noida, U.P
APPOINTMENTS / RESIGN

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

- **Muhammadu Buhari** sworn in for a second term as Nigeria's president.
- He is a former military ruler, won 56 percent of the votes to defeat his main challenger, former Vice President Atiku Abubakar of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) in the February election.
- According to Transparency International's 2018 Corruption Perceptions Index, Nigeria failed to improve its ranking of 144th out of 180 countries from the previous year, despite a number of positive steps.
- Buhari is the twenty-third child of his father.
- Buhari was raised by his mother after his father died when he was about four years old.

**About Muhammadu Buhari**

- **Born:** 17 December 1942
- **Political party:** All Progressives Congress
- **Nationality:** Nigerian
**IMPORTANT DAYS**

**Veer Savarkar was observed on 28 May**

- **Swatantryaveer Vinayak Damodar Savarkar**'s birth anniversary was celebrated on 28 May 2019. On this occasion, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** paid tributes to **VD Savarkar**. He said that the nation will always remember sacrifices made by Veer Savarkar during the freedom struggle.

- **About V D Savarkar (1883 - 1966)**
  - Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, popularly called as **Veer Savarkar** was born on 28 May 1883 near **Nasik in Maharashtra**. He was a freedom fighter and called **1857 revolt** as the **first war of independence**.
  - He was also involved in the **Swadeshi movement** and later joined **Tilaks Swaraj Party**.
  - His instigating patriotic speeches and activities incensed the British Government. As a result, the British Government withdrew his **B.A. degree**.
  - In Pune, Savarkar founded the Abhinav Bharat Society and Free India Society in London. He has written Joseph Mazzini- Biography and Politics. He has published The Indian War of Independence about Indian rebellion of 1857 (also called The First War of Independence and "Sepoy Mutiny" of 1857).
  - Savarkar wrote the book **'Hindutva who is Hindu?'**. He was a member of India House. He opposed the Quit India Movement struggle (in 1942) calling it a **"Quit India but keep your army"** movement. He endorsed the ideal of India as a **'Hindu Rashtra'** and is also credited with developing Hindu nationalist political ideology of **'Hindutva'**. In his honour the airport at Port Blair, capital of Andaman and Nicobar has been named as Veer Savarkar International Airport.
  - When the then British Collector of Nasik, A.M.T. Jackson was shot by a youth, Veer Savarkar finally fell under the net of the British authorities. He was implicated in the murder citing his connections with India House. Savarkar was arrested in London on **March 13, 1910**, and sent to India.
  - Vinayak Savarkar was a president of Hindu Mahasabha from 1937 to 1943. When Congress ministries offered resignation on 22nd October 1939, Hindu Mahasabha under his leadership cooperated with Muslim league to form...
government in provinces like Sindh, Bengal, and NWFP.

- In his honour the airport at Port Blair, capital of Andaman and Nicobar has been named as Veer Savarkar International Airport.

**World Milk Day is observed on 1 June**

- **World Milk Day** is a day established by the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** of the United Nations to recognize the **importance of milk** as a global food. It has been observed on **June 1 each year since 2001**.
- The day is intended to provide an opportunity to bring attention to activities that are connected with the dairy sector.
- **Objective of the day**:
  - To **provide information** about the need and importance of milk in a human being's life.
  - Various activities are organised on this day to raise awareness about milk and milk products.
  - To celebrate the contribution of milk and dairy products in several industries, the economy and people's lives.
  - To educate people about the nutrients that are present in the milk like **calcium, protein, vitamin B2, potassium, iodine, etc.**
  - Several promotional activities about milk and its importance are launched by the International Dairy Federation on its website online.
- **Milk**:
  - Milk contains **valuable nutrients** and offers a range of health benefits. It is a **white liquid** produced by the **mammary glands of mammals**.
  - Milk is not only consumed by growing children but also by the people of all age groups. It is an important part of our daily diet. It has great nourishing value and a rich source of **calcium, protein, fat and vitamin C**. Mainly we get milk from cows, buffaloes and from other animals like sheep, goat and camel.
- **Milk day in India**:
  - The World Milk Day event does not follow a specific theme in the world. Different countries, governments, and non-governmental organisations decide their own theme.
  - The theme for World Milk Day 2019 in India is *'Drink Milk: Today & Everyday'*.
Various campaigns are organised in India at the **Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI)**, Izatnagar, Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh and focuses on safe, hygiene milk production and consumption.

**World No Tobacco Day (WNTD) is observed on 31 May**

- **World No Tobacco Day (WNTD)** is observed around the world every year on **31 May**. Every year the **World Health Organization (WHO)** and global partners celebrate World No Tobacco Day (WNTD).

- **Aim:**
  - The annual campaign is an opportunity to **raise awareness on the harmful** and deadly effects of tobacco use and second-hand smoke exposure, and to discourage the use of tobacco in any form. It is intended to encourage a 24-hour period of abstinence from all forms of tobacco consumption around the globe. It draws attention to the widespread **prevalence of tobacco use and to negative health effects**.


- **2019 Theme:**
  - In 2019, WNTD focused on its theme on *'Tobacco and lung health'* . The negative impact that tobacco has on peoples lung health, from **cancer to chronic respiratory disease**.

  - The tobacco epidemic is one of the biggest public health threats the world has ever faced, killing more than 8 million people a year. More than **7 million of those deaths** are the result of direct tobacco use while around 1.2 million are the result of non-smokers being exposed to second-hand smoke.

- **Tobacco:**
  - Tobacco is a product prepared from the leaves of the tobacco plant by curing them. More than **70 species** of tobacco are known.

  - Dried tobacco leaves are mainly used for smoking in **cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, and flavored shisha tobacco**. They can also be consumed as snuff, chewing tobacco, dipping tobacco and snus.

  - Tobacco use is a risk factor for many diseases; especially those affecting the heart,
liver, and lungs, as well as many cancers. In 2008, the World Health Organization named tobacco as the **world's single greatest preventable cause of death.**
India, Sri Lanka and Japan signed a deal to develop container terminal at Colombo

- Sri Lanka, Japan, and India signed an agreement to jointly develop the East Container Terminal at the Colombo Port on 28th May. The joint initiative is estimated to cost between $500 million and $700 million.
- The signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) is significant, given that the countries had been negotiating the deal since last year with little success.
- As per the agreement, the Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA) retains 100% ownership of the East Container Terminal (ECT), while the Terminal Operations Company is jointly owned. Sri Lanka will hold a 51% stake in the project and the joint venture partners will retain 49%.
- Aim:
  - The ECT development project aimed at neutralizing the growing influence of China, which has poured money into the South Asian island nation under its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) infrastructure plan. The ECT is located some three km away from the China-backed international financial city, known popularly as port city.
- China's Influence:
  - Sri Lanka has been one of the countries which became part of China's Belt and Road Initiative, an ambitious plan announced in 2013 by President Xi Jinping. However, China's politically controversial investments in Sri Lanka became an election issue in 2015 and fuelled infighting between politicians in the capital.
  - India, the US, and several other countries have been highlighting the concerns over the BRI projects which may leave a number of smaller countries in debt traps. India's involvement in the latest project also became a reason for political infighting in the country.
- India's involvement:
  - Over 70% of the trans-shipment business at the strategically located ECT is linked to India. However, in 2018, India's possible role in developing the terminal had become a major flashpoint within the government. President Maithripala Sirisena had opposed any Indian involvement in the project, as roping in foreign
actors for developing national assets remains a politically sensitive call in the island, especially among nationalist trade unions.

- **Japan is to lend loan:**
  - Japan is likely to provide a **40-year soft loan** with a **0.1% interest rate**. The SLPA described the envisaged Japanese loan as one of the best loan terms Sri Lanka has obtained. Japan had cooperated since the **1980s** to develop the **port's container terminals.**

**NSIC signed MoU with the Ministry of MSME for 2018-19 financial year**

- The **National Small Industries Corporation Limited (NSIC)** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)** for the **year 2018-19**. The MOU was signed by Ram Mohan Mishra and Arun Kumar Panda in the presence of Alka Nangia Arora, Joint Secretary, SME; Mercy Epao, Director (SME); P Udaya Kumar, Director, P&M, NSIC, and A.K. Mittal, Director, Finance, NSIC.
  - The MoU envisages provision of enhanced services by NSIC under its marketing, financial, technology, and other support services schemes, for MSMEs in the country.

- **NSIC plans to increase Profitability:**
  - NSIC projects to increase its total business by **21.30% from Rs.22,258 crore** in the year 2017-18 to **Rs.27,000 crore** in the year 2018-19.
  - NSIC also projects growth of **32% in Profitability** during the year 2019-20.
  - It also plans to enhance its activities in the areas of imparting entrepreneurship and skill development training. It will do so by targeting 45 percent growth in the number of trainees.
  - In August 2018, NSIC had opened another office in Bhubaneswar to encourage MSMEs, including SC/ST groups. The building has workplaces for different offices such as National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), National Skill Training Institute (NSTI) and others which will work with NSIC for offering help to different MSMEs.

**National Small Industries Corporation Limited (NSIC):**

- **Founded:** 1955
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi, India
- **Chairman & MD:** Ram Mohan Mishra
Parent: Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
NSIC is the nodal office for several schemes of Ministry of MSME such as Performance & Credit Rating, Single Point Registration, MSME Databank, National SC ST Hub, etc.

ISRO partnered with IAF for Gaganyaan astronaut selection, training

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) has signed an agreement with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for crew selection and training for the prestigious Gaganyaan, the country's maiden manned mission.
- AVM RGK Kapoor, ACAS Ops (Space), IAF handed over the MoU to Shri R Hutton, Project Director of Gaganyaan Programme.

Agreement:
- Under the programme, a three-member crew will spend a minimum of seven days in space.
- A human-rated GSLV Mk-lll will be used to carry the orbital module, which will have necessary provisions for sustaining a three-member crew for the duration of the mission.
- The Institute of Aerospace Medicine (IAM) will lead the selection and training of astronauts on behalf of IAF.
- The necessary infrastructure for crew training, a realization of flight systems and ground infrastructure will be established to support the program.
- The ISRO will collaborate extensively with national agencies, laboratories, academia, and industry to accomplish the objectives of the prestigious mission.

Gaganyaan Mission:
- Gaganyaan ("Sky Craft") is an Indian crewed orbital spacecraft intended to be the basis of the Indian Human Spaceflight Programme.
- Gaganyaan was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2018.
- The mission worth Rs. 10,000 crore.
- The Programme is aimed to be launched by December 2021.
- It was approved by the Union Cabinet in 2018.
- In its maiden crewed mission, ISRO's largely autonomous 3.7-tonne capsule will orbit the Earth at 400 km (250 mi) altitude for up to seven days with a three-person crew on board.
QUIZ CORNER

1) The designated bank branches that distribute the notes and coins throughout the country are called __________.

A. Core banks
B. Currency Chest
C. Denomination suppliers
D. Currency regulator

Answer B

Explanation Distribution of notes and coins throughout the country is done through designated bank branches, called chests. Chest is a receptacle in a commercial bank to store notes and coins on behalf of the Reserve Bank. Deposit into chest leads to credit of the commercial bank's account and withdrawal, debit.

2) RBI allowed large modern currency chests to increase the service charges from Rs.5 per packet to a maximum of __________ per packet.

A. Rs.6
B. Rs.7
C. Rs.8
D. Rs.9

Answer C

Explanation The Reserve Bank of India has announced that it is to allow large modern currency chests to increase the service charges on cash deposited by non-chest bank branches from the existing rate of Rs.5 per packet of 100 pieces to a higher rate subject to a maximum of Rs.8 per packet.

3) To prevent re-occurrence of IL&FS type of debt crisis in NBFCs RBI is to introduce LCR. What does LCR stand for?

A. Liquidity Cash Reserve
B. Licensed Corrected Ratio
C. Liquidity Coverage Ratio
Limited Cash Reserve

Answer C

Explanation The Reserve Bank of India has proposed a set of guidelines for large NBFCs to help them deal with severe liquidity problems and prevent re-occurrence of IL&FS type of debt crisis. As per the proposal, a Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR) regime would be introduced in all deposit taking Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) and non-deposit taking shadow banks with an asset size of Rs.5,000 crore and above in a phased manner. LCR requirement would be binding on NBFCs from 1 April 2020 with minimum LCR of 60% that will be progressively increased in equal steps till it reaches the required level of 100% by April 1, 2024.

4) RBI is to introduce Liquidity Coverage Ratio in NBFCs/non-deposit taking shadow banks which have an asset size of _______ and above.

A. Rs.5,000 crore
B. Rs.10,000 crore
C. Rs.15,000 crore
D. Rs.20,000 crore

Answer A

Explanation The Reserve Bank of India has proposed a set of guidelines for large NBFCs to help them deal with severe liquidity problems and prevent re-occurrence of IL&FS type of debt crisis. As per the proposal, a Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR) regime would be introduced in all deposit taking Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) and non-deposit taking shadow banks with an asset size of Rs.5,000 crore and above in a phased manner. LCR requirement would be binding on NBFCs from 1 April 2020 with minimum LCR of 60% that will be progressively increased in equal steps till it reaches required level of 100% by April 1, 2024.

5) Which of the following can be converted into cash to obtain funds in a range of stress scenarios?

A. High Quality Liquid Assets
B. Cash Reserve Assets
C. Statutory Liquid Assets
D. Non-performing Liquid Assets

Answer A

Explanation HQLA means liquid assets that can be readily sold or immediately converted into
cash at little or no loss of value or used as collateral to obtain funds in a range of stress scenarios.

6) How many medals India bagged at Open International tournament?

A. 57  
B. 65  
C. 72  
D. 38

**Answer A**

**Explanation** India bagged 57 medals at Open International tournament.

7) Who administers the oath of office of the Prime Minister?

A. President  
B. CJI  
C. Cabinet Members  
D. Governor of Delhi

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The President of India administers the oath of office of the Prime Minister.

8) NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) is the commercial arm of __________.

A. HAL  
B. ISRO  
C. DRDO  
D. Ministry of Defence

**Answer B**

**Explanation** NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), the commercial arm of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), was inaugurated in Bengaluru. NSIL's main objective is to scale up industry participation in Indian space programs.

9) Who won the 2019 Dr Lee Jong-wook Memorial Prize for Public Health?
A. Dr. Soumya Swaminathan  
B. Dr. Vishwa Mohan Katoch  
C. Prof. N. K. Ganguly  
D. Prof. Balram Bhargava  

**Answer D**

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

10) Where is the newly inaugurated NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), the commercial arm of ISRO located?

A. Sriharikota  
B. Bengaluru  
C. Kolkata  
D. Navi, Mumbai  

**Answer B**

**Explanation** NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), the commercial arm of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), was inaugurated in Bengaluru. NSIL's main objective is to scale up industry participation in Indian space programmes.

11) Who is the author of the debut novel 'In Our Mad and Furious City'?

A. Louisa Hall  
B. Guy Gunaratne  
C. Zoe Gilbert  
D. Sarah Perry  

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Sri Lankan writer Guy Gunaratne was announced as the winner of 2019 Swansea University International Dylan Thomas Prize. He won the award for his debut novel 'In Our Mad and Furious City'. Guy Gunaratne is a 35 years old British-Sri-Lankan human rights documentary filmmaker, turned debut novelist. He won over 5 other shortlisted authors.
12) Who won the 2019 Swansea University International Dylan Thomas Prize?

A. Sri Lankan writer Guy Gunaratne  
B. Indian writer Ira Trivedi  
C. Chinese writers Mo Yan  
D. Pakistan writer Rafia Zakaria

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Sri Lankan writer Guy Gunaratne was announced as the winner of 2019 Swansea University International Dylan Thomas Prize. He won the award for his debut novel 'In Our Mad and Furious City'. Guy Gunaratne is a 35 years old British-Sri-Lankan human rights documentary filmmaker, turned debut novelist. He won over 5 other shortlisted authors.

13) Who sworn in as the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh?

A. J.J. Singh  
B. Nabam Tuki  
C. Pema Khandu  
D. Jyoti Prasad Rajkhowa

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Pema Khandu will be sworn-in as the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh on May 29. This comes after Arunachal Pradesh BJP MLAs unanimously selected Pema Khandu as the leader of BJP Legislature Party on 27 May. BJP had won 41 seats in the 60-member Arunachal Pradesh Assembly.

14) Who broke his own world record and won gold in men's 10m air rifle in ISSF World Cup 2019?

A. Pang Wei  
B. Rizvi Shahzar  
C. Saurabh Chaudhary  
D. Abhinav Bindra

**Answer C**

**Explanation** India's 17-year-old shooter Saurabh Chaudhary broke his own junior and senior world record to win his second World Cup gold medal. Saurabh won 10m Air Pistol event with
246.3 points, breaking his own senior record of 245 points and junior record of 245.5 points. This is Saurabh's second gold in the same event. Saurabh had booked a quota for 2020 Olympics during his maiden World Cup in February.

15) Who sworn in as Chief Minister of Sikkim?

A. Prem Singh Tamang  
B. Ganga Prasad  
C. Pawan Kumar Chamling  
D. Shriniwas Dadasaheb Patil  

Answer A  

Explanation  Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) president Prem Singh Tamang, who is famously known as P.S. Golay, took oath as the Chief Minister of Sikkim on 27th May. Fifty-one-year-old Tamang was administered the oath by Governor Ganga Prasad at Paljor Stadium in Gangtok, Sikkim. He took the oath in Nepali.

16) DRDO's Akash missile was developed under ________.

A. Integrated Guided-Missile Development Programme (IGMDP)  
B. Ballistic-Missile Development Programme (BMDP)  
C. Indigenous Missile Development Programme (IMDP)  
D. Integrated Anti-Missile Development Programme (IAMDP)  

Answer A  

Explanation  The Defence Research Development Organization (DRDO) successfully test-fired the new version of the Akash surface-to-air defence missile system with a new indigenously-developed seeker in Balasore off the Odisha coast. The medium range multi-target engagement capable missile was developed as part of the Integrated Guided-Missile Development Programme (IGMDP) other than Nag, Agni, Trishul, and Prithvi missiles.

17) DRDO test fired the new version of _______ surface-to-air defence missile under the Integrated Guided-Missile Development Programme (IGMDP)?

A. Agni  
B. Akash  
C. Trishul  
D. Prithvi
Answer B

Explanation The Defence Research Development Organization (DRDO) successfully test-fired the new version of the Akash surface-to-air defence missile system with a new indigenously-developed seeker in Balasore off the Odisha coast.

18) Who won gold in the women’s 25m pistol at the 2019 ISSF World Cup in Munich, Germany?

A. Manu Bhaker  
B. Tejaswini Sawant  
C. Rahi Sarnobat  
D. Tejaswini Sawant

Answer C

Explanation Rahi Sarnobat sealed a Olympic quota place for India in style as she cruised to victory in the women’s 25m pistol at the season’s third International Shooting Sport Federation World Cup in Munich, Germany on 27 May.

19) Which of the following is NASA’s program that will return astronauts to the Moon for first time?

A. Artemis  
B. THEMIS  
C. Gateway  
D. Spitzer

Answer A

Explanation NASA unveiled the calendar for the "Artemis" programme that will return astronauts to the Moon for the first time in half a century, including eight scheduled launches and a mini-station in lunar orbit by 2024.

20) IAFs AN-32 aircraft has formally been certified to fly on blended aviation fuel containing up to 10% of indigenous _______ fuel.

A. AVGas  
B. diesel
The Russian made AN-32 aircraft, IAFs formidable workhorse has formally been certified to fly on blended aviation fuel containing up to 10% of indigenous bio-jet fuel.
P.Jayapal, Chief Executive of the Centre for Military Airworthiness and Certification (CEMILAC) handed over the approval certificate to Air Commodore Sanjiv Ghuratia VSM, Air Officer Commanding at the aero-engine test facilities at Chandigarh.

**21) Who launched a new project to boost medicinal plant cultivation?**

A. Chandrasekhara Rao  
B. Pinarayi Vijayan  
C. Siddaramaiah  
D. Conrad Sangma

*Answer D*

**Explanation** Meghalaya CM Conrad Sangma launched a new project to boost medicinal plant cultivation.

**22) _______ became the oldest man to win a match at the French Open 2019.**

A. Torben Ulrich  
B. Ivo Karlovic  
C. Feliciano Lopez  
D. Istvan Gulyas

*Answer B*

**Explanation** Croatias Ivo Karlovic, 40 years, became the oldest man to win a match at the French Open 2019 on 28 May. He defeated 37-year-old Feliciano Lopez and secured 7-6(4), 7-5, 6-7(7), 7-5. This was the oldest mens match in combined age at Roland Garros during the Open Era, and the seventh-oldest match at a Grand Slam.

**23) Which domestic airlines became 4th to have a 100 aircraft in its fleet?**

A. SpiceJet
B. Air India  
C. Jet Airways  
D. IndiGo

Answer A

Explanation SpiceJet became fourth Indian airline to have a 100 aircraft in its fleet. SpiceJet has added a new Boeing 737 aircraft to its fleet, taking its total strength to 100 aircraft. The other three domestic airlines with 100 Aircraft fleet are Air India, Jet Airways, IndiGo.

24) What are the countries signed an agreement to jointly develop the East Container Terminal at the Colombo Port?

A. Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Thailand  
B. Sri Lanka, India and Myanmar  
C. Sri Lanka, Japan and India  
D. Sri Lanka, Bhutan and China

Answer C

Explanation Sri Lanka, Japan and India signed an agreement to jointly develop the East Container Terminal at the Colombo Port on 28 May. The joint initiative is estimated to cost between $500 million and $700 million. As per the agreement signed the Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA) will hold a 51% stake of East Container Terminal (ECT) in the project and the joint venture partners will retain 49%.

25) China rejected U.S. call for substantive dialogue with __________, after the U.S. Ambassador's visit to Tibet, recently.

A. Vladimir Putin  
B. Buddhist monk Tanxu  
C. Antnio Guterres  
D. Dalai Lama

Answer D

Explanation China rejected U.S.s call to Beijing to engage in substantive dialogue with the Dalai Lama. China cited that it was firmly opposed to foreign interference in Tibet and its internal affairs. The country also briefed about Chinas religious and ethnic policies and also about socio-economic development in Tibet.
26) What is the minimum and maximum amount of remittance through Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS)?

A. Rs.1 lakh - No limit  
B. Rs.2 lakh - No limit  
C. Rs.5 lakh - No limit  
D. Rs.10 lakh - No limit

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The RTGS system is primarily meant for large value transactions. The minimum amount to be remitted through RTGS is Rs.2 lakh with no upper or maximum ceiling.

27) For which transactions RBI has extended the time from 4:30 pm to 6 pm?

A. National Electronic Fund transfer (NEFT)  
B. Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS)  
C. Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD)  
D. Immediate Payment Service (IMPS)

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The Reserve Bank of India announced that from 1st June, the time-window for using the Real Time Gross Settlement System (RTGS) for customer transactions will be extended from 4:30 pm to 6 pm.

28) Malaysian government sent hundreds of tonnes of imported plastic waste back to where it came from under __________.

A. Kyoto protocol  
B. Sustainable Development Goals 13  
C. Basel Convention  
D. Montreal protocol

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The Malaysian government said that hundreds of tonnes of imported plastic waste will be shipped back to where it came from insisting that the country did not want to be a global dumping ground. The country is able to do this through the Basel Convention, an international waste treaty meant to prevent developed countries from dumping their rubbish in the Global
South. World leaders came together last year to add plastic, but the U.S. didn't sign off on that.

29) When was the Veer Savarkar observed?
A. 25 May
B. 28 May
C. 30 May
D. 20 May

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Swatantryaveer Vinayak Damodar Savarkar's birth anniversary was celebrated on 28 May 2019. On this occasion, Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tributes to VD Savarkar. He said that the nation will always remember sacrifices made by Veer Savarkar during the freedom struggle.

30) Who called the Quit India Movement struggle (in 1942) as "Quit India but keep your army" movement?
A. Vinayak Damodar Savarkar
B. Bhagat Singh
C. Mangal Pandey
D. Chandra Shekhar Azad

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Vinayak Damodar Savarkar opposed the Quit India Movement struggle (in 1942) calling it a "Quit India but keep your army" movement.

31) Who founded the Abhinav Bharat Society in Pune?
A. Tarak Nath Das
B. Surendranath Banerjee
C. Vinayak Damodar Savarkar
D. Ullaskar Dutta

**Answer C**

**Explanation** In Pune, Vinayak Damodar Savarkar founded the Abhinav Bharat Society and Free India Society in London.
32) Which of the criteria did India meet to be removed from US' currency monitoring list?

A. India had a surplus equivalent to 2% of the GDP  
B. There was repeated intervention in the currency markets  
C. Bilateral trade surplus with the US of at least $20 billion  
D. None of these

Answer C

Explanation India was placed in the bi-annual currency watch list in October 2018. India had met one out of three criteria which was necessary for inclusion on the monitoring list, a significant bilateral surplus with the US for two consecutive reports.

33) What are the countries that are removed from US' currency monitoring list?

A. Pakistan and Afghanistan  
B. China and India  
C. Sweden and India  
D. Switzerland and India

Answer D

Explanation US Government has removed India and Switzerland from its currency monitoring list. The monitoring list includes countries with potentially questionable foreign exchange policies and practice currency manipulation. It is prepared by the US Treasury Department. As India had met one out of three criteria which was necessary for inclusion on the monitoring list, a significant bilateral surplus with the US for two consecutive reports, it has been removed from the list.

34) For which essay, Annie Zaidi was awarded the Nine Dots Prize 2019?

A. Bread, Cement, Cactus  
B. Known Turf: Bantering with Bandits  
C. Other True Tales  
D. Love Stories # 1 to 14

Answer A
Explanation Annie Zaidi was announced as the 2019 winner of the $100,000 Nine Dots Prize, an award for creative thinking that tackles contemporary societal issues. She won the prize for her entry titled Bread, Cement, Cactus, a piece that combined memoir and reportage to explore concepts of home and belonging. Her proposed book, based on the prize-winning essay, will be published in May 2020 and will examine how a citizen's sense of home might collapse, or recover.

35) Who won the Nine Dots Prize 2019, an award for creative thinking that tackles contemporary societal issues?

A. Writer Salman Rushdie  
B. Writer Arundhati Roy  
C. Writer Annie Zaidi  
D. Writer Chetan Bhagat

Answer C

Explanation Writer Annie Zaidi was announced as the 2019 winner of the $100,000 Nine Dots Prize on 29 May. Mumbai-based Zaidi, a freelance writer whose work includes reportage, essays, short stories, poetry and plays, won the prize for her entry titled Bread, Cement, Cactus, a piece that combined memoir and reportage to explore concepts of home and belonging.

36) RBI formed a committee under the chairmanship of Harsh Vardhan to review ________.

A. monetary Policy Committee  
B. housing finance securitisation market  
C. secondary market for corporate loans  
D. economic Capital Framework

Answer B

Explanation The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) constituted a committee to review the existing state of mortgage securitisation in India and suggest measures to deepen it. Six-member committee on Development of Housing Finance Securitisation Market is headed by Harsh Vardhan, Senior Advisor, Bain & Co. It will review the regulations relating to mortgage-backed securitisation (MBS) currently in place, and make specific recommendations on suitably aligning the same with international norms.

37) Who heads the task force formed by RBI for the development of
Secondary loan market?

A.Canara Bank chairman T. N. Manoharan
B.Indian Overseas Bank chairman R. Subramaniakumar
C.Indian Bank chairman Padmaja Chunduru
D.Dena Bank chairman Ashwani Kumar

Answer A

Explanation The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) constituted a task force to suggest policy and regulatory interventions required for development of secondary market in corporate loans, including loan transaction platform for stressed assets. The six-member body is headed by Canara Bank chairman T. N. Manoharan. It has been set up to review the existing state of the market for loan sale/transfer in India as well as international experience in loan trading.

38) Which Minister responsible for the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)?

A.Suresh Prabhu, Cabinet Minister
B.Giriraj Singh, Minister of State
C.Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Minister of State
D.Mansukh L. Mandaviya, Minister of State

Answer B

Explanation Giriraj Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge) is responsible for the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).

39) __________ signed a MoU with the Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Ministry for 2019-20?

A.National Medium Industries Corporation (NMIC)
B.National Industries Corporation (NIC)
C.National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC)
D.Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Corporation India (MSMECI)

Answer C

Explanation The National Small Industries Corporation Limited (NSIC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) for
the year 2018-19. The MoU envisages provision of enhanced services by NSIC under its marketing, financial, technology, and other support services schemes, for MSMEs in the country.

40) WHO recognised burn out in _________.

A. International Classification of Diseases (ICD)
B. Global Class of Diseases (GCD)
C. Rational Medical Condition (RMC)
D. Rare Medically Classified Condition (RMCC)

Answer A

Explanation The World Health Organization (WHO) has for the first time recognised "burn out" in its International Classification of Diseases (ICD), collectively known as the ICD-11. The decision was taken during the World Health Assembly (WHA) in Geneva. Burn-out: WHO has now defined burnout as a syndrome conceptualised as resulting from chronic workplace stress that has not been successfully managed. Burn-out refers specifically to phenomena in the occupational context and should not be applied to describe experiences in other areas of life.

41) When did the Indian government ban LLTE in India?

A. 1987
B. 1988
C. 1990
D. 1991

Answer D

Explanation LTTE has been banned in India since 1991, after the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi by its member.

42) The Centre has constituted a Tribunal for adjudicating ban on LTTE under _________.

A. Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1948
B. Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1952
C. Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967
D. Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1991
A tribunal has been set up by the Government of India under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (37 of 1967) for the purpose of adjudicating whether or not there is sufficient cause for declaring the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam as an unlawful association. The Tribunal constituted by GoI is comprised of a sitting Judge of Delhi High Court (HC) Justice Sangita Dhingra Sehgal.

43) What is the IUCN status of Sumatran and Bornean species Orangutan?

A. Endangered
B. Critically endangered
C. Vulnerable
D. Data Inadequate

Answer B

The Sumatran and Bornean species Orangutan are both critically endangered according to the IUCN Red List of mammals.

44) Binny, India's last Orangutan dies at Nandankanan Zoological Park. Where is the Nandankanan Zoological Park located?

A. Assam
B. Gujarat
C. Maharashtra
D. Odisha

Answer D

Binny, 41-year-old orangutan, at Odisha's Nandankanan Zoological Park died on 29 May following a prolonged illness. she was suffering from cold and old age related respiratory tract issues.

45) Y S Jaganmohan Reddy is the _______ Chief Minister after bifurcation.

A. 1st
B. 2nd
C. 3rd
D. 4th
Answer B

Explanation Y S Jaganmohan Reddy is the 2nd Chief Minister after bifurcation. The first CM after bifurcation is N.Chandrababu Naidu.

46) Who has sworn-in as the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh?

A. E.S.L. Narasimhan  
B. Y S Jaganmohan Reddy  
C. N. Chandrababu Naidu  
D. Koramutla Sreenivasulu

Answer B

Explanation Y S Jaganmohan Reddy, who got a massive mandate for his party YSRCP in the Assembly elections, was sworn in as second Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh after bifurcation on 30 May. Governor E.S.L. Narasimhan administered the oath to Mr. Jagan at the Indira Gandhi Municipal Stadium, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh.

47) Who governed the oath of office to Y S Jaganmohan Reddy, the CM of Andhra Pradesh?

A. E.S.L. Narasimhan  
B. K. Chandrashekar Rao  
C. Narasimhan  
D. Vajubhai Vala

Answer A

Explanation Y S Jaganmohan Reddy, who got a massive mandate for his party YSRCP in the Assembly elections, was sworn in as second Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh after bifurcation on 30 May. Governor E.S.L. Narasimhan administered the oath to Mr. Jagan at the Indira Gandhi Municipal Stadium, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh.

48) Tata Steel is to acquire Bhushan Energy Ltd. for about ________.

A. Rs.200 crore  
B. Rs.400 crore  
C. Rs.500 crore
D.Rs.800 crore

**Answer D**

**Explanation** The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) approved the resolution plan of Tata Steel to acquire debt-ridden Bhushan Energy Ltd. for about Rs.800 crore on 30 May. The principal bench of NCLT-Delhi also rejected objections from Bhushan Energys former promoter Neeraj Singal opposing Tata Steels bid.

49) Goldman Sachs is to invest $250 million to construct one of its largest global workspaces in ________, India.

A.Kolkata  
B.Bengaluru  
C.Mumbai  
D.Chennai

**Answer B**

**Explanation** New York-based investment and financial services major Goldman Sachs has pumped in $250 million to construct one of its largest global workspaces in Bengaluru. Bengaluru, with 2,500 techies, is the second-largest engineering talent base of Goldman Sachs after New York.

50) Which Country is not a BIMSTEC country?

A.China  
B.Myanmar  
C.Sri Lanka  
D.Bangladesh

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The BIMSTEC member states Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Nepal and Bhutan are among the countries dependent on the Bay of Bengal. Fourteen priority sectors of cooperation have been identified and several BIMSTEC centres have been established to focus on those sectors. Secretariat: Dhaka, Bangladesh

51) Who administered the oath of office of PM Narendra Modi?

A.President Ram Nath Kovind
B. CJI Ranjan Gogoi
C. MP Maneka Gandhi
D. Option A & B

Answer A

Explanation Narendra Modi, who was elected for a second term at the Centre, took oath as the Prime Minister at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on 30 May. President Ram Nath Kovind administered the oath of office and secrecy at the function.

52) The laser gun devices is equipped to record speeds from ______ kilometre per hour.
A. 0-140
B. 0-180
C. 0-260
D. 0-320

Answer B

Explanation The gun uses laser technology to detect the speed of a vehicle. It can record the speed of three vehicles simultaneously in a second, even if the vehicles are a km away. The device is equipped to record speeds from 0-320 kilometre per hour.

53) Which State has introduced laser guns for traffic police to curb overspeeding?
A. Tamil Nadu
B. Uttar Pradesh
C. Gujarat
D. Maharashtra

Answer C

Explanation The Gujarat government has decided to equip the traffic police with 'laser guns' for detection of over-speeding by vehicles. The state police's traffic branch has purchased 39 such high-tech guns at a cost of Rs.3.9 crore.

54) Who carried out the 217th spacewalk for International Space Station?
A.2 Russian cosmonauts  
B.2 JAXA astronauts  
C.2 NASA astronauts  
D.2 Europe Space Angency's astronauts

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Two Russian space agency Roscosmos' cosmonauts have successfully carried out the 217th spacewalk for International Space Station's support, maintenance and upgrade. The spacewalk, fourth for 2019, was done by Expedition 59 Commander Oleg Kononenko and Flight Engineer Alexey Ovchinin and lasted six hours and one minute.

55) **In which State is the proposed Jewar Airport to be constructed?**

A. Gujarat  
B. Himachal Pradesh  
C. Uttar Pradesh  
D. Telangana

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The Jewar Airport is a proposed airport to be constructed in Jewar in Gautam Budh Nagar district of Uttar Pradesh. The Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority will be the implementing agency on behalf of the Uttar Pradesh State Government.

56) **Under ICD, World Health Organization (WHO) has categorized being transgender as __________.**

A. mental disorder  
B. sexual health condition  
C. genetic disorder  
D. Both A & B

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The World Health Organization (WHO) will no longer categorise being transgender as a mental disorder. According to the newly-revised version of the International Classification of Diseases (known as ICD-11), published by the WHO, gender identity disorders have been reframed as gender incongruence." Gender incongruence has now been listed under sexual health conditions.
57) New species of wasp from genus ________ was identified in Goa.

A. Ichneumon  
B. Kudakrumia  
C. Bembix  
D. Vespula  

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Scientists have recently identified a new species of wasp from the genus Kudakrumia in Goa. The wasp, Kudakrumia rangmekari, has been named after Goa-based researcher Parag Rangnekar. It belongs to genus Kudakrumia. The Kudakrumia is a genus of primitive wasps that is described and previously known only from Sri Lanka. The new species was collected Cotigao Wildlife sanctuary. The Cotigao Wildlife Sanctuary is located in South Goa district, of Goa. The sanctuary was established in 1968.

58) Facebook's cryptocurrency ________ will launched in 2020.

A. Globalcoin  
B. Litecoin  
C. Namecoin  
D. Auroracoin  

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Facebook plans to launch its cryptocurrency by the first quarter of 2020. The company is expected to reveal more details about the currency before testing begins later in 2019. The currency, which is being referred to internally as GlobalCoin, will reportedly be available in around a dozen countries at launch, where its expected to offer people affordable and secure payments without the need for a bank account.

59) Who is the Chief Minister of Rajasthan?

A. Vijay Rupani  
B. Vasundhara Raje  
C. Ashok Gehlot  
D. Anandiben Patel  

**Answer C**
Explanation Ashok Gehlot is an Indian politician, currently serving his third term as Chief Minister of Rajasthan since December 2018.

60) Which State recently banned the advertisement and sale of e-cigarettes in the State?

A. Madhya Pradesh
B. Odisha
C. Gujarat
D. Rajasthan

Answer D

Explanation Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot announced the ban on the sale of e-cigarettes in Rajasthan. Gehlot issued the order on the occasion of World No Tobacco Day on May 31. The government has banned the online or offline sale, storage, production, distribution, and advertisement of e-cigarettes in the state. The CM said that the ban follows his party's manifesto to discourage the youth from addiction.

61) What is the theme of World Milk Day in India?

A. Beyond Nutrition
B. Drink Milk: Today & Everyday
C. Dairy Is A Building Block of Life
D. Drink Move Be Strong

Answer B

Explanation The World Milk Day event does not follow a specific theme in the world. Different countries, governments, and non-governmental organisations decide their own theme. The theme for World Milk Day 2019 in India is "Drink Milk: Today & Everyday". Various campaigns are organised in India at the Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Izatnagar, Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh and focuses on safe, hygiene milk production and consumption.

62) Who established the World Milk Day?

A. World Health Organisation (WHO)
B. United Nations (UN)
C. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
D. World Food Programme

Answer C

Explanation World Milk Day is a day established by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations to recognize the importance of milk as a global food. It has been observed on June 1 each year since 2001. The day is intended to provide an opportunity to bring attention to activities that are connected with the dairy sector.

63) When is the World Milk Day observed?

A. May 15
B. May 28
C. May 31
D. June 1

Answer D

Explanation World Milk Day is a day established by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations to recognize the importance of milk as a global food. It has been observed on June 1 each year since 2001.

64) What is the theme of World No Tobacco Day (WNTD)?

A. Tobacco and lung health
B. Tobacco Breaks Hearts: Choose health, not tobacco' #NoTobacco
C. a threat to development
D. Cancer Is No Joke, So Put Down That Smoke.

Answer A

Explanation World No Tobacco Day (WNTD) is observed around the world every year on 31 May. In 2019, WNTD focused on its theme on 'Tobacco and lung health'. The negative impact that tobacco has on peoples lung health, from cancer to chronic respiratory disease.

65) When is the World No Tobacco Day (WNTD) observed?

A. April 30
B. May 2
C. May 31
World No Tobacco Day (WNTD) is observed around the world every year on 31 May. Every year the World Health Organization (WHO) and global partners celebrate World No Tobacco Day (WNTD).

66) Which of the following is the Indian Human Spaceflight Programme?

A. ASTRO-1  
B. Gaganyaan  
C. Shukrayaan-1  
D. Aditya

Answer B

Explanation Gaganyaan ("Sky Craft") is an Indian crewed orbital spacecraft intended to be the basis of the Indian Human Spaceflight Programme. Gaganyaan was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2018. The mission worth Rs. 10,000 crore. The Programme is aimed to be launched by December 2021. It was approved by the Union Cabinet in 2018.

67) ISRO signed agreement with ________ for crew selection and training for the Gaganyaan Mission.

A. Indian Air Force  
B. NASA  
C. HAL  
D. European Space Agency

Answer A

Explanation The Indian Air Force (IAF) has signed an agreement with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for crew selection and training for the prestigious Gaganyaan, the country's maiden manned mission. AVM RGK Kapoor, ACAS Ops (Space), IAF handed over the MoU to Shri R Hutton, Project Director of Gaganyaan Programme.

68) Kappaphycus alvarezii is a/an ________ seaweed.

A. inactive
B. passive  
C. native  
D. invasive

Answer D

Explanation The invasive Kappaphycus alvarezii seaweed, which smothers and kills coral reefs, has spread its wings to coral reef areas in Valai island in the Gulf of Mannar (GoM) and set to invade new coral colonies in the marine national park. Macrofaunal and fish density decreased when Kappaphycus cover increased.

69) Which of the following seaweed is posing threat to the coral reef areas in Valai island in the Gulf of Mannar (GoM)?

A. Codium fragile ssp. fragile  
B. Gracilaria vermiculophylla  
C. Kappaphycus alvarezii  
D. Undaria pinnatifida

Answer C

Explanation The invasive Kappaphycus alvarezii seaweed, which smothers and kills coral reefs, has spread its wings to coral reef areas in Valai island in the Gulf of Mannar (GoM) and set to invade new coral colonies in the marine national park. Macrofaunal and fish density decreased when Kappaphycus cover increased.

70) Which Country refused to sell its S-400 missiles to Iran?

A. US  
B. UK  
C. Russia  
D. India

Answer C

Explanation Russia has rejected an Iranian request to buy S-400 missile defense systems, concerned that the sale would stoke more tension in the Middle East. The request was rebuffed by President Vladimir Putin on condition of anonymity because theyre not authorized to discuss the matter. Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif visited Moscow May 7. Russias Foreign Ministry didnt reply to a request for comment, and Iranian officials couldnt be reached for a
response.

71) Who is conferred Mexico's highest civilian honour, Order of the Aztec Eagle?

A. Former Indian President K. R. Narayanan
B. Former Indian President Pranab Mukherjee
C. Former Indian President Pratibha Patil
D. Former Prime Minister of India Atal Bihari Vajpayee

Answer C

Explanation Former Indian President of India Pratibha Patil has been conferred the "Orden Mexicana del Aguila Azteca" (Order of the Aztec Eagle), the highest civilian award of Mexico given to foreigners, on 1 June 2019.

72) Who is appointed as the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)?

A. Nirupama Rao
B. Anita Bhatia
C. Meera Shankar
D. Suchitra Durai

Answer B

Explanation Indian-origin Anita Bhatia, a veteran in strategic partnerships, resource mobilization, and management, has been appointed by United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres as the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) for Resource Management, Sustainability, and Partnerships. The agency focussed on women empowerment and gender equality.

73) The U.S. has formally ________ India's eligibility of Preferential trade terms under Generalized System of Preferences (GSP).

A. terminated
B. extended
C. renewed
D. None of these
Answer A

Explanation The United States on formally terminated India’s eligibility for a duty-free import scheme for developing countries on 31 May. It cited that India has not given assurances it will provide equitable and reasonable access to its markets to US companies as required under relevant American trade laws. The US President Donald Trump has said the country would end its preferential trade treatment for India on June 5.

74) Which State banned online food delivery without hygiene rating as per FSSAI?

A. Gujarat  
B. Telangana  
C. Punjab  
D. Tamil Nadu

Answer C

Explanation Punjab State government plans to ban online delivery of food without hygiene rating as per the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) guidelines. The announcement was made by the Health Minister Brahm Mohindra announced on 30 May. The decision was taken under the 'Tandarust Punjab Mission'.
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