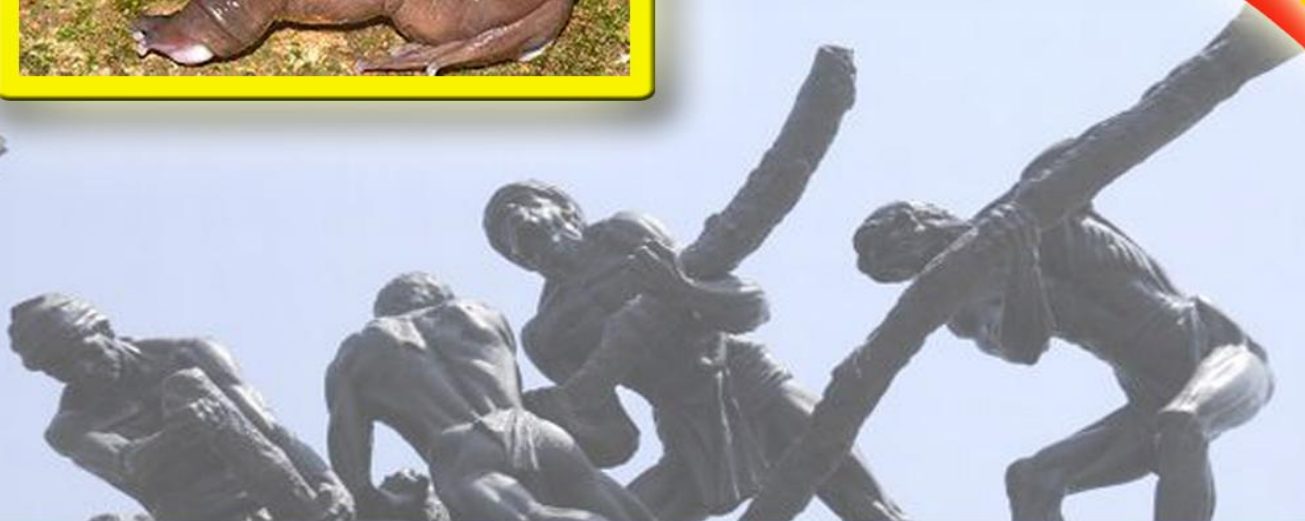




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Current Affairs For TNPSC Examinations

MAY - 2019

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TAMILNADU

❖ Kyrgyzstan women officers get training in OTA

- Five women officers of the Kyrgyzstan Defense Forces picked up rifles and fired shots at the target at the Officers Training Academy, Chennai. Weapons training is one of the many activities undertaken by the five Kyrgyz women officers for the past two weeks at OTA.

❖ VIT inks pact with Spanish varsity

- Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha (UCLM), Toledo, Spain, for academic and research cooperation, exchange of faculty and students, conduct of joint seminars and conferences, and exchange of scholarly publications.

❖ Chennai police gear up to tackle bio-chemical threats

- The Chennai police are gearing up to tackle biological and chemical sabotage in the city. With technical support from Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), the city police have installed Mobile Radiation Detection System (MRDS) devices in its patrol vehicles.

❖ Chennai to get its first unmanned substation

- The Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (Tangedco) has identified a substation to be upgraded into an unmanned substation, the first of its kind in the city.
- The 33 kilo volt (KV)/11 KV substation, located right at Anna Salai, has been chosen for the upgrade. It was constructed only a year ago.

❖ VIT bags European award for excellence

- Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) has been conferred award for the best university in India for Internationalization of Higher Education by UNICA, a network of Universities from the Capitals of Europe, with its headquarters at Brussels, Belgium.

❖ Photography exhibition held to mark World Museum Day

- A photography exhibition depicting various historical moments was organized at the Government Museum, Vellore, to mark World Museum Day. Karigiri glazed potteries gave visitors a glimpse of the people's lifestyle.

❖ Tamilnadu Petro profit rises 14%

- Tamilnadu Petro products Ltd., (TPL) has reported a 14.36% growth in its standalone net profit to Rs. 11.39 crore for the quarter ended March 31 from the Rs. 9.96 crore registered during the year-earlier period.

❖ Rent Courts

- The government has notified the Rent Courts for all 32 districts in the State. This is in accordance with Section 32 of the Tamil Nadu Regulation of Rights and Responsibilities of Landlords and Tenants Act, 2017.
- As per the Act, it is mandatory to enter into written tenancy agreements. The agreement should be registered with the designated jurisdictional Rent Authority.

- Rent Courts “alone” will have the power to hear and decide applications relating to disputes between landlords and tenants. There will be no jurisdiction of civil courts in settling such disputes.
- ❖ **Anti-Cancer Mushroom**
 - A patent has been issued for extracting anti-cancer compounds from a wild mushroom variety found in Western Ghats of Tamil Nadu. It was invented by Madras University professor Venkatesan Kaviyaran and his PhD student J Manjunathan.
 - *Lentinus tuberregium* is the mushroom variety identified by them. 2 bio-active compounds (LT1 and LT 2) in this mushroom exhibit anti-cancer properties.
In the 1970s the Japanese mushroom “*Lentinus edodes*” was proved to exhibit anticancer activity. It was later approved for use by the Food and Drug Administrator (FDA) of USA.
- ❖ **Common Mushrooms of Tamilnadu**
 - ‘Arisi Kalaan’ (*Termitomyces microcarpus*) and ‘Putru Kalaan’ (*Termitomyces heimi*) varieties are sold in the local vegetable markets of Tirunelveli and Thiruvananthapuram.
 - The Kaani tribe in Kanyakumari forests are known to use mushrooms in their daily diet.
- ❖ **Grizzled Giant Squirrel**
 - For the first time more than 300 nests of Grizzled Giant Squirrel were sighted by researchers. Its scientific name is *Ratufa macroura*.
 - They were spotted at Pakkamalai Reserve Forests near Gingee (in Eastern Ghats) in Tamilnadu. Tamilnadu government had earlier established The Grizzled Squirrel Wildlife Sanctuary in 1988.
 - It lies mostly in Virudhunagar district (especially in Srivilliputhur) and partly in Madurai district. The Supreme Court has stayed proceedings initiated by Tamil Nadu Assembly Speaker for disqualification of three AIADMK MLAs for “anti-party activities”.
- ❖ **IGST Dues**
 - The Tamilnadu government has requested the Union Finance Ministry for speedy disbursement of its share of the Integrated Goods and Service Tax (IGST). It has to receive the pending ₹5,453.82 crore for the financial year 2017 – 18.
 - Under Article 269A, such tax will be collected by Centre. The Centre will retain 50% of IGST while remaining 50% will be devolved to States and Union Territories.
- ❖ **AI Drones**
 - IIT – Madras has designed and developed a 3D printed hexacopter-drone for **rescue operations** during disasters. It can fly and automatically detect human beings using **face recognition** technology.
 - It can recognize individuals in need of immediate medical care in a disaster affected site using **activity recognition** technology.
 - It can also send the location details of people to the ground station in real time for faster rescue operations.
- ❖ **Then Pennai River**
 - Efforts to surface transport the 300-tonne semi-carved stone to Karnataka has altered the course of Thenpennai river in Perandapalli village, Krishnagiri.

- The South Pennar River is known as Thenpennaiyar in Tamil and Dakshina Pinakini in Kannada. It is also referred as Ponnaiyar.
- The river originates from the South-Eastern side of the Chennakesava hills and the North-Western side of the Nandi Hills in the Chikkaballapur district of Karnataka state. It flows for a distance of about 85 kilometres within Karnataka, to the north of Bangalore.
- It flows a total of 400 kilometres (km) from its point of origin before joining the Bay of Bengal at Cuddalore district of Tamilnadu.

❖ **Fruit Show**

- The 61st annual Fruit Show will take place at the Sims Park in Coonoor on May 25 and 26.
- It showcases exhibits made of fruits locally produced in the villages surrounding the Nilgiris and at the Pomological Station in Coonoor.

➤ **100 crores upgrade**

- Ten high-performing state universities across India are set to undergo Rs 100 crore upgrade this academic year. The varsities have been selected under the Centre's Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyaan (RUSA) to promote excellence.
- They will also be mentored in various disciplines by 7 US universities, including the prestigious Cornell, UPenn and UC Berkeley. The varsities will establish special Campus Companies under the Companies act to receive funds directly from the Union Government.
- The underlying condition will be that the 100 crores should be spent by March 2020.
- Karaikudi Alagappa University, Hyderabad's Osmania University, Savitribai Phule University have already formed their companies.

❖ **LTTE Tribunal**

- The Government of India has constituted the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Tribunal under sitting Judge of Delhi High Court Justice Sangita Dhingra Sehgal.
- It will adjudicate whether or not there is sufficient cause for declaring the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) as an unlawful association.
- Recently the Home Ministry had issued a notification extending ban on LTTE in India for a further period of five years.
- LTTE is declared as an unlawful association in India since 1991 under the provisions of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

❖ **Cauvery Water**

- The Cauvery Water Management Authority has ordered Karnataka to release 9.19 tmcft of water to Tamil Nadu from the river Cauvery as part of the June quota.
- Water will be released from the inter-state contact point presently identified as Billigundulu gauge and discharge station.
- S. Masood Hussain was named as head of the CWMA (Cauvery Water Management Authority).
- Navin Kumar was appointed chairman of the CWRC (Cauvery Water Regulation Committee). The government plans to set up five mini-desalination plants of one million litre capacity each at Chennai.

NATIONAL

❖ Registration of all motor vehicles stopped

- The issuing of certificate of registration (RC) for all classes of motor vehicles has been blocked from May 02, in the country for not integrating high security registration plate (HSRP) with the 'Vahan' database.

❖ In-flight connectivity likely in next three months

- International airlines could start providing Internet onboard over Indian skies in the next three months becoming the first to do so, while domestic passengers may have to wait for another —7 to 9 months to start sending WhatsApp texts, browsing Twitter, streaming movies and making phone calls.

❖ India, UK in talks to build Naval super carrier under 'Make in India'

- The United Kingdom is in talks with the Indian government on building a new state-of-the-art aircraft carrier along the lines of Britain's HMS Queen Elizabeth as part of the ongoing 'Make in India' project.

❖ Sushma Swaraj, Shah Mehmood Qureshi to attend SCO meet

- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi will attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Council of Foreign Ministers in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

❖ United Nations funding to make Mysuru a 'sustainable city'

- The United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) has identified Mysuru as one of the pilot cities as part of a project titled 'Sustainable Cities' Integrated Approach'.
- Mysuru is the only city identified in the State while the four other cities selected in the country are Vijayawada, Guntur, Bhopal and Jaipur.

❖ AAI moves to take over Jet office space

- Airports Authority of India (AAI) started the process of taking over offices of Jet Airways at various airports, along with cancelling Airport Entry Passes of employees.

❖ WTO Ministerial Meeting of Developing Countries

- A WTO Ministerial meeting of developing countries is being hosted by India in New Delhi on 13-14 May 2019. Sixteen developing countries, Six Least Developed Countries (LDC) and DG, WTO are participating in the meeting.

❖ PepsiCo withdraws all cases against potato farmers

- PepsiCo has withdrawn all its cases against nine Gujarat farmers who grew its protected potato variety used to make Lays chips, including cases seeking damages of Rs.1.05 crore each from small farmers.

❖ Supreme Court extends Ayodhya mediation

- A five-judge Bench led by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Ranjan Gogoi gave the Supreme Court-appointed mediation committee time till August 15 to continue with its efforts to resolve the prolonged and strife-ridden Ayodhya title dispute.

❖ I&B Secretary Amit Khare leads Indian Delegation to Cannes Film Festival

- India Pavilion is set to be inaugurated at Cannes Film Festival, which will be held from 14th to 25th May 2019. The Indian Delegation this year will be led by Shri Amit Khare, Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

❖ Central government extends ban on LTTE for five years

- The Central Government has extended the ban on the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) for another five years under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (37 of 1967) with immediate effect.

❖ CTBTO invites India to be an observer at meetings

- The executive secretary of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), Lassina Zerbo, has invited India to be an observer in the CTBT. Being an observer would give India access to data from the International Monitoring System a network which when complete will consist of 337 facilities

❖ DNA database coming up for Indian rhino

- The Union Environment Ministry has embarked on a project to create DNA profiles of all rhinos in the country. By 2021, the project's deadline, the Indian rhino could be the first wild animal species in India to have all its members DNA-sequenced.
- There are about 2,600 rhinos in India, with more than 90% of the population concentrated in Assam's Kaziranga National Park.

❖ 'Not all animals migrate by choice' campaign launched

- Ahead of the International Day of Biological Diversity celebrated on May 22, UN Environment India and Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) of India launched an awareness campaign 'Not all animals migrate by choice' to be displayed at major airports across the country.
- UN Environment Goodwill Ambassador and recently appointed Secretary-General's SDG Advocate, Dia Mirza inaugurated the campaign

❖ India cuts off UN panel after Jammu & Kashmir report

- Reacting to a submission from the Geneva-based Human Rights Council (HRC) on the alleged violations in Jammu and Kashmir, India has informed the United Nations body that it will no longer entertain any communication with the HRC's Special Rapporteurs

➤ Four Judges elevated to Supreme Court

- The Centre has cleared four names recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium for elevation as judges of the apex court. The four appointed judges are Justice Aniruddha Bose, Justice A S Bopanna, Justice B R Gavai and Justice Surya Kant.
- Supreme Court will reach its full sanctioned strength of 31 judges after the appointment of four new judges. As of now, the apex court is functioning with 27 judges including the Chief Justice.

➤ NHA to collaborate with cancer grid:

- In the first such move to bring in uniform standards of patient care to battle cancer, the National Health Authority (NHA) and National Cancer Grid (NCG) have signed an MoU under the Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY).

❖ Four new Supreme Court judges sworn in

- Four new judges of the Supreme Court were take the oath of office by Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi. With the swearing in of the four judges, the number of judges in the Supreme Court stands at 31, the full sanctioned strength of the top court.

❖ Cabinet approves dissolution of the Sixteenth Lok Sabha

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, gave its approval to the Resolution advising the President to dissolve the Sixteenth Lok Sabha, which was constituted on 18.05.2014.
- Article 83(2) of the Constitution stipulates that the House of the People. The life of the present Lok Sabha is, therefore, to expire on June 3, 2019.

❖ Election Commission of India submits list of newly elected members

- A copy of the Notification issued by the Election Commission of India in terms of Section 73 of the Representation of People's Act, 1951, containing the names of Members elected to the House of the People following General Elections to the 17th Lok Sabha was submitted by them to the Hon'ble President.

❖ Narendra Modi to be sworn in as Prime Minister for second term on May 30

- Narendra Modi will be sworn in as the Prime Minister for the second time at 7 p.m. on May 30 at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. President Ram Nath Kovind will administer the oath, a Rashtrapati Bhavan

❖ Hindi version of 'Digital Dilemma'

- John Bailey, President of Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences (popularly known as Oscar Academy), e-launched the Hindi translation of an Academy Publication, —Digital Dilemma, in Delhi.
- John Bailey said that there are many challenges thrown by the technological changes in the film storage medium and this book will help film makers in understanding and planning the storage of born-digital material.

❖ Indo-Pak meet on Kartarpur corridor

- Officials from Pakistan and India held a meeting to discuss the modalities for a corridor linking Dera Baba Nanak shrine in Punjab's Gurdaspur district to Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Kartarpur across the border. The meeting took place at the Kartarpur Zero Point.

❖ Goa celebrates its statehood day

- Goa celebrates its statehood day on May 30. It was on this day in 1987 Goa became the 25th state of the Indian Union. Before this, Goa, along with Daman and Diu, was a union territory.

❖ Jammu and Kashmir Government unveils Healthcare Investment Policy-2019

- Jammu and Kashmir Government unveiled Healthcare Investment Policy-2019. As per the new Health Care Investment Policy, the Government of Jammu & Kashmir will promote and encourage the private parties and entrepreneurs for setting up healthcare infrastructure in the state by providing subsidies and incentives.

❖ Action plan formulated to reduce infant mortality rate in J&K

- The Jammu and Kashmir Government has formulated a comprehensive action plan to reduce the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) to a single digit by the year 2020 in line with the Sustainable Development Goals, an official spokesman said yesterday.

❖ Indian peacekeeper to be honoured posthumously with UN medal

- An Indian peacekeeper is among the 119 military, police and civilian personnel who will be honoured this year with a prestigious UN medal this year for courage and sacrifice in the line of duty.

❖ National Summit / Conference: Asia's largest content marketing event CMS Asia comes to Mumbai

- Content Marketing Summit Asia 2019- the largest 'not-for-profit' summit across JAPAC driven by the marketing community in Asia is all set to be held on 8th May 2019 at the Taj Lands End, Mumbai, India.

❖ MNRE holds 'Chintan Baithak' with the stakeholders of Renewable Energy (RE) sector

- Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) held a 'Chintan Baithak' with the stakeholders of Renewable Energy sector.
- The 'Baithak' (meet) was chaired by Secretary, MNRE, Shri Anand Kumar and saw good participation from Renewable Energy (RE) sector including the representatives of major RE developers, equipment manufacturers, financiers, regulators, think-tanks, industry bodies and skill developers

❖ India to co-chair Consultative Group (CG) of GFDRR

- India is unanimously chosen as co-chair of the Consultative Group (CG) of Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) for the fiscal year 2020.
- The decision was taken during the CG meeting of GFDRR held in Geneva, Switzerland on the margins of the 6th Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR) 2019.

- ❖ **National Training Workshop of Master Trainers for 7th Economic Census**
 - 7th Edition of Economic Census, a National Training Workshop of the Master Trainers was organized by the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation (MoSPI) at India Habitat Center in the national capital. 7th Economic Census -2019 is being conducted by MoSPI.
- ❖ **ICAT Organized International Seminar on Noise, Vibration and Harshness**
 - International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT) organized an international seminar-cum-workshop on Automotive Noise, Vibration and Harshness (iNVH) on 23rd – 24th May, 2019 at ICAT, Manesar.
- ❖ **I&B Ministry to organize Special Interactive Session with Mr. John Bailey**
 - In a major initiative to explore possibilities of collaboration, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting is organizing a Special Interactive Session with Mr. John Bailey, President of Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences on 28th May at Siri Fort, New Delhi.

INTERNATIONAL

- ❖ **Japan gets a new Emperor**
 - Japan welcomed the start of a new Reiwa imperial era and a new emperor, Emperor Naruhito (59) was formally invested after his father, Akihito, 85, stepped down.
 - Akihito, the first Japanese monarch to abdicate in two centuries, became an active symbol of peace, reconciliation and democracy during his three-decade Heisei era.
- ❖ **Nepal to start construction of railways linking Kathmandu with India, China**
 - Nepal is planning to start construction of railways linking Kathmandu with India and China through the Detailed Project Reports of Birgunj-Kathmandu and Rasuwagadhi-Kathmandu railways, which connecting Kathmandu to both India and China by railways, will be prepared and construction works will be started within two years.
- ❖ **US to propose hike in H-1B application fee**
 - The Trump administration is proposing a hike in the H-1B visa application fee to increase funding for the expansion of an apprentice programme, which trains American youths in technology related activities.
 - The H-1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in speciality occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise.
- ❖ **India re-elected as observer to inter-governmental forum Arctic Council**
 - India has been re-elected as an observer to inter-governmental forum Arctic Council.
 - The Arctic Council promotes cooperation, coordination and interaction among Arctic states on common issues, particularly on sustainable development and environmental protection.
- ❖ **India, Bangladesh to jointly produce movie on life, works of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman**
 - India and Bangladesh will co-produce a film on the life and works of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and a documentary on Bangladesh Liberation War.

❖ Iran likely to withdraw from parts of nuclear deal

- Iran is likely to announce today that it is partially withdrawing from the nuclear deal it struck with world powers. The move comes a year after President Donald Trump pulled America from the accord.

❖ India, UK agree to boost Indo-Pacific cooperation

- India and the United Kingdom agreed to increase their collaboration in the fields of Indo-Pacific cooperation, climate change, disaster resilience, development in third world countries amongst other areas.

❖ India, Vietnam to strengthen cooperation in atomic energy, defence and security

- India and Vietnam agreed to further strengthen cooperation in defence and security, peaceful uses of atomic energy and outer space, oil and gas and renewable energy as Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu concluded his four-day visit to the Southeast Asian country.

❖ US issues new warning to ships after ‘sabotage’ off UAE

- The U.S. issued a new warning to sailors over alleged —acts of sabotage targeting ships off the coast of the United Arab Emirates amid heightened regional tensions between America and Iran.

❖ Pompeo to meet Putin in Sochi

- Russian President Vladimir Putin is expected to visit a top military flight test centre and inspect new weaponry.
- Mr. Pompeo will visit Mr. Putin in Russia's Black Sea resort of Sochi for the highest-level talks between Moscow and Washington in nearly a year.

❖ Chinese navy launches two new guided missile destroyers

- China, which is developing its navy at a feverish pace, has commissioned two more guided missile destroyers taking the total of such warships to 20 with more in the pipeline.
- The Chinese navy for the first time in its history has logistic bases in Djibouti in the Indian Ocean and is developing Pakistan's Gwadar port in the Arabian Sea.

❖ China blocks all language editions of Wikipedia

- China has broadened its block of online encyclopedia Wikipedia to include all language editions. □ According to a report by the Open Observatory of Network Interference (OONI), China started blocking all language editions of Wikipedia last month.

❖ Austria approves headscarf ban in primary schools

- Austria has approved a law aimed at banning the headscarf in primary schools. However, patka head covering worn by Sikh boys or the Jewish kippa would not be affected, says the government.

❖ Trump to propose merit-based immigration policy

- US President Donald Trump is all set to announce a new proposal to overhaul the immigration policy that would give preference to foreigners based on merit rather than preference to family ties.
- The move could end the agonizing Green Card wait for hundreds and thousands of Indian professionals.

❖ US, France join UAE probe into sabotage of ships

- US and France join UAE in the investigation of sabotage of commercial ships. The US and France are assisting the UAE in its investigations into the sabotage attack on four commercial cargo ships in the Sea of Oman.

❖ Trump announces new green card system

- U.S. President Donald Trump on Thursday announced a proposal that will include significant changes to the way green cards are allocated, by dramatically reducing the number of family-based green cards and moving towards a points-based (—merit-based) system that will reward, among other factors, education, skills and English language proficiency.

❖ Iran, India discuss visa extension

- Iran at present provides visa-on-arrival to Indian travellers which is given as a paper visa.
- Iranian visas are also given to Indians online and through missions. Two days after the visit of Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif, India held the 11th Consular Committee Meeting with Iran.

❖ U.S. lifts metal tariffs on Canada, Mexico

- President Donald Trump announced a deal to lift U.S. tariffs on steel and aluminium imports from Canada and Mexico that had created friction between the neighbours and blocked a new North American free trade agreement.

❖ In Japan, driverless tractors are on the move

- This driverless tractor came in the market in December 2018. It can sense any obstruction on the field and come to an automatic halt when needed. It can make U-turns using GPS technology to determine its location.

❖ Joko Widodo elected President of Indonesia for second term

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

❖ Serbia lawmakers amend penal code to introduce life sentence without parole

- In Serbia, lawmakers today amended the penal code to introduce a life sentence without parole, despite concerns voiced by the Council of Europe. Until now, the maximum sentence in Serbia, which seeks to join the European Union, was 40 years in prison.

❖ Pakistan appoints Mueenul Haq as High Commissioner to India

- Pakistan has appointed career diplomat Mueenul Haq as the High Commissioner to India. Haq, the current ambassador to France, has previously served as chief of protocol at the Foreign Office.

❖ India votes in favour of UNGA resolution demanding UK withdraw from Chagos Archipelago

- India was among 116 nations to vote in favour of a UN General Assembly resolution that demanded the UK withdraw its —colonial administration from the Chagos Archipelago unconditionally within six months, supporting Mauritius in its quest for the restoration of sovereignty over the island chain in the Indian Ocean.

❖ Pakistan successfully test-fires ballistic missile Shaheen-II

- Pakistan successfully test-fired surface-to-surface ballistic missile Shaheen-II, capable of hitting targets as far as 1,500 kilometers away, bringing major Indian cities under its range.
- Shaheen-II Missile is capable of carrying both conventional and nuclear warheads upto a range of 1,500 km. Shaheen-II is a highly capable missile which fully meets Pakistan's strategic needs towards maintenance of desired deterrence stability in the region.

❖ China unveils 600 kmph magnetic levitation train prototype

- China has unveiled a prototype magnetic levitation train with a designed maximum speed of 600 kmph, which its manufacturers say could pose a major competition to the airline industry.

❖ Theresa May will quit as Conservative leader on June 7

- British Prime Minister Theresa May announced that she will step down as U.K. Conservative Party leader on June 7, sparking a contest to become the country's next Prime Minister.

INTERNATIONAL SUMMITS

❖ International Summit & Conference: India sets the tone at COP meetings of Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions held in Geneva.

- The joint meetings of three conventions such as fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to Basel Convention was held along with the ninth meeting of the COP to Rotterdam Convention and the ninth meeting of the COP to Stockholm Convention.
- The theme of the meetings this year was —Clean Planet, Healthy People: Sound Management of Chemicals and Wastell.

❖ SCO Foreign Ministers meet in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj will attend the meeting of Council of Foreign Ministers of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. The meeting will exchange views on topical issues of international and regional importance.
- This is the second Council of Foreign Ministers meeting that India is attending as a full member of SCO

❖ Second SCO Mass Media Forum at Bishkek

- The Second Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Mass Media Forum is being held at Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan from 23-26 May, 2019.
- A Delegation from I&B Ministry comprising of Shri TVK Reddy, Addl. Director General and Shri Ankur Lahoty, Asst. Director is representing India at the Forum. The Forum was inaugurated by the President of Kyrgyz Republic Mr. S. Jeenbeko.

❖ BIMSTEC leaders hold bilateral meetings with Indian PM

- In the first of a series of bilateral meetings with foreign leaders lined up, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had a warm meeting with President of Sri Lanka Maithripala Sirisena, at Hyderabad House in New Delhi.
- Mr Modi will also hold bilateral meetings with Nepal Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli, and Bhutan Prime Minister Lotay Tshering and Prime Minister of Mauritius Pravind Kumar Jugnauth.

MOU / AGREEMENTS

❖ India and China sign protocol for Export of Indian Chilli Meal

- Commerce Secretary, Anup Wadhawan and Vice Minister, General Administration of Customs of China (GACC), Li Guo, held a meeting in New Delhi to discuss trade related issues of pending Indian request for clearance of agricultural products. At the end of the meeting a protocol was signed for export of chilli meal from India to China.

❖ IIT-D signs MoU with Taiwanese university

- Indian Institute of Technology Delhi and National Chiao Tung University (NCTU), Taiwan, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish and offer a Joint Doctoral Degree Programme to students who work together and carry out joint research.

❖ New Taiwan dollar Sri Lanka, Japan, India sign deal to develop East Container Terminal at Colombo Port

- Sri Lanka, Japan and India signed an agreement to jointly develop the East Container Terminal at the Colombo Port.
- 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.

❖ Sri Lankan rupee India finalises projects worth over Rs 16 crore to Maldives

- India has finalised projects worth more than 16 crore rupees to Maldives, as part of its grant assistance to develop socio-economic infrastructure in the neighbouring country, particularly in the field of health and sanitation.
- Agreements were finalized for purchase and delivery of 11 land ambulances to hospitals and health centres across Maldives, establish emergency medical services on an island, providing outdoor fitness equipments for 61 islands and building of classrooms in two of the islands.

❖ Contract Signing with M/S CSL and M/S GRSE

- Contracts for Sixteen Anti Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC) ships have been signed for construction of eight ships each from M/s CSL, Kochi and GRSE, Kolkata respectively.
- Contract Signing with M/S CSL and M/S GRSE for Acquisition of Sixteen Anti Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC) for Indian Navy

❖ MoU for Joint Collaboration on Cancer Research

- The Department of Biotechnology (DBT), M/o Science and Technology and the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), Government of India signed an MOU for supporting joint collaborative research programmes in the area of Cancer.

❖ Konkan Railways signs agreement with Nepal

- Konkan Railways Corporation Ltd (KRCL) signed an agreement with Nepal's Department of Railways under which the former will supply two 1600 HP DEMU train sets.

❖ MoU signed for Plantation of Rudraksh Trees in Uttarakhand

- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between National Mission for Clean Ganga, HCL Foundation and INTACH for taking up a project of Plantation of Rudraksh Trees in Uttarakhand as a part of CSR initiative under the Namami Gange Programme.

❖ NSIC signs MOU with Ministry of MSME

- 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 2019-20.
- The MOU envisages provision of enhanced services by NSIC under its marketing, financial, technology and other support services schemes for MSMEs in the country.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

❖ India's first mega science exhibition

- Vigyan Samagam, India's first mega science exhibition, kicked off in Mumbai recently. The travelling expo is organised by the Department of Atomic Energy and the Department of Science and Technology.

❖ Google's New Privacy Tools

- Google announced new privacy tools intended to give people more control, The company also announced updates for its artificially intelligent voice assistant as well as a cheaper Pixel phone and a rebranding of his smart-home products.

❖ Redefined units of measurement of kilogram, Kelvin, mole and ampere

- General Conference on Weights and Measures (CGPM) at BIPM has unanimously adopted the resolution to redefine four of the seven base units, the kilogram (SI unit of weight), Kelvin (SI unit of temperature), mole (SI unit of amount of substance), and ampere (SI unit of current).
- The new SI is being implemented worldwide from 20th May 2019 i.e. the World Metrology Day.

❖ Coral bleaching observed near Mandapam, Keezhakkarai, Palk Bay

- The National Centre for Coastal Research, an institute under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, in India, has a field research station in the Gulf of Mannar region, and researchers have found an alarming pattern of bleaching in the reefs in Mandapam, Keezhakkarai and Palk Bay.

❖ FDA okays \$2M medicine, most expensive ever

- The Food and Drug Administration approved the most expensive medicine ever, for the treatment, called Zolgensma, for a rare disorder that destroys a baby's muscle control and kills nearly all of those with the most common type of the disease within a couple of years.

❖ World's rivers loaded with antibiotics waste'

- Rivers worldwide are polluted with antibiotics that exceed environmental safety thresholds by up to 300 times, according to research unveiled at a conference on May 27.
- Scientists found one or more common antibiotics in two-thirds of 711 samples taken from rivers in 72 countries, they told a meeting of environmental toxicologists in Helsinki.

- ❖ **Robot from IIT Madras checks pipelines for leakage**
 - Researchers from IIT Madras have developed a robot to check pipelines for leaks and other faults. Named Endobot, this robot is to be marketed by an IIT Madras incubated startup, Solinas Integrity, founded by the researchers.
- ❖ **IIT Delhi 3D prints human skin**
 - Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi have successfully 3D bioprinted human skin models that have certain anatomically relevant structural, mechanical and biochemical features similar to native human skin.
- ❖ **IIT Kanpur identifies novel molecule to control hyper inflammation**
 - Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur have identified and characterised a novel small protein molecule that can effectively control inflammation leading to better treatment outcomes.
- ❖ **India's newest pit viper found in Arunachal Pradesh**
 - India has a fifth brown pit viper but with a reddish tinge. A team of herpetologists led by Ashok Captain have described a new species of reddish-brown pit viper, a venomous snake with a unique heat-sensing system, from a forest in West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ **IIT – B research develop _Made in India's microprocessor**
 - Engineers from the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay) have developed a microprocessor called AJIT, the first to be conceptualised, designed, developed and manufactured in India.
 - The innovation, which has brought industry, academia and the government together, could reduce the country's dependence on imports.
- ❖ **A lens that can turn Smartphone into a microscope**
 - Researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay have devised low-cost lenses that will elevate Smartphone cameras to the power of a microscope.
 - The lens with a resolution of 1.4 micrometre, which has been prepared by using natural interface, has been successfully tested.
- ❖ **Kolkata researchers use novel compound to kill cancer cells**
 - Researchers at Kolkata's the Indian Institute of Chemical Biology (CSIR-IICB) and the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science (IACS) have designed and synthesized about 25 quinoline derivatives that show potent anticancer activity.
- ❖ **Rain-loving' snake discovered in Mizoram**
 - It's literally raining reptiles in the Northeast, and the latest to be discovered has a Mizo name that means rain-loving. This is new to science, the discovery is locally called Ruahlawmrul or rain-loving snake.
- ❖ **IMTECH's novel compound treats colistin-resistant bacteria**
 - A novel compound isolated from a soil bacterium shows promise in killing Gram-negative bacteria (*Klebsiella pneumoniae* and *E. coli*) that are resistant to colistin, a powerful, last-line antibiotic.

- ❖ **Western Ghats yields a new species of Amaranthus**
 - A team of researchers from three colleges in the State and the Regional Cancer Centre, Thiruvananthapuram, have reported a new edible plant species belonging to the genus Amaranthus from the southern Western Ghats of Kerala.
- ❖ **IIT Bombay fabricates wearable super capacitor:**
 - Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay have fabricated a wearable supercapacitor that can store and deliver power ranging from microwatt to milliwatt. The energy stored in the device can power GPS location-based transmitters or a 1.8 volt LED.
- ❖ **IISc team confirms breakthrough in superconductivity at room temperature**
 - Putting to rest all doubts and criticism, a team led by Prof. Anshu Pandey from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru confirms that their material exhibits major properties of superconductivity at ambient temperature and pressure.
- ❖ **Seawater from Ice Age tucked in rocks discovered in Indian Ocean**
 - In a first, scientists have discovered the remnants of seawater dating back to the Ice Age, tucked inside rock formations in the middle of the Indian Ocean. Researchers from the University of Chicago in the U.S. made the discovery on a months-long scientific mission exploring the limestone deposits that form the Maldives.
- ❖ **New geological epoch — the Anthropocene**
 - On May 21, a 34-member panel of the Anthropocene Working Group (AWG) voted 29-4 in favour of designating a new geological epoch — the Anthropocene. The decision reflects how various facets of the Earth have been shaped by human activity.
 - The vote signals the end of the Holocene Epoch, which began 11,700 years ago.
- ❖ **New species of wasp identified in Goa**
 - A new species of wasp from the genus Kudakrumia has been recently identified by scientists in Goa. The wasp, Kudakrumia rangnekari, has been named after Goa based researcher Parag Rangnekar.
- ❖ **SpaceX to send organs on a chip to the International Space Station:**
 - SpaceX is reportedly set to send microchips embedded with living human cells or so-called organs on a chip to help understand how space travel affects humans.
 - The set of tissue chips modelling kidneys, bone and cartilage, blood-brain barrier, and lungs is scheduled to arrive at the International Space Station (ISS) in the next few days.
- ❖ **Chandrayaan-2**
 - Chandrayaan-2, the lunar lander mission planned to be launched during July 9-16, will have 14 Indian payloads or study devices.
 - The 3,800-kg spacecraft includes an orbiter which will circle the moon at 100 km; a five-legged lander called Vikram that will descend on the moon on or around September 6; and a robotic rover, Pragyan, that will probe the lunar terrain around it.

❖ Shrinking Moon generating lunar quakes

- The Moon is shrinking as its interior cools, getting over 50 metres skinnier through the last several hundred million years and causing quakes on the lunar surface.
- The Moon is steadily shrinking, causing wrinkling on its surface and quakes, according to an analysis of imagery captured by NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter.

❖ All-seeing radar imaging satellite

- RISAT-2B, the satellite due to be launched before dawn on May 22 from Sriharikota, will mark the resumption of a vital ring of Indian all-seeing radar imaging satellites after seven years. RISAT-2B is to be followed by RISAT-2BR1, 2BR2, RISAT-1A, 1B, 2A and so on.

❖ SpaceX launches first satellites for Musk's Starlink internet service

- High-tech entrepreneur Elon Musk's SpaceX company launched a Falcon 9 rocket on Thursday on a mission to carry the first batch of five dozen small satellites into low-Earth orbit for his new Starlink internet service.

❖ PSLV-C46 successfully launches RISAT-2B

- India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C46) successfully launched the RISAT-2B satellite from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh. This was the 72nd launch vehicle mission from SDSC SHAR, Sriharikota and 36th launch from the First Launch pad.
- RISAT-2B is a radar imaging earth observation satellite weighing about 615 kg. The satellite is intended to provide services in the field of Agriculture, Forestry and Disaster Management.

❖ ISRO, IAF ink pact for astronaut training

- The Indian Air Force and the Indian Space Research Organisation signed an MoU for getting Indian astronauts trained for ISRO's Gaganyaan.
- The development formally involves IAF's Bengaluru-based medical arm, the Institute of Aerospace Medicine (IAM), in the programme as the nodal centre to train the first set of Indian astronauts.
- The 10,000-crore Gaganyaan is planned for 2022, the 75th year of Indian independence.

❖ 'Forbidden' planet discovered in Neptunian Desert

- Astronomers said they have discovered a rogue exoplanet with its own atmosphere in the Neptunian Desert. NGTS-4b, nick-named 'The Forbidden Planet' is smaller than Neptune but three times the size of Earth, said researchers led by the University of Warwick in the UK.

❖ Amazon Pay enables instant money transfer on Android

- Amazon Pay launched person-to-person (P2P) payments for Android users who can now make instant bank-to-bank transfers using the UPI platform on the Amazon app.

❖ Bharti Airtel launches Wynk Tube music app

- Bharti Airtel launched a music application Wynk Tube an extension of its existing Wynk Music app. Wynk Tube will allows users to stream audio and video of popular tracks within the same interface.

❖ PayPal integrates One Touch with Google Smart Lock in India

- PayPal introduced its One Touch experience by Google Smart Lock in India. The feature, supported on Android, allows users to register their devices with PayPal.

❖ Website of Lokpal inaugurated

- The Website of the Lokpal was inaugurated by the Chairperson, Justice Shri Pinaki Chandra Ghose in presence of all the Members of Lokpal. The Website can be accessed at <http://lokpal.gov.in>. The Lokpal is the first institution of its kind in independent India, established under the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013.
- The Government appointed Justice Shri Pinaki Chandra Ghose, as the first Chairperson of the Lokpal who was administered oath on 23rd March, 2019 by the President of India.

❖ Kochi City start-up launches taxi aggregation app

- City-based technology start-up Mindmaster Technologies has developed a GPS-based application for the unorganised taxi-auto sectors called PIU. It aims to unite taxi-auto drivers in the unorganised sector on the lines of the existing online taxi aggregators.

ECONOMY

❖ Amazon eyes \$5 bn in exports from India

- E-commerce giant Amazon's Global Selling programme has achieved a significant milestone of \$1 billion in cumulative e-com exports sales from India in the last three years. E-tailer clocks \$1 billion in three years, records 56% growth in Indian e-com exporter count for 2018.

❖ India and U.S. Hold Bilateral Trade Meeting

- India and the United States held the India-U.S. Bilateral Trade meeting in New Delhi. Suresh Prabhu, Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation and Mr. Wilbur Ross, Secretary of Commerce, United States of America co-chaired the bilateral meeting

❖ US-China tensions threat to world economy: IMF chief

- Expressing concern over fresh trade tensions between the United States and China, International Monetary Fund chief Christine Lagarde has said that the tensions between the US and China are the main threat to the world economy.

❖ HDFC to auction Jet's office space

- Mortgage lender Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC) has decided to put office space of grounded airline Jet Airways in Bandra Kurla Complex on the block after the company defaulted on loan repayment.

❖ TAFE inks pact with PCRA on energy use

- TAFE (Tractors and Farm Equipment Ltd.) has signed a pact with Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) to aid efficient utilisation of energy in agriculture.

❖ Ratan Tata invests in Ola Electric Mobility

- Tata Group chairman emeritus Ratan Tata has invested an unspecified amount in Ola Electric Mobility to support its ambitions to scale EV deployment in India. Mr. Tata is also an early investor in ANI Technologies Pvt Ltd, Ola's parent company.

❖ Walkaroo announces Aamir Khan as its new Brand Ambassador

- Walkaroo as a footwear brand was conceived and launched in 2013, Aamir Khan, has been signed up as Walkaroo's new brand ambassador.

❖ JSW forays into paints business

- JSW Group has forayed into the Rs. 42,000-crore organised paints business in the country with the launch of JSW Paints. According to industry estimates, India's organised paints industry is expected to cross Rs. 50,000 crore in value by 2020 with a CAGR of 15%.

❖ NACIN conducted GST Practitioners Examination

- The National Academy of Customs, Indirect Taxes and Narcotics (NACIN) has been authorized to conduct an examination for confirmation of enrollment of Goods and Services Tax Practitioners (GSTPs).

❖ India delays levying retaliatory tariff on U.S. goods to June 16

- India delayed the implementation of higher tariffs on some goods imported from the United States to June 16, according to a government statement. The new duties were to come into force from May 16.

❖ India's overall exports registered positive growth of 1.34% in April this year

- India's overall exports, combining Merchandise and Services, in April this year is estimated to be around 44 billion US dollars with a positive growth of 1.34 per cent over the April last year.

❖ Vision document for e-payment system

- Reserve Bank of India has released a vision document for ensuring a safe, secure, convenient, quick and affordable e-payment system.
- The move comes as the apex bank expects the number of digital transactions to increase more than four times to 8,707 crore in December 2021.
- RBI released the 'Payment and Settlement Systems in India: Vision 2019 – 2021', with its core theme of 'Empowering Exceptional E-payment Experience', envisages to achieve—a highly digital and cash-lite society through the goal posts of competition, cost-effectiveness, convenience and confidence (4Cs).

❖ Reliance-BP makes first bid for oil block

- Reliance Industries and its British partner BP Plc have made their first bid for oil and gas exploration acreage by bidding for one of the 32 blocks up.

❖ Sundaram-Clayton sets up U.S. unit

- Sundaram-Clayton Limited (SCL), a member of the TVS group, has announced the setting up of a facility in South Carolina. The U.S. facility is set up through its subsidiaries.

❖ Textile machinery expo in Africa

- The India International Textile Machinery Exhibitions Society (India ITME Society) will organise ITME Africa 2020 between February 14 and 16 next year at Addis Ababa. It is co-organised by the Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce and Sectoral Associations.

❖ India to grow at 7.1% in FY'20: United Nations' report

- A report by the United Nations says India's economy is projected to grow at 7.1 per cent in the fiscal year 2020 on the back of strong domestic consumption and investment.

❖ SEBI panel moots changes to FPI rules

- SEBI Proposes liberalised investment cap, review of prohibited sectors and allowing off-market transactions.
- The committee has proposed alignment of regulations for FPIs and Alternate Investment Funds (AIFs) and the harmonisation between investment restrictions in FPI regulations and Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA). FPIs are currently not permitted to invest in liquid and money market mutual fund schemes.

❖ High-level committee submits its recommendations on crude oil imports

- A High-Level Committee constituted by the Centre has submitted its recommendations to bring down India's dependence on crude oil imports. The High-Level Committee consisted of Dr Anil Kakodkar, eminent Scientist and Sidharth Pradhan, an expert on financial and tax issues.

❖ Yamaha opens first India unit to make musical instruments

- Yamaha Corporation of Japan opened its first factory in India for musical instruments with a view to make it an export hub. The facility can produce 1.50 lakh portable keyboards and two lakh acoustic guitars annually.

❖ FICCI survey forecasts India's GDP growth at 7.1% for FY20

- The country's median GDP is forecast at 7.1 per cent for FY20 and 7.2 per cent for FY 21. The industry body FICCI's economic outlook survey said that the minimum and maximum growth estimate stood at 6.8 per cent and 7.3 per cent, for 2019-20.

❖ Bank credit grows 13.2% in FY19

- Bank credit grew by 13.2% in financial year 2018-19 as compared to 10.3% in the previous financial year, mainly aided by loans to services and retail sector. Deposit growth also gained momentum, growing by 10% as compared to 6.7% a year ago.

❖ Central banks step up gold buying in 2019

- According to the latest Gold Demand Trends report by the World Gold Council, central banks bought 145.5 tonnes of gold in the first quarter a 68% jump from the same period in 2018 and also the strongest start to a year since 2013.

❖ RBI okays MD appointment at Ujjivan SFB

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of Nitin Chugh, the digital banking head of HDFC Bank, as the managing director and chief executive officer of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank.

❖ RBI to create regulatory cadre

- The Reserve Bank of India's Central Board has decided to create a specialized supervisory and regulatory cadre. The cadre is being created with a view to strengthening the supervision and regulation of commercial banks, urban cooperative banks and nonbanking financial companies.

Indian Forces (Defence)

❖ India's military spending up by 3.1% in 2018

- Worldwide, military expenditure rose by 2.6% from 2017 to reach \$1.8 trillion in 2018, according to SIPRI data. India's spending rose by 3.1%, while Pakistan's military spending rose by 11%. The five biggest spenders were the U.S., China, Saudi Arabia, India and France.

❖ IAF carries out first-of-its-kind operation eastern neighbour

- The Indian Air Force has focussed on air defence preparedness in the eastern and north-eastern sector with an eye on the country's eastern neighbour.
- IAF carried out a drill of its Sukhoi Su-30 jets from the civilian airport on the outskirts of Guwahati. It was the first-of-its-kind operation, also conducted in Kolkata and Durgapur in West Bengal.

❖ Launch of Fourth Scorpene Class Submarine - VELA

- Vela, the fourth Scorpene class submarine being constructed by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited for the Indian Navy, was launched.
- This event reaffirms the steps taken by MDL in the ongoing 'Make In India' programme, which is being actively implemented by the Department of Defence Production (MoD).

❖ INS Ranjit gets decommissioned upon completion of 36 years

- INS Ranjit, a Rajput class destroyer was decommissioned at a solemn yet grand ceremony at Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam culminating a glorious era on 06 May 19.
- The ship commissioned on 15 September 1983 by Captain Vishnu Bhagwat in erstwhile USSR has rendered yeoman service to the nation for 36 years.

❖ DRDO Successfully Conducts Flight Test of ABHYAS

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted successful flight test of ABHYAS - High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) from Interim Test Range, Chandipur in Odisha.

❖ IN Ships Kolkata and Shakti undertake Group Sail

- IN Ships Kolkata and Shakti carried out Group Sail with naval ships of Japan, Philippines and the United States of America in the South China Sea from 03 May to 09 May 19. The Phase II is scheduled from 09 May to 12 May 19 in the South China Sea.
- On completion of Phase II, all participating ships including IN Ships Kolkata and Shakti are scheduled to participate in the International Maritime Defence Expo (IMDEX) 2019 in Singapore.

❖ Chief of Naval Operations United States Navy visit to India

- Admiral John Michael Richardson, Chief of Naval Operations, US Navy, is on an official tour to India from 12 to 14 May 2019. Indian Navy and US Navy interact regularly at bilateral and multilateral forums and participate in maritime exercises such as MALABAR and RIMPAC.

❖ Indian Navy's Service Selection Board Inaugurated At Kolkata

- Admiral Sunil Lanba, the Chief of Naval Staff inaugurated Indian Navy's first full-fledged Service Selection Board (SSB) at Diamond Harbour, near Kolkata.

❖ SIMBEX-19

- On successful completion of IMDEX 19, IN ships Kolkata and Shakti are continuing their stay at Singapore to participate in the annual Singapore India Maritime Bilateral Exercise SIMBEX-2019 scheduled from 16 May to 22 May 19.
- In addition to IN ships Kolkata and Shakti, long range maritime patrol aircraft Poseidon-8I (P8I) will also participate in simbex-19.

❖ 8th Indo – Myanmar Coordinated Patrol

- Myanmar ships UMS King TabinShweHtee and UMS Inlay would undertake a coordinated patrol with Indian Naval Ship Saryu from 20 – 28 May 19.
- Started in Mar 2013, the CORPAT series has enhanced the mutual understanding and meant to address issues of terrorism, illegal fishing, drug trafficking, human trafficking, poaching and other illegal activities inimical to interest of both nations.

❖ IAF successfully fires BrahMos air version missile from su – 30 MKI fighter aircraft:

- Indian Air Force successfully fired the BrahMos air version missile from its frontline Su-30 MKI fighter aircraft.
- The Indian Air Force became the first Air Force in the world to have successfully fired an air launched 2.8 Mach surface attack missile of this category on a sea target on November 2017. This was the second such live launch of the weapon.

❖ U.S., Japan, S.Korea, Australia hold first naval drills in Western Pacific

- U.S. Navy ships conducted joint drills with warships from allies Japan, Australia and South Korea in their first combined exercise in the Western Pacific, the U.S. Navy. The Pacific Vanguard exercise took place near the U.S. island of Guam.

❖ IAF's AN-32 Aircraft formally Certified to Operate on Indigenous Bio-Jet Fuel

- IAF's formidable workhorse, the Russian made AN-32 aircraft was formally fleet certified to fly on blended aviation fuel containing up to 10% of indigenous bio-jet fuel. The indigenous bio-jet fuel was first produced by the CSIR-IIP lab at Dehradun in 2013.

❖ Eastern Command Unit Test- Fired BrahMos Missile from Car Nicobar Islands

- A BrahMos Supersonic Cruise Missile was successfully test-fired by a Unit of Eastern Command, Indian Army from Car Nicobar Islands as part of joint training by Indian Army, Indian Navy and Indian Air Force.
- The Combat missile was test fired on a specially designed target chosen at a range of 270 Kms. BrahMos missile has by now established itself as a major 'Force Multiplier' in modern day battlefield.

❖ DRDO Successfully Flight-Tested Guided Bomb

- Defence Research and Defence Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight tested a 500 kg class Inertial Guided Bomb from Su-30 MKI Aircraft from the Pokhran test range in Rajasthan.

❖ Sahara – A Hostel for the Veer Naris

- Hon'ble Lt Governor of Delhi Shri Anil Baijal inaugurated the Sahara Naval Hostel for the 'Veer Naris' at Vasant Kunj, New Delhi.

- The unique project steered by the Indian Navy for 'Naval Veer Naris' has been built in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) partnership with National Buildings Construction Corporation (NBCC).
- ❖ **DRDO successfully test fires Akash-1S**
- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test fired the Akash-1S surface to air defence missile system.
- Akash-1S is a new version of the missile which is fitted with an indigenous seeker. The Akash-1S is capable of striking down enemy fighter jets and drones very effectively.

APPOINTMENTS

National New Appointments:

Name

Mr.Narendra Modi
Admiral Karambir Singh
Dr. Krishnamurthy Subramanian

R. Gandhi

Akshay Kumar
Igor Stimac
Justice Ajay Kumar Mittal
Vice-Admiral Atul Kumar Jain

Designation

PM of India
Navy Chief
New Member of Finance
Commission's Advisory Council.
An additional director on the board of
private sector lender Yes Bank
TAFE's brand ambassador
Indian football team coach
Chief Justice of Meghalaya High Court
Chief of Eastern Naval Command

New CM of Indian States

Name

Sikkim Chief Minister
Pema Khandu
Naveen Patnaik
Y.S.R.Jagan Mohan Reddy

Designation

Prem Singh Tamang
CM of Arunachal Pradesh
CM of Odisha
CM of Andhra Pradesh

International Appointments:

Name

Dr. Baqir

Cyril Ramaphosa
Scott Morrison
Indian-origin Anita Bhatia

Designation

Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan
(SBP).
Re-elected as South African president
Australia's prime minister
Deputy Executive Director UN -
WOMEN

New Cabinet Ministers of India 2019:

Rajnath Singh	Defence
Amit Shah	Home Affairs
Nirmala Sitharaman	Finance; Corporate Affairs
Subrahmanyam Jaishankar	External Affairs
Nitin Gadkari	Road Transport and Highways; Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
DV Sadananda Gowda	Chemical and Fertilizers
Ram Vilas Paswan	Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
Narendra Singh Tomar	Agriculture and Farmers Welfare; Rural Development; Panchayati Raj
Ravi Shankar Prasad	Law and Justice; Communications; Electronics and Information Technology
Harsimrat Kaur Badal	Food Processing Industries
Thawarchand Gehlot	Social Justice and Empowerment
Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank	Human Resource Development
Arjun Munda	Tribal Affairs
Smriti Irani	Women and Child Development; Textiles
Dr Harsh Vardhan	Health and Family Welfare; Science and Technology; Earth Sciences
Prakash Javdekar	Environment, Forest and Climate Change; Information and Broadcasting
Piyush Goyal	Railways; Commerce and Industries
Dharmendra Pradhan	Petroleum and Natural Gas; Steel
Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi	Minority Affairs
Prahlad Joshi	Parliamentary Affairs; Coal; Mines
Mahendra Nath Pandey	Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
Arvind Sawant	Heavy Industries and Public Enterprise
Giriraj Singh	Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries
Gajendra Singh Shekhawat	Jal Shakti

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

PERSONALITIES

Tiger Woods
L&TMRH
Madonna, a pioneer for gay rights
Luke Shaw
Dr. Pramod Kumar Mishra
Achyutanand Dwivedi's short film

Oman author Jokha Alharthi
Shyam Saran

Rajasthan Health Department

AWARDS

Presidential Medal of Freedom
Gold for boosting metro rail image
GLAAD Media Awards 2019:
Sir Matt Busby Player of the Year award
Sasakawa Award 2019
Won the third prize in the international section of Nespresso Talents 2019 in Cannes.
Man Booker International Prize
The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star'.
WHO award

CEAT Cricket Rating (CCR) International awards 2019

Virat Kohli

Smriti Mandana

Jasprit Bumrah
Cheteshwar Pujara
Rohit Sharma
Aaron Finch
Rashid Khan
Yashasvi Jaiswal
Kuldeep Yadav

Ashutosh Aman
Mohinder Amarnath

International Cricketer and Batsman of the Year award
International Women Cricketer of the Year
International Bowler of the Year
International Test Cricketer of the Year
International ODI Cricketer of the Year
International T20 Player of the Year
International T20 Bowler of the Year
Junior Cricketer of the Year
Outstanding performance of the year award
Domestic Cricketer of the Year
CCR International Lifetime Achievement Award'

IMPORTANT DAYS

❖ May 01 World Labor Day

- Labour Day began in Chicago as a protest campaign to support eight-hour workday. On May 1, 1886, workers took to the streets across the United States to reduce the workday to eight-hour shifts.
- Labour Day Or May Day is called Antarrashtriya Shramik Diwas or Kamgar Din in India. In India, the first Labour day or May Day was celebrated in the year 1923.
- The theme of International Labour Day 2019 is —**Sustainable Pension for all: The Role of Social Partners**II.

❖ May 3 World Press Freedom day

- World Press Freedom Day was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in December 1993, following the recommendation of UNESCO's General Conference.
- Since then, 3 May, the anniversary of the Declaration of Windhoek is celebrated worldwide as World Press Freedom Day. 2019
- Theme "**Media for Democracy: Journalism and Elections In Times of Disinformation**II

❖ May 4 World International Firefighters' Day (IFFD)Health Day

- International Firefighters' Day (IFFD) is observed on May 4. It was instituted after a proposal was emailed out across the world on January 4, 1999 due to the deaths of five firefighters in tragic circumstances in a wildfire at Linton in Victoria, Australia.

❖ May 5 World Hand Hygiene Day

- World Hand Hygiene Day 5 May 2019 marks the 11th year of the WHO SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands campaign. 2019 Theme – —why infection prevention and hand hygiene are important for quality care.

❖ May 7 World Athletics Day

- On that first occasion in 1996, World Athletics Day was themed around the Centennial edition of the Olympic Games in Atlanta.

❖ May 08 World Red Cross Day

- World Red Cross Day is an international day that is dedicated to alleviating human suffering, upholding human dignity, protecting life, and preventing emergencies and natural disasters such as flood, epidemics, and earthquakes.
- Every year 8th May is celebrated as World Red Cross Day to honor the International Red Cross Crescent Movement founder Henry Dunant, who was born on this day in 1828. **World Red Cross Day 2019 theme is —#lovell**

May 08 World Thalassaemia Day 2019

The International Thalassaemia Day, celebrated on May 8 every year is a commemoration day in honour of all patients with thalassaemia and their wards who never gave up despite all odds.

The Theme for ITD2019 is: **Universal access to quality thalassaemia healthcare services: Building bridges with and for patients**

May 10 World Lupus Day

The World Lupus Federation celebrates 16th annual observance of World Lupus Day. A global health problem, lupus affects people of all nationalities, races, ethnicity, gender and age. Lupus can affect any part of the body in any way at any time, often with unpredictable and life-changing results.

May 11 World Migratory Bird Day 2019

World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) is an annual awareness-raising campaign highlighting the need for the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats. The international celebrations for World Migratory Bird Day will be held on every second Saturday in May and in October.

2019 Theme Protect Birds: Be the Solution to Plastic Pollution

May 12 International Nurses Day

In January 1974, 12 May was chosen to celebrate the day as it is the anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing. As of 1998, 8 May was designated as annual National Student Nurses' Day.

2019 Theme _Nurses: A Voice to Lead, Health for All.'

May 15 International Day of Families

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

2019 Theme: —Families and Climate Action: Focus on SDG 13

May 16 International Day of Living Together in Peace

The UN General-Assembly, declared 16 May the International Day of Living Together in Peace, as a means of regularly mobilizing the efforts of the international community to promote peace, tolerance, inclusion, understanding and solidarity..

May 16 International Day of Light

The International Day of Light is celebrated on 16 May each year, the anniversary of the first successful operation of the laser in 1960 by physicist and engineer, Theodore Maiman. This day is a call to strengthen scientific cooperation and harness its potential to foster peace and sustainable development.

May 17 World Telecommunication and Information Society Day

17 May marks the anniversary of the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention and the creation of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). This year, we celebrate the 50th anniversary of World Telecommunication and Information Society Day, which has been celebrated annually since 1969.

2019 Theme: Bridging the standardization gap.

May 17 World Hypertension Day

World Hypertension Day 2019 will be observed on May 17. Hypertension or high blood pressure is a condition in which there is long-term high force of blood against artery walls.

The theme of World Hypertension Day 2019 is "Know your numbers."

May 17 International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia

The founders of the International Day Against Homophobia, established the IDAHO Committee to promote the day and to lobby for official recognition on May 17. Louis-Georges Tin, founder of the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia. 2019 Global Focus - Justice and Protection for All

May 18 International Museum Day

Each year since 1977, ICOM has organised International Museum Day, which represents a unique moment for the international museum community.

2019 Theme —Museums as Cultural Hubs: The future of tradition

May 18	World AIDS Vaccine Day	World AIDS Vaccine Day, also known as HIV Vaccine Awareness Day, is observed annually on May 18. The first World AIDS Vaccine Day was observed on May 18, 1998 to commemorate the anniversary of Clinton's speech, and the tradition continues today.
May 20	World Bee Day	20 May coincides with the birthday of Anton Janša, who in the 18th century pioneered modern beekeeping techniques in his native Slovenia and praised the bees for their ability to work so hard, while needing so little attention. The UN Member States approved Slovenia's proposal to proclaim 20 May as World Bee Day in December 2017, 2018 was the first observance of World Bee Day.
May 21	World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development	In 2001, UNESCO adopted the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity and in December 2002, the UN General Assembly, in its resolution 57/249, declared May 21 to be the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development.
May 22	International Day for Biological Diversity	The United Nations has proclaimed May 22 The International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues.

2019 Theme - Our Biodiversity, Our Food, Our Health

**May 23 International Day to End
Obstetric Fistula**

May 23 is the United Nations' (UN) International Day to End Obstetric Fistula, which promotes action towards treating and preventing obstetric fistula, a condition that affects many girls and women in developing countries. Since 2013, this day is observed and is meant to raise awareness of this issue and mobilize support around the globe.

May 25 World Thyroid Day

During their AGM prior to the ETA congress in Leipzig, Germany, in September 2007, the members of Thyroid Federation International decided to create a —World Thyroid Dayll.

**May 25 International Missing
Children's Day**

US National Missing Children's Day has been commemorated in the United States on May 25, since 1983, when it was first proclaimed by President Ronald Reagan. It falls on the same day as the International Missing Children's Day, which was established in 2001.

May 28 Amnesty International Day

Amnesty International Day is observed on May 28. It has been observed annually on May 28th since 1962. Amnesty International is a non-governmental organization that focuses on the protection of human rights working to prevent abuses to human rights, to fight for justice for those whose rights have been violated, and to expand and enforce human rights protections in international law.

May 28 World Hunger Day

The Hunger Project started an initiative known as World Hunger Day. It is being observed on May 28. It is a global organisation committed to finding a tenable solution to

world hunger .Celebrating sustainable solutions to hunger and poverty is the aim of this day.

May 28 **V.D Savarkar's birth anniversary**

Swatantryaveer Vinayak Damodar Savarkar's birth anniversary is being celebrated on May 28. He was born on this day in 1883 near Nasik in Maharashtra and was popularly called Veer Savarkar. He was a revolutionary who fought against the British Government. The International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers, 29 May, offers a chance to pay tribute to the uniformed and civilians personnel's invaluable contribution to the work of the Organization and to honour more than 3,800 peacekeepers who have lost their lives serving under the UN flag since 1948, including 98 last year.

May 29 **International Day of UN Peacekeepers**

2019 Theme: —Protecting Civilians, Protecting Peacell

May 29 **World Digestive Health Day (WDHD)**

Every 29th May, the World Gastroenterology Organisation (WGO), in collaboration with the WGO Foundation (WGOF), celebrates World Digestive Health Day (WDHD) and initiates a yearlong, worldwide, public health campaign through more than 110 WGO Member Societies.

The theme for the World Digestive Health Day 2019 campaign is —Early Diagnosis and Treatment of GI Cancer.

May 30**World Multiple Sclerosis Day**

World MS Day is officially marked on 30 May each year. The 2019 campaign will be called 'My Invisible MS' (#MyInvisibleMS) and the theme is Visibility. In 2009, the MS International Federation (MSIF) and its members initiated the first World MS Day. Every year, on 31 May, the World Health Organization (WHO) and global partners celebrate World No Tobacco Day (WNTD). 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.

May 31**World No Tobacco Day**

The focus of World No Tobacco Day 2019 is on "tobacco and lung health."

SPORTS NEWS

• CRICKET

❖ Riyan Parag becomes youngest player to score half-century in IPL

- Rajasthan Royals' Riyan Parag has become the youngest player to score an IPL half-century. The 17-year-old from Assam achieved this feat against Delhi Capitals in a match in New Delhi.

❖ First in Indian cricket: Women State captains to have voice at BCCI Conclave

- During the May 17 conclave in Mumbai, the captains and coaches of the women's State teams will be joining their male counterparts in giving an assessment of the just-concluded domestic season.
- In a first, the BCCI will be inviting all the State captains of the women's teams at its 'Annual Domestic Captains and Coaches Conclave'.

❖ IPL 2019: Mumbai Indians clinch their record fourth title

- Mumbai Indians pipped Chennai Super Kings to a record fourth Indian Premier League (IPL) title in twelfth season of the IPL 2019.

❖ First woman to be inducted into ICC match referee panel

- India's G.S. Lakshmi has become the first woman to be appointed to ICC's international panel of match referees and will be eligible to officiate in international games with immediate effect. Claire Polosak had become the first ever woman umpire to stand in a men's ODI, earlier this month.

❖ ICC World Cup: Anti-corruption officer for each team

- In a first, all the 10 participating teams at the upcoming ICC World Cup will have a dedicated anti-corruption officer attached with it to deliver a corruption-free tournament.

❖ ICC releases official for cricket World Cup:

- The ICC released the official song of the 2019 Men's World Cup - 'Stand By' with LORYN and Rudimental across all streaming platforms. 'Stand By' collaboration between new artist LORYN and one of the UK's most successful and influential acts, Rudimental.

❖ BCCI elections on October 22

- The Committee of Administrators said that the much awaited BCCI elections will be held on October 22. The CoA announced the elections date after due consultation with the apex court appointed amicus curiae P.S. Narsimha.

TENNIS

❖ ITF women's tennis tournament

- Ankita Raina won the quarterfinals and enters into semifinals of ITF women's tennis tournament.

❖ Madrid Open Final:

- Stefanos Tsitsipas pulled off one of the biggest wins of his short but remarkable career by beating Rafael Nadal on Spanish soil to book his place in the Madrid Open final against World No.1 Novak Djokovic.
- Kiki Bertens won the biggest title of her career, beating Simona Halep in the final while also becoming the first woman ever to win the championship without dropping a set.

❖ Madrid Open: Djokovic claims his 33rd Masters

- Novak Djokovic joined Rafael Nadal as a 33-time Masters champion when he win over Stefanos Tsitsipas to claim a third Madrid Open title.

FOOTBALL

❖ Two new FIFA award categories for women's football

- Federation International de Football Association (FIFA) announced two new award categories to promote women's football across the globe. The two new award categories are off Women's goalkeeper of the year and a women's team of the year.

❖ Doha dedicates landmark for 2022 World Cup

- Located 15km south of Doha, the Al Janoub Stadium in Al Wakrah will host group stage matches and a quarterfinal game of the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

❖ FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022

- Nasser Al Khater, CEO of the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, asserted that a decision to expand the event to 48 teams would not be unilateral and be taken only if Qatar and FIFA agree to it.

❖ FIFA drops 48-team World Cup plan

- FIFA has shelved a proposed expansion of the 2022 World Cup in Qatar to 48 teams, dealing a blow to the world football body's president Gianni Infantino.

SHOOTING

❖ Shooting World Cup:

- Apurvi Chandela won her second gold medal of the season, dominating the women's air rifle on the opening day of the shooting World Cup.

❖ Shooting World Cup

- Asian Games champion Rahi Sarnobat defeated reigning World Champion and former Olympic champion Olena Kostevych 37-36 to clinch the gold in women's sports pistol and also booked an Olympic quota in the shooting World Cup.
- Saurabh Chaudhary won the men's 10m Air Pistol gold.

❖ Manu Bhaker secures India 7th Olympic quota

- In shooting, young shooter Manu Bhaker secured India its seventh Olympic quota with a fourth-place finish in the women's 10 meter air pistol event of the ISSF World Cup in Munich, Germany,. This is India's first quota in women's 10 meter pistol.

❖ Shooting World Cup

- In Shooting, India produced their best ever show at the ISSF World Cup with a total tally of five gold medals in Munich, Germany. By capturing five of the 10 gold medals, Indian shooting was able to assert its class and firepower. China did win nine medals, but had only two gold.

MISCELLANEOUS

❖ Sindhu, Saina, Srikanth to lead Indian challenge

- P.V. Sindhu, K. Srikanth and Saina Nehwal will lead the Indian challenge at the Sudirman Cup mixed team badminton championships at Nanning (China) from May 19 to 26.

❖ Asian Squash championship:

- Saurav Ghosal and Joshna Chinappa emerged champions in the Asian squash championship. This is the first time two Indians have finished on top in the same tournament.

❖ New Zealand Open badminton:

- India's HS Prannoy stunned Tommy Sugiarto in straight games to sail into the men's singles quarterfinals of the New Zealand Open badminton tournament in Auckland. This was world no. 26 Prannoy's maiden meeting against world no. 13 Sugiarto.

❖ Bajrang Punia bags gold in Ali Aliyev wrestling tournament

- World No. 1 Bajrang Punia bagged gold after defeating Viktor Rassadin in the finals of men's 65kg freestyle in the Ali Aliyev wrestling tournament in Kaspiisk, Russia. He became the first Indian to win gold at Ali Aliyev wrestling tournament.

❖ Feliks Stamm International Boxing

- Gaurav Solanki and Manish Kaushik bagged a gold each as Indian boxers finished with six medals at the 36th Feliks Stamm International boxing tournament in Warsaw, Poland. Besides the two golds, Indians clinched a silver and three bronze to wrap off their campaign on a high.

❖ International Shooting Competition

- India's Esha Singh and Akull Kumar topped qualification but were beaten by 5.4 points for the gold in junior mixed air pistol event by the German pair of Jan Luca Karstedt and Vanessa Seeger in the International Shooting Competition.

❖ Lewis Hamilton back on top with victory in Spain

- Lewis Hamilton roared back to the top of the Formula One world championship with victory in Spain as Mercedes continued their record start to a season with a fifth successive one-two. Hamilton took an extra point for the fastest lap of the race, his first of the campaign, and was helped by a safety car deployment 20 laps from the end giving him a free second pitstop.

❖ India lose to Australia in final match of Down Under tour

- The Indian men's hockey team ended their tour Down Under with a 2-5 loss to world no.2 Australia in the fifth and final match in Perth.

❖ SET Thailand junior and cadet Open

- India's young paddlers impressed in the SET Thailand junior and cadet Open, claiming four bronze medals. Oishik Ghosh and Ashish Jain (boys' singles), Sayani Panda (girls' singles) and the junior boys' team of Manush Shah, Reagan Albuquerque and Deepit Patil displayed great skill in SET Thailand junior and cadet Open.
- Defending champion Brooks Koepka completed the lowest 36-hole showing in Major golf history to seize a record seven-stroke lead after two rounds of the PGA Championship while Tiger Woods missed the cut.

❖ Indian women clinch 3-match series against South Korea

- Indian women's hockey team beat South Korea in the second game and took an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series in Jincheon.

❖ Sudirman Cup

- India crashed out of the Sudirman Cup mixed team badminton championships after losing 5-0 to 10-time champion China in the second and final group match.

❖ India Open Boxing

- Six-time world champion M.C. Mary Kom staved off a strong challenge from Asian championships bronze medallist Nikhat Zareen to record a 4-1 win in the semifinals and reach the women's 51kg title clash in the India Open international boxing tournament at Indore.

❖ Grandmaster Sahaj Grover retains 'double'

- Grandmaster Sahaj Grover retained the 'double' by winning the twin-titles in the 2019 SWVG Arnold Classic rapid and blitz chess tournament.
- The annual event was created by Hollywood veteran and former Governor of California Arnold Schwarzenegger and organised by Kasparov Chess Foundation.

❖ India Open international boxing tournament

- L. Sarita Devi won women's 60kg gold medal in the India Open international boxing tournament and M.C. Mary Kom beat Vanlal Duati 5-0 in 51kg to earn her second gold.

❖ PSA Challenger tour

- India's Mahesh Mangaonkar, the top seed, beat the third-seeded Spaniard Bernat Jaumein the final to emerge champion of the Sekisui Open, a PSA Challenger tour event.

❖ Monaco Grand Prix 2019

- Lewis Hamilton won the Monaco Grand Prix for Mercedes, Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel was runner-up, ending Mercedes's run of five successive one-two finishes, with Hamilton's teammate Valtteri Bottas third.

❖ Archery World Cup

- The men's compound team of Rajat Chauhan, Abhishek Verma and Aman Saini earned India a solitary bronze medal in the Archery World Cup Stage III at Antalya in Turkey.
- The Women's compound team of Jyoti Surekha Vennam, Muskan Kirar and Swati Dudhwal lost to Great Britain's Layla Annison, Ella Gibson and Lucy Mason by two points in the contention for a bronze medal.

❖ J80 World Championship

- Asian youth champion Dr. Rohini Rau to lead all women Indian team for the J80 World Championship to be staged in Bilbao, Spain, from July 13 to 20. The J80 is a modern sports boat with competition in open water, away from the protected environment of harbours and lakes.

❖ ICC Cricket World Cup 2019 began on May 30

- The ICC Cricket World Cup 2019 will began on May 30. England opened the tournament at The Oval in London against South Africa. India, the 1983 and 2011 world champions, will play their first match on June 5 against South Africa at the Hampshire Bowl in Southampton.

❖ Rani Rampal to lead Indian Women Hockey squad for FIH Series Finals

- Hockey India named an 18-member Indian team for the upcoming FIH Women's Series Finals starting in Hiroshima, Japan on the 15th of next month. Rani Rampal will captain the team and experienced goalkeeper Savita will share the responsibility of Vice-Captain.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

❖ 'Game Changer' - Shahid Afridi.

- Shahid Afridi, former captain of the '**Pakistan national cricket team**' has written his autobiography titled, '**Game Changer**' which will unveil answers to the muchcontemplated questions about him. The book has been published by **Harper Collin's India**.
- Afridi is popularly known as '**Boom Boom**' and holds the world record for the **fastest ODI (One Day International) century in 37** deliveries.

❖ World's exclusive women's cricket magazine - Criczone

- The inaugural issue of world's first exclusive women's cricket magazine '**Criczone**' was released in Jaipur with Indian team vice-captain Smriti Mandhana featuring as the cover story.
- Top international cricketers like Mithali Raj, Harmanpreet Kaur, Smriti Mandhana along with overseas players like Danielle Wyatt, Sophie Devine attended the event which is held on the sidelines of the inaugural women's T20 challenge.

❖ World's most mysterious 600 year old manuscript - 'Voynich Manuscript'

- The world's most mysterious 600-year old manuscript named '**Voynich Manuscript**' was finally deciphered by **Bristol academician Dr. Gerard Cheshire** and it took him **just 2 weeks**.
- The Voynich Manuscript contains information about astrological physical tips, parenting and psychology, abortion advice and herbal remedies.

❖ Coming Round the Mountain - Ruskin Bond

- India's beloved children's author **Ruskin Bond** is celebrating his 85th birthday, with the release of a new memoir set against the backdrop of the partition. The book titled