

**Monthly
One-Liner GK
Digest:
May 2019**

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- UN President is withdrawing the U.S. signature from the U.N. Arms Trade Treaty, in response to concerns from gun rights activists that it could impinge on Americans' right to bear arms.
- **About Arm Trade Treaty(ATT):**
- ATT, which has been ratified by more than 100 countries, entered into force in December 2014.
- It regulates the trade in conventional arms such as small arms, battle tanks, combat aircraft, and warships.
- It also aims to prevent and eradicate the illicit trade in conventional arms and prevent their diversion.
- A Declaration is passed by UK Parliament which makes this government be the first national government to pass an exemplary measure, that is, a national declaration of an Environment and Climate Emergency.
- Compared to its 1990 levels, UK (United Kingdom) was later legally committed to an 80% reduction in carbon emissions by 2050 and recently featured as 1 of 18 developed economies to decrease CO₂(carbon dioxide) emissions in the last 10 years.
- A New law "Sovereign Internet" bill is signed by Russian President Vladimir Putin that will allow Russian authorities to isolate the country's internet to expand the government's control over it.
- The new move requires Internet providers to install equipment for routing Russian web traffic through servers in Russia which will allow the Russian intelligence agencies of state authorities to control public information.
- A \$5 billion Action Plan for Healthy Oceans and Sustainable Blue Economies for the Asia and Pacific region has launched by Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- This will support ADB's developing member countries' efforts for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), inclusive of the SDG 14: Life Below Water.

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India and Bangladesh to Produced Film on Mujibur Rahman

- A film based on the life and works of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and a documentary of Bangladesh Liberation War 1971 will jointly Produce by India and Bangladesh
- The movie will be directed by Shyam Benegal and the scriptwriter of the movie will be Atul Tiwari and the director of the documentary will be from Bangladesh who would be assisted by a co-director from India.

Publication of Fake News criminalized in Singapore

- A law (The Protection from Online Falsehoods and Manipulation Bill) which criminalises publication of fake news in the country and allows government to block and order removal of such content , has been Passed by Singapore Government.
- Offenders could face a jail term of up to 10 years and heavy fines.

Climate Emergency Declared Republic of Ireland

- Republic of Ireland declares a climate emergency and with this it becomes second country in the world to declare this.
- Earlier on 1st May 2019, Britain's parliament became the first in the world to declare a climate emergency.

Contract signed Between Konkan Railways and Nepal Railways

- The contract agreement was signed between India's Konkan Railways Corporation Ltd and Nepal's Department of Railways to supply two 1600 HP Diesel Electric Multiple Unit (DEMU) train sets.
- The trains will be manufactured by Integrated Coach Factory (owned and operated by Indian Railways) in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- These trains will be used to operationalise the 34 km long railway corridor stretch which links Jayanagar in Bihar, India and Kurtha in Dhanusa district, Nepal.

Simon Armitage named United Kingdom's New Poet Laureate

- Simon Armitage has been named as United Kingdom's new Poet Laureate.
- He succeeds Carol Ann Duffy in the 10-year post.
- Queen Elizabeth II has approved the appointment which is Britain's highest literary honour.
- **About Simon Armitage:**
 - Armitage, a professor of poetry at the University of Leeds, has published 28 collections of poetry and his work is studied by British schoolchildren as part of the national curriculum.
- **About 'Poet Laureate' of the United Kingdom:**
 - The British Poet Laureate is an honorary position appointed by the monarch of the United Kingdom, currently on the advice of the Prime Minister.
 - John Dryden was appointed in 1668 by Charles II.

Monet's 'Meules' Painting sold for a Record \$110.7 Million

- A painting by Oscar-Claude Monet titled 'Meules' sold for a record-breaking price of \$110.7 million at Sotheby's auction in New York.
- **About the Painting:**
 - The French painter Claude Monet's painting titled 'Meules' was made in 1890.
 - The painting auctioned is among one of 25 'Meules' (which means "Grainstacks") and it was created by painter in year 1890 and 1891.
 - About the Record:
 - By fetching \$110.7 million, the painting created a world auction record for the artist (Monet) as well as became first work of an Impressionist Art to cross over \$100 million threshold at an auction.

Same Sex Marriage Legal in Taiwan

- Taiwan becomes the first of any Asian country to legalise same-sex marriage with the passage of a legislation giving gay couples the right to marry.
- On 17th May, the Lawmakers of Taiwan passed part of a bill that would allow gay couples to enter into exclusive permanent unions and apply for marriage registration with government agencies.
- The 66-to-27 vote recognizes same-sex marriages and gives couples many of the tax, insurance and child-custody benefits available to male-female married couples.

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U.K. Government allows Sikhs to Carry Kirpans

- The U.K. Government has passed an amendment- the 'Offensive Weapons Bill', by which Sikhs in the country will be allowed to carry Kirpans and use it during religious and cultural functions.
- The Offensive Weapons Bill received the royal assent.
- The Bill had been amended in 2018 to ensure that it would not impact the right of the British-Sikh community to possess and supply kirpans, or religious swords.
- **About the Offensive Weapons Act:**
 - The Offensive Weapons Act covers new offences around possession of certain offensive weapons in public and enforces new restrictions on the online sale of bladed articles and corrosive products.
- **What is Kirpan?**
 - The Kirpan is a sword or small dagger, originating from the Indian subcontinent, carried by Sikhs.
 - It is also part of a religious commandment given by Guru Gobind Singh in 1699, in which he demanded that Sikhs must wear the five articles of faith (the five Ks) at all times, the Kirpan being one of five Ks.
 - The Punjabi word Kirpan has two roots: kirpa-mercy and aanaa-honor.

Kerala becomes the First State into the Masala Bond market

- Kerala became the first state to tap into the Masala Bond market by listing the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board's (KIIFB's) Masala Bond worth USD 312 million (Rs 2,150 crore) in London Stock Exchange's (LSE's) International Securities Market (ISM).
- **The Masala Bond has a tenor of 5-year and a 9.723% coupon.**
- The main objective of this initiative was to tap the masala bond market and to rebuild the infrastructure in Kerala from the proceeds of the masala bond.

"Libra Networks LLC" Registered in Geneva, Switzerland

- Facebook Global Holdings registered a new cryptocurrency firm named 'Libra Networks LLC' in Geneva, Switzerland.
- Facebook had registered the trademark "Libra" with the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

'Alipay' and 'WeChat' Banned in Nepal

- Nepal banned popular Chinese digital wallets 'Alipay' and 'WeChat' to prevent the loss of foreign currency earnings from tens of thousands of Chinese tourists.
- **The reason cited by Nepal is that, it was losing out since the actual transactions took place in China.**
- Over 1,50,000 Chinese holidaymakers visited Nepal in 2018, many using digital wallets to pay in hotels, restaurants, and shops in tourist areas, especially in Chinese-run businesses.

U.A.E. Launches 'Golden Card' Permanent Residency Scheme

- The United Arab Emirates (UAE) launched 'Golden Card' Permanent Residency Scheme in an attempt to woo wealthy individuals and exceptional talents from all over the world.
- The "Golden Card" programme was unveiled by UAE Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum (who is also Dubai's ruler).
- **About the 'Golden Card' Programme:**
 - It is open to investors and 'exceptional talents' like scientists, engineers, doctors, students and artists.
 - The benefits of PR also includes spouse and children of cardholder so as to ensure cohesive social ties.

Adani Group to develop a Container Terminal in Myanmar

- It will act as a network point to feed into our upcoming trans-shipment hub at Vizhinjam.
- The project site is located at city cluster & inner harbor of Yangon Port.
- The site is ideally placed to serve the traffic from industries surrounding the city with adequate storage and good evacuation channel for the port.
- The terminal will have a quay length of 635 meters with the capability to handle three vessels at a time.

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Russia launched Largest Nuclear-Powered Icebreaker 'Ural'

- Russia launched the world's largest nuclear-powered icebreaker 'Ural' at the Baltic Shipyard in St. Petersburg in order to improve its ability to tap the Arctic's commercial potential.
- The Ural will be given to Russia's state-owned nuclear energy corporation Rosatom in 2022 after the other 2 ice-breakers Arktika (Arctic) and Sibir (Siberia) enter into service.
- The Arktika was floated in 2016.

Malaysian Government to send back Tonnes of Plastic Waste

- The Ministry said 450 tonnes of contaminated plastic waste in 10 containers from Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, China, Japan, Saudi Arabia, and the United States will be shipped back.
- **Steps taken by the Malaysian Government:**
 - Malaysia sent back five containers filled with plastic waste to Spain in April.
 - 150 illegal waste recycling plants had been shut down.
- **About Basel Convention:**
 - 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.

Saudi Arabia has Lifted Export ban on Fruits and Vegetables

- Saudi Arabia has lifted export ban on fruits and vegetables from Kerala.
- In June 2018, the ban was imposed due to the outbreak of Nipah virus.
- Saudi Arabian authorities had communicated this information to the state in the second week of May and it has led to the commencement of direct exports from the 3 airports.
- **One must know:**
 - Kerala exports around 150 tonnes of perishable commodities to gulf countries.
 - It alone exports 30-40 tonnes to Saudi Arabia.

NATIONAL NEWS

- The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to conduct two-level exams for Class 10th Mathematics and English in which 20 marks internal exam will be conducted by respective schools and 80 marks will be given to theory conducted by the board from 2020 onwards.
- Students will have to clear the school-based exams first in order to be considered for the board exams.
- **Two geological display boards** at two important geological sites, Installed by **Geological Survey of India (GSI) North Eastern Region (NER) in Meghalaya.**
- These geological display boards with geo-scientific information will help in creating awareness among visiting tourists, students and the general public.
- BSNL Becomes the 1st operator to start optical fibre-based high-speed broadband service in Pulwama by launching 'Bharat Fibre'.
- **About 'Bharat Fibre' services:**
 - These services are reliable and high-speed internet is provided on the optical fibre by FTTH (fibre-to-the-home) service up to the customer premises with a monthly charge of Rs 777-16,999 in around 160 telecom districts with a minimum speed of 2 megabit-per-second (Mbps).
 - On the day of 750th birth anniversary of Sri Vedanta Desikan, a postage stamp is Unveiled by President M. Venkaiah Naidu in New Delhi.
- **About Sri Vedanta Desikan:**
 - He was Born in 1268 CE and was a Sri Vaishnava philosopher and one of the most brilliant stalwarts of Sri Vaishnavism in the post-Ramanuja period.
 - He was an awardee of Vedanta Desika, 'Kavitarkika-Kesari', 'Kavitarkika-Simham' and Ramanuja-Dayapatram'

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- Instructions are given to all states by the central Government to mandate green number plates on all types of electric vehicles, whether brand new or used.
- **Why?**
 - The reason behind this move is to distinguish green vehicles for preferential treatment in parking, free entry in congested zones, and concessional toll.
 - Allowing youngsters in the age group of 16-18 years to ride e-scooters, as they are gearless, and easy to use.
 - To upscale the 'Unnat Bharat Abhiyan', a Special Purpose Vehicle under the Ministry of Electronics & IT, (Information Technology) called "CSC (Common Services Centre) e-Governance Services India Limited", has partnered with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur.
 - IIT-Kanpur has brought together 15 leading higher education institutions from UP (Uttar Pradesh) to work together with CSC, under this policy, for the villages' development and has adopted 5 villages for its holistic development.

Businesses are allowed to remain Open 24 hour in Gujarat

- Gujarat assembly passes the Gujarat Shops and Establishments (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 2019 which allow the shops and other businesses in the state to operate 24x7.
- This Act replaced the Gujarat Shops and Establishments Act, 1948 which prevented shops and other businesses from operating between 12 to 6 a.m.
- According to the provision of the new act, working hours for women employees can only be between 6am to 9pm, which could be relaxed only if a written request is made and authorities have considered the safety issues for women.

India's Last Captive white Tiger "Bajirao" Dies

- The last Captive of white tiger named "Bajirao" dies at the age of 18 due to chronic ankyloses (fusion of bones leads to abnormal stiffening and immobility of joint) on left shoulder and chronic senile Generalized arthritis from past four years at the Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP) in Borivali, Mumbai.
- **About White Tiger:**
 - They are not a separate sub-species of tiger. They are basically a pigmentation variant of the Bengal Tiger mainly found in Madhya Pradesh, Assam, West Bengal, Bihar and in Sunderbans region. They are also called Bleached Tiger.

Purple Frog to be state Amphibian of Kerala

- Purple frog could be soon designated as Kerala's state amphibian.
- Kerala's leading Herpetologists (a specialist in study of reptiles and amphibians) has Mooted this proposal
- **About Purple Frog:**
 - Scientific Name: Nasikabatrachus Sahyadrensis (N. Sahyadrensis).
 - It is also known as Maveli Frog or Pignose Frog.

Government Introduces FAME II Scheme

- Government of India Introduces FAME II Scheme to boost the adoption of electric and hybrid vehicles.
- The scheme estimates that India as a country can save 64% of anticipated road-based mobility related energy demand and 37% of carbon emissions in 2030 by pursuing a shared, electric and connected mobility future.
- The transport sector in India continues to be the highest oil consuming sector and the use of diesel and petrol grew at 5.9% and 9.9% respectively in the last 10 years.

Re-Polling held in West Tripura

- The Election Commission has ordered re-polling in 168 booths of West Tripura parliamentary constituency on 12th May 2019

Microsoft Launches "ElectionGuard" for secure voting

- A free open-source Software Development Kit (SDK) "ElectionGuard" Launched by Microsoft CEO, Satya Nadella to help nations to carry out secure and verifiable voting.
- **About ElectionGuard:**

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- During the process of voting, voters have an optional step which allows them to track their votes from the moment he/she casts it, after the voter has verified the selections are correct to the final step of counting the votes.
- It does not work with vote-by-mail systems and is not designed to work with internet voting schemes as it can be easily hacked.

New species of Reddish-Brown Pit Viper in Arunachal Pradesh

- New species of Reddish-Brown Pit Viper discovered in Arunachal Pradesh by a team of herpetologists (specialized in study of reptiles and amphibians).
- With this, India is now home to the fifth Brown Pit Viper.

India joins 'Christchurch Call to Action' initiative

- India has recently joined a major global initiative called 'Christchurch Call to Action' to combat extremism and terrorism online and make internet a safe and secure place.
- **About the Initiative:**
 - New Zealand's Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern and French President Emmanuel Macron recently launched an ambitious new initiative called "Christchurch Call", which is aimed at curbing extremism online.
- **Participants of the Initiative:**
 - A total of 18 countries including European Union (EU) supported the initiative along with representatives of online giants like Facebook, Google, YouTube, Microsoft, Amazon and Twitter.
- **About the Christchurch Call Agreement:**
 - It is a non-binding set of agreements to combat spread of hate and violent content online.
 - It was signed by a group of governments and major tech companies at a summit in Paris.

Ministry of Environment to Create DNA Database

- Union Ministry of Environment announced a project to create DNA Database for Indian Rhinos.
- This is done in order to curb poaching and collect evidence for wildlife crimes upon Rhinos.
- The deadline to meet this project is 2021.
- The database will be kept in the Wildlife Institute of India(WII) headquartered in Dehradun, Uttarakhand.
- **About the Wildlife Institute of India(WII):**
 - **It was established in 1982.**
 - Dr. Vinod B. Mathur is the Director of Wildlife Institute of India.

Vice President calls for Protecting the "Ongole" Cattle Breed

- Vice President Venkaiah Naidu released a compendium on the Ongole breed of cattle at Vijayawada recently.
- Mr.Naidu highlighted that Brazil has imported these cattle breeds and produced hybrid Ongoles to earn huge revenue through export whereas in India, this cattle is neglected.
- **About the Ongole cattle:**
 - Ongole cattle is an indigenous cattle breed that originates from Prakasam District in the state of Andhra Pradesh.
 - The Ongole breed of cattle, Bos Indicus, has a great demand as it is said to possess resistance to both foot and mouth disease and mad cow disease.
 - The Ongole is one of the heaviest breeds.

Orchha Town Included in Tentative List of UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

- The Archaeological Survey of India included the heritage town of Orchha in Madhya Pradesh 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.
- UNESCO's rules state that to be a part of the World Heritage sites, the heritage or historical site must first be on the tentative list.

Telangana to set up Country's First 'Blockchain District'

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- It is aimed to create an ecosystem for major blockchain companies, start-ups for promoting research, innovation and industry collaboration.
- Earlier, the Telangana Government signed an agreement with Tech Mahindra to set up the Blockchain district in 2018.
- The main focus will be given to the sectors such as banking, financial services and insurance, pharmaceuticals and healthcare, government institutions and departments, logistics and supply chains.
- The incentives like access to investments, subsidies, tax credits will be rolled out to attract large enterprises, Small and Medium Enterprises and startups.

BANKING

- SEBI has banned NSE, National Stock Exchange from gaining access to the securities market for a period of 6 months.
- And also fined NSE a sum of Rs. 1,000 crore, that is, Rs. 624.89 crore and an additional 12% interest, from 1st April 2014 for NSE's failure to exercise effective due diligence during co-location facility.
- **Co-Location Case** is a system in trade execution, where a broker's server is kept in the exchange premises to decrease latency or delay in computational terms.

RBI decide to enhance Housing loan limits for RRBs and SFBs

- A decision is taken by RBI to enhance the housing loan limits for Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and Small Finance Banks (SFBs) for eligibility under priority sector lending, in a bid to give them a level playing field with other Scheduled Commercial Banks.
- RBI said that the existing family income limit of Rs. 2 lakh per annum, prescribed in the master direction for RRBs and the compendium for SFBs, eligible for loans to housing projects exclusively for the purpose of construction of houses for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) and Low-Income Groups (LIG), has been revised to Rs. 3 lakh per annum for EWS and Rs.6 lakh per annum for LIG.

RBI to Launch Mobile App for Visually Impaired

- The RBI has proposed to come out with a mobile application to aid visually impaired persons in identifying Indian currency notes.
- The application should be able to identify the denomination of legal tender banknotes of Mahatma Gandhi Series and Mahatma Gandhi (New) series by capturing the image of the notes placed in front of the mobile camera or scrolled across it.

"Mosquito Disease Protection Policy" Launched by HDFC ERGO

- India's 3rd-largest non-life insurance provider in the private sector, HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company launched a scheme termed "Mosquito Disease Protection Policy".
- The policy by HDFC ERGO will cover hospitalization expenses.
- The policy will also pay the beneficiary, the sum insured if in case, the policyholder dies due to the disease.
- The policy cover will be available for people between the age of 91 days to 65 years.

Co-branded Multi-Currency Card Launched by ICICI Bank

- Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India(ICICI) Bank along with online travel booking portal Goibibo launched a co-branded multi-currency card- "Goibibo ICICI Bank Travel Card".
- Customers can use one card for multiple currencies and enjoy discounts on flights and hotel bookings.
- The card is accepted across 200 countries and 4.6 merchants globally and can be dealt in 15 currencies.
- The joining fee is Rs. 499+ GST and customers can buy the card by logging into the iMobile App.
- The card provides travel insurance of Rs. 2 lakh to Rs. 10 lakh.

'Bharti Airtel' and 'HDFC Life' to Offer Insurance for Prepaid Customers

- 'Bharti Airtel' and the 'Housing Development Finance Cooperation (HDFC) Life' had tied up to offer life cover for customers at a prepaid recharge of Rs 249.
- This new Rs 249 prepaid recharge will include 2 GB data, unlimited calls across all the networks and 100 SMS per day with an insurance cover of worth of Rs 4 lakh from HDFC Life.

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- The recharge validity is for only 28 days.
- The insurance cover of Rs 4 lakh will be there with the customers till the recharge will be active and once validity gets over, customers have to recharge it again to avail the insurance cover.
- This insurance cover will be available to persons of 18 to 54 years of age.

Paytm Launches First Credit Card "Paytm First Card"

- Digital payments company Paytm, in association with Citibank has launched its first credit card called "Paytm First Card".
- **About the Card:**
 - **Paytm First Card comes with unlimited cash back and will be accepted in India as well globally.**
 - The card is issued by Citibank and doesn't involve any hidden fees or charges.

Nainital Bank fined by RBI for Rs. 1 crore

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of ₹1 crore on Nainital Bank for its failure to fully automate the non-performing asset (NPA) identification process, despite specific directions issued in this regard.
- The penalty was imposed under the provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- **About the Banking Regulation Act, 1949:**
 - **It is a legislation in India that regulates all banking firms in India.**
 - The Act gives the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) the power to:
 - License banks
 - Control moratorium, mergers and liquidation
 - Issue directives in the interests of public good and on banking policy
 - Impose penalties
- **About Nainital Bank:**
 - It was founded in 1922 and is headquartered in Nainital, Uttarakhand, India.
 - Its MD & CEO is Dinesh Pant and its parent bank is Bank of Baroda.
 - It is a scheduled commercial bank.

SIDBI Launches Scheme to extend Financial Assistance

- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) launched a pilot scheme to extend financial assistance of up to Rs 10 crore to new-age fintech non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) engaged in financing small businesses and other income-generating activities.
- **About Fintech NBFCs:**
 - **Fintech NBFCs are digital loan companies.**
 - **They leverage information technology to provide fast and convenient access to funding.**
 - Reserve Bank of India-registered new-age fintech NBFCs have to meet prescribed parameters, including:
 - Minimum capital risk-weighted assets ratio of 15%
 - Non-performing assets less than or equal to 4%
 - Minimum net-owned fund (NOF) of Rs 20 crore and Minimum asset size of Rs 50 crore
 - At least two audited annual reports, positive net worth and leverage ratio within 5:1

HDFC ties up with IMGIC for Home Loan

- HDFC collaborated with IMGIC (India Mortgage Guarantee Corporation) for a mortgage guarantee-backed home loan.
- **What is a Mortgage Guarantee?**
 - Mortgage guarantee is a financial product which compensates lending institutions for the losses that may occur when a home owner defaults on a mortgage loan.
- **Significance of this Collaboration:**
 - This collaboration will help HDFC provide more loan to a home loan customer on an improved eligibility.

CRO's Mandated by RBI for all NBFCs

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has mandated all the Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) with a size of over Rs.5,000 crore to appoint Chief Risk Officers (CROs) with clearly specified roles and responsibilities.
- RBI's move comes in the wake of ongoing rating downgrades of non-banks which has raised fears of another liquidity crisis.
- **CRO guidelines by RBI:**
 - The CRO shall be a senior official in the hierarchy of an NBFC (non-banking finance company).
 - They will possess adequate professional qualification/experience in the area of risk management.
- **About a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC):**
 - NBFC is a company registered under the Companies Act, 1956 of India.
 - It is engaged in the business of loans and advances, acquisition of shares, stock, bonds, hire-purchase insurance business or chit-fund business.

HDFC Group overtakes Tata Group

- HDFC group has overtaken the 151-year-old Tata group to emerge as India's most valuable by way of market capitalization (m-cap).
- **About the HDFC Group:**
 - CEO of HDFC group is Mr. Aditya Puri.
 - The group has its headquarters in Mumbai, India.
 - HDFC group was founded in August 1994, India.

SBI Ties up with 'Sri Sri Tattva'

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

ICICI Bank agrees to buy 9.9% stake in BSE Subsidiary INX

- ICICI Bank said it has entered into an agreement with the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) to buy a stake in its subsidiary INX, located at GIFT City Gujarat.
- ICICI Bank will buy a 9.9% stake in India International Exchange (INX), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) for nearly Rs 31 crore.
- INX is located at GIFT City in Gujarat.

ADB gives \$750 mn loan for Railways Track Electrification Project

- Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed an agreement with Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC), an entity owned by Government of India (GOI) to provide USD 750 million long-term financing for the Railways Track Electrification Project.
- **About IRFC:**
 - IRFC was established in 1986.
 - **It is the financing arm of Indian Railways for mobilizing funds from domestic and international capital markets.**
 - It is registered as a non banking finance company (NBFC).

RBI extends Time-Window for using RTGS Service

- 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.
- **Reason for this decision:**
 - 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.
- **Real Time Gross Settlement System (RTGS):**

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- RTGS is an electronic form of funds transfer where the transmission takes place on a real-time basis.
- 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.

Committee for Housing Finance Constituted by RBI

- 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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **Mortgage-Backed Securitisation (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.

REPORTS

Arunachal Pradesh Holds 35 % of Country's Graphite Reserves

- The Geological Survey of India (GSI) in its report said that about 35% of India's total Graphite reserves are found in Arunachal Pradesh.
- This is the highest level of Graphite reserves found in the country.
- **Significance of these reserves:**
 - With 35% of India's Graphite deposits being found in Arunachal Pradesh, the state could now be developed as the leading producer of graphite in the country thus helping in meeting its future needs.
- **About the Geological Survey of India (GSI):**
 - The Geological Survey of India (GSI) was set up in 1851 primarily to find coal deposits for the Railways.
 - It is headquartered at Kolkata.
 - The objectives of GSI are achieved through various surveys like the marine, airborne, ground and also by mineral prospecting and investigations.

APPOINTMENTS

Name of the person	Designation
Air Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria	Vice Chief of Indian Air Force
Kumar Sangakkara	First Non-British President of MCC
Air Marshal SK Ghotia	Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief
M Jayshree Vyas	First Independent Woman Director of BSE
Dr Krishnamurthy Subramanian	Advisory Council Member Finance Commission
Laurentino Cortizo	New President Of Panama
Dragan Mihailovic	Volleyball Federation Coach
Jagjit Pavadia	Re-elected to International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)
Igor Stimac	India's Football Coach

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Dia Mirza	One of the 17 New SDG Advocates
BMC Ajoy Mehta	Chief Secretary of Maharashtra
R.Gandhi	Additional Director of Yes Bank
Justice A.K. Sikri	Chairperson of News Broadcasting Standards Authority (NBSA)
G.S. Lakshmi	International Cricket Council's (ICC's)
Retired Justice Madan B. Lokur	Supreme Court of Fiji's Non-Resident Panel
Ms. Padmaja	High Commissioner to Republic of Nauru
Joko Widodo	Re-Elected President of Indonesia
Jagan Mohan Reddy	Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh
Naveen Patnaik	CM of Odisha for 5 th Time
Narendra Modi	Prime Minister of India
Lieutenant General Shailesh Tinaikar	New Force Commander of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)
Prem Singh Tamang	Chief Minister of Sikkim
Resignations	
Theresa May	Prime Minister of UK

AWARDS AND HONOURS

Award	Awardee
Goldman Environmental Prize.	Alfred Brownell
World Number One Spot in 10m Air Rifle	Apurvi Chandela
'Knight of the Legion of Honour'	A.S. Kiran Kumar
Asian College of Journalism's Award	Nileena M.S.
P.C. Chandra Puraskaar 2019	Dr. Devi Prasad Shetty
King of Thailand	King Maha Vajiralongkorn
'Order of St. George' Award for the year 2019	Sri Sri Ravi Shankar
V K Krishna Menon Award 2019	GD 'Robert' Govender
Presidential Medal of Freedom	Tiger Woods
Silver at International Shooting Competition	Esha Singh and Akull Kumar
McCain Institute Award 2019	Chhaya Sharma
First Cross Atlantic Ocean	AaroHi Pandit
Council of European Chambers of Commerce in India (CEUCC)	Anil Kapoor
World's Highest Peak Mount Everest for 23 rd time	Kami Rita
Sasakawa Award 2019	Pramod Kumar Mishra
First Black African Woman to Scale Mt. Everest	Saray Khumalo
"Man Booker International Prize"	Jokha Alharthi
'The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star' Award	Shyam Saran
First Woman Pilot to qualify for Combat Missions	Bhawana Kanth
Presented with an Honorary Degree by Yale University	Indra Nooyi
'Global Asian of the Year' Award	Dr. Hema Divakar
'German Chemistry Prize'	Dr. Ankur Patwardhan

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Odisha's First Woman Mountaineer	Kalpana Dash
Sekisui Open for the Second Time in Kriens, Switzerland	Mahesh Mangaonkar
Second Gold Medal in 10m Air Pistol Event in ISSF Gold Cup 2019	Saurabh Chaudhary
Monaco Grand Prix	Lewis Hamilton
International Dylan Thomas Prize 2019	Guy Gunaratne
"UNSDG 10 Most Influential People in Healthcare" Award	Acharya Balkrishna
'Lifetime Recognition Award'	Professor N. Kumar
Nine Dots Prize	Annie Zaidi

IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme
30 th April 2019	Ayushman Bharat Diwas	
1 st May 2019	International Worker's Day	Theme: 'Uniting Workers for Social and Economic Advancement'.
1 st May 2019	Maharashtra Day and Gujarat Day	
3 rd May 2019	World Press Freedom Day 2019	Theme: "Media for Democracy: Journalism and Elections in Times of Disinformation".
11 th May 2019	World Migratory Bird Day	"Protect Birds: Be the Solution to Plastic Pollution!".
11 th May 2019	National Technology Day	
12 th May 2019	International Nurses Day	'Nurses- A Voice to Lead- Health for All'.
17 th May 2019	World Telecom Day	
20 th May 2019	World Bee Day	"Save the Bees".
21 st May 2019	Anti-Terrorism Day	

MOU'S SIGNED

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is signed between Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Government of India and Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT-Delhi) for setting up a 'Centre of Excellence for Waste to Wealth Technologies in India' to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on 2nd October 2019.

NMCG, HCL Foundation and INTACH Signed MoU

- National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), HCL Foundation and Indian National Trust for Art and Culture Heritage (INTACH) signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the plantation of Rudraksha trees in Uttarakhand under the 'Namami Gange' Programme.
- **About Rudraksh Tree:**
 - The term is derived from words Rudra which is one of hindu Lord Shiva's Vedic names and Akṣa means 'teardrops'. Thus, Rudraksh actually means Lord Shiva's teardrops.
 - It is a large evergreen tree, with a height of 60-80 feet and has broad-leaves. It is the seeds of the tree which are known as Rudraksh.

DBT and DAE sign MoU for Cancer Research

- Department of Biotechnology (DBT) under Ministry of Science and Technology and Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), under Prime Minister of India have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for supporting joint collaborative research programmes in the area of Cancer.

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- **About the MoU:**

- Their objective is to work towards the common goal of tackling cancer and also to bring a quantum change in the present scenario of Cancer research.
- The Clinicians shall work in coherence with Researchers to identify and develop collaborative research programmes as well as public health initiatives.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- An Announcement has been made by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) that **India's second lunar mission Chandrayaan-2** is scheduled to be **launched between July 9th and 16th 2019**.
- **About the Chandrayan-2 mission:**
 - It would be launched using India's most powerful rocket GSLV MK-III from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
 - It has three modules (a detachable self-contained unit of a spacecraft) namely Orbiter, Lander named Vikram and Rover named Pragyan.
 - Indian archaeologists recently unearthed a life-sized stucco sculpture from a Buddhist site at Phanigiri in Suryapet, Telangana.
- **About the Sculpture:**
 - The sculpture is about 1.73 metres in height and 35 cm in width.
 - It is considered to have been built at the peak of Ikshavaku dynasty.
 - ISRO has announced its plans to launch its latest radar imaging reconnaissance satellite 'RISAT 2BR1' towards the end of May 2019.
 - The RISAT (radar imaging satellite), will be carried by PSLV-C46.
 - It is one of the reusable variants of ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) rocket, which has offered significant progress and technology sophistication in terms of advancement in space technologies.
 - The designation 'C-46' is as per ISRO's numbering system.
 - An asteroid "**99942 Apophis**" will fly towards the Earth in ten years. This Statement is predicted by the **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)**.
 - **Asteroid 99942 Apophis** was discovered by US astronomers in 2004 and was named after the Egyptian God of chaos and destruction.
 - It is a 370-meter diameter near-Earth asteroid.

Scientists carry out the genetic study on Lakshadweep Islands Residents

- A genetic study is carried out for the first time by Scientists on people of Lakshadweep Islands which was conducted by a team of researchers at CSIR's (Council of Scientific & Industrial Research) Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB).

India's First indigenous microprocessor "AJIT" developed

- IIT Bombay's Engineers developed a microprocessor called "AJIT" which could reduce the country's dependence on imports. The project was funded by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and IIT Bombay.
- **About AJIT:**
 - AJIT is a medium-sized processor. It can be used inside a set-top box, as a control panel for automation systems, in a traffic light controller or even robotic systems.
 - The expected price of the processor in the market will be Rs.100.

Highest-Resolution Image Sensor for Smartphones Introduced

- Samsung Electronics Co, unveiled the world's highest-resolution image sensor, with 64 megapixels for smartphones
- Samsung expanded its 0.8-micrometre pixel image sensor (smallest pixel size currently available in the global market) lineup by introducing two new 0.8-micrometre pixel image sensors.

Genome Sequencing of Asiatic Lion done by CSIR scientists

- For the first time, the entire genome of the Asiatic Lion, an endangered species, has been sequenced by scientists from CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad.
- As the population of the endangered Asiatic lion is very low, only 523 animals are present in the Gir forests.
- **Significance of this exercise:**
 - The genome sequencing of Asiatic Lions would enable scientists to better understand their evolution.
 - Until now only partial genomic information of the African Lion is available.
 - Therefore, once a complete genome of African Cheetah, Royal Bengal Tiger and Jaguar will be available, the comparative studies of all these big cats would be possible.

ISROs Young Scientist Programme Inaugurated

- ISRO Chairman Dr. K. Sivan inaugurated Yuvika (YUva Vigyani Karyakram) 2019, ISRO's Young Scientist Programme, at Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.
- It is a two-week summer vacation residential training program which will be conducted by ISRO from 13 May to 26 May 2019.
- The chosen Class 9 students will spend the time visiting four centers of ISRO.
- **More about the Program:**
 - Yuvika focusses on one such important area and would inculcate a scientific temper in the students apart from contributing to national integration and nation building.
 - During the program, participants will also visit Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota which is the spaceport of India.
 - During the programme, students will be provided course material which has already been pre-loaded on Tablets.

India's Smallest Orchids Discovered in Assam

- Lecanorchis Taiwaniana (the parasitic bloom), a type of Orchid was accidentally discovered in Assam by Assam's forest officer named Jatindra Sarma.
- This is the first time it is discovered in India.
- Its discovery was published in the Japanese Journal of Botany with the title as "New record for the flora in India".
- **About the Orchid:**
 - Lecanorchis Taiwaniana is a mycoheterotroph, which means it is one of the two known types of parasitic plants which have abandoned photosynthesis and derives nutrients and its energy from fungus.

Central Government to mandate QR Code Based Payment

- The Central Government is planning to mandate a Quick Response (QR) code based payment method option using Unified Payments Interface (UPI) at all shops.
- The prime idea behind the proposal of mandatory QR code-based payment is to make digital payment more popular and bring a behavioral change in the ecosystem.
- The move will also provide a GST benefit to both shops and consumers.
- The government has roped in National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to work on a necessary mechanism to launch it nationally.
- **About QR Code:**
 - It was first designed in 1994 for the automotive industry in Japan.
 - It consists of black squares arranged in a square grid on a white background, which can be read by an imaging device and processed using Reed-Solomon error correction until the image can be appropriately interpreted.

New Vine Snake species Discovered in Odisha

- A new Vine Snake species is discovered from the eastern state of Odisha after a gap of 113 years.
- Zoologists from different institutes have participated in the discovery and the research was published in the Journal of Natural History.

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- Vine snakes, called so because they closely resemble vines, are rear-fanged, venomous snakes that belong to the family Colubridae.
- It resembles the dried stem of a bottle gourd plant, which gives it the name 'laudankia', in Odia it translates to the same (lau-bottle gourd; danka-dry stem).

MCA plans Introducing AI System in MCA 21 portal

- The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has laid out its plans to introduce Artificial Intelligence (AI) system in its MCA 21 portal.
- The main focus of the Ministry in introducing AI system is to rationalise all forms filled and to follow principle of a single source of truth.
- The MCA also seeks to interlink databases so that routine enforcements are done 24×7 on autopilot basis.
- **About MCA 21:**
 - The MCA 21 is one of 31 Mission Mode Projects (MMP) of National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) of Government of India.
- **Significance of MCA 21:**
 - The portal is electronic backbone of MCA for distribution of information to all its concerned stakeholders, including the investors, regulators and corporates.

Earth Observation Satellite "RISAT 2B" Successfully Launched

- ISRO launched Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C46) from the first launch pad of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota on its 48th mission, carrying earth observation satellite RISAT-2B on 22nd May.
- The earth observation satellite RISAT-2B is capable of observing Earth during the day, night and even under rainy and cloudy conditions.
- The launch of the PSLV marks the third launch in 2019.
- **RISAT-2B:**
 - The RISAT-2B (Radar Imaging Satellite-2B), meant for application in fields such as surveillance, agriculture, forestry and disaster management support, was released into the orbit successfully.
 - The RISAT-2B is equipped with a synthetic aperture radar that can take pictures of the earth during day and night, and also under cloudy conditions.

Microsoft stops Selling Huawei Laptops on its Online Store

- Microsoft has removed Huawei laptops from its online store complying with the US President's executive order to crack down on Chinese tech companies.
- However, some offline Microsoft stores are reportedly still selling stocked Huawei laptops.
- Microsoft's potential Windows ban could also affect Huawei's server solutions.
- **One must also know:**
 - Google cut off Huawei's Android license but Microsoft stayed silent on whether it will prevent the Chinese company from obtaining Windows licenses.
 - For now, Huawei has been granted a 90-day extension to provide software updates to Android-powered handsets and maintain continued operation of existing networks and equipment.

ISRO's Inaugurates its New Commercial Arm- NSIL

- The Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO's) new commercial arm called "NewSpace India Limited (NSIL)" was officially inaugurated in Bengaluru.
- NSIL is provided an authorised share capital worth Rs.100 crore and initial paid up capital of Rs.10 crore.
- **Roles & Responsibilities of NSIL:**
 - It will also develop private entrepreneurship in space related technologies.
 - It will be responsible for production and manufacturing of commercially successful Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) and Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) spacecraft launchers via technology transfer mechanisms.
- **Interesting to know:**
 - The first commercial venture of DoS was Antrix Corporation Limited, which was set up in September 1992 to market products and services of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

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China continues to use Banned Ozone-Depleting CFC

- According to a recent research published in famous science journal 'Nature', China continues to use the banned ozone depleting chemical called CFC-11 in violation of the Montreal Protocol.
- **What does the research say?**
 - New findings by international team of researchers confirmed about suspected region and claimed that emissions of ozone layer harming gas are coming eastern China, primarily from its two heavily industrialised provinces namely Shandong province and Hebei province.
- **About CFC-11:**
 - It is one of a class of compounds called chlorofluorocarbons that is responsible for destroying atmospheric ozone.
 - It is also a potent greenhouse gas (GHG) that contributes to atmospheric warming.
- **About the Montreal Protocol:**
 - It is a legally binding international pact signed in 1987 to preserve degradation of atmospheric ozone layer that blocks harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiations from the Sun.

Sony to stop selling its Smartphones in India

- Sony has revealed that it will stop selling its smartphones in several countries including India.
- Sony added it presently considers Japan, Europe, Taiwan and Hong Kong as the "focus regions" - to drive profit for the smartphone business.
- Sony reported an operating loss of 97.1 billion yen (\$879.45 million) in the year ended March.

Huawei Smartphones banned by Google

- New Huawei smartphones are set to lose access to some Google apps like YouTube and Maps and the next version of Android to be launched later this year.
- Google's suspension follows a report calling for Huawei to be prevented from supplying 5G mobile networks in the UK, because its operations are "subject to influence by the Chinese state".
- Australia, which also shares intelligence with the UK, has already moved to ban Huawei as a supplier for its future 5G network.

Motilal Oswal AMC Launched WhatsApp Transaction Platform

- Motilal Oswal Asset Management Company (AMC) becomes the first Indian fund house to launch WhatsApp transaction platform for mutual fund transactions for new as well as existing investors.
- Investors can either invest lump sum or through SIPS.
- **How does the platform works?**
 - An investor should add Motilal Oswal AMC number (+91 9372205812) to his/her contact list.
 - Then on WhatsApp, type 'Hi' on the above number.

DEFENCE

- Our Indian Army is underway of procuring Spike-LR Anti-Tank Missiles from Israel and Igla-S Very Short Range Air Defence Systems (VSHORAD) from Russia through a set of new financial powers for emergency procurements sanctioned by the Defence Ministry.
- Under the emergency route, the Army is looking to procure about 12 launchers and around 250 missiles for each system and armed forces have been given a free hand to procure equipment worth up to Rs.300 crore on a priority basis.
- Indian Navy's frontline missile destroyer INS Ranjit will be decommissioned after 36 years of service.
- It was commissioned on September 15th, 1983, with Captain Vishnu Bhagwat in command.
- Now it will be held at Visakhapatnam's naval dockyard on 6th May 2019.

Indian Navy's 4th Scorpene-class submarine Launched

- Indian Navy's 4th Scorpene-class submarine "INS Vela", was launched at Mazagon Dockyard in Mumbai.

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- This is the fourth submarine in the series of six submarines under Project 75 built by Mazagon Dock Ltd., Mumbai.
- The Scorpene-class submarine has been termed as the Kalavari Class.

ICGS Vighraha Decommissioned at Visakhapatnam

- The Indian Coast Guard ship (ICGS) Vighraha was decommissioned at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- **About ICGS Vighraha:**
 - It is a frontline offshore patrol vessel (OPV).
 - It was commissioned into service on April 12, 1990.
 - It has played an instrumental role in protecting east coast of India for 29 years of service from 1990 to 2019.
 - It participated in major coast guard operations involving humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, pollution response, anti-poaching, repatriation, joint exercises and search and rescue, among others.

Tech Mahindra and Indian Navy sign Rs.300 cr. Defence Contract

- IT major, Tech Mahindra has signed a defence contract worth Rs.300 crore with Indian Navy.
- The IT major will implement RFID-based access control system across all naval bases and ships as part of 'Armed Forces Secure Access Card (AFSAC)' Project.
- AFSAC will replace the existing paper-based identity card for all Navy personnel, including dependents and ex-servicemen.
- **About the AFSAC Project:**
 - The Mumbai-based company will develop a secure application to manage the access control devices, network devices, and the AFSAC card through a data centre.
 - The security of Indian Naval establishments against unauthorized access is a thrust area and the AFSAC Project will be an important step towards achieving this aim.

IAF Successfully Test Fires BrahMos Air from a Su-30 MKI

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) successfully fired an aerial version of supersonic BrahMos cruise missile from a Su-30 MKI fighter aircraft.
- The IAF successfully fired BrahMos Air Launched Missile from its frontline Su-30 MKI fighter aircraft.
- Earlier on 22nd November 2017, the IAF became world's first Air Force to successfully fire an air launched 2.8 Mach surface attack missile of this category on a sea target.
- **About BrahMos Air Launched Missile:**
 - It is a 2.5 ton supersonic air to surface cruise missile.
 - Its range is close to 300 km and is designed & developed by BrahMos Aerospace Pvt. Ltd. (BAPL).

DRDO Successfully Flight tests an "Inertial Guided Bomb"

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), under Ministry of Defence has successfully flight tested a 500 kg class "Inertial Guided Bomb" from a Su-30 MKI Aircraft in the Pokhran test range in Rajasthan.
- **About Inertial Guided Weapons:**
 - It is a type of Precision guided munition (smart bomb) which is intended to precisely hit a specific desired target so as to minimize collateral damage and increase fatality against intended targets.

'Wirecard' to Work with India to Issue PAN Cards

- Wirecard, a German payments company announced that it would work with India to simplify the process of issuing tax identity cards (PAN Cards) which are required for opening bank accounts, transfer money and complete business transactions.
- Currently, Wirecard has a network of 15,000 retail agents in 350 cities of India which would help in collecting and scanning of documents that people need to apply for a PAN card.

Mi-17 V5 Medium Lift Helicopter India's First all Woman

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- Flight Lieutenant Parul Bhardwaj (Captain), Flying Officer Aman Nidhi (co-pilot) and Flight Lieutenant Hina Jaiswal (Flight Engineer) were the three women IAF officers who flew the chopper, which took off from a forward air base in South Western air command.
- Flight Lieutenant Parul Bhardwaj became the first woman pilot to fly the Mi-17 V5.
- Flight Lieutenant Hina Jaiswal became the first woman flight engineer of the IAF.
- Flying officer Aman Nidhi from Jharkhand also became the first woman IAF pilot from the state.

SPORTS

- **Australia's Claire Polosak** to make history as she becomes the first female umpire to officiate in a men's one-day international at the ICC World Cricket League Division 2.
- She is 31-year-old and has overseen 15 women's ODI and stood in the semi-final of the Women's World Twenty20 in 2018.
- A decision has taken by Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) to Bid for World Team Championships 2024.
- **About the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI):**
- TTFI is the governing body for table tennis in India.
- It was founded in 1926.
- It is headquartered in New Delhi.
- Its President is Dushyant Chautala.
- An Indian Shooting ace named Apurvi Chandela won Gold Medal at the 2019 ISSF World Cup held in New Delhi and attained the world number one position in the women's 10 metres air rifle event.
- The 8th edition of Asian Youth Women Handball Championship 2019 will be held in Jaipur from August 21 to 30.
- Jaipur First time is all set to host this game organised by Asian Handball Federation (AHF).

Esha Singh and Akull Kumar won Silver in International Shooting

- Silver medal is won by India's Esha Singh and Akull Kumar in Junior Mixed Air Pistol event in the International Shooting Competition at Hannover, Germany.
- Esha shot 385 out of 400 in qualification, as compared to the 370 by Akull.

Amul to sponsor Afghanistan Team in Cricket World Cup 2019

- Amul is all set to sponsor the Afghanistan cricket team in the upcoming World Cup 2019 which will be held in England and Wales from May 30th, 2019.
- Earlier in only two instances, Amul has sponsored any cricket team in the World Cup tournament. These two countries are New Zealand and Holland.
- **About Amul:**
 - Anand Milk Union Limited or Amul is an Indian dairy company, based at Anand in the state of Gujarat.
 - Formed in 1948, it is a cooperative brand managed by a cooperative body, the Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd., which today is jointly owned by 3.6 million milk producers in Gujarat.
 - It is headquartered in Anand, Gujarat.

First Women's Cricket Magazine 'Criczone' Released in India

- "Criczone" Women's first cricket magazine released in India. It is the world first magazine which features only women cricketers.
- In its first edition launched in India, the magazine features Indian Women's Cricket team vice-captain Smriti Mandhana as cover story.

MI claim the IPL 2019 title

- Mumbai Indian have won the trophy of Indian Premier league 2019 Title.
- MI defeated Chennai Super Kings (CSK) by one run on the last ball.
- Mumbai Indians became the first team to win the IPL title for 4 times.

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Sana Mir becomes Highest Wicket-Taking Spinner in Women's ODI

- Sana Mir is a Pakistan off-spinner, becomes the most successful women's ODI spinner in history after she took her 147th wicket, highest ever by any spinner in One-day International (ODI) cricket.
- Currently, Mir is placed on the third position in the ICC's ODI bowling ranking, which is topped by Indian pacer Jhulan Goswami.

Novak Djokovic Won Madrid Open 2019

- Novak Djokovic, the World No. 1 tennis player has won the Madrid Open 2019 title.
- He defeated Stefanos Tsitsipas, the Greek tennis player and secured 6-3, 6-4.
- He equalled Rafael Nadal's record of 33 ATP Masters 1000 titles.
- It is also Djokovic's 200th victory against a Top 10 opponent.

Lewis Hamilton Won Formula One Spanish GP

- Lewis Hamilton won the Formula One Spanish Grand Prix at Circuit de Catalunya in Barcelona and Mercedes sealed its fifth consecutive one-two finish.
- **About the Spanish Grand Prix:**
 - The Formula One (or F1) is the highest class of single-seater auto racing in which the word "formula" refers to a set of rules which is to be met by all participants' cars.

Asian Cup 2023 to be Hosted by China

- China has become the sole contender to host the Asian Cup Football tournament in 2023.
- The Korea Football Association (KFA) announced that it had pulled out to strategically focus on a joint bid with North Korea to host the Women's World Cup in the same year.
- **One must know:**
 - In February 2013, China suggested interest in hosting the 2019 AFC Asian Cup.
 - However, in September 2013, the Chinese Football Association (CFA) withdrew its bid.
- **About 2023 AFC Asian Cup:**
 - The 2023 Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Asian Cup will be the 18th edition of the AFC Asian Cup.
 - The tournament will involve 24 national teams.

Rafael Nadal Won the Italian Open 2019

- Rafael Nadal has won a record 34th ATP Masters 1000 title by defeating Novak Djokovic in the Italian Open final 2019.
- **This is Nadal's 9th Rome title.**
- **Nadal dominated in a 6-0, 4-6, 6-1 win broke a tie with his longtime rival Djokovic.**
- For his victory, Nadal received 1,000 ATP Ranking points and earned ₹7.5 crore.
- Djokovic produced an error-strewn performance in his 54th meeting with Nadal.

Austrian F1 World Champion 'Niki Lauda' dies

- Three-time Formula One (F1) World champion Niki Lauda dies in Vienna at the age of 70.
- **About Niki Lauda:**
 - He was born in Vienna in February 1949 and became a motor racing legend.
 - He won the title for Ferrari in 1975 and 1977 and McLaren in 1984.
 - He suffered horrific injuries at German Grand Prix (GP) in 1976 and will always be remembered for his remarkable recovery and return to racing after being badly burned in the crash.
 - After his retirement he actively pursued business interests including his own airline and later served in senior roles at F1 management as non-executive chairman in the hugely successful Mercedes team since 2012, where he also helped bring British world champion Lewis Hamilton on board.

UEFA Europa League 2019 Cup won by Chelsea

- 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.

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- 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.
- **About UEFA Europa League Cup:**
 - **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 AND CONFERENCES

UN to hold Ocean Conference 2020

- United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has decided to hold the Ocean Conference 2020 in Lisbon, Portugal from June 2 to 6, 2020 with a theme of "Scaling up ocean action based on science and innovation for the implementation of Goal 14: stocktaking, partnerships and solutions".
- It will be co-hosted by the Governments of Portugal and Kenya.

Sweden to host International Conference against Anti-Semitism

- Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Lofven announced that Sweden will host an International Conference against Anti-Semitism in memory of the Holocaust in October 2020. The decision to fight against anti-Semitism is taken by Sweden after relations with Israel have been in trouble since the Nordic state's recognition of a Palestinian state by Lofven's Government in 2014.
- Anti-Semitism is a hostility to, prejudice, or discrimination against Jews.

