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## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### 1. Akihito 1st Japanese Emperor To Step Down From Throne in 200 Years

His son, **Crown Prince Naruhito**, will ascend the Chrysanthemum throne today, beginning a new era.

### 2. UN Security Council Designates JeM Chief Masood Azhar As Global Terrorist.

### 3. 16th Ministerial Meeting of Asia Cooperation Dialogue Held in Doha, Qatar

Gen. (Dr) V.K. Singh (Retd), Minister of State for External Affairs led the Indian delegation. The theme of the meeting was "**Partners in Progress**".

### 4. Vladimir Putin Signs Law To Create Independent Russian Internet

It would enable the creation of a **national network**, able to operate separately from the rest of the world. The new law aims to protect Russia from foreign online restrictions by creating a "**sustainable, secure and fully functioning**" local internet.

### 5. UK Parliament 1st In World To Declare Climate change Emergency

It also calls for the government to work towards carbon neutrality before **2050** and for ministers to draft proposals within the next 6 months to restore the country's environment and create a "**zero waste economy.**"

### 6. Ireland Becomes 2nd Country after Britain To Declare Climate Emergency

### 7. Vice President Embarks On 4-Day Official Visit To Vietnam

**Vice President of India Venkaiah Naidu** embarked on a **four-day official visit to Vietnam** to participate in **16th United Nations Day of Vesak**.

(Vesak falls on full moon day of May. Vesak day marks three important events – Birth of Buddha, full awakening of Buddha and passing away of Gautama Buddha. Vesak day is also called Buddha jayanti, Buddha purnima , Buddha day.

### 8. Singapore Passes 'Fake News' Law

**Singapore's Parliament passed a law** to curb the spread of **fake news under which offenders may face up to 10-year jail or fines of up to S\$1 million** (over Rs 5.12 crore). The law empowers the government to direct social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter to carry corrections or remove content it considers to be fake news.

**9. Australian Flight Carrier, Qantas Operated World's First Zero-waste commercial Flight** from Sydney to Adelaide which disposed of all waste through compost, reuse or recycle. ( in other words , the trash or waste generated from the flight will be reused or recycled and not to send to landfill)

### 10. The US Air Force Successfully Tested A Laser System called Self-Protect High Energy Laser Demonstrator (SHIELD) To Shoot Down Multiple Missiles

The system is designed for the purpose of protecting the aircraft from incoming **surface-to-air** and **air-to-air** launched missiles.

### 11. 400 KMPH: Japan Tests World's Fastest Bullet Train

**Japan** has started testing its **fastest-ever bullet train** capable of reaching **400 kilometers per hour (249 mph)**.

-The **ALFA-X** version of the **Shinkansen** train began three years' worth of test runs.  
- Once it enters operation around 2030, it will run at speeds of **up to 360 kph (224 mph)**, comfortably making it the **world's fastest bullet train**.

## 12. Cannes Film Festival Begins In France

- The Cannes Film Festival has begun in France. Information and Broadcasting Secretary Amit Khare is leading the Indian delegation at Cannes and will inaugurate India Pavilion. Indian Delegation will also release a special poster to mark the golden jubilee of International Film Festival of India (IFFI-2019).

13. UN Imposed Sanctions On Terror Group ISIS Khorasan for its links with Al-Qaeda and involvement in several attacks in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

14. Taiwan Becomes First Country In Asia To Legalise Same-Sex Marriage

## 15. Saudi Arabia Approves Permanent Residency For First Time

The Saudi government has approved for the first time a scheme that gives permanent residency to certain expatriates, allowing them to own real estate in the kingdom and reside with their families without a Saudi sponsor. The "Privileged Iqama" system will offer a permanent residence scheme and one that can be renewed annually to highly skilled expatriates and owners of capital funds.

## 16. Sushma Swaraj Attended SCO Foreign Ministers Meet In Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan)

- This is the second Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) meeting that India is attending as a full member of SCO.

( The SCO was founded at a summit in Shanghai in 2001 by the presidents of Russia, China, Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. India & Pakistan became a full member of the SCO in 2017.)

## 17. TAPI Pipeline Meeting Held In Turkmenistan

The Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline meeting was held in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan. The TAPI gas pipeline project is expected to be completed by 2022 in Pakistan. The TAPI project, supported by the United States and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), has been touted by Turkmenistan since the 1990s.

## 18. Saray Khumalo Becomes 1st Black South African Woman To Conquer Mount Everest ( it was her fourth attempt)

( Sir Edmund Hillary of New Zealand and Nepalese Sherpa mountaineer Tenzing Norgay were the first people to reach the mountain's summit on May 29, 1953.)

19. WHO Declares Algeria, Argentina Malaria-Free with no recorded cases of indigenous transmission of the disease since 2013 and 2010 respectively.

## 20. Trump becomes the first foreign leader to meet new Japanese emperor Naruhito

- The US President is on a four-day state visit to Japan.

21. Russia launches new nuclear-powered icebreaker ( named Ural) to improve its ability to tap the Arctic's commercial potential.

( an icebreaker is a special purpose ship or boat designed to navigate through ice - covered waters, and provides safe waterways for other boats and ships.)

## 22. Nepal celebrates its 12th Republic Day on 29th May 2019

President of Nepal - Bidya Devi Bhandari  
Prime Minister of Nepal- K.P.Sharma Oli

23. Trump announces tariffs on all Mexico goods in a bid to curb illegal immigration



From 10th June 2019, a five percent tariff would be imposed and slowly raised until the Illegal Immigration problem is remedied.

## NATIONAL NEWS

**1. Environment Ministry Constitutes a Committee under the Secretary, Union Environment Ministry To Implement National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)**, which aims to reduce particulate matter (PM) pollution by 20%-30% in at least **102** cities by **2024**.

**2. Green Number Plates Become Mandatory For All-Electric Vehicles**

- The move is supposed to help provide preferential treatment to the vehicles with no carbon emissions, like parking, free entry in congested areas as well as a concessional toll on highways.

**3. BSNL Launches 'Bharat Fibre' Broadband Service In Kashmir Valley (Pulwama).**

This is the first such FTTH (**fibre-to-the-home**) service deployment in the (Kashmir) Valley.

**4. Mangaluru Police Gets An All-women Patrol Unit "Rani Abbakka Force"**

All-women police patrol force has been named after the **16th**-century warrior of coastal Karnataka, **Queen Abbakka** of Ullal near Mangaluru, who fought the Portuguese in the 16th century.

**5. Indian postal department has released a Postage Stamp To Commemorate 750th Birth Anniversary of Sri Vedanta Desikan**

Born in 1268 CE, Vedanta Desikan was **vaishnave Saint/ Guru or philosopher in the post Ramanuja period**.

**6. GREVD: SIPRI Launches Global Registry of Violent Deaths**

**Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)** has launched new initiative named **Global Registry of Violent Deaths (GREVD)** to count deaths caused by all forms of violence across the world and display these in open-source database.

( SIPRI was established in **1966** and is based in Stockholm, **Sweden**.)

**7. 'Gujarat Shops and Establishments (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 2019'** passed by Gujarat Assembly which came into force from May 1, 2019.

The Act will allow the shops and other businesses in the state to operate **24x7**. The Act replaced the Gujarat Shops and **Establishments Act, 1948** which prevented shops and other businesses from operating between **12 to 6 a.m.**

**8. IBSA Sherpas Meet Concluded In Cochin**

IBSA stand for **India, Brazil & South Africa**.

**9. G7 Environment Ministers Meet to Discuss Climate Crisis**

The **G7's** (Group of Seven) **Environment Ministers** gathered for a 2-day meeting in **Metz, France** to discuss on steps required to handle deforestation, plastic pollution, depletion of coral reefs and ways to build pacts between the countries in order to achieve the target. Joining the G-7 ministers were delegations from the European Union as well as Chile, Egypt, the Fiji Islands, Gabon, **India**, Indonesia, Mexico, Niger, and Norway.

**10. 18-year-old Nepali girl Bandana danced continuously for 126 hours to Set Guinness World Records On Longest Dancing Marathon.** Bandana beat the record set

by **Kalamandalam Hemlatha** (an **Indian**), who danced continuously for 123 hours and 15 minutes in **2011**.

**11. Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE)** held a 'Chintan Baithak' with the stakeholders of the Renewable Energy sector in **New Delhi**. The 'Baithak' (meet) was chaired by **Secretary, MNRE, Anand Kumar**.

**12. India Re-Elected As Observer To 'Arctic Council'**

**-India was re-elected as Observer to the Arctic Council**, an intergovernmental forum.  
**-The Council also appointed the International Maritime Organisation (IMO)** as a new Observer. India successfully got the Observer status in 2013.  
(The Arctic Council, a high level intergovernmental organisation **set up in 1996** to promote cooperation, coordination and interaction among the Arctic States and protect the Arctic environment. The Arctic Council is formed of eight circumpolar countries- **Norway, Sweden, Finland, Iceland, Denmark, Canada, US and Russia.**)  
(India has its Arctic research station '**Himadri**' in Svalbard, Norway since 2008.)

**13. Chhattisgarh Deploys 1st Anti-Naxal Women Commando Unit**

**The Chhattisgarh police for the first time** has inducted **women commandos in the District Reserve Guard (DRG)**, its frontline anti-Naxal force. Comprising 30 women led by **Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Dineshwari Nand**, have received extensive training in jungle/forest combat.

**14. 158th Birth Anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore Observed**

**India's first Nobel laureate** who reshaped **Bengali literature and music, Rabindranath Tagore** was also an educationist who started the **Vishwa Bharati University in Shantiniketan**, and in the process, challenged conventional mores of education. Rabindranath Tagore's birth anniversary is also known as **Pochise Boishakh 2019**.

**15. India and China Sign Protocol For Export of Indian Chilli Meal**

**16. Indian Army To Commemorate 2019 As 'Year of next of kin'**

**The Indian Army** is plans to reach out to the next of kin of battle casualties, ex-servicemen and serving soldiers to inform them of entitled financial benefits, welfare schemes and help resolve pension-related problems.

**17. 1st Apache Helicopter Formally Handed Over To IAF** at Boeing production facility in Arizona, USA.

IAF had signed a contract with US Government and **M/s Boeing Ltd in Sep 2015 for 22 Apache helicopters**. The first batch of these helicopters is scheduled to be shipped to India by July 2019.

**18. Konkan Railways Signs Contract Agreement With Nepal To Supply two 1600 HP DEMU Train Sets**

- These trains will be used to operationalise railway link between **Jayanagar (Bihar) in India and Kurtha in Nepal**. The train sets will be manufactured by the **Integrated Coach Factory, Chennai**.

**19. New Heat-Sensing Snake Species Found, Named After Arunachal Pradesh**

-Pune-based **Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER)** team found a new species of reddish-brown pit viper snake with a unique heat-sensing system, the first in past 70 years in India.  
The species is named '**Trimeresurus arunachalensis**' after Arunachal Pradesh, where it was discovered. This makes Arunachal Pradesh the only state to have a pit viper named after it.

**20. WTO Ministerial Meeting Inaugurated In New Delhi**



**The World Trade Organisation, WTO ministerial meeting** of developing countries began in **New Delhi**. The meeting will provide an opportunity for the Ministers to discuss various issues and the way forward.

**21. Doordarshan Launches Online Souvenir Store In Partnership With Amazon India**  
**Doordarshan is India's first broadcaster** which has started Souvenir store.  
( **Chairman, Prasar Bharati - A. Surya Prakash** )

**22. WTO Ministerial Meeting of Developing Countries Concludes In New Delhi**  
**16 developing countries** and **6 Least Developed Countries (LDCs)** are participating in the meeting. **The Director-General of WTO, Roberto Azevedo**, was also present at the occasion.

**23. The Indian Navy's first full-fledged Services Selection Board (SSB)** was inaugurated by **Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba** at Diamond Harbour near **Kolkata, West Bengal**.

**24. MoU Signed For Rudraksh Plantation In Ganga Basin**  
A tripartite MoU 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.  
The project aims at planting 10,000 Rudraksh trees in the catchment area of river Ganga in Uttarakhand in association with local community and other stakeholders.

**25. India Signs 'Christchurch Call to Action' in Paris**  
The agreement came in the backdrop of the attacks on mosques in March and is aimed at stopping the abuse of the Internet by **extremists**.

**26. The website of the Lokpal [www.lokpal.gov.in](http://www.lokpal.gov.in) has been launched.**  
It was inaugurated by **Chairperson Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose** in presence of all the Members of Lokpal in New Delhi.

**27. Captain Aarohi Pandit, a 23-year-old pilot from Mumbai** became the **world's first woman to cross the Atlantic Ocean solo in a Light Sports Aircraft (LSA)**.  
She achieved the feat when she landed her tiny aircraft at Iqaluit Airport in Canada, after 3,000 km long flight, under adverse and extreme weather conditions.

**28. Nepali Sherpa Kami Rita Scales Mt Everest For 23rd Time; Creates World Record.**  
He first scaled Everest in **1994**.

**29. Commandos of National Security Guard (NSG)** created history as they scaled the **Mount Everest (world's highest peak)** in their **maiden attempt**. A seven-member team of **NSG, led by Lt Col J P Kumar**, successfully unfurled the Indian flag at the **8,848-metre tall peak**.

**30. Kerala Becomes First Indian State To Tap Into Masala Bond Market**  
**Kerala** became the first state to tap into **masala bond** market by listing the **Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB)**'s masala bond worth of **USD 312 million (Rs 2,150 crore)** in London Stock Exchange (**LSE**)'s International Securities Market (ISM). It has a fixed interest rate of **9.723%** per annum. The bond issue builds on the Kerala government's focus to get multinational corporations to invest in the state.

**31. NITI Aayog has circulated a cabinet note to provide Rs 7,500 crore** for the establishment of **AIRAWAT**, a cloud computing platform along with research institutes.

**32. ISRO Successfully Launched Earth Observation Satellite 'RISAT-2B'** from the Sriharikota's, Satish Dhawan Space Centre, SHAR.

- the satellite is lifted-off by the **Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C46)** ( The 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.)

**33. 2019 Lok Sabha Polls Record Highest Ever Voter Turnout (67.10% ) In History**

- The previous highest voter turnout of 66.44% was recorded in 2014.

-It was the **17th General Elections** that was conducted in India.

-**Sunil Arora** is the Chief Election Commissioner of India. **Ashok Lavasa and Sushil Chandra** are 2 Election Commissioner of India.

**34. Narendra Modi - sworn in as PM for 2nd term on May 30**

-President Ram Nath Kovind administered the oath of office and secrecy to the prime minister and other members of the Union Council of Ministers at a ceremony in Rashtrapati Bhavan.

- Modi is the first BJP leader who has been elected for the second time after completion of his five-year tenure. From BJP, Atal Bihari Vajpayee was also elected as a prime minister for two consecutive terms, but his first stint had lasted only for one year and seven months.

-The NDA together has a strength of 353 MPs in the 543-member Lok Sabha out of which the BJP has a majority of 303 MPs.

**35. Nation pays homage to first PM Jawaharlal Nehru on his 55th death anniversary on 27th May 2019**

- Nehru held the post from its establishment as an independent nation in 1947 until his death on 27th May 1964. Shantivan is the Samadhi of India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru.

**36. High-level committee recommends strategy to reduce crude oil imports**

The committee consisted of Anil Kakodkar (scientist) and Sidharth Pradhan, an expert on financial and tax issues

**37. Facebook plans to launch 'GlobalCoin' cryptocurrency in 2020**

**38. India elected to Executive Board of first UN-Habitat Assembly** at the Plenary Session of the Assembly being held in Nairobi.

**39. Madhya Pradesh to tentatively have new UNESCO heritage site**

The Archaeological Survey of India has included that heritage town of **Orchha** in a tentative list of UNESCO world heritage sites. Orchha town in Madhya Pradesh has a plethora of historical sites with the Bundela dynasty architectural style.

**40. Government invites BIMSTEC leaders for the swearing-in ceremony on May 30**

Apart from India, BIMSTEC comprises Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Myanmar. Indian-origin Mauritius PM Pravind Jugnauth, who visited India for Pravasi Bhartiya Divas in January, has also been invited for the May 30 event.

**41. Vinayak Damodar Savarkar's birth anniversary was celebrated on 28th May**

-Born on 28th May in 1883 near Nasik in Maharashtra, V.D.Savarkar was popularly called Veer Savarkar. He was a revolutionary who fought against the British Government.

**42. Govt sets up tribunal for adjudicating ban on LTTE**

-The government has constituted the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Tribunal to adjudicate whether or not there is sufficient cause for declaring the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) as an unlawful association. The Tribunal is comprised of sitting Judge of Delhi High Court Justice **Sangita Dhingra Sehgal**.



-LTTE was banned in India after the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1991.

#### **43. US removes India, Switzerland from its currency monitoring list**

However, the list includes China, Japan, South Korea, Germany, Italy, Ireland, Singapore, Malaysia, and Vietnam among others.

#### **44. Record 78 women MPs elected to 17th Lok Sabha**

In 16th Lok Sabha in 2014, there were 62 women in Lok Sabha.

(In 1951, 24 women were elected to the Lower House, and since then, the number has been increasing.)

#### **45. Saudi Arabia lifts (removed ) export ban on fruits and vegetable from Kerala**

The ban was imposed last year due to Nipah virus attack in the state last year.

#### **46. Sri Lanka signs tripartite agreement with India and Japan for development of eastern terminal of Colombo port.**

-As per the agreement, Sri Lanka Port Authority (SLPA) will hold 51 percent majority stake in the port development while Japan and India will have combined stake of 49 percent.

## **APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATION**

#### **1. BSE (Bombay Stock Exchange ) Appoints First Independent Woman Director Jayshree Vyas To board**

**2. Former Sri Lanka captain Kumar Sangakkara has been named as the next President of Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC),** becoming the **first non-British President of the club.** Sangakkara will take up the post on October 1 and will serve for a period of one year.

#### **3. Paytm President Bhushan Patil Resigns**

#### **4. US Air Force General Tod Wolters Sworn In As NATO Commander**

(NATO- North Atlantic Treaty Organization, **headquarters:** Brussels, Belgium, member-29)

#### **5. Myntra Appoints Virat Kohli, Anushka Sharma As First Brand Ambassadors**

Myntra has launched the integrated campaign called 'Go Myntra-la-la' which will be promoted across television, print, digital and outdoor.

#### **6. Dragan Mihailovic Appointed As Coach Of Indian Volleyball Team**

#### **7. India's Jagjit Pavadia Re-Elected To International Narcotics Control Board by defeating China's candidate Hao Wei in the election**

-Ms Pavadia has been a member of the INCB since 2015 and her current term is set to expire in 2020.

(INCB consists of 13 members who are elected by the ECOSOC and who serve in their personal capacity.

Established in 1968, the INCB is an independent and quasi-judicial monitoring body for the implementation of the UN's international drug control conventions.)

#### **8. Actress Dia Mirza Selected Among 17 New 'SDG Advocates' Of UN**

- **Indian actress Dia Mirza and Alibaba chief Jack Ma** are among the 17 global public figures appointed by **UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres** as the new advocates to



drive action and solidify global political will for the ambitious **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.

**9. Ajoy Mehta – appointed Maharashtra’s Chief Secretary**

**10. Professor Tijjani Mohammad Bande - new President, UN General Assembly/ UNGA**

( **María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés-** outgoing president of UNGA )

**11. Subhash Chand - Next Ambassador of India To State of Eritrea**

**12. Merchant service and UPI payments app BharatPe has roped in Bollywood actor Salman Khan as its brand ambassador.**

**13. Maj Gen A K Dhingra Appointed As 1st Special Operations Division Commander**

(The Armed Forces Special Operations Division has been set up by the government to undertake joint operations by three services and will have elements from the Army's Parachute Regiments SF, Marine Commandos (MARCOS) of the Navy and the Garud Commandos of the Indian Air Force.)

**14. Sanjiv Puri Appointed ITC's New Chairman**

**15. Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Appoints Nitin Chugh As Next MD and CEO**

**16. Jeffrey Rosen Confirmed As US' Next Deputy Attorney General**

**17. Joko Widodo - Elected President Of Indonesia For 2nd Term**

**18. YSR Congress Chief Jagan Mohan Reddy – new CM of Andhra Pradesh**

He replaced N Chandrababu Naidu as Andhra Pradesh CM.

**19. 4 Judges Elevated To Supreme Court of India**

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.

**20. Maldives Ex-Leader Mohamed Nasheed Tipped As New parliamentary Speaker**

( Ibrahim Mohamed Solih is the current President of the Maldives.)

**21. Indian Army officer appointed the commander of UN Mission in South Sudan**

-UN Secretary, General Antonio Guterres, has appointed Indian Army officer, Lieutenant General Shailesh Tinaikar, as the new Force Commander of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).

**22. A vacation bench of SC extends the tenure of NCDRC’s judicial member by one year**

( The National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC), is a quasi-judicial commission in India which was set up in 1988 under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986. The head office of NCDRC is in New Delhi.)

**23. Narendra Modi takes oath as PM for the second term**

National Democratic Alliance leader Narendra Modi was sworn in as Prime Minister for the second consecutive term. President Ram Nath Kovind administered the oath of Office and Secrecy to him and a team of 57 ministers at a glittering ceremony on the forecourts of the Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi.



( After Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi, Narendra Modi is the third prime minister of the country who has been able to retain power for a second term with full majority in Lok Sabha. - The NDA together has a strength of 353 MPs in the 543-member Lok Sabha out of which the BJP has a majority of 303 MPs.)

#### **24. Dilip Kumar Appointed As Officer On Special Duty In Office Of Lokpal**

Senior IAS officer **Dilip Kumar** is at present joint secretary, **National Human Rights Commission**. He has been appointed for a period of **six months** on additional charge basis or till a new incumbent joins the post.

(Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose is the chairperson of Lokpal. )

#### **25. Conservative leader, British PM Theresa May Announces Resignation**

#### **26. Volodymyr Zelenskiy - Ukraine's New President**

#### **27. Cyril Ramaphosa - South Africa's President**

#### **28. Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz ousted in the no-confidence vote**

#### **29. Scott Morrison sworn in as Australia's PM**

#### **30. James Marape elected new Papua New Guinea PM**

#### **31. Nigeria's Muhammadu Buhari sworn in for second term as president**

#### **32. PS Golay was sworn in as Sikkim Chief Minister**

-Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) president Prem Singh Tamang, popularly known as PS Golay took oath as the Chief Minister of Sikkim.

Mr. Golay is not a member of the State Assembly at present as he did not contest the polls.

#### **33. BJP leader Pema Khandu to take oath as Arunachal Pradesh CM for 2nd term**

#### **34. Naveen Patnaik takes oath as Odisha CM for 5th term**

-The 72-year-old is the longest-serving chief minister of Odisha.

-He is the president of Biju Janata Dal.

( He is the third chief minister after Pawan Chamling (Sikkim) and Jyoti Basu (West Bengal) to win 5 consecutive terms as chief minister of an Indian state.)

#### **35. YSR Congress party president Jagan Reddy sworn in as Andhra Pradesh CM**

## **AWARDS AND HONOURS**

#### **1. Goldman Environmental Prize Conferred On 6 Environmental Activists**

Six grassroots environmental activists received the prestigious **Goldman Environmental Prize**. Known as the **Green Nobel Prize**, the Goldman Prize honors environmental activists from each of the six continental regions.

The winners of the award are-

-Alfred Brownell, Liberia

-Bayarjargal Agvaantseren, Mongolia

-Ana Colovic Lesoska, North Macedonia

-Jacqueline Evans, Cook Islands

-Alberto Curamil, Chile



-Linda Garcia, United States

The Prize was established by late philanthropists and civic leaders, **Rhoda** and **Richard Goldman** in **1989** in San Francisco, California to celebrate grassroots environmentalists.

**2. Former ISRO Chairman A S Kiran Kumar Awarded France's Highest Civilian Honour - Chevalier de l'Ordre national de la Legion d'Honneur**, for his contribution to India-France space cooperation.

**3. G D 'Robert' Govender** (Indian-origin journalist in South Africa) **Conferred With V K Krishna Menon Award posthumously.**

**4. Israel Honoured 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War Hero Lt. Gen JFR Jacob**

Lt. Gen. Jacob, who passed away in 2016 at the age of 92, was one of the most prominent members of India's relatively small **Jewish community**, serving as a Lieutenant General in the Indian Army and later as a Governor of two Indian states-Goa and Punjab.

**5. Oscar-winning actress Anne Hathaway was honoured with a star on the Hollywood Walk Of Fame in Los Angeles, US.**

**6. IPS Officer Chhaya Sharma Receives McCain Institute Award**

- **IPS officer Chhaya Sharma**, who led the investigation team of the **infamous Nirbhaya gang-rape and murder case**, has been awarded the **2019 McCain Institute Award** for Courage and Leadership. The award is given to those who show courage on behalf of human rights, humanitarian compassion, justice, freedom, and human dignity.

**7. CEAT Cricket Rating Awards 2019 Announced in Mumbai.**

**Virat Kohli - International Cricketer and Batsman of the Year award**

**Jasprit Bumrah - International Bowler of the Year.**

**8. United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) conferred Sasakawa Award 2019** for Disaster Risk Reduction to **Dr. Pramod Kumar Mishra**, Additional Principal Secretary to Prime Minister of India.

(The United Nations Sasakawa Award is the most prestigious international award in the area of Disaster Risk Management.)

**9. Anil Kapoor Felicitated By European Chambers of Commerce In India** because of his continuous support in promoting the cause of children's rights.

The event also marked the celebration of **EU Day 2019 on 17th May.**

**10. Indian Short Film Wins Nespresso Talents Award In Cannes**

-**Indian filmmaker, Achyutanand Dwivedi's film, "Seed Mother"**, won the third prize in the international section of **Nespresso Talents 2019** in Cannes. The three-minute film celebrates the exceptional spirit of Rahibai Soma Popere, a woman who champions the use of local seeds and traditional methods of farming in villages of Maharashtra.

(The Nespresso 2019 first prize in the international section was won by New Zealand's Josh Morrice for "Subak", about rice cultivation in Bali.)

**11. Indian Peacekeeper To Be Honoured Posthumously By UN**

**Police Officer Jitender Kumar**, an **Indian peacekeeper is among the 119 military, police and civilian personnel** who will be honoured with a prestigious UN medal 2019 for courage and sacrifice in the line of duty. Police Officer Jitender Kumar made the supreme



sacrifice while serving in the United Nations Organisation Stabilisation Mission in the Central African country of Congo.

- He will be honoured posthumously with the **Dag Hammarskjold Medal** as the world organisation observes the **International Day of UN Peacekeepers**.

-India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin.

-India is the fourth largest contributor of uniformed personnel to the UN peacekeeping.

**12. Kapil Sharma Acknowledged As Most Viewed Stand-up Comedian In India And Abroad by the World Book of Records London.**

**13. Oman's female Author Jokha Alharthi Wins Booker International Prize for "Celestial Bodies",** the story of three sisters of a desert country confronting its slave-owning past and a complex modern world. She will split the 50,000 pounds prize with her **UK-based translator, Marilyn Booth.**

**14. Former foreign secretary Shyam Saran will be conferred with Japan's second highest national award, 'Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star'.**

**15. Bharti AXA Life Insurance, a private life insurer, has been conferred with the FICCI Claims Excellence Award.**

**16. Horticulture award for TNAU V-C**

N Kumar, Vice-Chancellor of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University has been conferred the lifetime recognition award by the Confederation of Horticulture Association of India.

**17. Indian Writer Annie Zaidi Wins USD 100,000 Global Book Prize 'Nine Dots'**

'**Nine Dots**' is a prestigious book prize created to award innovative thinking that addresses contemporary issues around the world.

## **SPORTS NEWS**

**1. G Sathiyam Becomes First Indian To Break Into Top-25 of ITTF Rankings** (Table Tennis). Sathiyam rose four spots to be **24th** in the latest ITTF rankings.

**2. The Manchester City and England forward Raheem Sterling has been named the 2019 footballer of the year by the Football Writers' Association (FWA).**

**3. Apurvi Chandela Ranks World Number 1 In Women's 10 m Air Rifle Event**

**4. Bajrang Punia Wins Gold In Ali Aliyev Wrestling Tournament** after defeating Viktor Rassadin of **Russia** in the 65 kg freestyle in Kapiisk.

**5. Saurav Ghoshal & Joshna Chinappa Win Asian Individual Squash Championship Titles in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.**

**6. Amul To Sponsor Afghanistan team In 2019 cricket World Cup which to going to be held in England and Wales**

**7. Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton Wins Spanish Grand Prix**

**8. Football: Manchester City Wins their fourth Premier League Title 2019**



**9. Pakistan off-spinner Sana Mir Becomes Highest Wicket-Taking Spinner In ODI (147 wickets )**

**10. Croatia's Igor Stimac To Become Indian Football Team Coach**

**11. Mumbai Indians became IPL champions for the fourth time by defeating Chennai Super Kings By 1 Run To Win IPL 2019**

-Skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni became the most successful wicket-keeper in the history of IPL by taking his dismissals tally to 132.

**Impotant Statistics of IPL 2019:**

**Orange Cap**- David Warner of Sunrisers Hyderabad scored most runs: 692 Runs in 12 Matches.

**Purple Cap**- Imran Tahir of Chennai Super Kings took most wickets: 26 Wickets in 17 Matches.

**Jonny Bairstow** of Sunrisers Hyderabad - Highest Individual Score: 114 Runs.

**12. World's 1st Exclusive Women's Cricket Magazine 'Criczone' Released** with **Indian team vice-captain Smriti Mandhana** featuring as the cover story..

**13. India's GS Lakshmi Becomes 1st Ever Female ICC (cricket) Match Referee**

**14. China To Host 2023 Asian Cup Football Tournament as** South Korea has announced to withdraw its bid to host the game.

**15. ICC World Cup 2019: USD 10 million On Offer, Winner To Earn 4 million**

**Ten million US Dollars** or a little more than **70 crore rupees** are on offer in the upcoming **ICC men's cricket World Cup 2019**. The 46-day tournament will be played across **11 venues in the United Kingdom** from 30th of May.

- Besides a trophy, **the World Cup winner will earn a cash award of 4 million US dollars** (about 28 crore rupees) which is the **highest prize money on offer in the history of the tournament**.

**( 2015 World cup was held jointly in Australia and New Zealand. Australia (5th title) was the champion team. New Zealand team was runner up.)**

**16. Italian Open 2019 (tennis tournament)**

It was the **76th edition of the Italian Open**. **Rafael Nadal** was the winner in **Men's singles category** while **Karolina Pliskova** won the **Women's singles title**.

**17. BFA Launches 2 New Formats Of Game, AirBadminton & Triples**

The **world body governing Badminton, BFA**, has launched two new formats of the game **AirBadminton and Triples** with new dimensions of the court and an innovative shuttlecock called Airshuttle. AirBadminton will be outdoor sports. In Triples format, the match will be played between a team of three players each with the presence of at least one female.

**18. Double Olympic Biathlon Champion Laura Dahlmeier Retires Aged 25**

She has won seven world championship gold medals, and in 2018 in Pyeongchang, she became the **first female biathlete to win both the sprint and the pursuit at the same Olympics**.

**19. Sethu FC Crowned As Indian Women's League Champions**

Sethu FC ( Indian women's football club based in Tamil Nadu ) clinched their first ever Indian Women's League trophy after defeating Manipur Police at the Guru Nanak Stadium, in Ludhiana, Punjab.

**20. India bags 57 medals (12 Gold, 18 Silver and 27 Bronze ) at India Open International tournament in Guwahati**

MC Mary Kom, Shiva Thapa, L Sarita Devi, and Naman Tanwar won gold in their respective finals.

**21. Lewis Hamilton wins Monaco Grand Prix**

**22. Apurvi Chandela bags gold medal in 10m Air Rifle in third ISSF World Cup in Munich, Germany**

ISSF -International Shooting Sport Federation

**23. China beat Japan to win 2019 Sudirman Cup (badminton)**

**24. ICC launches criiio campaign on eve of World Cup**

**25. Saurabh Chaudhary wins 10m Air Pistol gold; beats own World record**

-In ISSF shooting World Cup, in Munich Germany, India's Saurabh Chaudhary has won 10m Air Pistol Gold beating his own World Record. The 17-year old Chaudhary scored 246.3 bettering his previous best of 245 points that was set in New Delhi World Cup Shooting in February this year.

**26. Europa League final: Chelsea beat Arsenal 4-1**

Chelsea won their fifth major Uefa European competition final.

## **OBITUARIES/ DEATHS**

**1. Master Hirannaiah - Kannada Theatre Personality**

**2. Actor Peter-Mayhew**-He was the actor behind the character of **Chewbacca** in Star Wars.

**3. Derek Sippy- Former Indian Cue / Billiards Player**

**4. Baidyanath Mishra - famous economist**

**5. NR Madhava Menon- Father of Modern Legal Education in India.**

**6. Prof. Kirpal Singh - 1st Chronicler/ historian Of Partition**

**7. Thoppil Mohamed Meeran - Tamil Novelist and Sahitya Akademi Awardee**

**8. Rallapalli Venkata Narasimha Rao - Veteran Telugu Actor.**

**9. I M Pei, The Master Architect**

**10. Veeru Devgan** - Bollywood's most famous stunt and action choreographer  
(father of Ajay devgan)

**11. Carmine Caridi**, known for roles in The Godfather franchise, has died at the age of 85.

**12-year-old Binny, India's Only Orangutan Dies In Odisha Zoo** (Nandankanan Zoo)

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### 1. International Workers' Day: 1st May

-also known as International Labour Day or May Day

Theme : **"Sustainable Pension for all: The Role of Social Partners"**.

### 2. 'Maharashtra Day' and 'Gujarat Day': 1 May

### 3. World Tuna Day: 2nd May

( to raise awareness about the importance of tuna and to promote more sustainable fishing practices.)

### 4. World Press Freedom Day: 3rd May

- Theme-**"Media for Democracy: Journalism and Elections in Times of Disinformation"**.

( **Norway is ranked first** in the 2019 World Press Freedom Index compiled by Reporters Without Borders (RSF). **India Ranked 140th** in 2019 World Press Freedom Index.)

### 5. World Laughter Day 2019: 5 May (celebrated on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of May every year)

- It is a day to raise awareness about laughter and its many **healing benefits**.

### 6. World Asthma Day 2019: 7 May

Theme - **'STOP for Asthma'**.

### 7. World Red Cross Day: 08th May

### 8. 5th United Nations Global Road Safety Week- May 6 to 12, 2019

- Theme **'Leadership for Road Safety'**.

### 9. World Migratory Bird Day: 11 May

- **In 2019, World Migratory Bird Day** is celebrated on **May 11 and October 12**.

- Theme- **'Protect Birds: Be the Solution to Plastic Pollution.'**

### 10. National Technology Day: 11th May

-It acts as a reminder of the **anniversary of Shakti**.

-Shakti is the Pokhran nuclear test which was held on the 11th of May, 1998.

**(The first nuclear test Pokhran with a codenamed as 'Smiling Buddha' was carried out in May 1974.)**

### 11. International Nurses Day: 12 May

It celebrates the birth anniversary of **Florence Nightingale**.

### 12. International Day of Families: 15 May

Theme- **"Families and Climate Action: Focus on SDG 13"**.

### 13. International Day of Light: 16 May

### 14. World Telecommunication and Information Society Day: 17th May

Theme - **'Bridging the Standardization Gap'**.

### 15. World Bee Day: 20th May

### 16. World Metrology Day: 20 May

theme - **The International System of Units - Fundamentally better**.



### 17. Anti-Terrorism Day: 21st May

**May 21** is chosen as Anti-terrorism day in India **to commemorate the death Anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi** died in a terrorist attack.

- On this day Anti Terrorism pledge is taken in all the government offices and other public institutions. **Rajiv Gandhi** served as the prime minister from 1984 to 1989.

(Mr. Rajiv Gandhi was the youngest Prime Minister of India.)

### 18. UAE Celebrates World Day For Cultural Diversity On May 21

The event coincides with the country's declaration of **2019 as the Year for Tolerance**.

### 19. International Day for Biological Diversity: 22 May

Theme - '**Our Biodiversity, Our Food, Our Health**'.

### 20. International Everest Day: 29th May

Nepalese Tenzing Norgay and New Zealand's Edmund Hillary had climbed the Mt. Everest on this day (29th May) in 1953, as the first humans to achieve the feat.

( **Mount Everest, known in Nepali as Sagarmatha and in Tibetan as Chomolungma, is Earth's highest mountain above sea level, located in the Mahalangur Himal sub-range of the Himalayas.**)

### 21. World No-Tobacco Day: 31st May

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

### 22. Sikkim Statehood Day: 16th May

- It was on **16th May 1975 that Sikkim** officially merged with the Indian union and became the 22nd state of the country ( 36<sup>th</sup> CAA 1975).

### 23. Goa celebrates its statehood day on 30th May

( Pramod Sawant is the 13th and current Chief Minister of Goa.

## SCIENCE & TECH

### 1. Microsoft Unveils Its Own Blockchain-Based Service- Azure Blockchain Service

### 2. SpaceX Launches Falcon 9 Rocket With Dragon Spacecraft

The 213-foot-tall rocket lifted off from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in **Florida**. This mission is a part of NASA's **Commercial Resupply Services** (CRS) program, which uses commercial spacecraft to deliver cargo to the ISS (international space station ).

(-**Space X Headquarter**: Hawthorne, California, U.S,

-**Founder & CEO**: Elon Musk.)

### 3. Japan's First Privately Developed Rocket 'Momo-3' (unmanned) Reached Outer Space

-**Developed by a Japanese** aerospace start-up **Interstellar Technology Inc.**

### 4. NASA unveils schedule for 'Artemis' 2024 Moon mission

"Artemis"2014 - astronauts will go to Moon for the first time in half a century ( since 1969). The original lunar missions (1969) were named Apollo – Artemis was his twin sister in Greek mythology, and the goddess of hunting, wilderness, and the Moon.

## BOOKS AND AUTHORS

### 1. Shahid Afridi Released His Autobiography, Titled 'Game Changer'

The book is co-authored by Afridi and journalist **Wajahat S Khan**.

## DEFENCE NEWS

### **1. US, Japan, South Korea, Australia Hold 1st Naval Drills In Western Pacific**

The **Pacific Vanguard exercise** near the U.S. island of Guam takes place ahead of President Donald Trump's visit to Japan, as Washington looks to allies in Asia to help counter China's military might in the region.

### **2. Varuna exercise – between Indian And French Navies**

**-Varuna 19.1- Off Goa Coast**

**-Varuna 19.2- Off Goa Djibouti**

### **3. India, Singapore Conduct SIMBEX-19 Naval Exercise In The South China Sea**

### **4. India To Purchase 10 Kamov-31 Choppers From Russia For INR 3,600 cr**

The 10 helicopters would be deployed on the aircraft carriers and warships of the Navy including the **INS Vikrant** and **Grigorovich-class frigates**.

(Present Chief of the Naval Staff- Admiral **Sunil Lanba**. Vice Admiral **Karambir Singh** has been appointed as next Chief of the Naval Staff.)

### **5. DRDO Successfully Conducts Flight Test of ABHYAS ( a Drone )**

- **India successfully conducted the flight test of ABHYAS - High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT)** from a test range in Odisha ( Chandipur / Balasore ).

**(DRDO Chairman: G Satheesh Reddy,**

**Estd.-1958**

**Headquarter -Bengaluru.)**

### **6. New version of Akash missile test-fired successfully**

-The DRDO successfully test-fired the new version of the Akash surface-to-air defence missile system with a new **indigenously-developed seeker** in Balasore off the Odisha coast. The medium range multi-target engagement capable missile was developed as part of the Integrated Guided-Missile Development Programme (IGMDP) other than Nag, Agni, Trishul, and Prithvi missiles. The supersonic missile has a range of around 25km and up to the altitude of 18,000 meters.

### **7. India's first all-women medium-lift chopper crew flies the battle mission**

-three women officers of the Indian Air Force today made history as they became the country's first "all women crew" to fly a '**Mi-17 V5**' helicopter for a battle inoculation training mission.

-Flight Lieutenant **Parul Bhardwaj** (Captain), Flying Officer **Aman Nidhi** (co-pilot) and Flight Lieutenant **Hina Jaiswal** (Flight Engineer) flew the chopper, which took off from a forward air base in South Western air command.

### **8. Indian Air Force successfully fired the BrahMos air version missile from its frontline Su-30 MKI fighter aircraft.**

-The air-launched BrahMos missile is a **2.5-ton supersonic air to surface cruise missile** with ranges of close to 300 km, designed and developed by BAPL.

### **9. Flight Lieutenant Bhawana Kanth became the first woman pilot of the Indian Air Force to qualify to undertake missions by day on a fighter aircraft.**

### **10. Tech Mahindra Signs Rs300 crore Defence Contract With Indian Navy**

As part of the '**Armed Forces Secure Access Card**' (AFSAC) Project, Tech Mahindra will implement **RFID (Radio Frequency Identification)** based Access Control System across all



naval bases and ships. The new AFSAC Card will replace the existing paper-based Identity Card for all Navy personnel including dependents and ex-servicemen.

**11. Indian Navy Successfully Test-Fires MRSAM Missile**  
**MRSAM -Medium Range Surface to Air Missile**

**12. Indian Coast Guard Ship Vigraha Decommissioned at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh**

**13. Indian Navy Launches 4th Scorpene Class Submarine INS Vela**

**14. INS Ranjit, an Indian navy destroyer built by erstwhile USSR, is set to be decommissioned To Be Decommissioned after 36 years**

## **BANKING AND BUSINESS NEWS**

**1. Reliance Beats Indian Oil Corporation, Becomes Biggest Indian Company by revenue.**

**2. Social media giant Facebook has apparently formed a new financial tech firm, Libra Networks LLC, in Geneva, Switzerland.**

**3. The HDFC group has overtaken the 151-year-old Tata group to emerge as India's most valuable by way of market capitalization (m-cap).**

**4. Corporation Bank launches 'Corp SME Suvidha' a product for for MSMEs**

The product has been designed as part of the bank's efforts to provide the best products to the MSME sector. ( Headquarters of Corporation Bank is in Mangaluru.)

**5. RBI extends timings for RTGS from 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm**

RBI has extended timings for customer transactions in the Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) system to 6:00 pm from 4:30 pm. The new time window for RTGS will come into effect from 01st June 2019.

- The customer is charged a 'time-varying charge' on each outward transaction in addition to the flat processing charge. The fee for transfers between 8 am to 11 am is nil, from 11 am to 1 pm is Rs 2, and from 1 pm to 6 pm is Rs 5. The fee for transfers made after the initial cut off of 6 pm will be Rs 10. The initial cut off for customer transactions will be 6 pm and the final cut off for inter-bank transactions will be 7:45 pm.

**6. RBI sets up committee on corporate loans**

The six-member committee is headed by **TN Manoharan**, Chairman, Canara Bank.

**7. FICCI survey forecasts India's GDP growth at 7.1% for FY20**

- FICCI stands for Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry. It was established in 1927. Headquarters of FICCI is in New Delhi.

**8. for the second consecutive year Iraq Becomes India's Top crude Oil Supplier in 2018-19**, meeting more than one-fifth of the country's oil needs in the 2018-19 fiscal year.

**9. BSE Launches BSE StAR MF App For Its Mutual Fund Platform**

**10. Huawei Overtakes Apple To Become 2nd Biggest Smartphone Maker (Samsung is at the top)**



**11. RBI Enhances Housing-Loan Limits Under Priority Sector Lending For RRBs, SFBs**

**INR 35 lakh** in metropolitan centers (with population of 10 lakh and above)  
**INR 25 lakh** in other centers.

**12. BharatPe Launches India's 1st UPI Bahi Khata For Merchants**

- **BharatPe** - **India's first Fintech start-up** enabling payments for merchants through interoperable UPI QR codes, has announced **its foray into merchant services with a new app.**

- Along with UPI payments, the app now allows merchants **to manage their entire Bahi Khata** and even note receivables and payables seamlessly.

**13. In a 1st, NABARD Announces Rs700-cr Venture Capital Fund For Agriculture, Rural Startups.**

The fund has been launched by **Nabventures, a subsidiary of NABARD.**

(NABARD is now 100% owned by the government.)

**14. Bharti Airtel and HDFC Life Insurance have tied up to offer life cover for customers who get a prepaid recharge done.** Airtel's new **Rs249-prepaid** bundle (which will include **2 GB data**, unlimited calls across networks, and 100 SMSes per day) will also offer a cover worth Rs 4 lakh from HDFC Life.

**15. Paytm Partners With Citibank To Launch 1st Credit Card- 'Paytm First Card' ( Paytm Founder: Vijay Shekhar Sharma ).**

RANAAC