

Current Affairs May 2019

All India Career Counsellor Number

DELHI: +91-8920-180-477

MUMBAI: +91-9930-476-636

CONTENT

National.....	2
International.....	07
Defence.....	10
Appointments or Resign/Retired.....	12
Honours/ Awards.....	15
Sports.....	17
Obituaries.....	20
Important Days with theme.....	21

National

GSI Report: Arunachal Has Highest 35% of India's Graphite Deposits

i. The Geological Survey of India (GSI) in its report revealed that about **35 %** of India's total Graphite reserves are found in **Arunachal Pradesh**. This is the highest found in the country.

Important Takeways from above news-

- Geological Survey of India (GSI) was founded in 1851 with primary goal of finding coal deposits for the Railways.
- It is an attached office to the Ministry of Mines and it is Headquartered in Kolkata.
- Graphite is the most stable allotrope of Carbon, with standard entropy being zero.



Kapil Sharma Acknowledged As Most Viewed Stand-up Comedian In India And Abroad

- i. Comedian-actor **Kapil Sharma** has been acknowledged as the **most viewed stand-up comedian in India and abroad** by the **World Book of Records London**.
- ii. Having started his career as a stand-up comedian, Kapil initially performed on several comedy shows.

Kerala Becomes First Indian State To Tap Into Masala Bond Market

- i. **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).
- ii. 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.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Kerala CM:** Pinarayi Vijayan, **Governor:** P. Sathasivam.

HDFC Group Overtakes Tata Group As India's Most Valuable

- i. 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).
- ii. The combined market value of the five listed companies of the **HDFC group - HDFC, HDFC Bank, HDFC Life, HDFC Asset Management and Gruh Finance** stood at Rs 11.66 lakh crore while the combined m-cap of 29 Tata group companies stood at Rs 11.64 lakh crore, about Rs 2,000 crore less than that of the HDFC group.



Kids Right Index 2019: India Ranks 117, Iceland Tops

- i. **India** stands in a lowly **117th position** out of **181 countries** in the **KidsRight Index**, the annual global index which ranks how countries adhere to and are equipped to improve child rights. **Iceland secured the top position** in the index followed by Portugal.
- ii. Countries are judged on five indicators: right to life, right to education, right to health, right to protection and enabling environment for child rights.



Shyam Saran To Be Conferred With Japan's 'Order of the Rising Sun' Award

- i. Former foreign secretary **Shyam Saran** will be conferred with Japan's second highest national award, '**Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star**'.
- ii. He will be conferred with this award for his contributions to strengthen the strategic ties and enhancing mutual understanding between **India and Japan**.



Important Takeways from above news-

- '**The Order of the Rising Sun**' is a Japanese government honour established in 1875 by Emperor Meiji.

Reliance Beats Indian Oil Corporation, Becomes Biggest Indian Company

- i. Reliance Industries has toppled state-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) to become the country's biggest company *by revenue*.
- ii. The Mukesh Ambani-led conglomerate, in the 2018-19 fiscal year that ended March 31, reported a turnover of Rs 6.23 lakh crore. In comparison, IOC posted a turnover of Rs 6.17 lakh crore for the fiscal.



ISRO Successfully Launched Earth Observation Satellite 'RISAT-2B'

- i. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully launched the 'RISAT-2B' Satellite from the Sriharikota's, Satish Dhawan Space Centre, SHAR.
- ii. The Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C46) lifted-off from the First Launch Pad and injected RISAT-2B into an orbit of 556 km, about 15 minutes and 25 seconds after lift-off.
- iii. 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.
- iv. The all-weather, radar imaging satellite has the capability to observe and image the earth from about 500 kms.



Important Takeways from above news-

- ISRO Director: K. Sivan, Headquarters: Bengaluru, Established in: 1969.

2019 Lok Sabha Polls Record Highest Ever Voter Turnout In History

- i. As per Election Commission of India, the 2019 Lok Sabha elections witnessed a voter turnout of 67.10% (interim), which is the highest ever voter turnout in the history of general elections.
- ii. The previous highest voter turnout of 66.44% was recorded in 2014.



Important Takeways from above news-

- It was the 17th General Elections that was conducted in India.
- Sunil Arora is the Chief Election Commissioner of India.
- Ashok Lavasa (georgian) and Sushil Chandra are 2 Election Commissioner of India.

India bans Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh terror outfit

- i. The Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh also called as Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen India or Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Hindustan has been declared as a banned terrorist organization by the government of India.
- ii. The home ministry stated the outfit has committed acts of terrorism, promoted acts of terrorism and has been engaged in radicalization and recruitment of youths for terrorist activities in India. Therefore, the Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh or Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen India or Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Hindustan and all its manifestations have been inserted in the First Schedule to the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.



Goa celebrates its statehood day

- i. Goa celebrates its statehood day on 30th May. It was on this day in 1987 Goa became the 25th state of the Indian Union. It was a Union Territory along with Daman and Diu from December 1961 onwards when Goa was liberated from the colonial rule.
- ii. Once Goa was liberated there was a controversy regarding merging Goa with the neighbouring state of Maharashtra or Mysore. However, an opinion poll of 1967 suggested that Goa, Daman, and Diu be Union Territory.

Important Takeways from above news-

1. Pramod Sawant is the 13th and current Chief Minister of Goa.
2. Panaji is the state capital of Goa.
3. Mridula Sinha is present Governor of Goa.

NSA Ajit Doval addresses 17th Investiture Ceremony of BSF in New Delhi

i. National Security Advisor Ajit Doval has stated that technology will play a pivotal role in guarding the borders in days to come as security challenges are increasing day by day. Doval was addressing **17th Investiture Ceremony** of Border Security Force, **BSF** in New Delhi.



Narendra Modi to be sworn in as PM for 2nd term on May 30

i. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be administered the oath of office for his second term along with his new council of ministers on 30th May. President Ram Nath Kovind will administer 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.

ii. 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.

Important Takeways from above news-

1. 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.

Nation pays homage to first PM Jawaharlal Nehru on his 55th death anniversary

i. The nation pays homage to first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on his 55th death anniversary on 27th May 2019. Jawaharlal Nehru was the first Prime Minister of India. Jawaharlal Nehru emerged as an eminent leader of the Indian independence movement under the tutelage of Mahatma Gandhi.

ii. 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.



US removes India, Switzerland from its currency monitoring list

i. The Trump administration removed India from its currency monitoring list of major trading partners, citing certain developments and steps being taken by New Delhi addressing some of its major concerns. Switzerland is the other nation that has been removed from the list. However, the list includes China, Japan, South Korea, Germany, Italy, Ireland, Singapore, Malaysia, and Vietnam among others.



India moves up to 43rd in competitiveness; Singapore tops chart

i. India has moved up one place to rank 43rd most competitive economy in the world on the back of its robust economic growth, a large labour force and its huge market size, while Singapore has toppled the US to grab the top position, a global study showed.

ii. Singapore has moved up to the top, from the third position last year, while the US has slipped to the third place in the 2019 edition of the IMD World Competitiveness Rankings. Hong Kong SAR has held onto its second place, helped by a benign tax and business policy environment and access to business finance.



Record 78 women MPs elected to 17th Lok Sabha

i. Record 78 women candidates have been elected to the Lok Sabha in the recently held general elections. According to the Election Commission, the number has grown from the previous 62 women who were elected to the 16th Lok Sabha in 2014.

ii. In the country's first general elections in 1951, twenty-four women were elected to the Lower House, and since then, the number has been increasing.



Saudi Arabia lifts export ban on fruits and vegetable from Kerala

- i. Kerala's fruits and vegetable exporters have heaved a sigh of relief following the lifting of the export ban by Saudi Arabia after the Nipah virus attack last year. With the lifting of the embargo, he said Kozhikode airport was alone handling 20 tonnes of fruits and vegetables per day valued at \$50,000 to various destinations in Saudi.
- ii. Kerala ships around 150 tonnes of fruits and vegetables on a daily basis to various gulf countries and of this, the consignment to Saudi alone was 30-40 tonnes.

SC extends the tenure of NCDRC's judicial member by one year

- i. The Supreme Court has extended the tenure of Justice VK Jain, a judicial member of the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC), which was expiring on 30th May 2019. A vacation bench comprising Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justice Aniruddha Bose stated the extension of tenure would be for one year or till the process of fresh appointment is completed.
- ii. Justice Jain was appointed as a judicial member of the NCDRC on 30th May 2014.



Important Takeways from above news-

1. The NCDRC is a quasi-judicial commission in India which was set up in 1988 under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.
2. The head office of NCDRC is in New Delhi.

Madhya Pradesh to tentatively have new UNESCO heritage site

- i. Orchha town in Madhya Pradesh has a plethora of historical sites with the Bundela dynasty architectural style. The Archaeological Survey of India has included that heritage town of Orchha in a tentative list of UNESCO world heritage sites. It was included in the proposal sent by the ASI to the UN body in April 2019.
- ii. 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. After making it to that list, yet another proposal is sent to the UNESCO. In their initial proposal, the ASI had requested that Orchha be included as a cultural heritage site.



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

- i. Leaders of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) have been invited for PM Modi's swearing-in ceremony to be held on 30th May. However, Bangladesh premier Sheikh Hasina will not attend the event due to her prior commitments. Myanmar State Councillor Aung Saan Suu Kyi's presence is also uncertain as she is travelling overseas. Kyrgyzstan, the current chair of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), too, has been invited for the event.
- ii. 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.



India's first all-women medium-lift chopper crew flies the battle mission

- i. Two women IAF officers from Punjab were part of the country's first all-women crew to fly a medium-lift helicopter Mi-17 V5.
- ii. 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.



Govt sets up tribunal for adjudicating ban on LTTE

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



International

WHO Declares Algeria, Argentina Malaria-Free

- i. The **World Health Organization (WHO)** declared **Algeria and Argentina** as malaria-free, with no recorded cases of indigenous transmission of the disease since 2013 and 2010 respectively.
- ii. It accounted for an estimated 219 million cases from 87 countries and over 400,000 related deaths in 2017, according to WHO's World malaria report 2018.



Important Takeways from above news-

- Malaria parasite was first discovered in Algeria by French physician Charles Louis Alphonse Laveran in 1880.
- **Algeria Capital:** Algiers, **Currency:** Algerian dinar.
- **Argentina Capital:** Buenos Aires, **Currency:** Argentine peso.

Facebook Registers New Fintech Firm in Switzerland

- i. Social media giant **Facebook** has apparently formed a **new financial tech firm, Libra Networks LLC**, in **Geneva, Switzerland**.
- ii. Libra Networks was registered in Geneva by Facebook Global Holdings II LLC. Facebook registered the trademark "Libra" with the United States Patent and Trademark Office back in June, which was reportedly part of its secretive in-house crypto project.



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

- i. **Taiwan** has approved a bill legalizing **same-sex marriage**, a landmark decision that makes the self-ruled island the **first place in Asia** to pass gay marriage legislation.
- ii. The successful bill includes limited adoption rights for same-sex couples.



Saudi Arabia Approves Permanent Residency For First Time

- i. 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.
- ii. 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.



Saray Khumalo Becomes 1st Black SA Woman To Conquer Mount Everest

- i. South African **Saray Khumalo** has reached the **highest point on the planet** becoming the first **black African woman to scale Mount Everest**.
- ii. This was her fourth attempt at climbing Mount Everest. In a previous attempt in May 2017, Khumalo had to be rescued from Mount Everest by helicopter.



Important Takeways from above news-

- Mount Everest is the world's highest mountain at its official elevation of 8848m above sea level.
- Sir Edmund Hillary and Nepalese Sherpa mountaineer Tenzing Norgay were the first people to reach the mountain's summit on May 29, 1953.

EAM Sushma Swaraj To Attend SCO Foreign Ministers Meet In Bishkek

- i. **External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj** will attend the foreign ministers' meet of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)** in **Bishkek, Kyrgyz**



Republic. Swaraj's Pakistani counterpart Shah Mehmood Qureshi will also attend the meeting.

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

Important Takeways from above news-

- SCO Headquarters in Beijing, China.

Historic Move: World Gets Redefined Units Of Measurement

i. After decades of ground-breaking laboratory works, **the world's scientific and technical community**, in a landmark and historic decision has unanimously adopted the resolution to redefine four of the seven base units, **the kilogram (SI unit of weight), Kelvin (SI unit of temperature), mole (SI unit of amount of substance), and ampere (SI unit of current).**

ii. This decision has now enabled scientists and researchers to base the SI units entirely on fundamental properties of nature, which will ensure their ongoing refinement and improvement for years to come. The fundamental constants are invariants of time and space and successfully replaced the artifact based units, and aptly opened up the new era for quantum world by linking all seven base units to fundamental constants/quantum standards.



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

i. US President Donald Trump got the red carpet treatment at Japan's Imperial Palace where he made history, becoming the first world leader to meet with the new emperor of Japan Naruhito.

ii. The US President is on a four-day state visit to Japan. Trump will go to the Japanese state guest house later for meetings and joint news conference with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.



Important Takeways from above news-

1. Japan is an island country in East Asia.
2. Tokyo is the capital city of Japan.
3. The yen is the official currency of Japan.

NASA unveils schedule for 'Artemis' 2024 Moon mission

i. NASA unveiled the calendar for the "Artemis" program that will return astronauts to the Moon for the first time in half a century, including eight scheduled launches and a mini-station in lunar orbit by 2024. The original lunar missions were named for Apollo – Artemis was his twin sister in Greek mythology, and the goddess of hunting, wilderness, and the Moon.

ii. Administrator Jim Bridenstine confirmed that Artemis 1 will be an uncrewed mission around the Moon planned for 2020. Next will come Artemis 2, which will orbit Earth's satellite with a crew around 2022; followed finally by Artemis 3 that will put astronauts on lunar soil in 2024, including the first woman.



Facebook plans to launch 'GlobalCoin' cryptocurrency in 2020

i. Facebook is planning to launch its own cryptocurrency in early 2020, allowing users to make digital payments in a dozen countries. The currency, dubbed GlobalCoin, would enable Facebook's 2.4 billion monthly users to change dollars and other international currencies into its digital coins. The coins could then be used to buy things on the internet and in shops and other outlets or to transfer money without needing a bank account.

ii. Mark Zuckerberg, the founder, and chief executive of Facebook, last month met the governor of the Bank of England, Mark Carney, to discuss the plans.

Russia launches new nuclear-powered icebreaker in bid to open up Arctic

i. Russia launched a nuclear-powered icebreaker, part of an ambitious programme to renew and expand its fleet of the vessels in order to improve its ability to tap the Arctic's commercial potential. The ship, dubbed the Ural and which was floated out from a dockyard in St Petersburg, is one of a trio that when completed will be the largest and most powerful icebreakers in the world.

ii. The Ural is due to be handed over to Russia's state-owned nuclear energy corporation Rosatom in 2022 after the two other icebreakers in the same series, Arktika (Arctic) and Sibir (Siberia), enter service.



Important Takeways from above news-

1. Vladimir Putin is President of Russia.
2. Moscow is the capital city of Russia.
3. The Russian ruble is the currency Russia.
4. Dmitry Medvedev is PM of Russia.

Defence

Brahmos Air Missile Successfully Launched From Su-30 MKI Aircraft

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

Important Takeways from above news-

- Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa is the present Chief of Air Staff of Indian Army.



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

- i. U.S. Navy ships conducted joint drills with warships from allies **Japan, Australia and South Korea** in their first combined exercise in the Western Pacific.
- ii. 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.



Lt Bhawana Kanth, 1st Woman To Qualify To Go To Day Missions On Fighter Jet

- i. **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.**
- ii. She completed the Day Operational syllabus on **MiG-21 Bison**. Bhawana joined the fighter squadron in 2017 and flew the first solo on MiG-21 Bison in 2018.



India, Singapore Conduct SIMBEX-19 Naval Exercise In The South China Sea

- i. The 26th Edition of **Singapore India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX)-19** has commenced in the **South China Sea**. In addition to IN Ships **Kolkata** and **Shakti**, Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft **P8I** will also participate in the exercise.
- ii. The naval exercise will include various maritime combat drills such as advanced aerial tracking, coordinated targeting tactical exercises and weapon firing on aerial and surface targets.



NSG Commandos Summit Mount Everest In Maiden Attempt

- i. Commandos of the premier counter-terror force **National Security Guard (NSG)** created history as they scaled the **Mount Everest (world's highest peak)** in their **maiden attempt.**
- ii. 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.**

Important Takeways from above news-

- A bill for the creation of NSG was introduced in the parliament in August 1986.
- It received the assent of the President on September 22, 1986, and it formally came into being from that date.
- Sudeep Lakhtakia is the Director General of NSG.

New version of Akash missile test-fired successfully

- i. 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.
- ii. 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.



DRDO test fires guided bomb from Sukhoi combat Jet

i. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully test-fired an indigenously-developed 500 kg class guided bomb from a Sukhoi combat jet at Pokhran in Rajasthan.

ii. The test firing of the guided bomb came two days after the Indian Air Force successfully test fired the aerial version of the supersonic BrahMos cruise missile from a Sukhoi jet at the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The **2.5-tonne air-to-surface missile** has a range of around **300 km**, and it will significantly enhance the IAF's combat capability.



Appointments or Resign/Retired

British PM Theresa May Announces Resignation

- i. British Prime Minister Theresa May announces resignation from her post. She will resign on 7 June.
- ii. Her announcement triggers the start of a contest to replace her as Conservative leader and Prime Minister.



Joko Widodo Elected President Of Indonesia For 2nd Term

- i. Indonesia's Joko Widodo has been re-elected as president of the country, beating rival Prabowo Subianto, a retired general.
- ii. Widodo and his vice-presidential running mate Ma'ruf Amin won the election by a 55.5% to 44.5% margin over Subianto and Sandiaga Uno.



Important Takeways from above news-

- Indonesia Capital- Jakarta, Currency- Indonesian rupiah.
- Ambassador of India to Indonesia: Pradeep Kumar Rawat.

Volodymyr Zelenskiy Sworn In As Ukraine's New President

- i. Volodymyr Zelenskiy took the oath of office as the president of Ukraine and immediately announced that he is dissolving the Verkhovna Rada, the country's parliament.
- ii. In his inaugural speech, Zelenskiy called for the dismissal of several top security officials. He has replaced Petro Poroshenko.



Important Takeways from above news-

- Ukraine Capital: Kyiv, Currency: Ukrainian hryvnia.

Maldives Ex-Leader Mohamed Nasheed Tipped As New Speaker

- i. The former Maldives president Mohamed Nasheed has been nominated as the country's parliamentary speaker. Nasheed was unanimously chosen to head the People's Majlis, or the parliament, by his Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) which won a near three-quarter majority in the 87-member assembly in April.



Important Takeways from above news-

1. Ibrahim Mohamed Solih is the current President of the Maldives.
2. Male is the capital of the Maldives.
3. The Maldivian rufiyaa is the currency of the Maldives.

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

- i. 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).
- ii. Mr. Tinaikar graduated from the Indian Military Academy in 1983 and is currently serving as the Commandant of the Infantry School since July 2018.



Nigeria's Muhammadu Buhari sworn in for second term as president

- i. Muhammadu Buhari has been sworn in for a second term as Nigeria's president, following a campaign that focused on tackling security threats and rooting out corruption. He did not make a speech during the low-profile event attended by members of the diplomatic community.
- ii. Buhari, a former military ruler, won 56 percent of the votes to defeat his main challenger, former Vice President Atiku Abubakar of the Peoples' Democratic Party



(PDP) in the February 2019 election.

Important Takeways from above news-

1. Abuja is the capital city of Nigeria.
2. The naira is the currency of Nigeria.

Military tribunal allows Karambir Singh to take charge as new Navy Chief

- i. The Armed Forces Tribunal cleared the way for Vice Admiral Karambir Singh to become the next Navy Chief, while it deferred for four weeks the matter of Vice Admiral Bimal Verma which seeks to quash Singh's appointment.
- ii. Karambir Singh, who is the Commander-in-Chief of the Eastern Naval Command, will take over as the Navy Chief on 31st May 2019.



Important Takeways from above news-

1. Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba will retire on 31st May after completion of his tenure.
2. The President of India is the Supreme Commander of the Indian Navy.

Pema Khandu to take oath as Arunachal Pradesh CM for 2nd term

- i. Pema Khandu will be sworn-in as the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh for the second time on 29th May. After having a landslide victory in the Assembly elections with 41 seats in the 60-seat house, the BJP held its Legislature Party Meeting in Itanagar.
- ii. Mr. Khandu met Governor Dr. BD Mishra and staked claim to form the government.



Cyril Ramaphosa takes oath as South Africa's President

- i. Cyril Ramaphosa, the head of the African National Congress, was sworn in for a five-year term as South Africa's president after being elected unopposed by Parliament following the sixth general elections.
- ii. He was elected earlier this month with a majority of 57.50%, the smallest since the party came to power 25 years ago. Mr. Ramaphosa initially took over from Jacob Zuma in 2018 after Mr. Zuma was accused of corruption. Mr. Ramaphosa is the country's fifth democratically elected president since apartheid ended in 1994.



Important Takeways from above news-

1. Capitals of South Africa: Cape Town, Pretoria, Bloemfontein.
2. The rand is the official currency of South Africa.

PS Golay was sworn in as Sikkim Chief Minister

- i. Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) president Prem Singh Tamang, popularly known as PS Golay took oath as the Chief Minister of Sikkim. He was administered the oath by Governor Ganga Prasad at Paljor Stadium in Gangtok. Mr. Golay is not a member of the State Assembly at present as he did not contest the polls. The 51-year-old party chief when he was taking the oath in the Nepali language.
- ii. Former Chief Minister Pawan Kumar Chamling and senior Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF) leaders were conspicuous by their absence at the swearing-in ceremony. The SKM won a slender majority in the 32-member Sikkim Legislative Assembly by bagging 17 seats against 15 won by the SDF.



Important Takeways from above news-

1. Gangtok is the capital of Sikkim.
2. The Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) was founded in 2013.
3. The PK Chamling government was ousted by the SKM after over 24 years.

Naveen Patnaik set for the fifth term as Odisha CM

i. Odisha's ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) headed by incumbent Chief Minister **Naveen Patnaik** is all set to form a government for a **fifth consecutive term**. The new Cabinet is likely to be sworn-in on 27th May.

ii. The **final Election Commission (EC)** tally shows that the BJD won 112 of the 146 Assembly seats for which elections were held. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) bagged 23, the Congress nine, the CPI(M) one and a solitary Independent was also elected.



Important Takeways from above news-

1. **Bhubaneswar** is the capital city of Odisha.
2. Professor **Ganeshi Lal** is the present Governor of Odisha.
3. **Utkal Divas or Odisha Day** falls every year on 01st April.

Scott Morrison sworn in as Australia's PM

i. Scott Morrison has been sworn in as Australia's Prime Minister, 11 days after retaining the position in the country's general election. Along with Deputy Prime Minister Michael McCormack, Morrison was sworn in by Queen Elizabeth's official representative in Australia, Governor-General Sir Peter Cosgrove, in the capital, Canberra.



ii. Also sworn in was Morrison's revamped Cabinet, which includes a record seven women, and Australia's first Aboriginal federal Cabinet member, Indigenous Affairs Minister Ken Wyatt, who wore a traditional kangaroo skin.

Walmart Appoints Suresh Kumar as Chief Technology Officer

i. US-based retail chain Walmart has appointed Suresh Kumar, an IIT Madras graduate and former Google executive, as chief technology officer and chief development officer. The appointment comes at a time when Walmart is transforming its customer and associate experiences.

Jagan Mohan Reddy To Be Sworn In As CM of Andhra Pradesh

i. In Andhra Pradesh, YSR Congress Chief Jagan Mohan Reddy will be sworn in as **chief minister of Andhra Pradesh** on 30th of May at Vijayawada.

ii. Once sworn in, he will replace N Chandrababu Naidu who has resigned as Andhra Pradesh CM.



4 Judges Elevated To Supreme Court of India

i. The **Centre has cleared four names recommended** by the Supreme Court Collegium for elevation as judges of the apex court. The four appointed judges are **Justice Aniruddha Bose, Justice A S Bopanna, Justice B R Gavai and Justice Surya Kant**.

ii. Law Ministry has issued the notification after **President Ram Nath Kovind signed their warrants of appointment**. Supreme Court will reach its **full sanctioned strength of 31 judges** after the appointment of four new judges.



Important Takeways from above news-

- CJ Ranjan Gogoi is the present Chief Justice of India.

Honours/ Awards

UNDRR Confers Dr P.K. Mishra With Sasakawa Award 2019

i. 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.

ii. The award was announced at the Award Ceremony during the ongoing 6th Session of Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR) 2019 at Geneva.

Important Takeways from above news-

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



Anil Kapoor Felicitated By European Chambers of Commerce In India

i. Anil Kapoor was felicitated by **Council of European Chambers of Commerce in India** and a **European Union delegation in Mumbai**. He was awarded because of his continuous support in promoting the cause of children's rights.

ii. The event also marked the celebration of **EU Day 2019 on 17th May**. Anil Kapoor, who has been working in collaboration with Plan India, a child rights organisation, was the guest of honour at the event.

Important Takeways from above news-

- The EU, which consists of 28 countries, has the world's largest economy and its third largest population, after China and India.
- In 2012, the EU was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for advancing the causes of peace, reconciliation, democracy and human rights in Europe.
- The European Union Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium.



Indian Short Film Wins Nespresso Talents Award In Cannes

i. Indian filmmaker, **Achyutanand Dwivedi's film, "Seed Mother"**, won the third prize in the international section of **Nespresso Talents 2019** in Cannes.

ii. 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.

Important Takeways from above news-

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



Indian Peacekeeper To Be Honoured Posthumously By UN

i. **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.

ii. Police Officer Jitender Kumar made the supreme sacrifice while serving in the United Nations Organisation Stabilisation Mission in the Central African country of Congo.

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

Important Takeways from above news-

- India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin.
- India is the fourth largest contributor of uniformed personnel to the UN peacekeeping.



Oman Author Jokha Alharthi Wins Booker International Prize

- i. An author from Oman, Jokha Alharthi** has won the **prestigious Man 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.
- ii. Jokha Alharthi**, the first Arabic-language writer to take the prize, will split the 50,000 pounds or 64,000 US dollar purse with her **UK-based translator, Marilyn Booth**.



Insurer Bharti AXA Bags Claims Excellence Award

- i. Bharti AXA Life Insurance**, a private life insurer, has been conferred with the **FICCI Claims Excellence Award**.
- ii. The insurer improved its individual claim settlement ratio, the number of claims paid to the number of claims received, to 96.85% in the financial year 2017-18.**



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

- i. Indian writer Annie Zaidi** was announced as the 2019 winner of the USD 100,000 Nine Dots Prize, a prestigious book prize created to award innovative thinking that addresses contemporary issues around the world.
- ii. Mumbai-based Annie Zaidi**, a freelance writer whose work includes reportage, essays, short stories, poetry, and plays, won for her entry 'Bread, Cement, Cactus'- combining memoir and reportage to explore concepts of home and belonging rooted in her experience of contemporary life in India.



Sports

Brooks Koepka Returns To World No. 1 After 4th Major Title

i. Brooks Koepka (of USA) returned to the **top of the world rankings** after his nerve-jangling **second straight US PGA Championship victory at Bethpage Black.**

ii. The 29-year-old American has now won four major titles in his last eight starts and is the first man to ever hold back-to-back titles in two majors at the same time.



2nd India Open International Boxing Tournament Starts In Guwahati

i. **2nd India Open International Boxing Tournament** has started in Guwahati. India will field a strong contingent of 38 men and 37 women in the tournament including **Mary Kom in 51-kilogram category.**

ii. In this 5-day event, 200 players from 16 countries will take part. The competition will be held in a total of 18 categories, 10 in men and 8 in women. The **gold medalist will get 2500 US dollar** and Silver medalist will earn 1000 US dollar.



Important Takeaways from above news-

- Ajay Singh is the President of Boxing Federation of India (BFI).

Italian Open 2019: Complete List of Winners

The **2019 Italian Open** was a professional tennis tournament played on outdoor clay courts in Rome, Italy. 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.



Here is the complete list of winners of 2019 Italian Open:

Sl No	Event	Winner	Runner-Up
1.	Men's singles	Rafael Nadal(Spain)	Novak Djokovic (Serbia)
2.	Women's singles	Karolina Pliskova (Czech Republic)	Johanna Konta (United Kingdom)

Double Olympic Biathlon Champion Dahlmeier Retires Aged 25

i. Germany's double Olympic biathlon champion **Laura Dahlmeier**

announced her retirement at the age of just 25 after struggling with health issues.

ii. 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.**



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

i. **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.



ii. 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.**

Important Takeways from above news-

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

Lewis Hamilton wins Monaco Grand Prix

i. Lewis Hamilton won the Monaco Grand Prix to extend his championship lead over Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas. Hamilton struggled with grip in the latter stages and was under constant pressure from Red Bull's Max Verstappen.

ii. But Verstappen had earlier picked up a five-second time penalty. So even though he finished just behind Hamilton, Verstappen was fourth overall behind Bottas in third and Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel in second.



Apurvi Chandela bags gold medal in 10m Air Rifle in ISSF World Cup

i. Indians had a good day at the year's third International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup Rifle and Pistol tournament in Munich, Germany. Apurvi Chandela grabbed a gold, winning the women's 10m Air Rifle competition after a closely-fought contest. She shot a score of 251 in the final to outshine Wang Luyao of China, who shot 250.8.

ii. This was Apurvi's second ISSF World Cup gold of the year followed by a world record score in New Delhi in February. This was also her career's fourth ISSF medal.



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

i. 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.

ii. Chaudhary has already secured a berth for the Tokyo Olympics. This is India's second Gold in the championship.



China beat Japan to win 2019 Sudirman Cup

i. China won the badminton world mixed-team championship, Sudirman Cup 2019 in Nanning, China. They beat Japan in men's doubles, women's singles and men's singles to clinch the title for the 11th time.

ii. In the latest Men's singles match, Shi Yuqi stunned world champion Kento Momota 15-21, 21-5, 21-11. Japan have never won the Sudirman Cup.



India bags 57 medals at India Open International tournament

i. India bags a total of **57 medals** including 12 Gold, 18 Silver and **27 Bronze at India Open International Boxing tournament** in Guwahati. MC Mary Kom, Shiva Thapa, L Sarita Devi, and Naman Tanwar won gold in their respective finals. The London Olympic bronze medallist blew away the challenge of Vanlal Duati in a facile 5-0 win.

ii. This was Mary's second gold in the tournament, having won in 48 kg last year in the capital. On the other hand, Deepak defeated Govind Kumar in 49 kg final while in 52 kg category- Amit Panghal defeated Sachin.



ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2019 begins today

- i. The ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2019 will begin today (30th May 2019). England will open the tournament at The Oval in London when they will take on South Africa.
- ii. The World Cup will span 48 matches in all, of which 45 will make up the group stage. Each team will play nine group stage matches, and the top four will progress to the semifinals, similar to how the 1992 World Cup was held.



Europa League final: Chelsea beat Arsenal 4-1

- i. Chelsea got the better of its English Premier League rivals to win the Europa League final, beating Arsenal 4-1 in the Baku Olympic Stadium, Azerbaijan. Despite a bright start from the Gunners, Chelsea ran riot in the second half with three goals in quick succession.
- ii. Chelsea won their fifth major Uefa European competition final, with only Liverpool winning more among eight English clubs.



Obituaries

Renowned Filmmaker & Film Historian Vijaya Mulay Passes Away

- i. **Renowned filmmaker, film historian, researcher and educationist Vijaya Mulay** passed away at the age of 98 in New Delhi.
- ii. The film was entered into the Manheim Film Festival. She is most famously known for her **1974 film Ek Anek Aur Ekta**, which was awarded the National Film Award for Best Educational Film.



3 time Formula 1 World Champion Niki Lauda Passes Away

- i. The **former Formula One driver and three-time world champion Niki Lauda** has passed away at the age of 70.
- ii. He hailed from Austria. Niki Lauda, who **won titles in 1975, 1977 and 1984**, was hugely admired, respected and liked within F1. He won two titles for Ferrari and one for McLaren.



Veteran Telugu Actor Rallapalli Venkata Narasimha Rao Passes Away

- i. **Veteran Telugu actor Rallapalli Venkata Narasimha Rao** passed away in Hyderabad following a **cardiac arrest**. He was 74.
- ii. He was a **five-time winner of the prestigious Nandi award** in undivided Andhra Pradesh.



I M Pei, The Master Architect Passes Away

- i. **I M Pei**, a dominant figure in American **architecture** for more than three decades who designed the **Louvre's crystal pyramid**, has passed away. He was 102.
- ii. Pei's more than 50 projects included the Musee d'Art Moderne in Luxembourg (2006) and the 72-story Bank of China Tower in Hong Kong (1989).



Comedian And Co-Founder of 'The Comedy Store', Sammy Shore Passes Away

- i. **Sammy Shore**, an actor and stand-up comedian who **co-founded the Comedy Store**, passed away. He was 92.
- ii. Shore co-founded **The Comedy Store** with screenwriter and actor Rudy de Luca in 1972.



Action choreographer-filmmaker Veeru Devgan passes away

- i. Bollywood's most famous stunt and action choreographer, **Veeru Devgn** passes away in Mumbai. Born in Amritsar, Devgan was behind the fight and action scenes for over 80 Hindi films including 'Phool Aur Kaante' (1991), 'Mr. India' (1987), and 'Himmatwala' (1983) among various others.
- ii. He even acted in three films and worked as a director on 'Hindustan Ki Kasam' (1999).



Godfather actor Carmine Caridi dies aged 85

- i. Carmine Caridi, known for roles in The Godfather franchise, has died at the age of 85. The veteran actor also appeared in the final part of "The Godfather" trilogy in a different role – Albert Volpe, an investor in Michael Corleone's casinos who is killed in an attack at a hotel in Atlantic City.



Important Days with theme

International Day of Light: 16 May

- i. May 16th is celebrated globally as the **International Day of Light**. 2019 marks the global celebration of the **second** edition of the event.
- ii. It is an official observance of **UNESCO** that provides an annual focal point for the continued appreciation of light and the role it plays in science, culture, and art, education, sustainable development, communications, and energy.



World Telecommunication and Information Society Day: 17th May

- i. **World Telecommunication & Information Society Day** is observed all over the world on **17th May**.
- ii. The theme for World Telecommunication & Information Society Day 2019 is '*Bridging the Standardization Gap*'.



Important Takeways from above news-

- 17th May also marks the anniversary of the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention and the creation of the International Telecommunication Union.

World Bee Day: 20th May

- i. To raise awareness of the **importance of pollinators (such as bees, butterflies, bats and hummingbirds)**, the threats they face and their contribution to sustainable development, the UN designated **20 May as World Bee Day**.
- ii. 20 May coincides with the **birthday of Anton Janša**, who in the 18th century pioneered modern beekeeping techniques in his native Slovenia and praised the bees for their ability to work so hard, while needing so little attention.



World Metrology Day: 20 May

- i. **World Metrology Day** is observed every year on **20 May**.
- ii. The theme for World Metrology Day 2019 is **The International System of Units - Fundamentally better**.

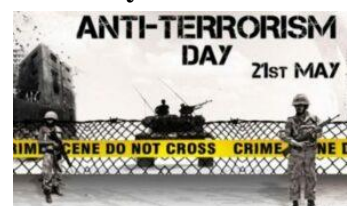


Anti-Terrorism Day: 21st May

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

Important Takeways from above news-

- Mr. Rajiv Gandhi was the youngest Prime Minister of India.



UAE Celebrates World Day For Cultural Diversity On May 21

- i. On 21st May, the **UAE celebrated World Day for Cultural Diversity** for Dialogue and Development to highlight its efforts in promoting tolerance and cultural diversity.
- ii. The event coincides with the country's declaration of **2019 as the Year for Tolerance**. The UAE has cultural relations with many countries and is an active member of the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, UNESCO**.



Important Takeways from above news-

- UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France.
- Director-General of UNESCO Audrey Azoulay.

International Day for Biological Diversity: 22 May

- i. The UN General Assembly proclaimed 22 May, the date of the adoption of its text, as the **International Day for Biological Diversity** on 20 December 2000.
- ii. The theme for International Day for Biological Diversity 2019 is '*Our Biodiversity, Our Food, Our Health*'.



International Everest Day: 29th May

- i. International Everest Day is being observed on 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.
- ii. Nepal decided to observe the day as International Everest Day since 2008 when the legendary climber Hillary passed away. Everest Day on May 29 every year in memory of the first summit of Mt. Everest by Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay Sherpa on the day in 1953. The day is celebrated with memorial events, processions, and special events in Kathmandu and the Everest region.



Important Takeways from above news-

- 1. 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.
- 2. The international border between Nepal and China runs across its summit point.

Nepal celebrates its 12th Republic Day

- i. Nepal is celebrating its 12th Republic Day on 29th May 2019. A number of programmes are being organized in different parts of the country to mark the occasion. The main function was held at Army Pavilion in Kathmandu, which was attended by the President Bidya Devi Bhandari, Prime Minister K.P.Sharma Oli, cabinet ministers, senior government officials, heads and representatives of various diplomatic missions and other dignitaries.

