

# Daily Current Affairs 26 and 27 May 2018

## India

### ***PM Modi inaugurates 1st phase India's first Smart & Green Highway, Delhi-Meerut expressway***

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday inaugurated the first phase of Delhi-Meerut expressway here.
- Stretching from Nizamuddin Bridge in Delhi to Delhi UP Border, the 14-lane highway will reduce the travel time between the two cities to only 45 minutes from the present about four to five hours.
- Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari was also present at the inauguration event.
- Soon after the inaugural ceremony, Prime Minister Modi held a roadshow in an open jeep on the expressway. People in big numbers gathered to get a glimpse of him during the roadshow.
- This project will provide faster and safer connectivity between Delhi and Meerut. People from the NCR, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand will particularly benefit from this project.
- Later in the day, the Prime Minister will also inaugurate the country's first smart and green highway, the Eastern Peripheral Expressway at Baghpat in Uttar Pradesh.
- The 135-km expressway is built at a cost of Rs. 11,000 crore.

### ***AIIMS gets green nod for developing Rs 2,163 crore super-speciality blocks in Delhi***

- All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) has received green nod for developing super-speciality blocks at Jai Prakash Narayan Apex Trauma Centre (JPNATC) in the national capital at a cost of Rs 2,163 crore.
- State-owned NBCC will be implementing the proposed project that will come up in an area of 60,500 square metre in the JPNATC campus-II at Safdarjung Enclave.
- The construction work is expected to be completed in four years.
- In a letter to NBCC, Union Environment Ministry said that it has given the environment clearance to the AIIMS' proposed project with certain riders.
- The clearance has been given after taking into account the recommendations of an internal expert committee.
- The land acquisition has been done for the proposed site. The cost of the project is estimated to be Rs 2,163 crore. As per the proposal, the project will comprise of constructing five blocks with 184 beds. Maximum height of the building will be 38 metre.

### ***Inter-State Council Standing Committee completes deliberations on Punchhi Commission report***

- The Standing Committee of the Inter-State Council (ISC) headed by the Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh on May 25, 2018 completed its deliberations on all the 273 recommendations of the Punchhi Commission.
- The announcement was made during the 13th meeting of the Standing Committee of the ISC.

- These recommendations will now be placed before the Inter-State Council for decision. With this, the work on Punchhi Commission Report, which had been pending for the last eight years, has been completed. Notably, the ISC meeting in 2016 was held after a gap of 10 years.
- The meeting deliberated the VI & VII volumes of the report that contained a total of 88 recommendations.
- The recommendations in Volume VI of the Punchhi Commission report are related to Environment, Natural Resources and Infrastructure and cover the subjects on (a) Environment; (b) Water; (c) Forests; (d) Minerals and (e) Infrastructure.

### ***Mumbai to install UAV surveillance, panic buttons to ensure women's safety***

- The Mumbai police are planning to use Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) for surveillance and install 'panic buttons' in order to enhance the safety of women in the city.
- The measures are part of Rs 252-crore Safe City Project, which will be implemented fully in three years. This would be the first time that UAVs would be used in the country for this purpose.
- After the shocking Nirbhaya gang-rape incident of 2012, the Union Home Ministry had invited proposals from police departments of big cities to provide more security to women.
- The Union Government had also allocated funds for such projects.
- The entire city will first be mapped using the Geographic Information System (GIS) and the spots where crimes against women have been reported frequently will be identified for installation of panic buttons.
- Upon pressing the panic button, an alert will be sent to the nearest police station, which can immediately rush its personnel to the spot.
- The city's police are also planning to provide QR Codes and Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags to public vehicles so that they can be tracked.
- The project would also involve the introduction of an automatic number plate identification system and facial recognition system.
- In addition to over 5,000 CCTV cameras already in place, another 1,500 cameras will be set up to widen the surveillance network in the city.

## **Sports**

### ***IPL 2018: Chennai Super Kings win 3rd IPL title***

- Shane Watson blasted his second hundred this season and finished with the highest ever score in an IPL final as Chennai Super Kings decimated Sunrisers Hyderabad by eight wickets to win the IPL for the third time.
- Watson finished with 117 not out off 57 balls and was involved in valuable partnerships with Suresh Raina (32) and Ambati Rayudu (16 not out). Watson's unbeaten 117 was the highest score in an IPL final.
- CSK are now only the second team besides Mumbai Indians to win the IPL thrice.
- The victory on Sunday also meant Harbhajan Singh and Rayudu became two of only three people to win the IPL as many as four times.

### ***Real Madrid Beats Liverpool to win Champions League 2018***

- Real Madrid defeated Liverpool to the UEFA Champions League Final 2018. The final was held in Kiev, Ukrain.
- Gareth Bale scored two goals for Real Madrid, while Benzema scored the opener. Sadio Mane scored from Liverpool's side.
- Liverpool's star player Mohammed Salah(Egypt) got injured in the final.
- This was Real Madrid's 13th Champion's League victory. Cristiano Ronaldo equalled the record of Paolo Maldini by winning 6 UEFA Champions League.

### ***China beat Japan to clinch 10th Thomas Cup win***

- China won their 10th Thomas Cup to regain their status as the best men's team in the world after a 3-1 win over Japan.
- But their win did not come easy.
- Two-time world champion Chen Long dropped the first singles when he lost to a determined Kento Momota 9-21, 18-21 at Impact Arena in Bangkok on Sunday.
- Kento was impressive throughout the match with his well-planned attacking shots and showed great mastery on the net too. There was nothing Chen Long could do to bring the world No. 12 down.
- But China was back in business when they levelled the score through their top pair Liu Cheng-Zhang Nan, who were in immaculate form as they defeated scratch pair Takuto Inoue-Yuki Kaneko 21-10, 21-18.

### ***Team Japan beat team Thailand 3-0 at BWF Uber Cup 2018 final***

- Thailand's fairytale run at the Uber Cup ended on Saturday when the women's badminton team lost the tournament final 3-0 to top-seeded Japan.
- The victory in the best-of-five contest was the first in the biennial tournament by Japan in 37 years.
- Thailand had gone into the final on a high after defeating defending champions China 3-2 on Friday evening, with Busanan Ongbamrungphan winning the deciding singles match for a second consecutive day. The final was Thailand's first in five appearances in the Uber Cup tournament.
- For the Chinese women, it was the first time since they began participating in the Uber Cup in 1984 that they had not appeared in a final.

## **Award**

### ***Singchung Bugun Village Community Reserve wins National Biodiversity Award***

- Arunachal Pradesh's Singchung Bugun Village Community Reserve, a non-governmental organisation, on May 24, 2018 won the National Biodiversity Award 2018 for conserving a bird species 'Bugun Liocichla', a rare wildlife resources found in the area.
- The Singchung Bugun Village Community Reserve was honoured with a citation, a memento and a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh at Hyderabad. Indi Glow and Sange Norbu Phiang, the leaders of the organisation, received the award.
- The Singchung Bugun Village Community Reserve partnered with the Forest Department in 2016 to protect and conserve the 17sq km area of the Reserve adjoining the Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary in West Kameng District of Arunachal Pradesh.

## **Obituaries**

### ***Astronaut Alan Bean, man who painted his footprints on moon, dies at 86***

- The fourth person to walk on the moon, Alan Bean, who was a lunar module pilot on Apollo 12 and commander of second crewed Skylab mission, died on Saturday, May 26, 2018.
- An official statement has been released by his family members and NASA official about his sudden demise at the age of 86.
- Bean is survived with his wife Leslie, 40, a sister Paula Stott, and two children from prior marriage, a daughter Amy Sue and son Clay.