

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule (May 2019)

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MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS (MAY 2019)

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Important Banking, Finance and Economy Current Affairs

PayPal India introduces 'OneTouch' to enhance user experience

- **PayPal India** has introduced '**OneTouch**' experience using **Google Smart Lock** for its users in India that will allow them to stay logged onto the digital payments platform in a secure manner.
- India is the first market where the feature will be integrated with Google Smart Lock, Paypal India

Talocity to enable AI-backed hiring in Yes Bank

- Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based HR solutions provider **Talocity** would provide **Yes Bank** its AI-supported "**touchless**" technology for the bank's hiring process and human resource (HR) operations.
- "Talocity, which provides 'touchless hiring' with unbiased HR outcomes to its clients, on-boarded Yes Bank as a client recently. Talocity's blend of automation enables Yes Bank to further enhance their hiring process and HR operations, to attain high quality talent," read a company statement.

ICICI Bank along with online travel booking portal Goibibo launched co-branded multi-currency card

- Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) Bank along with online travel booking portal Goibibo launched co-branded multi-currency card- **Goibibo ICICI Bank Travel Card**.
- Customers can use one card for multiple currencies and enjoy discounts on flights and hotel bookings.

Debit card PoS swipes rise 27% as per RBI data

- Indians are increasingly using their debit cards to pay merchants directly. As per data from the Reserve Bank of India, debit card swipes on **Point of Sales (PoS)** terminals jumped more than 27% in March 2019 compared to corresponding period last year. In contrast, **ATM withdrawals** grew at a slower pace of 15%.
- In absolute terms, debit card swipes for March stood at 407 million almost half of ATM withdrawals at **891 million**. At a lower base, debit card payments for merchant transactions have gone up more than 250% between March 2019 and 2016.

RBI directs banks to enhance housing loan limits for eligibility under priority sector lending

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has directed banks to enhance the housing loan limits for eligibility under **priority sector lending (PSL)** to **Rs 35 lakh** in metropolitan centres (with population of ten lakh and above) and Rs 25 lakh in other centres.
- In order to bring the RRBs and SFBs at a level playing field with other Scheduled Commercial Banks, it has now been decided to **enhance the housing loan limits** for eligibility under PSL.

RBI asks NBFCs with over Rs 5,000 cr assets to appoint chief risk officer

- With crisis engulfing the non-banking financial company (NBFC) sector, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) asked finance companies with asset size more than Rs 5,000 crore to **appoint a chief risk officer (CRO)**, who will function 'independently to ensure the highest standards of risk management'.

RBI publicized draft circular on "liquidity risk management for NBFCs"

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- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced the “**Liquidity Risk Management Framework for Non-Banking Financial Companies and Core Investment Companies**” for public comments by June 14, 2019.
- The eligible entities for this draft framework are all deposit-taking NBFCs; non-deposit taking non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) with an asset size of over **Rs 100 crore** and all core investment companies (CICs) registered with RBI.

The 15th Finance Commission Held A 2-Day Meeting With RBI And Banks & Financial Institutions And Renowned Economists

- The **15th Finance Commission** will have meetings with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), banks and financial institutions in Mumbai.
- The Commission headed by Chairman **N K Singh** will include all members and senior officials.

Bank credit to infra sector grows 18.5% in FY19: RBI data

- Bank credit to infrastructure sector grew by **18.5 per cent to Rs 10.55 lakh crore** as of 2018-19, the highest since 2012-13 fiscal, RBI data showed.
- Outstanding bank credit to the sector was Rs 8.91 lakh crore as at March 2018.

Nandan Nilekani-led panel on digital payments submits report to RBI

- A Reserve Bank-appointed committee headed by Aadhaar architect **Nandan Nilekani** submitted its suggestions **on promoting digital payments** to Governor Shaktikanta Das.
- In January, the Reserve Bank of India had set up the **five-member panel** on deepening digital payments with a view to **encouraging digitisation** of payments and enhance financial inclusion through digitisation.

RBI formed two separate 6 member panels to strengthen the sale of stressed corporate assets and housing loan portfolios

- Reserve Bank of India(RBI) has formed **two separate 6 member panels** to strengthen the sale of stressed corporate assets and housing loan portfolios.
- The six-member task force on the development of the secondary market is headed by its chairperson, **T. N. Manoharan**, Chairman of Canara Bank and will submit its report by the end of August 2019.
- Panel for housing loan securitization is headed by Bains and Co. advisor, Harsh Vardhan.

RBI Central Board meets at Chennai: Board decides to create a specialised supervisory and regulatory cadre within the RBI

- The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Central Board met today in Chennai under the Chairmanship of Shaktikanta Das, Governor, Reserve Bank of India. This was **the 576th meeting of the Central Board**.
- The Board reviewed the current economic situation, global and domestic challenges and various areas of operations of the Reserve Bank.
- Among other important matters, the Board discussed the Medium Term Strategy document, covering, inter-alia, the Mission Statement and the Vision Statement.

RBI has published ‘Payment and Settlement Systems in India: Vision 2019 – 2021’ to promote innovation, cyber-security, financial inclusion

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- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released its statement on ‘**Payment and Settlement Systems in India: Vision 2019–2021**’, which outlined the measures that the central bank will undertake to foster innovation, cybersecurity, financial inclusion, customer protection, and competition.
- The Payment Systems Vision 2021 envisages achieving a ‘**highly digital**’ and ‘**cash-lite**’ society through the goalposts of competition, cost-effectiveness, convenience, and confidence,

Banks can use Aadhaar for KYC with customer's consent, says RBI

- Banks can use **Aadhaar for KYC verification** with the customer's consent, the Reserve Bank said as it updated its list of documents eligible for identification of individuals.
- The RBI specifies Know Your Customer (KYC) norms to be followed by banks and other entities regulated by it for various customer services, including opening of bank accounts.

RBI tweaks norms on VRR investment by FPIs

- The Reserve Bank of India fixed the investment limit at **Rs 54,606.55 crore** for foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) under the voluntary retention route (VRR), which allows to park funds in both government securities as well as corporate debt.
- VRR for investments by FPIs was introduced on March 1. Limits for investment in debt by FPIs were offered for allotment ‘**on tap**’ during the March 11-April 30 period.

RBI extends timing for fund transfer through RTGS till 6 pm from Jun 1: RBI

- Timings for fund transfer through **RTGS have been extended by one-and-a-half hours to 1800 hrs** for the general public from June 1.
- Under Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) System, there is a continuous and real-time settlement of fund-transfers, individually on a transaction by transaction basis (without netting).
- The RTGS system is primarily meant for large **value transactions**. The minimum amount to be remitted through RTGS is **Rs 2 lakh** with no upper or maximum ceiling.
- It has been decided to extend the timings for customer transactions (initial cut-off) in RTGS from 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm. The extended window for RTGS will be applicable from June 1.

Paytm collaborated with Citibank to launch its 1st credit card called ‘Paytm First Card’

- The digital payments company **Paytm has collaborated with Citibank** and launched its 1st credit card called ‘**Paytm First Card**’.
- This is the first card of its kind launched in India by the American card company, which has similar exclusive partnerships across sectors in the US.

SBI's new rules on saving accounts and short-term loans effective from May 1

- India's largest bank State Bank of India (SBI) has moved to a **new interest rate** regime on large savings account deposits with balance **above Rs 1 lakh** as well as short-term loans like overdraft and cash credit.
- In March 2019, SBI has announced that it will link its interest rate on large savings account deposits and short term loans to RBI's repo rate which would be effective from May 1, 2019.

LIC HFL launches UDYAM-a skilling centre for marginalized youth in Bangalore

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- With an objective to empower youths of this country, LIC Housing Finance Ltd (LIC HFL) has launched 'UDYAM', a skilling centre in Bangalore for marginalized youth. It has been launched in association with Lok Bharti Education Society, the implementing partner.
- Commenting on UDYAM, Managing Director & CEO of LIC Housing Finance Ltd, Vinay Sah said "It is an important part of our Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) whereby along with our implementing partner we will skill the youth to be enterprising for livelihood."
- Under UDYAM, Centres of Excellence (COE) has been started in Delhi and Bangalore and later on be expanded to other cities."

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) today launched the Action Plan for Healthy Oceans and Sustainable Blue Economies for the Asia and Pacific region.

- ADB President Takehiko Nakao said at the launching programme of the action plan on the sidelines of the 52nd Annual Meeting of ADB's Board of Governors in Fiji.
- "The prosperity of our region depends on healthy oceans and sustainable development," Takehiko Nakao said.
- The action plan will support the efforts of ADB's developing member countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 14 Life Below Water.
- Financing and technical assistance will be expanded for ocean health and marine economy projects to \$5 billion from 2019 to 2024, including co-financing from partners.

YES Bank slips to 10th position in league table for most-valued banks

- Private sector lender YES Bank has slipped to the 10th position in the league table for most-valued banks. At the start of the year, the bank was ranked 7th.
- State-owned lenders Punjab National Bank (PNB), and Bank of Baroda (BoB) have managed to overtake YES Bank, which shares tanked nearly 30 per cent on April 30 after posting an unexpected loss for the March quarter.

SBI Card raised Rs. 700 crore from banks and financial institutions to grow above industry average

- SBI Card raised **Rs. 700 crore** from various financial institutions including its parent SBI (State Bank of India) in the 2nd half of FY19 (Financial Year) to grow above the industry average.
- SBI Cards and Payment Services Pvt. Ltd (SBI Card) raised Rs. 100 crore from ICICI Securities Primary Dealership Ltd, Rs. 250 crore from State Bank of India and Rs. 50 crore each from Canara Bank and Axis Bank by issuing NCDs (Non Convertible Debentures) at 9.15% coupon.
- SBI Card also raised additional Rs. 250 crore from Axis Bank through a coupon of 9.55%.

Max Life Insurance to mark 6th of every month as Protection Day

- **Max Life Insurance Co Ltd** ("Max Life"/"Company"), one of industry's foremost life insurance companies, today announced that it will dedicate 6th day of every calendar month as 'Protection Day' towards driving awareness around the concept of financial protection.

Banks close FY19 with 13.24% credit growth, deposits up 10.03%

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- Banks closed fiscal 2019 with robust disbursements that rose in double-digits for the second year in row, after the sub-5 per cent in FY17, which was the lowest in five decades.
- According to the Reserve Bank data released Thursday, bank credit rose **13.24** per cent to **Rs 97.67 lakh crore** for the fortnight to March 29, while deposits grew by **10.03** per cent to **Rs 125.72 lakh crore** during the same period.

Nabventures launches maiden fund to back agri, food and rural start-ups

- **Nabventures**, a subsidiary of NABARD, Monday announced its maiden fund to back agriculture, food and rural start-ups.
- The fund -- NABVENTURES Fund I -- with a proposed corpus of **Rs 500 crore** has a greenshoe option of **Rs 200 crore** and has received an anchor commitment from NABARD, Nabventures said in a release.

HDFC ERGO launches cover for vector borne diseases

- HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company, India's third-largest non-life insurance provider in the private sector, today announced the launch of '**Mosquito Disease Protection Policy**'.
- This new policy will cover an individual against common mosquito-borne diseases like Dengue Fever, Malaria, Chikungunya, Japanese Encephalitis, Kala-azar, Lymphatic Filariasis and Zika Virus.

Airtel ties with HDFC Life, offers insurance with prepaid plan

- Telecom operator **Airtel** on Monday said it has partnered with **HDFC Life Insurance** to introduce a prepaid scheme with in-built life insurance term plan cover.
- The new plan will come with Rs 4 lakh life cover from HDFC Life, Airtel said in a statement.
- Airtel's new Rs 249 prepaid bundle will come with Rs 4 lakh life cover from HDFC Life along with 2GB data, unlimited calls to any network and 100 SMS/day," the statement said.

HDFC ties up with IMGC for mortgage guarantee-backed home loan

- **HDFC** Wednesday said it has partnered with **India Mortgage Guarantee Corporation (IMGC)** for a mortgage guarantee-backed home loan.
- Mortgage guarantee is a financial product which compensates lending institutions for losses that may arise if a home owner defaults on a mortgage loan.
- The risk of the home loan gets transferred from the bank/FIs to the mortgage guarantee company.

RBI slaps ₹1-cr fine on Nainital Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of **₹1 crore** on **Nainital Bank** for its failure to fully automate the non-performing asset (NPA) identification process, despite specific directions issued in this regard.
- This penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers vested in the RBI under the provisions of the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**, taking into account the failure of the bank to adhere to the aforesaid direction issued by the RBI.

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- This action is based on the deficiencies in regulatory compliance, and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the bank with its customers,” the central bank said in a statement.

SIDBI's pilot scheme for fintech NBFCs to boost digital lending

- To give a fillip to digital lending, Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has put together a pilot scheme to extend financial assistance of up to **₹10 crore** to new-age fintech non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) engaged in financing small businesses and other income-generating activities.

HDFC Ergo and IBM to jointly setup data lab in India

- To develop an automated real-time email-communication solution for customer queries and reduce turn-around time on redressal.
- General insurance company HDFC Ergo and technology major IBM have jointly set up a lab in India to run deep analytics on customer data and subsequently develop customised solutions to improve business efficiency and profitability.

IBC process helps recover Rs 70,000-crore bad loans in FY19: CRISIL

- Not only is the recovery rate of the 94 cases resolved so far under the insolvency and bankruptcy code (IBC) higher than the recoveries made through other mechanisms, the recovery rate is twice the liquidation value of the all the 94 cases resolved, said a report by credit rating agency CRISIL.
- The recovery rate for the 94 cases resolved through IBC by 2018-19 (FY19) is 43 per cent, compared with 26.5 per cent through earlier mechanisms. Moreover, **Rs 70,000 crore** has been recovered in FY19, which is almost twice the figure recovered through the debt recovery tribunal, Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securities Interest Act, and Lok Adalat in 2017-18.

Bajaj Finserv offers insurance cover to local train passengers

- **Bajaj Finserv** Friday said it has launched a specialised insurance cover for passengers travelling in local trains in country's financial capital Mumbai.
- The travellers will get an insurance cover of **Rs 1 lakh** against a payment of **Rs 399 per annum**, an official statement said.
- The 'Mumbai Local Train Cover' insurance policy was introduced through lending arm Bajaj Finance, and will provide coverage in case of mishap during a train journey, it said.

HDFC Capital Advisors launches HeART initiative

- **HDFC Capital Advisors Ltd**, a wholly owned subsidiary of HDFC, has announced the launch of its new initiative termed '**HeART**' that seek to promote technologies to make affordable housing more affordable.
- The HDFC Affordable Real Estate and Technology (HeART) programme seeks to mentor, partner and invest in real estate technology companies that drive innovation and efficiencies within the affordable housing ecosystem, the company said in a statement

Tripura Gramin Bank tops in business among regional rural banks

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- **The Tripura Gramin Bank (TGB)**, which has posted a net profit of **Rs 56.89 crore** in last fiscal (2016-17), topped in business among the 56 regional rural banks (RRBs) in the country, the bank's chairman said here on Thursday.
- Supervised by United Bank of India (UBI), the TGB, one of India's 56 RRBs, has declared profit for the fifth consecutive year, and the bank's current business volume rose to Rs 7,370 crore.
- The TGB's per branch business has gone up to Rs 51.18 crore in the last fiscal against Rs 46.43 crore in the previous period. Per employee business has also gone up to Rs 9.76 crore in 2016-17 against Rs 8.67 crore in the previous period," TGB chairman Upendra Sabar told reporters.

Ola launches Ola Money SBI Credit Card

- In a move to enrich the customer experience of millions of the homegrown ride hailing platform's users, **Ola** has partnered the state-run **SBI cards** to launch **Ola Money SBI Credit Card** for the country's first such co-branding initiative in the segment.
- The card, which is powered by Visa, will be without any joining fees and provide seamless, flexible and convenient payments to the car hailing platform's customers.
- Ola is targeting 10 million Ola Money-SBI Credit Cards to be issued by 2022.

World Bank and CBA joined hands for World's first Blockchain Bond Transaction

- The World Bank and the Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CommBank) have teamed up to enable recording of secondary market bond trading using **blockchain tech**.
- The institutions announced Wednesday that their successful recording of a secondary transaction for **bond-i**, a blockchain-operated debt instrument, on a distributed ledger shows the "vast potential" of the technology, and marks the first bond to have both issuance and trading recorded on a blockchain platform.

Sebi allows mutual funds to invest in exchange traded commodity derivatives

- Mutual funds can now invest in exchange traded commodity derivatives, except those on sensitive commodities, according to SEBI.
- To boost participation of mutual funds in the commodities market, the watchdog has allowed them to invest in Exchange Traded Commodity Derivatives (ETCDs) with certain restrictions.
- In a circular, the regulator said that no mutual fund schemes can invest in physical goods except in 'gold' through Gold Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs).

Karnataka Bank launches savings bank product for salaried class

- Private sector lender **Karnataka Bank** launched a new savings bank product called "**KBL SB Salary**" for salaried class with three variants of Executive, Prime and Classic.
- "All these 3 variants of our KBL SB Salary Scheme are available for the Salaried People with a host of Digitally Powered features and without any Minimum Balance Criteria

SBI ties up with FMCG arm of The Art of Living

- **The State Bank of India (SBI)** has announced a strategic partnership with the FMCG arm of The Art of Living — **Sri Sri Tattva**.

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- Under this partnership, **YONO** users can avail a discount of 15 per cent on the entire range of products offered by Sri Sri Tattva such as food, personal care, healthcare, homecare, BYOGI apparels and Shankara skincare products.

Sebi proposes framework for 'regulatory sandbox' for financial institutions

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) on Tuesday proposed a framework for '**regulatory sandbox**'. The term is used to define live testing of new products and services on a small set of customers for a limited period of time.
- Typically, the regulatory provisions are relaxed during the testing period. The proposal on regulatory sandbox comes days after the market regulator issued a framework for '**innovation sandbox**', which allows fintech firms not regulated by Sebi to test their products and offerings.

ADB to provide USD 750 mn loan to India for railway track electrification project

- Multilateral funding agency Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed an agreement to provide **USD 750 million** equivalent in Indian rupee long-term financing to electrify railway tracks in India.
- It is the largest single non-sovereign loan ever committed by ADB to Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) to fund the railways track electrification project, ADB said in a release.

Corporation Bank launches 'Corp SME Suvidha' for MSMEs

- **Corporation Bank** recently launched '**Corp SME Suvidha**', a unique product for GST registered MSMEs at its corporate office in Mangaluru. It was launched by PV Bharathi, Managing Director and CEO of Corporation Bank, in the presence of Gopal Murli Bhagat, Executive Director and General Manager, according to a press release.
- According to the bank, the product offers a competitive interest rate structure in the industry and also has various concessions beneficial for a developing entrepreneur. The product is said to have been designed as a part of the bank's efforts to improve the services offered to MSMEs.

Standard Chartered partners with IBM to launch Trade AI Engine

- Standard Chartered in partnership with IBM has launched **the Trade AI Engine** which will automate the high-risk process of trade documentation.
- It will enhance client experience through increased operational efficiency and strengthened operational control.
- This newly launched Trade AI Engine will replace the Traditional documentary trade consisting of millions of data elements in paper-based that are reviewed through a largely manual process.

Srei Equipment Finance ties up with Oriental Bank of Commerce

- **Srei Equipment Finance**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Srei Infrastructure Finance, Monday said it has tied-up with **Oriental Bank of Commerce** to offer loans for purchase of equipment under a co-lending arrangement.
- Under the arrangement, financing of construction, mining and allied equipment, medical equipment, commercial vehicles and farm equipment will be covered.

Indian Overseas Bank bets big on 'bank on wheels'

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- Chennai-based public-sector lender Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) has launched ‘**bank on wheels**’ in 14 districts spread across **Tamil Nadu, Kerala** and **the Vijayawada** region of Andhra Pradesh.
- The facility will enable the public, especially senior citizens, to conveniently get doorstep banking facility available at identified locations of the bank’s lead districts.
- The van will be accompanied by banking correspondent with a micro ATM inside to take care of services such as account opening, enrollment of customers in Social Security Scheme, passbook printing, and other financial inclusion activities.

HMSI partners with IDFC FIRST Bank to offer financing solutions

- Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India (HMSI)** has partnered with **IDFC FIRST Bank** to provide financing solutions across the country.
- The two partner have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) under which facilities like loans up to 100 per cent of vehicle cost, zero processing fee, down payment of **Rs 999** and extended loan tenure of 48 months, among others will be offered to the two-wheeler maker's customers, HMSI said in a statement.

Facebook plans cryptocurrency 'GlobalCoin' launch next year

- Facebook** plans to launch its **cryptocurrency** by the first quarter of next year
- The currency, which is being referred to internally as “**GlobalCoin**,” will reportedly be available in around a dozen countries at launch, where it’s expected to offer people affordable and secure payments without the need for a bank account.

The world's first rideshare submarine by Uber

- Uber** has partnered with Australian tourist group Tourism Queensland to offer what it calls the world's first rideshare submarine, **scUber** that promises to give you a memorable tour of the underwaters.
- As explained on the official website, scUber will offer riders the opportunity to explore the Great Barrier Reef in the shared vehicle. Each scUber ride is priced at USD 3,000 for two passengers.

Infosys completes acquisition of 75% in ABN AMRO Bank subsidiary Stater

- IT services major **Infosys** has completed the acquisition of **75 per cent** shareholding in ABN AMRO Bank's wholly-owned **Stater NV**.
- The country's second largest IT services firm had said it will acquire 75 per cent stake in Stater for 127.5 million euros (about Rs 989 crore). ABN AMRO continues to hold the remaining 25 per cent.
- "This partnership strengthens Infosys' position as a leading technology and business process management provider across the mortgage services value chain, improving experience and operational efficiencies..." Infosys said in a statement Friday.

HDFC group most valuable domestic biz house, overtakes Tatas in m-cap

- Financial services conglomerate **HDFC group** has become the most valuable business house in the country, surpassing Tatas, with the cumulative market valuation of its five listed companies surging **Rs 10.40 trillion**.

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- While HDFC group has five listed firms - HDFC Ltd, HDFC Bank, HDFC Standard Life Insurance Company, Gruh Finance Ltd and HDFC Asset Management Company- Tatas have nearly 30 listed companies on the bourses.
- HDFC Bank with a market capitalisation of Rs 5.72 trillion is the country's third most valuable firm after TCS (Rs 7.16 trillion) and RIL (Rs 7.09 trillion).

Doordarshan souvenir store available on Amazon

- As part of its efforts to re-establish **Doordarshan** as "the channel of India" and to help viewers savour the nostalgia of its famous shows and serials, the national broadcaster on Monday launched its souvenir store on an e-commerce portal **Amazon India**.
- "Doordarshan has always been the 'home' for Indian television viewers. With modest beginnings in Delhi on September 15, 1959, Doordarshan continues to be the channel for and of the citizens of India," an official release said.

Standard Life plans to sell 1.78% stake in HDFC Life Insurance

- **Standard Life**, the joint-venture partner in HDFC Life Insurance, plans to sell 1.78 per cent stake (36 million shares) in the life insurance firm, at a floor price of Rs 390 via an offer for sale (OFS). The stake sale could fetch the JV partner Rs 1,400 crore on full subscription.

Co-location: NSE moves Securities Appellate Tribunal against Sebi rulings

- The **National Stock Exchange** moved the Securities Appellate Tribunal challenging Sebi's rulings against it in the co-location case, according to an official.
- A total of three petitions have been filed against the rulings of the market regulator, which had also directed the bourse to disgorge profits worth over Rs 1,000 crore.
- The capital markets regulator has further ordered the exchange to disgorge around Rs. 1,000 crore that is, Rs. 624.89 crore plus 12% interest from April 1, 2014 for its alleged failure to exercise proper due diligence while offering collocation facility thereby affecting market fairness and integrity.

Bharti AXA General to sell two-wheeler policies via WhatsApp

- **Bharti AXA General Insurance** will sell policies through social media messaging platform **WhatsApp** and has tied up with web aggregator Wishfin Insurance for speedy delivery of **two-wheeler cover**.
- Bharti AXA General Insurance, a joint venture between Bharti Enterprises and global insurance firm AXA, will sell the policies on the website of Wishfin's insurance arm Wishpolicy.

Paytm launches recurring payments service for merchants

- In order to take care of the requirement of the businesses, **Paytm** Payment Gateway offers the Software Development Kits (SDKs), Developer APIs and secure checkout solutions Paytm has launched recurring payment (auto pay) service for merchants that are working on a digital subscription model. The move will allow the subscription-based businesses to collect payments from their subscribers effortlessly.
- The auto pay service is targeted at people who use Paytm for bill payments, content subscription, grocery purchases, membership fees, housing society payments etc. The service is being offered as an additional mode of payment other than credit/debit cards, internet banking and other Paytm proprietary instruments.

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PNB Housing to raise \$1 bn from foreign mkts in one or more tranches

- **PNB Housing Finance** will raise up to **USD 1 billion** (around Rs 6,954 crore) from foreign markets, and additional Rs 10,000 crore by issuing bonds.
- The board meeting scheduled for May 9 will consider approval of "fund raising by way of external commercial borrowings up to USD 1 billion in one or more tranches", PNB Housing Finance said in a regulatory filing.
- The board will also consider the issuance of secured and unsecured non-convertible debentures aggregating up to Rs 10,000 crore in tranches.

BSNL launches 'Bharat Fibre' broadband service in Pulwama

- State-owned telecom firm **BSNL** has become the first operator to start optical fibre-based high-speed broadband service in Pulwama with launch of '**Bharat Fibre**'.
- "This is the first such FTTH (fibre-to-the-home) service deployment in the (Kashmir) Valley under this unique revenue share model. Since the Bharat Fibre services are provided on the optical fibre right up to the customer premises, reliable and high-speed internet services are delivered to the customers," BSNL Director (Consumer Fixed Access) Vivek Banzal said in a statement.

Huawei overtakes Apple, becomes 2nd biggest smartphone maker in the world

- **Huawei Technologies Co.** overtook **Apple Inc.** to claim the **No. 2** spot in smartphones in the first quarter, moving a step closer to its avowed ambition of displacing Samsung at the top of the market.
- The networking giant, shrugging off a barrage of accusations that it aids Chinese espionage (which it's repeatedly denied), grew shipments 50 percent from a year earlier, research firm IDC estimates. It was the only name in the top 4 that managed to expand volumes as the overall market slid for the sixth consecutive quarter.

BSNL partners with Google to expand WiFi footprint

- On the occasion of World Telecom Day, state-run telecom major **BSNL** has partnered with **Google** to increase access to its **WiFi footprint** in the country.
- With the launch of this service, people across the country will be able to enjoy BSNL's free WiFi services. This initiative will allow customers use BSNL's high speed internet services on WiFi.

FSSAI allows small organic growers to sell produce without certification till 2020

- Food safety regulator **FSSAI** has permitted small organic producers, having an annual turnover of over **Rs 12 lakh**, to sell their produce directly to end consumers without certification till April 2020, but will not be able to use '**Jaivik Bharat logo**' on their products, a latest report says.

National artificial intelligence unit stuck for lack of anchor department

- It was reported that the **NITI Aayog** had circulated a Cabinet note, asking for Rs 7,500 crore for three years to set up an AI framework. Last year, four panels set up by MeitY evaluated the use of AI for citizens, such as setting up a data platform, skilling and reskilling, research and development, and examining the challenges involving legal, regulatory, ethical and cybersecurity aspects.

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- According to the proposal, the funding would be used to set up five institutes or centres of research excellence (CORE), 20 international centres for transformational AI (ICTAI), along with AIRAWAT, a cloud computing platform that can be accessed by anyone. It is estimated that AI will add \$957 billion to India's GDP by 2035, boosting India's annual growth by 1.3 percentage points.

Facebook chooses London as base for WhatsApp payments: Report

- Facebook will launch **WhatsApp Pay** from London before it rolls out digital payments in India.
- WhatsApp, which has 1.5 billion users globally, will hire nearly 100 people in London to focus on the digital payments service and additional operations staff would be hired in Dublin.

Reliance Industries buys British toy retailer Hamleys for about Rs 620 cr

- Mukesh Ambani-led **Reliance Industries** (RIL) will acquire British toy retailer **Hamleys** for a cash consideration of £67.96 million (about Rs 620 crore).
- It is currently owned by Chinese fashion conglomerate C Banner International, which had acquired it for 100 million pounds in 2015. Hamleys started with a single-store shop, Noah's Ark, in 1760. It now has 167 stores across 18 countries. Besides the UK, it has stores in China, Germany, Russia, India, South Africa and West Asia.

NHB gives nod to DHFL to divest stake in Aadhar Housing Finance

- Dewan Housing Finance (DHFL), has received approval from the National Housing Bank to sell its entire stake of **9.15%** in Aadhar Housing Finance to Blackstone's arm.

Mastercard to invest \$1 billion in India over five years

- Mastercard** announced a **\$1 billion** investment in India over the next five years aimed at converting India into a vital node in the company's infrastructure, and also to continue business expansion.
- About \$350 million of the total amount would be invested in setting up a local payments processing center as per the Reserve Bank of India's mandate to store all payments data locally.

Important National Current Affairs:

C'garh cops deploy first ever anti-Naxal women's commando unit:

- The Chhattisgarh police for the first time has inducted women commandos in the District Reserve Guard, its frontline anti-Naxal force.
- Comprising 30 women led by Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Dineshwari Nand, officials said they have received extensive training in jungle combat.
- "A first-of-its-kind platoon of women DRG commandos has been raised. Of the 30 recruits, 10 are surrendered women Naxals, while 10 others are assistant constables who were part of the erstwhile Salwa Judum (anti-Naxal militia) movement," Dantewada Superintendent of Police Abhishek Pallava told PTI.

MP's Orchha makes it to tentative list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites":

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- The architectural heritage of Orchha town in Madhya Pradesh which depict peculiar style of the Bundela dynasty have been included in UNESCO's tentative list of world heritage sites following a proposal sent by the ASI to the UN body.
- Orchha is situated on the banks of the Betwa river. It is located around 80 km away from Tikamgarh district in Madhya Pradesh and 15 km from Jhansi of Uttar Pradesh. Orchha was built by king Rudra Pratap Singh of Bundela dynasty in the 16th century.
- The ancient town is famous for its Chaturbhuj Temple, Orchha fort complex, Raja Mahal among others.

Mumbai most vulnerable to cyberattacks, Delhi, B'luru next:

- Mumbai topped the 15-city list of the most vulnerable cities to cyberattacks in 2019, followed by Delhi, Bengaluru and Kolkata, Quick Heal Security Labs revealed.
- The 'Annual Threat Report 2019' put Maharashtra, Delhi and West Bengal as the top three states at most risk.
- The report compiled data from several cyberattacks that took place in 2018 on Windows and Android.

Cabinet approves creation of Directorate of Dairy Development:

- The Meghalaya Cabinet Monday approved the proposal for creation of a new Directorate of Dairy Development in the state to increase milk production.
- Home Minister James K Sangma said the state government had launched the Meghalaya Milk Mission and Rs 215 crore has been sanctioned.

Rajasthan govt's iStart enrolls 300 startups in one month:

- The Rajasthan government's flagship initiative iStart -- aimed at creating jobs and facilitating innovation -- witnessed registration of 300 startups in just one month.
- iStart portal is intended to foster innovation, create jobs and facilitate investment.

Tree Ambulance launched in Chennai:

- A unique 'Tree Ambulance' service - an initiative to provide care to trees besides spread green cover, was launched by Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu.
- The service launched for the first time in the state, aims at providing first aid treatment to trees, uprooted tree planting, seed bank, seed ball distribution, plant distribution, aiding tree plantation, shifting trees, survey of trees and removal of dead trees.
- The ambulance can be availed through the helpline number - 9941006786. People can register themselves as volunteers in their website- www.treeambulance.org.
- Expressing delight over flagging off the 'Tree Ambulance' on the occasion of International Day for Biological Diversity 2019.

NMCG, HCL Foundation and INTACH inked MoU for Rudraksh Plantation in Uttarakhand:

- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between National Mission for Clean Ganga, HCL Foundation and INTACH for taking up a project of Plantation of Rudraksh Trees in Uttarakhand as a part of CSR initiative under the NamamiGange Programme.
- The project aims at planting 10 thousand Rudraksh trees in the catchment area of river Ganga in Uttarakhand.

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Chennai to get its first unmanned substation:

- The Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (TANGEDCO) has identified a substation to be upgraded into an unmanned substation — the first of its kind in the city.
- The 33 kilo volt (KV)/11 KV substation, located right at the heart of the central business district of Anna Salai, near the Express Mall on Woods Road, has been chosen for the upgrade. It was constructed only a year ago.
- Once the substation becomes unmanned, there will not be any need for posting maintenance staff and it can be operated remotely.

‘Chardham Yatra’ begins in Uttarakhand's Garhwal:

- Amid chanting of Vedic hymns and other religious rituals, the portals of Gangotri and Yamunotri temples were thrown open for pilgrims on Tuesday, heralding beginning of the 'Chardham Yatra', the six-month-long pilgrimage to four prominent Hindu shrines in the Garhwal Himalayas of Uttarakhand.
- Earlier in the morning, palanquins carrying idols of goddesses Gangotri and Yamunotri reached their respective temples in Uttarkashi district on the auspicious occasion of 'Akshay Tritiya' and were installed in the sanctum sanctorum amid hymns by the chief priests.
- During the winter, the idol of Gangotri is kept at Mukhba temple and that of Yamunotri in Kharsali temple.

Navy Service Selection Board inaugurated in Kolkata:

- Navy chief Admiral Sunil Lanba Tuesday inaugurated the Navy's first full-fledged Service Selection Board (SSB) at the Diamond Harbour near Kolkata.
- Vice Admiral Karambir Singh, the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command, has attended the inauguration.
- This is the fifth SSB of the Indian Navy and caters for selection of both permanent and short service commission officers. The other boards are located in Bhopal, Bengaluru, Visakhapatnam and Coimbatore.

India removed from US currency monitoring list, China stays:

- The US Treasury Department has removed India from its currency monitoring list of major trading partners.
- US Congress on International Economic and Exchange Rate Policies, the department removed India and Switzerland from the previous currency watch list of countries with potentially questionable foreign exchange policies.
- India, along with China, Japan, Germany, Switzerland and South Korea, was placed in the bi-annual currency watch list in October last year.
- Now nine major trading partners continue to be placed on Treasury's 'Monitoring List' of major trading partners that merit close attention to their currency practices.

Electric vehicles to get green number plates:

- The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has announced a green registration mark for all battery operated vehicles, where private vehicles will bear white fonts on a green background on the number plate and commercial vehicles will have a yellow font on a green background.

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

Anti-dumping duty imposed on saccharin imports from Indonesia:

- The Finance Ministry has, on the recommendations of the Commerce Ministry, imposed an anti-dumping duty of \$1,633.17 per tonne on the import of saccharine from Indonesia. Saccharine is a compound most commonly used in sugar-substitute sweeteners.
- Indonesia, until recently, accounted for a large chunk of India's saccharine imports.
- In 2017-18, India imported \$4.36million worth of saccharine from Indonesia, which is 43% of the total imports of the sugar-substitute compound.
- However, imports from Indonesia have declined since then. In the April 2018 to February 2019 period, India imported only \$1.48 million worth of saccharine from Indonesia, about 20% of its total imports from around the world.

Kerala CM rings opening bell at London Stock Exchange as KIIFB lists masala bonds:

- Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan rang the opening bell at the London Stock Exchange (LSE) to mark the listing of masala bonds sold by Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB).
- KIIFB, a state government agency, had raised Rs 2,150 crore through its debut masala bond issue at a fixed interest rate of 9.723% per annum. KIIFB plans to raise Rs. 5,000 crore through masala bonds to fund large and critical infrastructure projects in Kerala.
- Indian Rupee denominated overseas bonds are popularly known as masala bonds.

Important States Current Affairs:

Justice Abhay Shreeniwas Oka sworn in as Chief Justice of Karnataka HC

- Justice Abhay Shreeniwas Oka was sworn-in as the new Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court.
- Karnataka Governor Vajubhai R Vala administered the oath of office to Justice Oka at a ceremony held at the Raj Bhavan.

Justice Ramachandra Menon sworn in as Chief Justice of C'garh

- Justice PR Ramachandra Menon was Monday sworn in as Chief Justice of the Chhattisgarh High Court.
- Governor Anandiben Patel administered him the oath of office and secrecy at a function here at Raj Bhawan.
- He was earlier a judge in the Kerala High Court.

Raj Guv administers oath to new Chief Justice of HC

- Justice S Ravindra Bhat was Sunday sworn in as the new Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court. He was administered the oath by Rajasthan Governor Kalyan Singh at the Raj Bhawan

Mangaluru police gets all-women patrol unit:

- Mangaluru City Police has launched an all-women police patrol unit in the city.

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- Flagging off the 'Rani Abbakka Force' in Mangaluru on Tuesday, Sandeep Patil, Commissioner of Police, said the Karnataka police is giving utmost importance to the protection of women and children.

Sri Sri Ravi Shankar conferred with award:

- The Art of Living founder Sri Sri Ravi Shankar was Sunday conferred with the 'Order of St George' Award at St George Orthodox Church in Kottayam district of Kerala.
- Former Chief Minister of state Oommen Chandy, who inaugurated the function, said the country was blessed to have the presence of a person like Sri Sri Ravi Shankar.

Gujarat: shops, businesses can remain open 24X7 now

- Shops and other businesses in Gujarat can remain open round the clock now with the Gujarat Shops and Establishments (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 2019 coming into force from May 1.
- With this, commercial establishments in municipal corporations limits, or those near national highways, railway stations, state transport depots, hospitals and petrol pumps will be allowed to operate 24 hours.
- The shops and commercial entities operating near state highways and within municipality limits can now operate between 6 am to 2 am.

School bags can weigh only 10% of child's weight, no homework for students of classes I, II: Karnataka government:

- The circular, issued by the department of primary and secondary education, issued clear guidelines on the upper limits that school bags can weigh. As per the circular, bags of students of Class I and II can only weigh around 1.5kg to 2kg while those of Class III, IV and V can weigh 2kg to 3kg.
- Students from Class VI-VIII can have their bags weighing only up to 3kg-4kg and those of Class IX and X can weigh up to 5kg.

NIOS, NHMPH ink MoU in Mumbai:

- The National Institute of Open Schooling Ministry of Human Resources Development and National Health Mission of Public Health Department of Government of Maharashtra signed a Memorandum of Understanding in Mumbai.
- It added that the aim is to impart uniform structured and quality training to Multipurpose Health Workers Class III Male Health Workers and Community Health Workers followed by their assessment evaluation and certification.

Brahmakalashotsava Festival 2019:

- The Brahmakalashotsava festival 2019 has started in Karnataka. This is a 6-day festival celebrated annually in the ancient Chandkuru Sri Durga Parameshwari Temple situated in Polali, Dakshina Kannada district in Karnataka.

54-year-old Celebrity Elephant Ramachandran Opens Thrissur Pooram Festival in Kerala:

- The opening of the popular Thrissur Pooram festival in Kerala was attended by around 10,000 people along with 54-year-old tusker, Kerala's tallest elephant 'Thechikottukavu Ramachandran' after it has cleared the

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fitness test. Earlier, a ban had been imposed on the elephant after it killed two people during an event in Guruvayur, Kerala.

Blessed with beauty, India's organic state 'Sikkim' celebrates its statehood day:

- Sikkim celebrated its 43rd statehood day with great fanfare on May 16.
- It was on this day in 1975 that Sikkim had officially become a state under the Union of India and Kazi Lhendup Dorjee became its first chief minister.
- A grand function was held at the Samman Bhawan auditorium in the capital town where Chief Minister Pawan Kumar Chamling highlighted the achievements of his government.
- Sikkim has witnessed massive development and progress over the last two decades under his government, said Chamling, who has broken the record of former West Bengal Jyoti Basu as the longest serving chief minister by being in office for nearly 24 years.

Kerala Assembly to digitise all records, to save Rs 35 crore annually:

- The Kerala Legislative Assembly recently announced an initiative to digitize all its records and proceedings under its ambitious project called E-VidhE-Vidhan which enables state legislature to go fully digital and completely paperless.
- Soon, the state Legislative Assembly will go completely paperless with the state government undertaking an initiative to digitise all records.
- This is expected to save around `35 crore to `49 crore annually and time as the state has been spending around `40 crore for taking tonnes of paper printouts.
- The first phase of the project is expected to be completed in 14 months.

Meghalaya govt approves setting up of Farmers' Commission:

- The Meghalaya government Thursday approved setting up of a commission to look into the problem faced by farmers.
- State cabinet approved the proposal made by the Agriculture Department to set up the Farmers' Commission in line with the resolution passed at the 'farmers' parliament'.

Harda district of Madhya Pradesh becomes the first where women handle entire work of counting votes:

- In Harda district of Madhya Pradesh, women will handle the entire work of counting votes. This first of its kind initiative was taken for the empowerment of women. Presently, 84 women are being trained for counting in at Polytechnic College.

Rajasthan set to revamp 'Ujala Clinics' for adolescents:

- Rajasthan Government is set to revamp 'Ujala Clinics' for adolescents. It will appoint peer educators and shadow educators for counseling the youngsters in order to ensure coordination with other medical and health schemes.
- Ujjala Clinics function under Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram(RKSK) in 10 districts of the state. They are established at district hospitals, community health centers and selected primary health centers in Udaipur, Rajsamand, Banswara, Dungarpur, Jaisalmer, Barmer, Jalore, Bundi, Karauli and Dholpur districts.

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- The adolescent health strategy is aimed at reducing malnutrition and anemia. It will improve the knowledge and behaviour of the adolescents with regards to sexual and reproductive health.
- Ujala Clinic is the new name of Adolescent Friendly Health Clinic (AFHC).

Mumbai Metro tie-up with Instamojo for card payments:

- Reliance Infrastructure promoted Mumbai Metro announced a tie-up with payment gateway 'Instamojo' to enable card payments aimed at boosting cashless travel.
- 'Instamojo' is the technology partner facilitating this cashless initiative where there is no need for point-of-sale (POS) terminal, or installing any payment apps on the commuter's smartphone, making it an Electronic Point of Sale, said an official spokesperson for Mumbai Metro One Pvt. Ltd. (MMOPL).

In a first, Maharashtra proposes single-window registration of land titles:

- The Maharashtra government is working on a system of registration of land titles to ensure single-point availability of the entire gamut of information.
- For this purpose, it proposes to introduce the Maharashtra Land Titling Act, which sources say will be a single-window mechanism for authenticating land titles.
- The state had released a draft land titling act last year for public debate and has now decided to go ahead with it. Maharashtra's move is seen as a pilot for a national rollout of online land title records with the government.
- Maharashtra is planning to implement the system in Mumbai for starters.

Maharashtra Gov signs ordinance to bring medical admissions under SEBC quota:

- Maharashtra Governor C Vidyasagar Rao on Monday signed an ordinance to provide quota under Socially and Economically Backward Class (SEBC) Reservation Act, 2018 to candidates seeking admission to post-graduate medical and dental courses.
- The ordinance will give reservation to students in admissions to educational courses including under-graduate courses requiring the passing of the NEET or any other National Entrance Test.

Telangana IT/ITES exports grow 17% at Rs 1.09 lakh Cr in FY19:

- Telangana registered about 17 per cent growth in IT and IT Enabled Services (ITES) exports to over Rs 1.09 lakh crore in the last fiscal.
- In 2017-18, IT/ITES exports stood at Rs 93,442 crore and added over 68,000 IT professionals in the state. In 2018-19, the figure touched Rs 1,09,219 crore, an official release said.

MeitY, Nasscom to jointly set up Internet of Things facility in city:

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) will set up a Centre of Excellence in Internet of Things in Visakhapatnam in association with Nasscom.
- Industries would be encouraged for use of chat-bots, robots, power plants, data analytics and automation in the domains of automobiles, mineral-based plants, health, and finance (loan distribution).

Telangana to set up country's first 'Blockchain District' in Hyderabad:

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- Telangana has released a draft blockchain policy to set up country's first 'Blockchain District' in Hyderabad. It is aimed to create an ecosystem for major blockchain companies, start-ups for promoting research, innovation and industry collaboration.
- Telangana Government had signed an agreement with Tech Mahindra to set up the Blockchain district in 2018.

Meghalaya govt push for medicinal plant cultivation:

- Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma on Monday launched a new project to boost the cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants.
- Sangma also inaugurated a processing unit of essential oils here on this occasion.
- The Rs 18-crore 'Aroma Mission' will ensure that agriculture and allied sectors get due importance and the farmers their benefits.

Cabinet approves cloud seeding programme:

- The Karnataka cabinet Monday approved a cloud seeding programme, to be implemented in June, following reports that there would be deficit rainfall in the state.
- Rural Development Minister Krishna Byre Gowda told reporters here that his department has called a tender for two years for cloud seeding at a cost of Rs 88 crore.
- The cabinet approved the proposal for Rs 93 crore, as the bidder quoted Rs 91 crore, he said, adding the amount also includes Rs two crore lump sum grant for the department.

Statehood day of Goa observed on May 30:

- 32nd Statehood day of Goa was celebrated on May 30. On May 30, 1987, Goa became the 25th state of the Indian Union. Earlier it was a union territory with Daman and Diu from 19 December 1961 to 30 May 1987.
- On this occasion, the Chief Minister of Goa Pramod Sawant announced the launch of 'Green Goa, Clean Goa' initiative under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan to treat the garbage waste at its source.
- Goa was liberated from Portuguese rule on December 1961.

J-K approves state healthcare investment policy to boost medical infrastructure:

- The Jammu and Kashmir State Administrative Council (SAC) Friday approved the 'State Health Care Investment Policy-2019' aimed at promoting private parties and entrepreneurs to set up healthcare infrastructure in the state.
- The policy is expected to improve accessibility of quality healthcare services to the people, promote establishment of hospital, medical and allied educational infrastructure and establish the state as a destination of choice for private healthcare service providers, besides promoting medical tourism.

Justice AK Mittal sworn in as Chief Justice of Meghalaya High Court:

- Justice A K Mittal was sworn in as the Chief Justice of the Meghalaya High Court.
- Governor Tathagata Roy administered the oath of office to Justice Mittal at the Raj Bhavan here in the presence of Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma, his cabinet colleagues and senior government officers.

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Important International Current Affairs:

India elected to Executive Board of first UN-Habitat Assembly:

- India has been elected to the Executive Board of the first UN-Habitat Assembly, announced Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. India has been elected to the Executive Board of the first UN-Habitat Assembly at the Plenary Session of the Assembly started in Nairobi, Kenya.
- The special theme for the UN-Habitat Assembly is "Innovation for Better Quality of Life in Cities and Communities."

Nepal celebrates its 12th Republic Day:

- 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.
- President Bhandari and Prime Minister Oli have greeted the people of Nepal on the occasion of Republic Day.
- Prime Minister K.P.Sharma Oli in his message said, Democratic Republic is not only a political system but also a process of entire social transformation.
- He said food, housing, clothing, education, health facilities and security are the key points of development.

Working women more vulnerable to automation than men, says IMF Report:

- Women are at a higher risk of losing jobs to automation than their male counterparts as businesses worldwide move towards a technology-driven approach, said a recent research by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- According to the report, based on a staff discussion note (SDN) by the IMF, an estimated 26 million female jobs spanning across 30 countries (including 28 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development countries, and Cyprus and Singapore) are at the risk of being displaced by technology, especially automation, over the next two decades.

Sri Lanka signs port deal with India, Japan to develop container terminal:

- Sri Lanka on Tuesday signed a deal with India and Japan to develop a deep-sea container terminal in the country that has seen increasing forays by China which has taken a strategic port on a 99-year lease that has worried New Delhi.
- The three countries will jointly build the East Container Terminal at the Port of Colombo.
- Sri Lanka's Port Authority (SLPA) said that around 70 per cent of Colombo Port's transshipment business is India related while Japan had cooperated since the 1980s to develop the port's container terminals.

Donald Trump becomes the first world leader to meet Japan's new emperor:

- President Donald Trump got the red carpet treatment Monday at Japan's Imperial Palace where he made history, becoming the first world leader to meet with the new emperor of Japan.
- Emperor Naruhito ascended to the throne on May 1, opening what is called the era of "Reiwa," or "beautiful harmony."

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- The president and first lady Melania Trump kicked off the formal visit with handshakes and greetings with Naruhito and Empress Masako.

Algeria and Argentina certified malaria-free by WHO:

- Algeria and Argentina have been officially recognized by WHO as malaria-free. The certification is granted when a country proves that it has interrupted indigenous transmission of the disease for at least 3 consecutive years.
- Contracted through the bite of an infected mosquito, malaria remains one of the world's leading killers, with an estimated 219 million cases and over 400 000 malaria-related deaths in 2017. Approximately 60% of fatalities are among children aged under 5 years.
- Algeria is the second country in the WHO African Region to be officially recognized as malaria-free, after Mauritius, which was certified in 1973.
- Argentina is the second country in the WHO Region of the Americas to be certified in 45 years, after Paraguay in June 2018.
- Algeria and Argentina reported their last cases of indigenous malaria in 2013 and 2010 respectively.

UAE unveils 'golden card' permanent residency scheme for expats:

- The UAE has launched a permanent residency scheme for expatriates dubbed the 'Golden Card, the country's Vice President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai. He said about 6,800 will benefit from the scheme under the first round of applications.
- They launched a new "Golden Card" system to grant permanent residency to investors and exceptional doctors, engineers, scientists and artists.

TAPI gas meeting being held in Turkmenistan:

- A delegation led by Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Petroleum, Nadeem Babar departed for Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, to participate in the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline meeting.
- The TAPI gas pipeline project is expected to be completed by 2022 in Pakistan. Once completed; Pakistan is expected to receive 1.320 billion cubic meters (bcm) of natural gas. Groundbreaking of the TAPI gas pipeline will be held in October.

Taiwan becomes first in Asia to legalise same-sex marriage:

- Taiwan has legalised same-sex marriage, the first of any Asian state, with the passage of legislation giving same-sex couples the right to marry.
- Taiwan's constitutional court had imposed deadline two years ago, which said that excluding same-sex couples from marriage was unconstitutional and the legislature must pass laws allowing same-sex marriage.

Malaysia Set to Open World's First Crypto Powered City:

- Malaysia is set to become the site of the world's first crypto city, where cash will be shunned in favor of a new cryptocurrency called DMI.

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- DMI is a company that provides mobile enterprise, business intelligence and cybersecurity services and it has collaborated with the Melaka Straits City on this project. Visitors will be able to exchange normal money for DMI coins when they arrive in the city.

UK Becomes First Parliament to Declare Climate Emergency

- The UK Parliament has passed a declaration for Environment and Climate Emergency on May. Hence the Parliament of the UK has become the first parliament, or the UK has become the first country to pass a declaration on climate emergency.
- This was a lot of pressure from the opposition Labour leaders for “rapid and dramatic action” to protect the environment for generations to come. The fight for this Climate Emergency was led by a group called Extinction Rebellion.

MAS complete cross-border payments in blockchain with Canada central bank:

- A SUCCESSFUL experiment by the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) and the Bank of Canada using central bank digital currencies and Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT) could bring great potential to make cross-border and cross-currency payments cheaper, faster and safer.
- This is the first such trial between the two central banks.
- The existing process is often slow, complicated and expensive, and relies on a correspondent banking network that is subject to counterparty risk, inefficient liquidity management and cumbersome reconciliation.

Canada's redesigned \$10 bill recognized as best international banknote of the year:

- Canada's redesigned \$10 bill has earned the Bank of Canada a Bank Note of the Year Award from the International Bank Note Society (IBNS).
- The competition came from Mexico's 500-peso note, Russia's 100-ruble note, Norway's 500-krone note and China's 50-yuan note, among many others.

Microsoft unveils software for secure, verifiable voting:

- In a bid to help countries ensure secure and verifiable voting, Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella has announced "ElectionGuard" -- a free open-source software development kit (SDK).
- "ElectionGuard" will enable end-to-end verification of elections, open results to third-party organisations for secure validation, and allow individual voters to confirm their votes were correctly counted, announced Nadella during the keynote at Microsoft Build developer conference.
- 'ElectionGuard' will make voting secure, more accessible, and more efficient anywhere it's used in the US or in democratic nations around the world.

Qantas operates world's first 'zero waste' commercial flight:

- The world's first 'zero waste' commercial flight took to the skies on Wednesday as part of a new initiative from the Australian airline Qantas to cut single-use plastics that end up in landfill.
- Flying from Sydney to Adelaide, the airline stated that all products and packaging aboard QF739 will either be reused, recycled or disposed of as compost.

Australia central bank prints 184 million A\$50 notes with spelling mistake:

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- The Reserve Bank of Australia confirmed a printing error on the new 50 dollar note after a radio station posted a photo on social media sent in by a listener. An Instagram post by radio station Triple M revealed the typo mistake on the note just above the shoulder of Edith Cowan
- The note came into circulation on Oct. 18, 2018 with new security features designed to deter counterfeiting and with tactile elements for the visually impaired. Cowan was the first Australian woman to serve as a member of parliament from 1921 to 1924.
- She has featured on the reverse of Australia's 50-dollar note since 1995

Ireland Becomes Second Country After Britain to Declare Climate Emergency:

- Ireland has become the second country in the world to declare a climate and biodiversity emergency.
- Ireland followed in the footsteps of the United Kingdom, which declared a climate emergency earlier this month
- The governments of Wales and Scotland have also declared climate emergencies.

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.
- It is aimed at attracting long-term investments as the government tries to diversify the economy and boost domestic spending.

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) - as it continues to develop the revolutionary mode of travel.
- The ALFA-X version of the Shinkansen train began three years' worth of test runs on Friday, the CNN reported.
- Once it enters operation sometime around 2030, it will run at speeds of up to 360 kph (224 mph), comfortably making it the world's fastest bullet train.
- It will also outpace China's Fuxing train, which runs at 10 kph slower despite being designed with the same top speed capabilities as the ALFA-X.

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Important Summits and Conference:

Name of summits and conference	Held in
16th Ministerial Meeting of Asia Cooperation Dialogue	Doha, Qatar
G7's Environment Ministers	Metz, France
9 th IBSA Trilateral Ministerial Meeting	Cochin
15 th finance Commission meeting RBI	Mumbai
2-Day meeting of the Regional Heads of Customs Administration of Asia Pacific Region of the World Customs Organisation	Kochi
WTO Ministerial meeting of developing countries	New Delhi
United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)	Lisbon, Portugal
11 th Joint Consular Committee Meeting between India and Iran	New Delhi
The third round of Foreign Office Consultations between India and Botswana	New Delhi
Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)	Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic
Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline meeting	Ashgabat, Turkmenistan
17 th Investiture Ceremony of Border Security Force, BSF	New Delhi
Urban 20 Mayors Summit	Tokyo
Fifth Smart Cities India Expo	New Delhi
Taiwan Expo 2019	New Delhi
The first global science exhibition	Mumbai
2020 ocean conference	Lisbon, Portugal
Conference on Dialogue of Asian Civilizations	Beijing, China
2019 Meetings of the COPs to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions	Geneva, Switzerland.

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Important Ranks and Indexes:

Report released by	India's rank	Top position
World's best airports by Global air passengers right expert Airhelp	Hyderabad Rajiv Gandhi International airport- 8 th	Hamad International Airport, Qatar
KidsRight Index	117 th	Iceland
Most competitive economy in the world	43 rd	Singapore

Highest Graphite reserve in the country:

- 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.

Reliance Industries overtakes Indian Oil to become largest company by revenue:

- Richest Indian Mukesh Ambani's oil-to-telecom conglomerate Reliance Industries has toppled state-owned Indian Oil Corp (IOC) to become the country's biggest company by revenue.
- Reliance 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, according to regulatory filings by the two companies.
- It was also the most profitable company in the country with a net profit of more than double that of IOC in FY2019

India was 4th biggest military spender last year:

- India was the world's fourth biggest military spender last year behind the United States, China, and Saudi Arabia, according to new data think tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) released.
- India was the fifth largest military spender in 2017. According to the SIPRI data, China was the second-largest military spender last year. Beijing increased its military expenditure by 5% to \$250 billion in 2018. It accounted for 14% of global military

TCS overtakes RIL to become most valued company:

- Software services major Tata Consultancy Services reclaimed the status of the country's most valued firm by market valuation, surpassing Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL). RIL's market valuation dropped to Rs. 7,95,628.55 crore on the BSE.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule (May 2019)

- The market capitalisation (m-cap) of TCS stood at Rs. 8,13,779.67 crore, which is Rs. 18,151.12 crore more than that of RIL's valuation.

The usage of Debit cards have increased to 15%:

- According to the RBI data, the total number of financial transactions done by people using their debit cards increased by 15%. Also, the financial transactions done by the debit cards at POS terminals increased by 27% compared to March 2018.

Important Agreements and MOUs Current Affairs:

IAF, ISRO join hands for Ganganyaan astronaut selection, training:

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) said it signed an agreement with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Tuesday for crew selection and training for Ganganyaan, the country's maiden manned mission.
- Under the programme, aimed to be launched by 2021, a three-member crew will spend a minimum of seven days in space. A human-rated GSLV Mk-III will be used to carry the orbital module, which will have necessary provisions for sustaining a three-member crew for the duration of the mission.

MoU for Joint Collaboration on Cancer Research:

- Department of Biotechnology (DBT), M/o Science and Technology and the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), Government of India today signed an MOU for supporting joint collaborative research programmes in the area of Cancer.
- MOU shall help strengthen the various initiatives specifically for cancer viz. Strategizing and prioritizing cancer research, development of new and affordable technologies, jointly design and fund clinical trials, coordinate and collaborate for translational research, interventions, training of manpower and infrastructure development.
- The clinicians shall work in coherence with Researchers to identify and develop collaborative research programmes and public health initiatives for awareness of the public at large.
- Various activities like joint clinical fellowships, intensive workshops on clinical research methodologies and protocol development shall work towards creating a community of trained manpower and provide a platform to utilize their acquired skills in the best possible manner.

NSIC signs MOU 2019-20 with Ministry of MSME:

- The National Small Industries Corporation Limited (NSIC) signs the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) for the year 2019-20.
- The NSIC MoU 2019-20 with Ministry of MSME, Government of India envisages provision of enhanced services by NSIC under its Marketing, Financial, Technology and Other support services schemes, for MSMEs in the country.
- The Corporation projects to increase 'Revenue from Operation' by 22 per cent from Rs 2540 crore in the year 2018-19 to 3100 crore in the year 2019-20.

Tech Mahindra signs Rs 300 crore defence contracts:

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule (May 2019)

- Tech Mahindra, a leading provider of digital transformation, consulting and business re-engineering services and solutions, on Tuesday, announced its biggest defence order worth Rs 300 crores to enable digital transformation for the 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.

ICICI Bank joins hands with travel portal Goibibo to launch multi-currency card:

- ICICI Bank, on Monday, announced the launch of a co-branded multi-currency card with online travel booking portal Goibibo.
- Customers can instantly transfer money from one currency to another through ICICI Bank's internet portal and reload currency into the card anytime, anywhere, using the bank's mobile and internet banking platform.
- The card also includes benefits of up to ₹20,000, including gift vouchers of ₹15,000 from Goibibo. Additionally, customers get 40 paise discount on currency conversion rate on loading of a minimum of \$1,000.

HDFC Ergo and IBM to jointly setup data lab in India:

- General insurance company HDFC Ergo and technology major IBM have jointly set up a lab in India to run deep analytics on customer data and subsequently develop customised solutions to improve business efficiency and profitability.
- The 'IBM Garage' with a team of 25 experts, including data scientists, technology architects and design engineers from IBM and experts from HDFC Ergo, are working on various test cases aimed at improving customer experience.

DCIL inks MoU with WAPCOS to identify suitable future projects:

- The Dredging Corporation of India Limited has inked an MoU with WAPCOS Limited to jointly identify suitable future projects and carry out geotechnical investigation and engineering consultancy in fields like Water Resources, Power and Infrastructure Port and Harbour dredging.
- The other areas include shallow water dredging, beach nourishment, lake rehabilitation, flood management, erosion control, river morphology and other related sectors.

SBI ties up with FMCG arm of The Art of Living:

- The State Bank of India (SBI) has announced a strategic partnership with the FMCG arm of The Art of Living — Sri Sri Tattva.
- Under this partnership, YONO users can avail a discount of 15 per cent on the entire range of products offered by Sri Sri Tattva such as food, personal care, healthcare, homecare, BYOGI apparels and Shankara skincare products.

BHEL signs MoU with ARAI for e-mobility projects:

- Bharat Heavy Electricals and Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI), an autonomous body affiliated to the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises have signed an MoU for cooperation on various projects related to e-mobility.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule (May 2019)

- BHEL's unique strength as technology developer and implementer and ARAI's advanced facilities and expertise in design, testing and certification of mobility products, will generate synergies in implementing solutions for Electric & Trolley Bus, EV Chargers, Battery & Charger testing, etc.

CBDT and GSTN sign pact to nab evaders, reduce black money generation:

- To nab tax evaders and reduce black money generation, the income tax department and Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) signed an agreement to facilitate exchange of data between the two.
- The I-T department will share key financial information, including status of I-T return filings, turnover of business, gross total income, and turnover ratio among others with GSTN, the information technology backbone of the two-year-old indirect tax regime.

e-Governance Services India ties up with IIT-Kanpur to upscale Unnat Bharat Abhiyan:

- Common Service Centre's (CSC) e-Governance Services India Limited, a special purpose vehicle under the Ministry of Electronics & IT, on Friday said it has tied up with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Kanpur to upscale 'Unnat Bharat Abhiyan'.
- 'Unnat Bharat Abhiyan' is an initiative of the Ministry of HRD. It aims to find solutions to accelerate sustainable growth in rural India.
- Under the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, IIT-Kanpur has brought together 15 leading higher education institutions from Uttar Pradesh.
- These institutions have agreed to work with CSC for the development of villages under the scheme.

Government and IIT-Delhi to set up a Centre of Excellence for Waste to Wealth Technologies:

- To commemorate 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on 2 October 2019, the Office of Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to Government of India and Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT Delhi) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in a move to come together and to bring best of science and technology to implement waste management by setting up a Centre of Excellence for Waste to Wealth Technologies in India.

Vodafone Idea signs multi-million dollar IT deal with IBM:

- India's largest telecom operator Vodafone Idea Ltd Friday announced a five-year multi-million-dollar IT outsourcing deal with tech giant IBM.
- The collaboration will provide Vodafone Idea with a hybrid cloud based digital platform to enable more intimate engagement with its over 387 million subscribers (as of December 31, 2018), enhancing business efficiency, agility and scale plus simplification of its business processes.

India, Turkey hold foreign office consultations:

- Turkey's Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Sedat Onal, who is on a three-day visit to India, met Gitesh A Sarma, Secretary (West) in the Ministry, and held cordial discussions on various aspects of bilateral ties including examining opportunities for enhancing trade and investment relations.
- Bilateral trade at present stands at around \$8.6 billion with a target of \$10 billion by 2020.

Singapore-based cloud-services provider Deskera partners with IIT Kanpur:

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule (May 2019)

- Singapore-headquartered Deskera, a cloud-services provider, partnered with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur to provide small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) of south-east Asia and India access to research opportunities.
- According to the partnership deal, around 100,000 SMEs associated with Deskera will be able to benefit from modern facilities offered by IIT Kanpur for industries such as manufacturing, aviation, logistics, and supply chain.

TAFE, Petroleum Conservation Research Association sign MoU:

- Tractor-manufacturer Tractors and Farm Equipment (TAFE) Ltd Wednesday said it has signed a memorandum of understanding with Petroleum Conservation Research Association to aid conservation of resources.
- Under the MoU, the association plans to jointly conduct agricultural workshops by involving TAFE's dealership network.

Hughes, Airtel to combine India VSAT biz:

- Telecom operator Bharti Airtel and Hughes Communications India Ltd (HCIL) Tuesday announced they will combine their VSAT (Very Small Aperture Terminal) satellite operations in the country.
- The combined entity will benefit from enhanced scale, improved operational efficiencies and wider market reach. The combined entity will be well positioned to leverage the demand for secure connectivity in a rapidly growing digital economy.
- VSAT is used to provide satellite based telecom and internet access to individuals and enterprise users.

WHO Partnered with IFBA for eliminating industrially produced trans fats by 2023:

- Trans fat, also called the worst form of fat in food, responsible for over 5,00,000 deaths globally from coronary heart disease each year, could be eliminated from the industrially produced global food supply by 2023.
- The WHO has welcomed its partnership with the International Food and Beverage Alliance (IFBA) to achieve this target. Eliminating industrially produced trans-fat is one of the simplest and most effective ways to save lives and create a healthier food supply

Ola launches credit card in partnership with SBI

- The ride-hailing company unveiled Ola Money SBI Credit Card in partnership with SBI Cards, one of the largest credit card issuers in the country. The card is powered by payments technology company Visa.
- The SoftBank-backed cab aggregator is targeting 10-million Ola Money SBI Credit Cards to be issued by 2022.

Airtel ties with HDFC Life, offers insurance with prepaid plan:

- Telecom operator Airtel on Monday said it has partnered with HDFC Life Insurance to introduce a prepaid scheme with in-built life insurance term plan cover.
- The new plan will come with Rs 4 lakh life cover from HDFC Life, Airtel said in a statement.

SRFI-HCL tie-up for improving Indian squash:

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule (May 2019)

- The Squash Rackets Federation of India (SRFI) on Wednesday announced a tie-up with HCL with an aim to improve the health of the sport in the country.
- Through 'HCL Squash Podium Programme', multiple tournaments will be organised at both the senior and junior level besides clinics for the existing coaches.

Konkan Railways signs contract agreement with Nepal to supply two 1600 HP DEMU train sets:

- Konkan Railways Corporation Ltd has signed a contract agreement with Nepal's Department of Railways to supply two 1600 HP DEMU train sets. These trains will be used to operationalise railway link between Jayanagar in India and Kurtha in Nepal.
- The train sets will be manufactured by the Integrated Coach Factory, Chennai. The 34 kms Jayanagar- Kurtha Railway Link has been built by IRCON with Government of India financial grant under India-Nepal Development Partnership programme.
- The agreement was signed in Kathmandu in the presence of Indian Ambassador Manjeev Puri and Nepal's Secretary, Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport Madhusudan Adhikari.

HDFC partners with IMGIC to provide mortgage-guarantee-backed home loan:

- Housing finance major HDFC Limited has partnered with India Mortgage Guarantee Corporation (IMGIC) to offer a mortgage-guaranteed home loan product.
- The partnership aims to make it possible for HDFC to further penetrate home loan market and access an enlarged customer base, helping them to own a home of their choice.

Tech Mahindra partners with French digital content solutions firm Rakuten Aquafadas:

- IT services firm Tech Mahindra and French digital content publishing firm Rakuten Aquafadas on Thursday signed an MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) to collaborate on building enhanced customer experience offerings.
- Rakuten Aquafadas and Tech Mahindra aim to build a Customer Experience Offering leveraging the suite of software that Rakuten Aquafadas provides for digital publishing.

Paytm launches cash-back driven credit card with Citi Bank:

- In a bid to target new credit customers and expand its monthly active user base, digital wallet major, Paytm, has launched a credit card in partnership with global payments company Citi Bank.
- Called Paytm First Card, this is the first card of its kind launched in India by the American card company, which has similar exclusive partnerships across sectors in the US.

MOSPI decides to merge NSSO, CSO into NSO in a major restructuring move:

- The Statistics and Programme Implementation has decided to merge the Central Statistics Office (CSO) and the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) into National Statistical Office (NSO) in a major restructuring move.
- The ministry in an order issued on May 23 regarding the restructuring of the ministry (MOSPI), stated, "In order to streamline and strengthen the present nodal function of MOSPI with respect to Indian official statistics system and bring in more synergy by integrating its administrative functions within the ministry."

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule (May 2019)

Important Appointments Current Affairs:

Person Name	Appointed as	Organisation/Country
Dilip Kumar	OSD	Lokpal
Kumar Sangakkara	President	Marylebone Cricket Club
Jayshree Vyas	Director	BSE
Bhushan Patil	President	Alibaba
Sanjay Ubale	Policy director of India	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Virat Kohli, Anushka Sharma	Brand ambassadors	Myntra
Dragan Mihailovic	Men's national team coach	Indian volleyball
Subh Chand	Next Ambassador	Eritrea
Tijjani Mohammad Bande	President	United Nations General Assembly
Ajoy Mehta	New chief secretary	Maharashtra
Dinesh Pangtey	CEO	LIC Mutual Fund
Salman Khan	Brand ambassadors	BharatPe
R Gandhi	Additional director	YES bank
AK Dhingra	Special Operations Division commandos	Indian Navy,Air,Army (tri-service)
Sanjiv Puri	Chairman	ITC
Nitin Chugh	MD&CEO	Ujjivan Small Finance Bank
Jeffrey Rosen	Deputy attorney general	USA
Joko Widodo	President	Indonesia

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule (May 2019)

Volodymyr Zelenskiy	President	Ukraine
Shailesh Tinaikar	Force Commander	UNMISS
Mohamed Nasheed	President	Maldives
Suresh Kumar	CTO&CDO	Walmart
VK Jain	Judicial member	National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC)
Karambir Singh	Navy chief	India
K. Kadiresan	South Zonal Manager	LIC
Balvinder Singh Nakai	Chairman	IFFCO
Sujatha V Kumar	Visa's Head of Marketing	India and S.Asia
Igor Stimac	Football team coach	India
Jagan Mohan Reddy	CM	Andhra Pradesh
Naveen Patnaik	CM	Odisha
Akshay Kumar	Brand ambassador	TAFE
Prem Singh Golay	CM	Sikkim
DN Patel	Chief Justice	Delhi High Court
Pema Khandu	CM	Arunachal Pradesh
Stevo Pendarovski	President	North Macedonia
Laurentino "Nito" Cortizo	President	Republic of Panama
Rakesh Sharma	Vice-President	IMMA
KS Radhakrishnan	Member	Commonwealth Secretariat Arbitral Tribunal

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule (May 2019)

Praveen Pardeshi	Commissioner	Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation(BMC)
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Important Sports Current Affairs:

India retain top-spot in ICC Test rankings

- India have retained the International Cricket Council (ICC) Test Championship Mace as they secured the number one spot on the ICC Test Team Rankings while New Zealand have ensured second place
- India secured 116 points and under the captaincy of world number one Test batsman, Virat Kohli, obtaining the top position was never really a doubt. While New Zealand's consistent performance over the past year helped them climb from the third position and are just eight points behind India.

Amul to be principal sponsor of Afghanistan cricket team at ICC World Cup

- Dairy major Amul will be the principal sponsor of the Afghanistan cricket team for the upcoming ICC World Cup hosted by England.
- Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF), which markets dairy products under Amul brand, exports around ₹200 crore worth of products annually to the neighbouring country.

Mumbai Indians beat Chennai Super Kings by one run to win record 4th IPL title

- Mumbai Indians became IPL champions for the fourth time after defeating Chennai Super Kings by one run in a thrilling final.
- The 12th edition of Indian Premier League (IPL) was played from March 23 to May 12, 2019. Total 8 teams have participated in the event. The event last for 48 days and total 60 matches played in the whole tournament.
- Mumbai Indians won the 4th IPL title after defeating Chennai Super Kings by 1 run at Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium, Hyderabad.
- The 12th edition of Indian Premier League (IPL) was played from March 23 to May 12, 2019. A total of 8 teams had participated in the event. The event lasted for 48 days and a total of 60 matches played in the whole tournament.
- Orange Cap : David Warner from Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) won the orange cap by scoring 692 runs in 12 matches. He got Rs 10 lakh cheque as prize money.
- Purple Cap : Imran Tahir from Chennai Super Kings (CSK) have won purple cap by taking 26 wickets in the tournament. He also got Rs 10 lakh cheque as prize money.
- Most Valuable Player : Andre Russell from Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) won the most valuable player award. He got Rs 10 lakh cheque as prize money which was collected by Shubham Gill on this behalf.
- Perfect Catch of the Season: Kieron Pollard from Mumbai Indians won the perfect catch of the match award. He had taken catch of Suresh Raina (CSK). He also got Rs 10 lakh cheque as prize money.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule (May 2019)

- Super Striker of the Season: Andre Russell from Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) won the Super Striker of the Season award. He scored 510 runs with 52 sixes at strike rate of 204.81. He got Rs 10 lakh cheque as prize money and a car.
- Stylish Player of the Season: KL Rahul from Kings XI Punjab (KXIP) won the stylish player of the season award. He scored 593 runs in 14 matches. He got Rs 10 lakh cheque as prize money.
- Emerging Player of the Season: A 19-year old Shubham Gill from Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) won emerging player of the season award. He got Rs 10 lakh cheque as prize money.
- Game Changer of the Season Award: Rahul Chahar from Mumbai Indians won the game changer of the season award. He had taken 13 wickets in 13 matches at an economy of 6.55. He also got Rs 10 lakh cheque as prize money
- Player of the Match in the Finals: Jasprit Bumrah from Mumbai Indian won the player of the match in the final against Chennai Super Kings (CSK). He bowled 4 overs with an economy rate of 3.50 and take 2 wickets. He got Rs 5 lakh cheque as prize money.
- Fairplay: Sunrisers Hyderabad has won the Fairplay award 2019. VVS Laxman had collected the trophy.
- Fastest Fifty of the Season: Hardik Pandey from Mumbai Indians has scored the fastest fifty of IPL 2019. He hammered the fifty in 17 balls against the Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR). He got Rs 10 lakh cheque as prize money.

Rank	Team	Prize Money
1	Mumbai Indians	Rs. 20 crore
2	Chennai Super Kings	Rs. 12.5 crore
3	Delhi Capitals	Rs. 8.75 crore
4	Sunrisers Hyderabad	Rs. 8.75 crore

Saray Khumalo Hailed As Strong Woman after Conquering Mount Everest

- Saray Khumalo is being hailed as a strong woman as the country celebrates her successful climb to the top of Mount Everest. Khumalo made history as she became the first African black woman to summit Mount Everest in her fourth attempt.

India's GS Lakshmi becomes first female ICC match referee

- India's GS Lakshmi becomes first woman to be appointed to ICC International Panel of Match Referees. The International Cricket Council (ICC) appointed India's GS Lakshmi as the first female to the ICC International Panel of Match Referees
- The 51-year-old's appointment comes close on the heels of Claire Polosak becoming the first ever woman umpire to stand in a men's ODI. Lakshmi first officiated in domestic women's cricket in 2008-09, and as overseen three women's ODI matches and three women's T20I matches.

Kohli Bags CEAT International Batsman & Cricketer of the Year Award

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule (May 2019)

- India captain Virat Kohli bagged the International Cricketer and Batsman of the Year award during the CEAT Cricket Rating (CCR) International Awards 2019. Jasprit Bumrah was adjudged as International Bowler of the Year.
- CEAT awarded Afghanistan leg-spinner Rashid Khan for outstanding bowling and Australian batsman Aaron Finch for his exceptional performance in T20.
- Young prodigy Yashasvi Jaiswal, who performed exceptionally over the year was awarded Junior Cricketer of the Year while Kuldeep Yadav took home outstanding performance of the year award. Ashutosh Aman was awarded Domestic Cricketer of the Year. The legendary Mohinder Amarnath was bestowed with the 'CCR International Lifetime Achievement Award'.

ICC World Cup 2019: 'Stand by' – ICC releases official song for showpiece event in UK

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has released the official song for the upcoming World Cup 2019 which is scheduled to take place in England and Wales between May 30 and July 14.
- "Stand By" - a collaboration between new artist LORYN and one of the UK's most successful and influential acts, Rudimental – will be played in ground and city events across the tournament as the official song to this summer's showpiece event.

Mahesh Mangaonkar wins Sekisui Open title

- India's Mahesh Mangaonkar defeated Spain's Bernat Jaume, in the final to clinch the Sekisui Open title for the second time in his career in Kriens, Switzerland.
- This was Mahesh's eighth PSA title. He had won the corresponding title for the first time in 2016.

Helo becomes team sponsor of Indian Wheelchair Cricket

- Helo, India's social media platform, has announced its partnership with the Indian Wheelchair Cricket Association as the team sponsor for Team India during the Asia Cup 2019, which is scheduled from May 15 in Nepal.
- This association makes Helo the first social media app to host and promote Indian Wheelchair Cricket on its platform.

ICC launches criiio campaign on eve of World Cup

- The ICC on Wednesday launched the criiio campaign on the eve of the men's World Cup, bringing together 460 million people playing cricket globally to celebrate the magnificent diversity of cricket.
- The ICC asked the fans to join the social cricket tribe by sharing pictures and videos of where and how they play cricket across the world using the newly launched #criiio and visiting criiio.com.

Raheem Sterling awarded with Football Writers' Association Footballer of the Year

- Manchester City's forward Raheem Sterling has been named as the Football Writers' Association (FWA) Footballer of the Year 2019.
- Sterling was a clear winner in the vote of over 400 FWA members. He took 62 percent of the votes and he acquired 100 more votes than Liverpool's defender Virgil Van Dijk.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule (May 2019)

- With this win, Sterling became the first Manchester City player to win the football's oldest individual award. The player also received praise for his courageous stance against racism in the game.

Barca legend Xavi Hernandez announces his retirement

- FC Barcelona legend midfielder Xavi Hernandez has announced that he will retire at the end of the season to move into coaching. Xavi went on to win 25 titles, including the treble seasons of 2008-09 and 2014-15.
- In total he holds eight La Liga, three Copa del Rey, four UEFA Champions League, two FIFA Club World Cup, six Spanish Super Cup, and two UEFA Super Cup.
- Xavi is a six-time Copa Catalunya and one-time Catalunya Super Cup winner.

Chelsea beat Arsenal in the Europa League final

- Chelsea scored four goals in a devastating second-half display to beat Arsenal 4-1 and lift the Europa League trophy in the Baku Olympic Stadium, Azerbaijan.
- Chelsea won their fifth major Uefa European competition final, with only Liverpool winning more among eight English clubs.
- Arsenal have lost five of their six major European finals, with their only victory coming in the 1994 Cup Winners' Cup against Parma.

Rahi Sarnobat, Saurabh Chaudhary Bag Gold Medals in ISSF world cup

- Rahi Sarnobat added a third gold medal in India's medal tally at the ISSF World Cup 2019 in Munich as she stood at the top spot in the 25m pistol event.
- Saurabh Chaudhary won the gold medal in 10m Air Pistol Event at the ISS Shooting World Cup in Munich. This is the second gold of the season for the 17 year-old sensation. The first was secured in New Delhi tournament.

Men's compound team win bronze in Archery World Cup

- The men's compound team of Rajat Chauhan, Abhishek Verma and Aman Saini earned India a solitary bronze medal in the Archery World Cup Stage III at Antalya in Turkey.
- The Women's compound team of Jyoti Surekha Vennam, Muskan Kirar and Swati Dudhwal lost to Great Britain's Layla Annison, Ella Gibson and Lucy Mason by two points in the contention for a bronze medal.
- In the Yonex-Sunrise All-India Junior Ranking Badminton Tournament held from May 21-26, 2019 in Chennai, Manipur boy Maisnam Meiraba outplayed Aakash Yadav of Delhi 21-9, 12-7 to clinch the Under-19 Boys Singles title.
- Telangana's No. 5 seed Samiya Imad Farooqui continued her meteoric rise as she clinched the U-19.

India bags 57 medals at India Open International tournament

- 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.

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule (May 2019)

- 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.

Koepka returns to world No. 1 with PGA win

- Brooks Koepka is back atop the Official World Golf Ranking.
- Koepka teed off at Bethpage ranked No. 3 in the world, but after retaining the Wanamaker Trophy he moved to the top spot even though former world No. 1 Dustin Johnson finished alone in second.
- It marks the first time Koepka has held the No. 1 ranking since the start of the year, as it has been a split between Johnson and Justin Rose for the 20 weeks of the year.

BFA launches two 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. Traditional competitive badminton has been an indoor game.
- In the new formats launched globally at Guangzhou last week, AirBadminton will be outdoor sports. In Triples format, the match will be played between a team of three players each with presence of at least one female.
- India's top shuttlers have endorsed AirBadminton. Saina Nehwal, Parupalli Kashyap and H.S. Prannoy said it has the potential to provide an alternate career to retired professionals. The Secretary, Badminton Association of India, Ajay Singhania hailed AirBadminton as a great initiative.

Indian para-athletes win 1 silver & 2 bronze at Asian Road Para-Cycling Championships 2019

- Indian para-athletes put up a brilliant performance to secure 1 silver and 2 bronze at the Asian Road Para-Cycling Championships 2019 that saw 28 countries vying for the podium at Tashkent, Uzbekistan from 23-28 April.
- Divij Shah continued his remarkable record at this prestigious tournament by clinching his third consecutive silver medal in the C5 category.
- Hand cyclist Sudhakar Marathe from Maharashtra made a debut to remember when he got hold of the bronze medal in H5 category.
- Asian Para Games bronze medallist Gurlal Singh, who is the only Indian cyclist (able-bodied or otherwise) to win a medal at the Asian Games level helped swell India's medal tally further by grabbing the bronze in the C4 section.

G Sathiyar becomes first Indian to break into top-25 of table tennis world rankings

- G Sathiyar became first Indian to break into the top-25 of ITTF rankings
- Sathiyar rose four spots to be 24th in the latest ITTF rankings
- Sharath Kamal dropped 9 spots to be in 46th position

Apurvi Chandela attains world number one spot in women's 10 m air rifle event

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule (May 2019)

- Indian shooting ace Apurvi Chandela today attained the world number one position in the women's 10 metres air rifle event while compatriot Anjum Moudgil rose to number two after consistent performances in recent years.
- The rifle ace from Jaipur is among the five Indian shooters to have already secured 2020 Olympics quotas for the country.
- Moudgil attained the world number two rank in 10 metres Air Rifle after her mixed team gold at the ISSF World Cup in Beijing. Manu Bhaker is the world number 10 in 25 metres pistol women category.

Bajrang Punia Wins Gold At Ali Aliev Wrestling Tournament

- star Indian wrestler Bajrang Punia pocketed another gold medal at the Ali Aliev invitational tournament in Dagestan.
- Bajrang, currently the world No. 1 in the 65kg freestyle category, made a stunning comeback in the final affair to defeat local favourite Viktor Rassadin 13-8.

Jaipur to host Asian youth Women Handball Championship

- Jaipur will host the 8th Asian Youth Women Handball Championship in which 10 teams, including defending champions South Korea, will be participating.
- The general secretary of the Handball Federation of India, Anandeshwar Pandey, said here that it is the first time that the prestigious tournament would be played in the city from August 21 to 30

Saurav Ghoshal & Joshna Chinappa win Asian Individual Squash Ch'ship titles

- Ace Indian squash players Saurav Ghoshal and Joshna Chinappa won their respective Asian Individual Squash Championship titles in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia today. Saurav Ghoshal defeated Leo Au Chun Ming of Hong Kong
- Ghoshal who had become the first Indian male player to reach top ten of the world rankings is the finalist of the previous edition.

Lewis Hamilton wins Monaco Grand Prix

- Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton won his Monaco Grand Prix title.
- Valterri Bottas and Vettel finished with second and third respectively.

Indian boxers win six medals at 36th Feliks Stamm International Boxing

- Indian boxers finished with a rich haul of six medals, including two gold at the 36th Feliks Stamm International Boxing Tournament in Warsaw, Poland.
- Gaurav Solanki and Manish Kaushik bagged one gold each. Indian boxers also clinched a silver and three bronze
- The 22-year-old Solanki out-punched England's William Cawley 5-0 in 52 kilogram on his way to the coveted yellow metal.
- In 60 kilogram weight category, Kaushik beat Morocco's Mohamed Hamout 4-1. However, there was some disappointment for the Indian contingent on the final day of the European tournament as Mohammed

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Hussamuddin had to be content with yet another second-place finish following a 1-4 defeat to Russia's Mukhammad Shekhov.

Marc Marquez wins the Spanish Grand Prix and regains world championship lead

- World champion Marc Marquez of Honda won the Spanish motorcycling GP ahead of compatriots Alex Rins of Suzuki and maverick Vinale
- Having won two of the four MotoGPs so far this season, Marquez tops the standings with 70 points, one more than US race winner Rins on 69. Ducati's Andrea Dovizioso is third on 67

Roger Federer climbs to third in men's rankings

- Former world number one Roger Federer has returned to third in the ATP Men's ranking, replacing Alexander Zverev
- Federer has won a record 20 Grand Slams, is making his return to clay at the Madrid Open this week after three years' absence. Novak Djokovic(11160 pts) remains first ahead of Rafael Nadal (7765 pts) to mark the Serb's 250th week as world number one,
- Japan's Naomi Osaka (6151 pts) remained atop of WTA Women's rankings, ahead of Czech Petra Kvitova (5835 pts) and Romanian Simona Halep (5682 pts)

Novak Djokovic wins Madrid Open title

- Novak Djokovic of Serbia beat Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece to win his third Madrid Open title.
- He held his serve to add the 2019 Madrid Open title to those he won in 2011 and 2016.

Italian Open (Tennis) 2019

- The 76th edition of Italian Open which is also known as "Rome Masters" or "the Internazionali BNL d'Italia" held at Foro Italico in Rome, Italy.
- It was a professional tennis tournament which played on outdoor clay courts. The Italian Open was classified as an ATP World Tour Masters 1000 event on the ATP World Tour 2019 and a Premier 5 event on the WTA Tour 2019.
- The total prize money for men's tournament was €958,055 and for women's tournament was €523,858.
- A Spanish tennis player Rafael Nadal won the record 9th title this year.

Winner:

S.No.	Event	Winner	Runner-up
1.	Men's Singles	Rafael Nadal (Spain)	Novak Djokovic (Serbia)

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2.	Men's Doubles	Juan Sebastian Cabal (Columbia) Robert Farah (Columbia)	Raven Klaasen (South Africa) Michael Venus (New Zealand)
3.	Women's Singles	Karolina Pliskova (Czech Republic)	Johanna Konta (UK)
4.	Women's Doubles	Victoria Azarenka (Belarus) Ashleigh Barty (Australia)	Anna-Lena Gronefeld (Germany) Demi Schuurs (Netherlands)

India concludes best ever ISSF WC performance in Munich

- In Shooting, India produced their best ever show at the ISSF World Cup with a total tally of five gold medals in Munich, Germany.
- India topped the medals tally with five golds and a silver. Second-placed China bagged nine medals - two gold, two silver and five bronze medals

Hamilton beats Bottas in Spanish GP

- British racing driver Lewis Hamilton won the Spanish Grand Prix for a third consecutive year after overtaking Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas.
- It marks the Mercedes' record-breaking win as the pair of Hamilton and Bottas has been taking the top two positions on the podium in all five races of 2019 season. Red Bull's Max Verstappen was third.

China set to host 2023 AFC Asian Cup after Korean withdrawal

- Korea withdraw from tournament bidding to focus on 2023 Women's World Cup.
- China has been all but confirmed as the hosts for the 2023 Asian Cup soccer tournament after its only bidding rival, South Korea, withdrew from the bidding process.
- Oman rules itself out of 2022 World Cup co-host role

Double Olympic biathlon champion Dahlmeier retires aged 25

- Germany's double Olympic biathlon champion Laura Dahlmeier announced her retirement at the age of just 25 after struggling with health issues.
- She has won seven world championship gold medals, and last year in Pyeongchang she became the first female biathlete to win both the sprint and the pursuit at the same Olympics.

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Important Defence Current Affairs:

Army Conducts Children Summer Adventure Camp 2019 at Manali:

- Western Command Children Summer Adventure Camp 2019 is being organised at Manali from 27 May to 02 June 2019. The seven day camp is being conducted under the aegis of Rising Star Brigade.
- This camp aims to provide a wholesome outdoor exposure to young boys and girls through educational, recreational and adventure activities.
- A total of 218 children from various units of Western Command of Indian Army have volunteered to attend the camp.
- During their stay in camp, children enthusiastically participate in various indoor and outdoor activities, including trekking, rock climbing, river crossing, tent pitching and various adventure filled games & competitions.

DRDO successfully test fires Akash-1S surface to air defence missile:

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on Monday successfully test fired the Akash-1S surface to air defence missile system.
- This is the second successful test of the missile in last two days. This is a new version of the missile fitted with an indigenous seeker.
- Developed by the DRDO, the Akash missile system has the capability to neutralise aerial targets such as fighter jets, cruise missiles and air-to-surface missiles as well as ballistic missiles.
- The Akash-1S is capable of striking down enemy fighter jets and drones very effectively and accurately. The Akash surface-to-air missile was designed to intercept enemy aircraft and missiles from a distance of 18 to 30 km.

DRDO test fires guided bomb from Sukhoi combat jet:

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on Friday successfully test fired an indigenously-developed 500 kg class guided bomb from a Sukhoi combat jet at Pokhran in Rajasthan. The defence ministry said the guided bomb achieved the desired range and hit the target with high precision.
- The DRDO successfully flight tested a 500 kg class Inertial Guided Bomb today from Su-30 MKI Aircraft from the Pokhran test range in Rajasthan.

Assam Rifles battalion, Indian Coast Guard ship sign affiliation charter:

- An affiliation charter was on Wednesday signed between 3rd (Naga Hills) Battalion of the Assam Rifles and the Indian Coast Guard Ship 'Shaurya' with an aim to enhance inter-armed forces cooperation and utilise each other's assets for training and sports.
- The Assam Rifles is the oldest paramilitary force of India with a rich history of valour, courage and tradition. They have 46 battalions manning the Indo-Myanmar border and countering the insurgency in the northeastern states.

Pakistan Successfully Test-Fires Ballistic Missile Shaheen-II:

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- Pakistan successfully test-fired a long-range ballistic missile capable of carrying a nuclear warhead, capable of hitting targets as far as 1,500 kilometers away, bringing major Indian cities under its range. The launch was aimed at ensuring operational readiness of the Army Strategic Forces Command.
- Shaheen-II is a highly capable missile which fully meets Pakistan's strategic needs towards maintenance of desired deterrence stability in the region.

Australia, Japan, South Korea and US kick off inaugural Pacific Vanguard naval exercise near Guam:

- The United States, Japan, South Korea and Australia have kicked off “first-of-its-kind” naval drills near Guam, the U.S. Navy. The “Pacific Vanguard” exercise brings together more than 3,000 sailors from the four countries to “sharpen skills and strengthen practical cooperation at sea.
- The drills will focus on live fire exercises, defensive counter-air operations, anti-submarine warfare, and replenishment at sea. The Royal Australian Navy contributed two frigates to the exercise, HMAS Melbourne and HMAS Parramatta. The Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force sent destroyers JS Ariake and JS Asahi, and South Korea the Republic of Korea Navy destroyer ROKS Wang Geon.

GRSE to build 8 anti-submarine warfare shallow watercraft for Indian Navy:

- The Defence Ministry has awarded a contract of worth Rs 6,311 crore to Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited (GRSE) to build eight anti-submarine warfare shallow watercraft (ASWSWC) for the Indian Navy.
- "The contract worth Rs 6,311.32 crore was signed today by Joint Secretary and Acquisition Manager (Maritime Systems) Ravi Kant on behalf of Ministry of Defence and S S Dogra, Director (Finance), on behalf of GRSE, in New Delhi," said a Defence Ministry statement.

IAF successfully test-fires air-launched version of Brahmos missile from Sukhoi-30MKI jet:

- The Indian Air Force on Wednesday successfully test-fired the air-launched version of supersonic Brahmos cruise missile from its frontline fighter jet Sukhoi-30 MKI.
- The launch from the aircraft was smooth and the missile followed the desired trajectory before directly hitting the land target, an IAF statement said.
- "BrahMos provides IAF the capability to strike from large stand-off ranges on any target at sea or on land with pinpoint accuracy by day or night in any weather condition. Brahmos coupled with the superlative performance of Su-30MKI gives IAF the desired strategic reach.

Defence Ministry clears Navy's Rs 3600 crore deal with Russia for 10 Kamov-31 choppers:

- The Defence Ministry on Friday approved Indian Navy's proposal to acquire 10 Kamov-31 choppers from Russia at a cost of around Rs 3,600 crore to strengthen its capability against aerial threats to its aircraft carriers and large warships.
- "The Defence Ministry cleared the Rs 3,600 crore proposal for buying around 10 Kamov-31 Airborne Early Warning and Control choppers for the aircraft carrier operations and deployment on future warships," government sources told ANI.

Mumbai: Submarine Vela of Project 75 launched:

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- Indian Navy's fourth stealth Scorpene class Submarine Vela of Project 75 was launched on Monday at the Kanhoji Angre Wet Basin of Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL) here. Post the launch, the submarine is set to commence sea trials.
- The submarines are being built at Mazagon Dock Limited, with the main collaborator being M/s Naval group, France.

Missile destroyer 'INS Ranjit' decommissioned:

- Frontline missile destroyer of the Indian Navy 'INS Ranjit' was decommissioned at the Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam, after serving the Indian navy for 36 years.
- INS Ranjit, the third of the five Kashin-class destroyers built by the erstwhile USSR, was commissioned on September 15 1983.
- The ship was decommissioned at a solemn ceremony at the Naval Dockyard when the national flag, naval ensign and Commissioning Pennant were lowered.
- The Chief Guest was Lieutenant Governor of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Admiral (Retd) Devendra Kumar Joshi, who was also a part of the commissioning crew.

Indian Army to commemorate 2019 as 'Year of next of kin':

- The Indian Army is commemorating this year as the 'Year of Next of Kin' and 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.
- The issue gains importance in light of most next of kin of deceased soldiers being unaware of the financial benefits that are entitled to them. Incorrect and incomplete documentation is a common problem for most of the next of kin, which aggravates their plight.

IAF gets first of 22 Apache Guardian AH-64E (I) attack helicopter:

- US aerospace major Boeing has handed over first of the 22 Apache Guardian attack helicopters to the Indian Air Force, nearly three-and-half years after a multi-billion dollar deal for the choppers was sealed.
- Senior IAF officials said the addition of AH-64E (I) Apache helicopter is a significant step towards modernisation of the force's chopper fleet.
- "The first AH-64E (I) - Apache Guardian helicopter was formally handed over to the Indian Air Force at Boeing production facility in Mesa, Arizona, the US.

Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Vigraha decommissioned:

- The Indian Coast Guard ship (ICGS) Vigraha was decommissioned at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. The decommissioning ceremony was attended by eight former Commanding Officers who had been at the helm of the ship, along with former and the present crew.

Chinese navy launches two new guided missile destroyers:

- China, which is developing its navy at a feverish pace, has commissioned two more guided missile destroyers taking the total of such warships to 20 with more in the pipeline.
- Two Type 052D guided missile destroyers were launched in Dalian.

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Indian Navy successfully test-fires MRSAM missile:

- The Indian Navy has successfully test-fired a Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM), achieving a significant milestone to enhance its anti-air warfare capability.
- The test-firing of the missile was undertaken on the western seaboard by Indian naval ships Kochi and Chennai.
- The Indian Navy achieved a significant milestone in enhancing its anti-air warfare capability with the maiden cooperative engagement firing of the MRSAM.

India to host part of International Army Games for first time:

- India will host a part of an international military sports event in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer over nine days in August, in a bid to promote bonhomie among the participating countries.
- International Army Games, organised by the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation, have been taking place since 2015 and sees participation of close to 32 countries.
- In 2019, it is proposed that the International Army Games will have 32 disciplines to be hosted by 10 countries -- Russia, India, China, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Iran, Mongolia, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan.
- India will host the fifth Army International Scout Masters Competition as part of the games.

Spanish Naval ship on Mumbai visit from May 18 to 23:

- Spanish Navy ship 'Mendez Nunez' (Frigate) with a crew of 30 officers and 135 sailors is on Mumbai visit from May 18 to 23. The ship is on Overseas Deployment and is docked at the Mumbai Port Trust.
- According to the communique, Indian Naval Ships (INS) and submarines have been visiting Spanish ports during overseas deployments. The visit by the Spanish Navy ship to Mumbai would further strengthen the existing bonds between the two navies

Exercise Bullstrike: Indian Armed forces test out their joint air operation:

- The military drill, called Exercise Bullstrike, was conducted to showcase joint operations capability of the armed forces. During the exercise, the army personnel got the chance to display their prowess by undertaking company level airborne operation at Teressa Island.
- A number of combat drills were carried out during the exercise, with 170 troops from the three services undertaking para drop operations in a Combat Free Fall and Static Line mode.

India, France to hold joint naval exercise:

- India and France are holding their joint naval exercise, known as Varuna 19.1, which is being conducted off the coast of Goa.
- The bilateral naval exercise, which is the 17th edition, includes the participation of the French Navy's aircraft carrier FNS Charles de Gaulle, two destroyers, FNS Forbin and FNS Provence, the frigate FNS Latouche-Treville, the tanker FNS Marne and a nuclear submarine, said an official statement.

8th Indo-Myanmar coordinated Navy patrol begins:

- Navy ships from Myanmar reached Port Blair to attend the opening ceremony of the 8th Indo-Myanmar Coordinated Patrol (IMCOR).

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- Myanmar Navy Ship UMS King TabinShweHtee (773) and UMS Inlay (OPV-54) have arrived at Port Blair on May 20 for the 'Opening Ceremony' of the 8th Indo-Myanmar coordinated patrol (IMCOR), at Andaman and Nicobar Command.

India, Singapore conduct SIMBEX-19 naval exercise in the South China Sea:

- The 26th Edition of Singapore India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX) -19 has commenced in the South China Sea.
- The four-day 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.

Important Books and Authors Current Affairs:

Shahid Afridi co-authored his autobiography titled, Game Changer with journalist Wajahat S Khan:

- Shahid Afridi, former captain of the 'Pakistan national cricket team' wrote his autobiography titled, 'Game Changer' will unveil answers to the much-contemplated questions about him. Afridi is popularly known as 'Boom Boom' and holds the world record for the fastest ODI (One Day International) century in 37 deliveries.
- He also holds the distinction of having hit the most number of sixes in the history of ODI cricket. The book has been co-authored by Afridi and journalist Wajahat S Khan. 'Game Changer', among the other revelations, unveils the fact as to how the cricketer's hobby of swinging the bat eventually turned out to become his career.

Coffee Table book on Architecture & Landscape of Rashtrapati Bhawan presented to UAE Minister:

- Ambassador Navdeep Suri presented UAE Minister of Tolerance Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al Nahayan with the coffee Table book titled Work of Beauty : Architecture and Landscape of Rashtrapati Bhawan. The book has been published by Publications Division , Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
- UAE Minister of Tolerance had visited the India Pavilion of the ongoing Abu Dhabi International Book Fair 2019 . India is the 'Guest of Honour' at the Book Fair.

Ruskin Bond to launch new memoir on 85th birthday:

- India's beloved children's author Ruskin Bond will celebrate his 85th birthday on May 19 this year with the release of a new memoir set against the backdrop of the partition.
- The book titled "Coming Round the Mountain", will be released officially by the author at Cambridge bookstores in Mussourie, where he signs books for his readers every week on Monday.
- "This is the first time Ruskin Bond has penned his experiences about his time during the independence year. Evocative, poignant and full of spirit and hope, this book is an absolute classic; a collector's edition and a must-have for every Ruskin Bond fan!

15th century manuscript decoded in a major linguistic breakthrough:

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- Scientists say they have decoded the Voynich manuscript, a mysterious medieval code whose purpose and meaning has eluded scholars for over a century.
- The Voynich manuscript is an illustrated codex hand-written in an unknown writing system.
- The vellum on which it is written has been carbon-dated to the early 15th century. By cracking the Voynich code, the researchers at the University of Bristol in the UK succeeded where countless cryptographers, linguistics scholars and computer programmes have failed.
- It took Research Associate Gerard Cheshire two weeks, using a combination of lateral thinking and ingenuity, to identify the language and writing system of the famously inscrutable document. It is named after Wilfrid Voynich, a Polish-Samogitian book dealer who purchased it in 1912.

Nabaneeta Dev Sen's 1978 book on Naxal movement in Bengal published in English:

- Nabaneeta Dev Sen's book on Naxal movement in West Bengal which was first published in Bengali in 1978, is published in English. It is translated from Bengali to English by Paulami Sengupta, Tias Basu and the author. It is published by Niyogi Books' imprint Thornbird.
- The book describes the conflicts between integrity and expediency and the important character of the novel is Anupam Roy, a newspaper columnist, commentator and an academician.
- Nabaneeta Dev Sen is an award-winning Indian poet, novelist and academic. She is the recipient of Padma Shri Award(2000), Sahitya Akademi Award(1999) and Kamal Kumari National Award(2004).

Former basketball player, Lamar Odom launched a new book 'Darkness to light'

- Former American professional basketball player, Lamar Odom, aged 39, launched a new book titled 'Darkness to light'. The book reveals the dark secrets of his life. The book has been published by BenBella Books.

Four popular science books published by Vigyan Prasar released by Prof. Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary of DST:

Four popular science books published by Vigyan Prasar were released by Prof. Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary of Department of Science and Technology(DST) at Indian National Science Academy (INSA) in New Delhi.

- i. The books namely 'Voyage to Antarctica', 'Story of Consciousness', 'An Autobiography of Moon' and 'Sambhu Nath De – The Discovery of Cholera Toxin' were released.
- ii. The book 'Voyage to Antarctica', authored by Dr. Felix Bast, depicts his first-hand experience during the expedition to Antarctica as a part of the 36th Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica (ISEA) in 2016-17.
- iii. The book 'Story of Consciousness', authored by Dr. Govind Bhattacharya, the third novel following 'Story of Universe' and 'Story of Evolution', describes the story on human evolution with a focus on disciplines like biology, neuroscience, psychology, semiotics, linguistics, philosophy and theology related to human consciousness.
- iv. The book 'An Autobiography of Moon', authored by Dr. Ramesh Shishu, deals with the secrets of moon like its origin, how it changes the shape daily, why only half of it can be seen and many more things.

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v. 'Sambhu Nath De – The Discovery of Cholera Toxin', authored by Dr. M.S.S Murthy, depicts the efforts of Sambhu Nath De to overcome the cholera epidemic.

John Bailey launches Hindi version of Oscar Academy's publication 'Digital Dilemma':

- John Bailey, President of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences e-launched the Hindi version of an Academy Publication, 'Digital Dilemma', in New Delhi.
- The event on Tuesday had guests from the film industry including celebrated film editor and Governor of the Academy, Carol Littleton.
- Justice Manmohan Sarin, Chairman, FCAT; Amit Khare, Secretary, Ministry of I & B; Prasoon Joshi, Chairman, CBFC; Ujwal Nirgudkar, Member of the Academy and Prakash Magdum, Director, NFAI were also present at the event.
- Written by Milt Shelton and Andy Maltz, 'Digital Dilemma' has been already translated into several languages.

Important Awards Current Affairs:

Designation	Person
Goldman Environmental Prize	1. Alfred Brownell, Liberia 2. Bayarjargal Agvaantseren, Mongolia 3. Ana Colovic Lesoska, North Macedonia 4. Jacqueline Evans, Cook Islands 5. Alberto Curamil, Chile 6. Linda Garcia, United States
The Billboard Music for his album 'Scorpion'	Rapper Drake
Chevalier de l'Ordre national de la Legion d'Honneur,	A S Kiran Kumar
2019 V K Krishna Menon award	GD 'Robert' Govender
Star on the Hollywood Walk Of Fame	Anne Hathaway
McCain Institute Award for Courage and Leadership.	IPS officer Chhaya Sharma
\$100,000 Nine Dots Prize 2019	Annie Zaidi
Sasakawa Award 2019	Dr. Pramod Kumar Mishra
Third prize in the international section of	Achyutanand Dwivedi's film, "Seed Mother"

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Nespresso Talents 2019	
Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star	Shyam Saran
Most viewed stand-up comedian in India and abroad by the World Book of Records London.	Comedian-actor Kapil Sharma
UN medal 2019 for courage and sacrifice in the line of duty	Jitender Kumar
FICCI Claims Excellence Award.	Bharti AXA Life Insurance
Lifetime recognition award by the Confederation of Horticulture Association of India.	N Kumar
Football Writers' Association (FWA) Footballer of the Year 2019	Raheem Sterling
ACJ (Asian College of Journalism) Award for Investigative Journalism, 2018 for her article 'Coalgate 2.0'	Nileena M S
PC Chandra Purashkaar 2019 award	Dr. Devi Prasad Shetty
UK's wealthiest people for the third time	Hinduja brothers
Time magazine Next Generation Leaders' 2019	Ajeay Nagar (Indian YouTuber)
Man Booker International Prize for "Celestial Bodies"	Jokha Alharthi (Oman)
SAIL's 'Top Performer Award	Hi-Tech Pipes
UN highest peacekeeping award	Chancy Chitete (Late Malawian soldier)

Important Science and Technology Current Affairs:

Japan's private MOMO-3 rocket reaches outer space for first time

- A Japanese aerospace startup funded by a former internet maverick has successfully launched a small rocket into space.
- Interstellar Technology Inc. says the unmanned MOMO-3 rocket has exceeded 100 kilometers (60 miles) in altitude before falling into the Pacific Ocean.

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- The rocket, about 10 meters (32 feet) long and 50 centimeters (1.5 feet) in diameter, weighs about 1 ton. The rocket is capable of putting payloads into orbit.

ISRO launched 'India Young Scientist Programme' (Yuvika-2019)

- Indian Space Research Organisation has launched a special programme for School Children called "Young Scientist Programme" "YUvaVIgyaniKAryakram" from this year, in tune with the Government's vision "Jai Vigyan, Jai Anusandhan".
- The programme will be of two weeks duration during summer holidays (second half of May 2019) and the schedule will include invited talks, experience sharing by the eminent scientists, facility and lab visits, exclusive sessions for discussions with experts, practical and feedback sessions.

ISRO chairman flags off shipment of India's largest liquid hydrogen storage tank

- ISRO Chairman K Sivan flagged off the shipment of India's largest liquid hydrogen storage tank at the VRV Asia Pacific's manufacturing plant at Sri City in Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh.
- VRV Asia Pacific manufactured the storage tank with a Liquid Nitrogen (LIN) shield, in a collaborative effort with Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, under the Make in India initiative.
- The storage capacity of the tank is 120 kilo liters. Liquid hydrogen is used as fuel for satellite launch vehicles.

Musk's SpaceX launches Falcon rocket with Dragon spacecraft

- Elon Musk's Space Exploration Technologies Corp. launched its 17th commercial resupply mission to the International Space Station for longtime customer NASA.
- The Falcon 9 rocket and Dragon space capsule rumbled aloft at about 2:48 a.m. local time from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida. Dragon will deliver almost 5,500 pounds of science, supplies and hardware, according to NASA, and is slated to attach to the station on Monday. SpaceX will attempt to recover Falcon 9's first stage on a droneship in the Atlantic Ocean.

China launches two satellites for scientific experiments

- China successfully sent two Tianhui II-01 satellites into orbit from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in north China's Shanxi Province.
- The satellites were launched by a Long March 4B carrier rocket, which was the 303rd mission of the Long March series carrier rockets. The satellites will be used for scientific experiments, land resource survey, geographic survey and mapping.

The US Air Force successfully tested a laser system to shoot down missiles

- The US Air Force has successfully used a laser weapons system to shoot down multiple missiles while in flight. The system is designed to eventually be mounted on aircraft to be used to protect the vehicle from attacks. The Air Force Research Laboratory conducted the test at the US Army's White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico.
- The system, called the Self-Protect High Energy Laser Demonstrator (SHiELD), was used from the ground, and was used to shoot down "multiple air launched missiles in flight."

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- SHiELD also not the only laser technology that's in testing by the US military — the US Army tested a system mounted on an AH-64 Apache attack helicopter last summer, and the US Navy is working with Lockheed Martin on its own systems to install on warships.

IIT-B researchers develop 'Made in India' microprocessor

- Engineers from the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay) have developed a microprocessor called AJIT, the first to be conceptualised, designed, developed and manufactured in India. The innovation, which has brought industry, academia and the government together, could reduce the country's dependence on imports.
- The project was funded by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and IIT Bombay. Powai Labs, a Mumbai-based company, has invested in the venture, and will own, market and support the product.

Amazon's Bezos unveils lunar lander project 'Blue Moon'

- Jeff Bezos, the richest man in the world and head of space company Blue Origin, announced Thursday his intent to participate in the new race to the Moon with a high-tech lander to carry vehicles and equipment.
- Blue Moon is a vehicle and has been under development for the last three years. However, no specific date of launch has been announced by Jeff yet. The vehicle will be capable of carrying scientific instruments, four self-driving rovers and a future pressurised vehicle for humans.

ISRO plans to conduct seven mega missions over next 10 years

- Space Agency ISRO, which is gearing up for the ambitious Chandrayaan-2 this July, has loftier plans ahead. It's planning to accomplish six other mega missions over the next 10 years, apart from Chandrayaan-2. Of these, only two have been defined — XPoSat and Aditya-L1 missions.
- The four other undefined missions, which are in the planning stage, are: Mangalyaan-2, Venus mission, Lunar Polar Exploration and Exoworlds. The XPoSat, or the X-ray Polarimeter Satellite, is a dedicated mission to study polarisation.

DRDO successfully conducts flight test of ABHYAS drone from ITR in Odisha

- India successfully conducted the flight test of ABHYAS - High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) from a test range in Odisha. The trial, carried out by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur in Balasore, was tracked by various radars and electro-optic systems.
- The configuration of ABHYAS is designed on an in-line small gas turbine engine and it uses indigenously developed MEMS based navigation system.

ISRO launches earth observation satellite RISAT-2B

- Indian Space Research Organisation has successfully launched its earth observation satellite RISAT-2B from Sriharikota. ISRO's trusted workhorse PSLV-C46 carrying RISAT-2B blasted off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre.

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- The 615 kg satellite was released into the orbit 15 minutes after the lift-off. RISAT-2B meant for application in fields such as surveillance, agriculture, forestry and disaster management support. It will replace the RISAT-2, which was launched in 2009.
- There are several new features in RISAT-2B, it is having expanded Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) making it an advanced earth observation satellite, operating in spotlight mode, mode and mosaic mode.

Important Miscellaneous Current Affairs:

Nepali teen dances for continuous 126-hour to set new world record:

- A Nepali teenager danced continuously for 126 hours to set a Guinness World Records on 'Longest Dancing Marathon by an Individual', a feat previously hold by an Indian.
- At a function held in his official residence here on Saturday, Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli honoured the 18-year-old girl, Bandana Nepal, for achieving the feat.

Postal stamps of Vedanta Desikan unveiled:

- Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu released a postage stamp to commemorate the 750th birth anniversary of Sri Vedanta Desikan in New Delhi. The stamp released by Indian postal department.

GREVD: SIPRI Launches Global Registry of Violent Deaths:

- Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) 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.

India's newest pit viper found in 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.

Inaugural edition of world's first women's cricket magazine 'CRICZONE' hits stands:

- Inaugural issue of world's first exclusive women's cricket magazine 'Criczone' was released with Indian team vice-captain Smriti Mandhana featuring as the cover story.

Kami Rita Sherpa scales Mt. Everest for record 23rd time:

- The 49-year-old Sherpa climber Kami Rita scaled Mount Everest for the 23rd time on Wednesday, breaking his own record of the most successful ascents of the world's highest peak.
- The 49-years-old veteran climber Kami Rita Sherpa from Thame village of Solukhumbu made 23rd successful climbs over the world's highest peak; Mt. Everest (8848m).
- Breaking his own record of 22 successful ascents of Everest, Kami Rita now became the only man on the planet to climb Everest for 23 times.

BSE launches mobile app for its mutual fund platform:

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule (May 2019)

- Leading stock exchange BSE Wednesday said it has launched 'BSE StAR MF' app to enable more participation and help mutual fund distributors process transactions faster.
- "BSE StAR MF mobile app supports real-time client registration and paperless transactions, creates and uploads mandate for SIPs, generates the basket of multiple orders, tracks and allows the distributor to analyse his business at his fingertips.

Important Days:

Day	Celebrated as	Theme
1	International Labour Day	Sustainable Pension for all: The Role of Social Partners
1	Maharashtra Day and Gujarat Day	—
2	World Tuna Day	—
3	World Press Freedom Day	Media for Democracy: Journalism and Elections in Times of Disinformation
7	World Asthma Day	STOP for Asthma
8	World Red Cross Day	#Love
11	National Technology Day	—
11	World Migratory Bird Day	Protect Birds: Be the Solution to Plastic Pollution.
12	International Nurses Day	Nurses – A Voice to Lead – Health for All
15	International Day of Families	Families and Climate Action: Focus on SDG 13
16	International Day of Light	—
17	World Telecommunication & Information Society Day	Bridging the Standardization Gap
20	World Bee Day	—
20	World Metrology Day	The International System of Units – Fundamentally better.
21	National Anti-terrorism day	—
22	International Day for Biological Diversity	Our Biodiversity, Our Food, Our Health

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule (May 2019)

29	International Everest Day	—
31	World No Tobacco Day	Tobacco and lung health

Important Obituaries Current Affairs:

Name	Field
Carmine Caridi	veteran actor
Master Hirannaiah	Kannada theatre personality, satirist and TV actor
Veeru Devgn	Bollywood stunt and action choreographer
Peter Mayhew	Actor
Vijaya Mulay	Filmmaker, film historian, researcher and educationist
Maramraju Satyanarayana Rao	Writer and academician
Sammy Shore	Actor and stand-up comedian
Kirpal Singh	Spiritual master (satguru)
Niki Lauda	Former Formula One driver and three-time world champion
Derek Sippy	Former Indian Cue sports Player, Coach and administrator
I M Pei	American architecture
N.R. Madhava Menon	An educationist, scholar, and the pioneering spirit behind modern legal education in India
Rallapalli Venkata Narasimha Rao	Veteran Telugu actor
Hiralal Yadav	Indian folk singer, Padma Shri awardee
YC Deveshwar	The Padma Bhushan awardee and ITC's Non-Executive Chairman
Baidyanath Mishra	Economist
Thoppil Mohammed Meeran	Tamil novelist and Sahitya akademi awardee
John Singleton	African-American Filmmaker
Justice B Subhashan Reddy	Former Chief Justice of the Madras and Kerala High Courts
Maramraju Satyanarayana	Writer and Academician
Seymour Nurse	Former West Indies cricketer

Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule (May 2019)

Peggy Lipton	US Actress
Bob Hawke	Former Australian PM
Sultan Ahmad Shah	Former Malaysian King
Prem Tinsulanonda	Thailand's ex-prime minister
Murray Gell-Man	Nobel Prize-winning Physicist
Kalpana Dash	Odisha's first woman mountaineer
Binny	India's Only Orangutan
Bajirao	The last captive white tiger at Sanjay Gandhi National Park
Arakkal Sultan Adiraja Fathima Muthu Beevi	Head of Muslim royal dynasty
Duti Krushna Panda	Veteran CPI leader and former MP
Mrinal Mukherjee	Veteran Bengali actor
MP Kamlesh Balmiki	Former Samajwadi Party MP
P.P.C Joshi	Veteran CPI leader