

## India and states

### *Indian & French Navies conduct Varuna 19.1 Bilateral Exercise*

- **The Indo-French joint naval exercise, Varuna 19.1 began off the Goa coast on May 1, 2019.** The exercise will conclude on May 10, 2019.
- This 17th edition includes 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.
- From the Indian side, the aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya, destroyer INS Mumbai, the Teg-class frigate, INS Tarkash, the Shishumar- class submarine INS Shankul, and the Deepak- class fleet tanker INS Deepak will be participating in the exercise.

## Appointments

### *Kumar Sangakkara named as first non-British MCC president*

- **Former Sri Lanka captain, Kumar Sangakkara was on May 1, 2019 appointed as the President of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), England.** With this, Sangakkara became **the first non-British to head the Club.**
- Sangakkara will take up the post on October 1, 2019 and will serve the position for a period of 12 months. His nomination was announced by the current MCC President Anthony Wreford at the MCC Annual General Meeting at Lord's.
- During his one-year tenure, Sangakkara will witness two England Tests against West Indies and Pakistan, and the launch of The Hundred competition before his term ends on September 30, 2020.

## World

### *UN designates Masood Azhar as Global Terrorist; China lifted its hold*

- **The 1267 Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee of the United Nations Security Council on May 1, 2019 designated Pakistan's Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) chief Masood Azhar as a Global Terrorist.**
- With the addition of Azhar to the Al-Qaida Sanctions List, he will be subject to the assets freeze, travel ban and arms embargo. The Sanctions List currently contains the names of 262 individuals and 83 entities.
- The move came after China lifted its hold on a proposal to blacklist Azhar. China in March 2019 had for the fourth time blocked a bid in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to designate Azhar as a global terrorist.

### *Russian President Vladimir Putin signs controversial internet bill into law*

- President Vladimir Putin on May 1, 2019 **signed a new measure into law that will allow Russian authorities to isolate the country's internet from the rest of the world and create a new national network.**

- The 'sovereign internet' bill aims to expand government control over the Internet. Russian lawmakers insist the new law is necessary to ensure the security of Russia's online networks, while critics argue that the vaguely worded bill gives new censorship powers to government monitors.

#### ***Sri Lanka bars preaching religious, radical ideologies glorifying terrorism***

- The Sri Lankan Government has issued orders preventing any person from preaching religious, extremist or radical ideologies that glorify terrorism.
- The order also banned any foreigner from preaching any such ideology and few persons involved in it have been deported.
- While making the announcement, Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said that the whole world should unite as one to face terrorism. He further stated that his government hoped to cooperate with all countries that oppose terrorism to share intelligence and expertise.

## **Days**

#### ***World Press Freedom Day-2019 celebrated***

- The 26th celebration of World Press Freedom Day is jointly organized by UNESCO on 3 May, 2019, the African Union Commission and the Government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.
- The main event has taken place in Addis Ababa, on May 03, 2019 at the African Union Headquarters. This year's theme is - "**Media for Democracy: Journalism and Elections in Times of Disinformation**" - discusses current challenges faced by media in elections, along with the media's potential in supporting peace and reconciliation processes.

#### ***Labour Day Observed across the world***

- The Labour Day was observed across the world on May 1, 2019. The day is also known as International Worker's Day and May Day.
- The day is celebrated by the working classes and is promoted by the international labour movement, socialists and communists.
- Over 90 countries, including North Korea, celebrate Labour Day on May 1 as a national holiday.

## **Sports**

Apurvi Chandel becomes world number 1 in 10m air rifle, Anjum claims second position

- India's Apurvi Chandel on May 1, 2019 became world number 1 in women's 10m air rifle event, according to the latest rankings released by the International Shooting Sport Federation.
- Hailing from Jaipur, the shooting ace is among the five Indian shooters to have already secured 2020 Olympics quotas for the country.
- The shooter took to twitter to share her joy on achieving the feat. "World Number 1 touched a milestone in my shooting career," wrote Chandel.

#### ***Hockey India nominates Sreejesh for Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award***

- Hockey India on May 1, 2019 **nominated ace Indian goalkeeper PR Sreejesh for the prestigious Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award** and three other players for the Arjuna Award.
- The player names recommended for the Arjuna Award include midfielder Chinglensana Singh Kangujam and forward Akashdeep Singh and women's team defender Deepika.

#### ***India to bid for 2024 World Table Tennis Championships***

- The Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) decided to bid for the **2024 edition of the biennial World Table Tennis Championships**.
- TTFI will bid for the 2024 edition in which 32 teams will take part.
- The last time India hosted a World Championships was way back in 1987.
- The last big ITTF event that was staged in India was in 2012 when Hyderabad hosted the World Junior Championships.

#### ***Shooters Heena Sidhu, Ankur Mittal recommended for Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award***

- **The National Shooting Federation on April 29, 2019 recommended pistol ace Heena Sidhu and trap shooter Ankur Mittal for the 2019 Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award**, the country's highest sporting honour.
- Heena Sidhu is the first Indian pistol shooter to reach number one in the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) world rankings. She has won multiple gold medals at the World Cup, Commonwealth Games, Commonwealth and Asian Championships.
- Ankur Mittal has been one of the most consistent Indian shooters in shotgun. He has won silver and gold medals at the World Cups in 2017; bagged gold medals at the Asian Championships 2017 and Commonwealth Championships in 2018.