

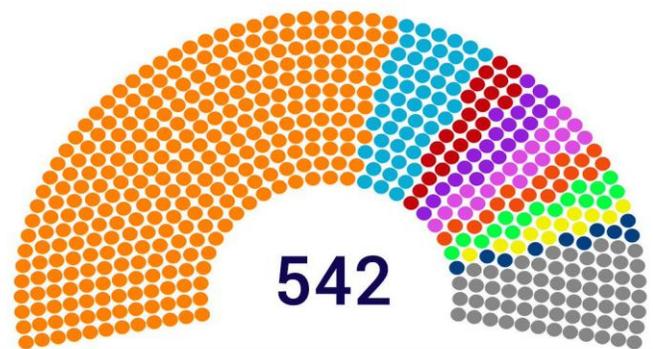
**MAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – 2019**

**ENGLISH VERSION**



**VARUNA 2019: INDIA, FRANCE TO CONDUCT LARGEST EVER NAVAL EXERCISE**

**LOK SABHA ELECTION RESULTS**



● BJP.....303	● Shiv Sena.....18
● INC.....52	● JD(U).....16
● DMK.....23	● BJD.....12
● AITC.....22	● BSP.....10
● YSRCP.....22	● Others.....64

source: [www.results.eci.gov.in](http://www.results.eci.gov.in)



The “Politics of Jugaad: The Coalition Handbook” has been authored by journalist Saba Naqvi. In it, the author examined the possibility of a coalition government after 2019 Lok Sabha polls. It traces the history of political alliances in the country taking into account their performance on economic and and social policies, among others.

In China, the 2nd edition of Belt and Road Forum (BRF - 2019) was officially held in Beijing with theme “Belt and Road Cooperation: Shaping a Brighter Shared Future”. In it, 37 heads-of-state and 159 countries had participated along with United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and International Monetary Chief (IMF) Christine Lagarde.

Bajrang Punia is set to become the first Indian wrestler to fight at iconic Madison Square Garden in New York. Punia, who won the 65kg men’s freestyle gold at the recent 2019 Asian championships, will be among top wrestlers selected by the American governing body for the May 6 tournament.

Dr. Srinivasa Chakravathy and his team at IIT Madras has developed a unified script for nine Indian languages, named the Bharati script. The team has developed a method for reading documents in Bharati script using a multi-lingual Optical Character Recognition (OCR) scheme. The team has also created a finger-spelling method that can be used to generate a sign language for hearing-impaired persons.

The researchers at Jamia Millia Islamia (New Delhi) have developed an ultrasensitive quantum thermometer using graphene quantum dots. The thermometer can precisely measure a wide range of temperature: 27°C to – 196°C. It has high sensitivity when measuring different temperatures and can measure very minute (micro Kelvin) changes in temperature.

The United Nations General Assembly has officially celebrated the first-ever International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace on 24th April 2019 for the international observance. The day is a reaffirmation of the UN Charter and its principles of resolving disputes among countries through peaceful means.

The six-member expert committee led by former RBI governor Bimal Jalan was appointed on December 26, 2018 to review the Economic Capital

Framework (ECF) for the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). It is in news recently because the Jalan panel is likely to submit its report by June 2019. The panel is expected to spell out details regarding how the RBI should handle its reserves and whether it can transfer its surplus to the government.

Dominic Thiem clinched the 2019 men's singles title at the Barcelona Open Tennis tournament. In the final, he defeated Daniil Medvedev by 6-4, 6-0 at the Real Club de Tennis Barcelona in Barcelona, Spain. With this feat, Thiem has become the first Austrian to take the Barcelona title since Thomas Muster in 1996.

The BCCI recommended Indian pacers Mohammad Shami and Jasprit Bumrah, all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja and women's team spinner Poonam Yadav for the 2019 Arjuna award. The decision was taken during a meeting of the Supreme Court-appointed Committee of Administrators (CoA) in New Delhi. Bumrah is a regular across all three formats of cricket for the country.

Raheem Sterling, the Manchester City and England forward, has been named the 2019 footballer of the year by the Football Writers' Association (FWA). He topped the poll of the 400-strong FWA membership as a clear winner, with 62% of the votes.

Air Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria has been appointed as the new Vice Chief of Indian Air Force (IAF). He succeeded Air Marshal Anil Khosla. Prior to this post, Bhadauria was head of IAF's Bengaluru-based Training Command.

The Time 100 Most Influential People 2019 list named the world's most influential pioneers, leaders, titans, artists and icons of the year. The list includes Indian-American comedian and TV host Hasan Minhaj, US President Donald Trump, Pope Francis, Chinese President Xi Jinping, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, iconic golfer Tiger Woods and Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg.

Wipro Consumer Care and Lighting (WCCL) has acquired the Philippines-based personal care maker Splash Corporation for an undisclosed amount to enter the country which has a consumer base of around 100 million. The

acquisition strengthens Wipro's consumer care portfolio in personal care and strengthens its South-East Asian market footprint.

Arjuna awardee and star Indian golfer Gaganjeet Bhullar won the 'Outstanding achievement as a player award' at the 4th edition of the annual India Golf Industry Association (GIA) awards at the Delhi Golf Club. The GIA awards were held along with the 8th India Golf & Turf Expo (IGTE), South Asia's largest golf trade show.

The Government of Nepal has launched an ambitious 45-day 'Everest Cleaning Campaign' to bring back tonnes of trash from Mt. Everest from 14th April 2019. The campaign is led by Solukhumbu district's Khumbu Pasanglhamu Rural Municipality and aims to collect nearly 10,000 kgs of garbage from Mt. Everest.

The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has launched an awareness programme on Goods and Services Tax (GST) in collaboration with Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) Institute Limited to help small scale businesses. The purpose of the GST programme is to impart basic knowledge and skills required to fulfill various requirements under the GST Act.

Beirut, the national capital of Lebanon, has set a new Guinness World Record for the number of national flags raised in a city for 24 hours. On 28th April 2019, a total of 26,852 Lebanese flags were raised & beat a record held by New York's Waterloo since 2000. The event was organized by the Beirut Alive Association (BAA) under the patronage of Prime Minister Saad Hariri.

Claire Polosak from Australia created history by becoming the first female umpire to stand in a men's One-Day International (ODI). On 27th April 2019, she has officiated the final of the World Cricket League Division 2, between Oman and Namibia, who both secured ODI status after finishing in the top two positions of the table.

Dr. Negasso Gidada (75), the former President of Ethiopia, has passed away in Frankfurt, Germany on April 27, 2019. He was president between 1995 and 2001 and was the first head of state after Ethiopia adopted a new constitution transforming the country into a federal state, with increased

autonomy given to the different regions. The role of president in Ethiopia is largely ceremonial, with the prime minister holding most of the power.

According to latest data released by global think-tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), the total world military expenditure rose by 2.6% to \$1,822 billion in 2018. As per new data, the United States is the world's largest spender on defence in 2018.

Alfred Brownell from Liberia, an environmental lawyer and activist, has been awarded the prestigious 2019 Goldman Environmental Prize for exposing alleged abuse by the palm oil company GoldenVeroleum Liberia and helping to prevent it from converting about 50 km<sup>2</sup> of forest that is home to elephants, pygmy hippopotamuses and chimpanzees into palm oil plantations.

The Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) and Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) have signed a MoU for cooperation on various projects related to e-mobility. 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.

Barcelona FC has successfully defended its Spanish La Liga crown after beating Levante UD in the final at Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona on April 27, 2019.

Archaeologists in Telangana have recently unearthed a rare life-sized stucco sculpture from a Buddhist site at Phanigiri in Suryapet. It is considered to be the biggest stucco sculpture found in the excavations in the country till date.

The Union Environment Ministry has constituted a committee to implement the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), which aims to reduce particulate matter (PM) pollution by 20%-30% in at least 102 cities by 2024.

Israel has recently honoured 1971 war hero Lt. Gen. (retd) Jack Farj Rafael (JFR) Jacob with a plaque on Ammunition Hill Wall of Honour in Jerusalem. Lt. Gen. Jacob, who died in 2016 at the age of 92, negotiated the historic

surrender of Pakistani troops in Dhaka after the 1971 Bangladesh's liberation war.

Ace India goalkeeper P.R. Sreejesh has been nominated for the prestigious Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award by Hockey India. While, Midfielder Chinglensana Singh Kangujam and forward Akashdeep Singh and women's team defender Deepika have been nominated for the Arjuna Award.

The first part of the Indo-French joint naval exercise - Varuna 19.1 - has started off the Goa coast from 1 to 10 May 2019.

The Pakistan Air Force (PAF) has decided to observe its retaliatory action on February 27 against the Indian air strikes on the Balakot terror camp as 'Operation Swift Retort'. The tensions between India and Pakistan had escalated after the 14th February 2019 attack by a Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) suicide bomber in Pulwama that killed 40 CRPF soldiers.

The former Sri Lanka batsman Kumar Sangakkara has become the first non-British President of Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC). He will begin his one-year tenure in October 2019 and will succeed Anthony Wreford.

The Dredging Corporation of India Limited (DCIL) has inked a MoU with Water & Power Consultancy Services (India) Limited (WAPCOS) to jointly identify suitable future projects and carry out geotechnical investigation and engineering consultancy.

In Rajasthan, the 8th Asian Youth Women Handball Championship is scheduled to be held in Jaipur, in which 10 teams, including defending champions South Korea, will be participating. It is the first time that the prestigious tournament would be played in the Pink city from August 21 to 30.

For the second year in a row, Iraq has become India's top crude oil supplier in 2018-19 fiscal year and meet more than a fifth of the country's oil needs. According to official data sourced from the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Iraq sold 46.61 million tonnes (mt) of crude oil to India during April 2018 and March 2019, which is 2% more than 45.74 mt it had supplied in 2017-18 fiscal.

In Meghalaya, the Geological Survey of India (GSI) North Eastern Region (NER) has recently installed two geological display boards at two important geological sites in the State with geo-scientific information which will help in creating awareness among visiting tourists, students and the general public. The boards are unveiled at two important geological sites in the State namely Mawmluh cave and Therriaghat, Sobhar in East Khasi Hill District.

On 30th April 2019, Market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) barred the National Stock Exchange from raising money on the securities market directly or indirectly for six months on the collocation case. This means the NSE will not be able to access the capital market in terms of IPO during this period.

The Generalized System of Preference (GSP) is the largest and oldest US trade preference programme and is designed to promote economic development by allowing duty-free entry for thousands of products from designated beneficiary countries.

On the occasion of World Press Freedom Day, Vienna-based International Press Institute (IPI) said in its latest report that as many as 55 journalists have been killed since May 2018. Press freedom globally is under intense and growing pressure, as illiberal-minded governments seek to shut down critical voices and, in many cases, deliberately erode the credibility of independent media.

World No. 1 Bajrang Punia won the gold at the 2019 Ali Aliyev wrestling tournament. In the final of men's 65kg freestyle, he defeated Viktor Rassadinin Kaspisk, Russia on May 2. He had won a gold medal last week at the Asian Championships in Xi'an, China.

M Jayshree Vyas, a professionally-qualified chartered accountant, has been appointed as the first independent woman director of Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE). Though still late by at least a few weeks from the deadline of April 1 given to all top 500 listed companies based on their market capitalisation for appointing an independent woman director on their board. The delay happened as BSE was awaiting market regulator SEBI's approval on the appointment.

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. The Bharat Fibre services are provided on the optical fibre right up to the customer premises.

In a major diplomatic victory for India, Jaish-e-Mohammad chief Masood Azhar was listed as a designated terrorist by the UN Security Council 1267 Committee on 1st May 2019 after China lifted its block on the move.

To commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Government of India and IIT Delhi have signed an MoU to set up a Centre of Excellence for Waste to Wealth Technologies for implementation of sustainable, scientific and technological solutions for waste management, through validation and deployment of available technologies for transformation of waste to wealth.

The United Kingdom Parliament has become the first national legislative body in the world to pass national declaration (or motion) of an Environment and climate emergency. The move comes a week after 16-year-old Swedish student Greta Thunberg addressed UK lawmakers to demand more climate action, and in the wake of protests by climate action group Extinction Rebellion, who blocked major landmarks in London.

Mangaluru City Police has launched an all-women police patrol unit 'Rani Abbakka Force' for the protection of women and children. The force will cover the malls, beaches, educational institutions, places of religious importance, and public transport system in the city. It will handle issues related to eve-teasing and chain-snatching, among others.

The 16th Ministerial Meeting of Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD-2019) was held in Doha, Qatar from April 30-May 2 with theme "Partners in Progress". Gen. (Dr) V.K. Singh (Retd), Minister of State for External Affairs led the Indian delegation. In his address, the Minister expressed profound sorrow for April 21 terrorist attacks in Sri Lanka and emphasized the need for the world community to expeditiously adopt the UN Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (UNCCIT).

Former ISRO chairman A S Kiran Kumar has been conferred with France's highest civilian award - Chevalier de l'Ordre national de la Lgion d' Honneur - for his contribution to India-France space cooperation. Throughout his career at the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), including as its chairman from 2015 to 2018, Kumar fostered the historic and ambitious space cooperation between India and France.

The State Bank of India (SBI) has become the first bank in the country to link its saving and loan interest rates to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s repo rate. The move assumes significance as the effective interest rate from May 1 on savings deposit above Rs 1 lakh will come down to 3.25% from 3.5%.

Master Hirannaiah (85), the noted Kannada theatre personality, passed away in Bengaluru, Karnataka on May 2, 2019.

Dilip Kumar, a 1995-batch IAS officer of Punjab cadre, has been appointed as the Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in the office of Lokpal. He has been appointed for a period of six months on additional charge basis or till a new incumbent joins the post. It is perhaps the first official appointment of a bureaucrat in Lokpal.

King Maha Vajiralongkorn has been crowned as the Rama X of Thailand in a dazzling show of pageantry on behalf of the Thai people. This marked the first ascension of a new monarch in seven decades. The key rituals of the elaborate 3-day coronation ceremony began at the Grand Palace in Bangkok on May 4, 2019.

US Air Force General Tod Wolters has been sworn-in as the top military officer of the 29-nation NATO military alliance. He became Supreme Allied Commander in Europe (SACEUR) at a ceremony on Friday at NATO's military headquarters in Mons, southern Belgium.

According to the latest rankings released by the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF), Indian shooting ace Apurvi Chandela from Jaipur has recently attained the world number 1 position in the women's 10m air rifle event. (2020 Olympic - Tokyo)

In chess, the TePeSigeman& Co International tournament has started in Malmo, Sweden on May 3. According to the World Chess Federation (FIDE), the tournament will have 8 players with an average rating of 2663, making it a Category 17 tournament.

Ace Indian squash players Saurav Ghoshal and Joshna Chinappa won their respective Asian Individual Squash Championship titles in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on May 6.

Duti Krushna Panda (97), the veteran CPI leader and former Lok Sabha member, has passed away in Bhubaneswar, Odisha on May 5, 2019. Panda was elected to Lok Sabha from Bhanjanagara Parliamentary Constituency (presently Aska) in 1971.

After 8 years, India will once again mark its presence at the art world's oldest Biennale in Venice, Italy that begins on 11th May 2019. The overarching theme at the 58th Venice Biennale 2019 is 'Our Time for a Future Caring', and India has decided to showcase Father of Nation Mahatma Gandhi to ensure a memorable show at the art event.

Common Service Centre's (CSC) e-Governance Services India Limited has tied up with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Kanpur to upscale 'Unnat Bharat Abhiyan', which is an initiative of the Ministry of HRD.

According to the latest data from US space agency NASA, the giant asteroid named 99942 Apophis is expected to approach dangerously close to the Earth on April 13, 2029.

Journalist Nileena MS, a reporting fellow with The Caravan, has won the prestigious ACJ Award for Investigative Journalism in print/online category for the year 2018.

The fourth of Indian Navy's stealth Scorpene class Submarines of Project 75, INS Vela has recently launched for trials at the Kanhoji Angre Wet Basin of Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL) in Mumbai.

A Nepali teenager, Bandana Nepal (18) has set a new Guinness World Record on 'Longest Dancing Marathon by an Individual' by dancing continuously for

126 hours. She received the official confirmation from the Guinness Records on 3rd May 2019.

India is officially invited to Group of 7 (G-7) industrialized nations summit along with Australia, Chile and South Africa. The summit is scheduled to be held in Biarritz, France in August 24-25, 2019.

In Mali, President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita has recently announced the new government of 37 members under Prime Minister Boubou Cisse after its predecessor resigned last month.

In a bid to evaluate the environmental performance of existing schools across India, the Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment (GRIHA) Council has recently released a rating tool 'GRIHA for Existing Day Schools'.

Frontline missile destroyer of the Indian Navy 'INS Ranjit' has recently decommissioned at a solemn ceremony at the Naval Dockyard in Visakhapatnam, after serving the Indian navy for 36 years.

Laurentino Cortizo has been declared the winner of 2019 presidential election of Panama. The 2019 elections have been dominated by pledges to fight corruption and to tackle Panama's image as a money-laundering country.

Justice PR Ramachandra Menon has been sworn-in as the new Chief Justice of the Chhattisgarh High Court. Governor Anandiben Patel administered him the oath of office and secrecy at a function at Raj Bhawan.

The Volleyball Federation of India (VFI) has recently appointed Dragon Mihailovic (from Serbia) as head coach of the men's national team in a move linked to the long term goal of Olympic Games qualification.

G D 'Robert' Govender, an Indian-origin journalist in South Africa, has been honoured in the UK with 2019 V K Krishna Menon award for his outstanding contribution as a pioneer of decolonized journalism.

Pakistan's former captain and star all-rounder Shahid Afridi has recently released his controversial autobiography, titled 'Game Changer'. Be it his

views on Kashmir, 2010 spot fixing scandal or his age revelation, Afridi has been creating headlines ever since his autobiography was released.

In a significant victory, India's Jagjit Pavadia has been re-elected to the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) for a 5-year term beginning 2nd March, 2020. She posted the highest number of votes at 44. Ms Pavadia has been a member of the INCB since 2015 and her current term is set to expire in 2020.

On 7th May 2019, India has been re-elected as an observer to inter-governmental forum Arctic Council at the 11th Arctic Council ministerial meeting at Rovaniemi, Finland. Indian researchers have been studying whether there is a co-relation between Indian monsoon and the Arctic region.

The Desert Storm 2019 is touted to be the longest Cross-Country Rally in India, which is started from Bikaner in Rajasthan on 8th May.

India's first natural Ice Cafe has started at a height of 14,000 feet in Leh, Ladakh. The ice cafe is located on the Manali-Leh Highway. It is created by natural process by the Border Road Organisation (BRO) officials, with the help of some locals during winters.

A Japanese aerospace startup Interstellar Technology Inc. has become the first private firm in Japan to launch a rocket into space. It has successfully launched a small rocket 'Momo-3' from its test site in Hokkaido, which reached about 110 kilometers (68 miles) in altitude before falling into the Pacific Ocean after 10 minutes of flight time.

Dr. NR Madhava Menon (84), the renowned academician and father of modern Indian Legal Education, passed away in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala on May 8. He is credited for revolutionizing the field of legal education by establishing National Law Schools and by conceptualizing the 5-year integrated LLB programme.

The researchers at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) Mumbai have found a novel function for serotonin (a chemical that signals between neurons).

For the first time, researchers have recently sighted nests of the grizzled giant squirrel (*Ratufamacroura*) at Pakkamalai Reserve Forests near Gingee (Tamil Nadu) in the Eastern Ghats.

On May 6, US President Donald Trump bestowed Tiger Woods with the Presidential Medal of Freedom in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington. He won his first major in nearly 11 years at last month's Masters Tournament, a comeback that captivated the sporting world.

Lakshadweep is an archipelago of 36 islands and scattered over approximately 78,000 square km of the Arabian Sea with population of approximately 65,000.

The 5th edition of United Nations (UN) Global Road Safety Week has started from 6th May with theme "leadership for road safety". The World Health Organization (WHO) promotes road safety as a means to reduce traffic-related injuries.

India and Bangladesh will jointly produce a film on the life & works of the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and also a documentary on Bangladesh Liberation War. He was the founding father of Bangladesh.

Mrinal Mukherjee (74), the veteran film and TV actor, has passed away in Kolkata, West Bengal on May 8, 2019. Apart from being a versatile actor, Mrinal Mukherjee was a great singer as well.

Baidyanath Mishra (99), the renowned economist, has passed away in Bhubaneswar, Odisha on May 8, 2019. Mishra had started his career as a lecturer in Ravenshaw University in Cuttack in 1949.

The UN report titled "IPBES Global Assessment" has been released by IPBES (Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services). It is compiled by 145 expert authors from 50 countries.

The meeting of the Regional Heads of Customs Administration of Asia Pacific Region of the World Customs Organisation (WCO) is being organized by Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) in Kochi from 08th to

10th May, 2019. India is hosting this meeting in its capacity as Vice Chair of the Asia Pacific region that it assumed on 1st July, 2018 for a 2 year period.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has decided to discard its 'Black List' of Indian-origin people, who have taken asylum abroad under the plea of alleged persecution in India.

The 6-day Brahmakalashothsava festival is celebrated in the ancient Chandkuru Sri Durga Parameshwari Temple annually in Polali, Dakshina Kannada district in Karnataka.

The United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has appointed 17 global figures including Indian actress Dia Mirza and Alibaba chief Jack Ma as the new advocates to drive action and solidify global political will for the ambitious Sustainable Development Goals.

Thopil Mohammed Meeran (74), the well-known Tamil novelist and SahityaAkademi awardee, has passed away at Pettai in Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu on May 10, 2019. Born in the coastal hamlet of Thaengaipattinam in Kanniyakumari district on 26th September 1944, Mohamed Meeran authored the novels – Oru Kadalora Graamaththin Kathai, Thuraimugam, KoonanThoppu, SaaivuNaarkkaali and Anju Vannam Theru - between 1988 and 2011.

Veteran actor Pankaj Kapur will soon release his debut novel 'Dopehri', based on a play of the same name which he wrote and directed several years ago.

Iran has recently announced to stop respecting limits on its nuclear activities agreed under a 2015 nuclear deal with major powers until they find a way to bypass renewed US sanctions. The Iran nuclear deal was formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Justice (Retd.) K S Radhakrishnan has been appointed as a member of the Commonwealth Secretariat Arbitral Tribunal in London. He will render his services as a member of the Tribunal for a period of four years from 1st of June, 2019 to 31st of May, 2023.

BharatPe has launched India's first UPI BahiKhata for merchants, which allows merchants to record their cash/ credit (udhar) sales customer wise. It also serves as a networking platform for merchants to connect and collaborate with other BharatPe merchants near them to source and expand their businesses.

A team of herpetologists led by Ashok Captain have described a new species of reddish-brown pit viper — a venomous snake with a unique heat-sensing system — from a forest in West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh.

Bajaj Auto Executive Director Rakesh Sharma has been elected as Vice-President of Geneva-based International Motorcycle Manufacturers Association (IMMA) at Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

Samsung Electronics Co has recently launched the world's highest-resolution image sensor for smartphones at 64-Megapixels to meet the growing demand for mobile devices with better image quality.

Two Indian Navy ships - Guided Missile Destroyer INS Kolkata and Fleet Support Ship INS Shakti carried out a 6-day long exercise 'Group Sail' with naval ships of Japan, Philippines and the United States of America (USA) in the disputed South China Sea from 03 May to 09 May 19.

India's Dairy major Amul will be the principal sponsor of the Afghanistan cricket team for the 2019 ICC World Cup, which will be hosted by England and Wales.

After United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland has officially become the 2nd country in the world to declare a climate and biodiversity emergency. It happened after the Oireachtas (Irish parliament) report on Climate Action was accepted by the government and opposition parties without a vote.

Y C Deveshwar (72), the noted industry leader and ITC Chairman, has passed away in Gurugram on May 11, 2019. He was India's longest serving CEO and had received the India's 3rd highest civilian award 'Padma Bhushan' in 2011.

The Indian Army has decided to commemorate 2019 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.

Prof. Kirpal Singh (95), the renowned Sikh historian and chronicler, has passed away in Chandigarh on May 7. He was the first chronicler of India's partition. Kirpal had established the Oral History Cell at Punjabi University in 1973 having over 400 statements of eminent persons in several fields.

The Supreme Court has recently upheld the constitutional validity of the Karnataka Extension of Consequential Seniority to Government Servants Promoted on the Basis of Reservation (to the Posts in the Civil Services of the State) Act, 2018.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has partnered with the International Food and Beverage Alliance (IFBA) to achieve its target under REPLACE initiative of eliminating industrial trans-fat from industrially produced global food supply by 2023.

The Konkan Railways Corporation Ltd (KRCL) 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

On 12th May 2019, Top seed Novak Djokovic of Serbia beat Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece 6-3, 6-4 to win his third Madrid Open Tennis title.

On 12th May 2019, Mumbai Indians became IPL champions for the fourth time after defeating Chennai Super Kings by one run in a thrilling final in Hyderabad. Last ball dismissal of Shardul Thakur by paceman Lasith Malinga registered final win for Mumbai over Chennai.

On 13th May 2019, the World Trade Organisation (WTO) ministerial meeting of developing countries has started in New Delhi. The two-day meeting is being held at a time when the multilateral rule-based-trading system is facing serious and grave challenges.

Hiralal Yadav (93), the Padma Shri awardee Bhojpuri folk singer, has passed away in Chowkaghat, Varanasi on May 12, 2019.

The first edition of world's first exclusive women's cricket magazine 'Criczone' has been released in Jaipur, Rajasthan.

IPS officer Chhaya Sharma, who led the investigation team of the infamous Nirbhaya gang-rape and murder case, has been awarded the 2019 McCain Institute Award for Courage and Leadership.

Islamic State (IS) has claimed for the first time that it has established a “province” in India, after a clash between militants and security forces in the Kashmir region killed a militant with alleged ties to the group.

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has recently received the first AH-64E (I) - Apache Guardian helicopter at Boeing production facility in Mesa, Arizona in the United States. The AH-64E Apache is a leading multi-role attack helicopter and is flown by the US Army.

Justice Abhay Shreeniwas Oka has been 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 the Raj Bhavan.

Pacer Jasprit Bumrah, has been adjudged as International Bowler of the Year during the CEAT Cricket Rating (CCR) International awards 2019. Best Batsman & Cricketer award was presented to Virat Kohli.

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has decided to hold the high-level 2020 United Nations Conference in Lisbon, Portugal from June 2 to 6 to support the sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources.

Pakistan off-spinner Sana Mir bagged the title of the most successful women ODI's spinner in the world after she dismissed Sune Luus from South Africa in the third ODI of ICC Women's Championship on May 12. It was Sana's 147th ODI wicket in her 118th appearance.

Japan has started testing its fastest-ever Shinkansen bullet train “Alfa-X”, which is capable of reaching 400 kilometres per hour (249 mph). The train is scheduled to go into service in 2030 and will run at speeds of up to 360 kph (224 mph). With this feat, it will become the world's fastest bullet train.

ISRO Chairman Dr. K Sivan has recently inaugurated Young Scientist Programme (Yuvika-2019) for school children at Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.

Kiki Bertens has won women's singles title at the 2019 Madrid Open tennis tournament. In the final, she defeated Simona Halep 6-4, 6-4 in straight sets to win the coveted title.

HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company has recently launched the '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.

Nabventures, a subsidiary of NABARD, has recently launched its first-ever Rs 700-crore venture capital fund for equity investments in agriculture and rural-focused startups.

The 18 nations ADMM-Plus (ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus) multilateral maritime security field exercise has recently concluded in Singapore on May 13. The exercise was jointly organised by Singapore and South Korea, which was started in Busan on April 30.

China is hosting Conference on Dialogue of Asian Civilizations in close collaboration with UNESCO in its capital city Beijing from 15 to 22 May, 2019. The conference will focus on themes of the exchange and mutual learning of Asia civilizations, and a community of shared future.

India's G.S. Lakshmi has become the first-ever woman to be appointed to ICC's International Panel of Match Referees and will be eligible to officiate in international games with immediate effect.

India has been unanimously chosen as co-chair of the Consultative Group of Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) for the fiscal year 2020. The decision was taken during the meeting of GFDRR held in Geneva, Switzerland on the margins of the 6th Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR) 2019.

Captain Aarohi Pandit, a 23-year-old pilot from Mumbai, has become the world's first woman to cross the Atlantic Ocean solo in a Light Sports Aircraft (LSA).

In Madhya Pradesh, women will handle the entire work of counting votes in Harda district of the state. As per reports, the initiative is probably the first of its kind. Harda district is a part of Betul parliamentary seat and the counting of votes of Timarni and Harda assembly segments will take place at Harda district headquarter.

A team of researchers at the US Department of Energy's (DOE) Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory has created a next-generation plastic, called Poly Di-Ketoenamine (or PDK), that can be fully recycled into new materials of any colour, shape, or form, without loss of performance or quality.

On May 15, Sri Lanka has declared a National Vesak Week to mark the most significant event for Buddhists all over the world. The festival commemorates the birth, enlightenment (Buddhahood), and death (Parinirvāna) of Gautama Buddha in the Theravada or southern tradition.

Croatian World Cupper Igor Stimac has been appointed head coach of the Indian men's senior football team for a two-year term. The national team has been without a coach since the departure of Stephen Constantine in January, following the creditable show at the AFC Asian Cup.

In Assam, a type of orchid – *Lecanorchis taiwaniana* (parasitic bloom) - has coincidentally discovered by Assam's forest officer named Jatindra Sarma.

On May 9, the Indian Armed Forces carried out Exercise Bull Strike at Teresa Island in Andaman and Nicobar (A&N). The military drill was conducted to showcase joint operations capability of the armed forces.

The 2023 Asian Cup Football tournament will be hosted by China after South Korea withdraws its bid. The Korea Football Association (KFA) said in a statement it had pulled out to "strategically focus" on a joint bid with North Korea to host the Women's World Cup in the same year.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released a vision document - Payment and Settlement Systems in India: Vision 2019 – 2021 - with its core theme of 'Empowering Exceptional E-payment Experience', for ensuring a safe, secure, convenient, quick and affordable e-payment system.

China has expanded its ban on Wikipedia to block the community-edited online encyclopedia in all available languages. Hence, Wikipedia had joined thousands of other websites which cannot be accessed in China.

Justice Madan B Lokur, the Retired Supreme Court judge of India, has been appointed to the Supreme Court of Fiji as a judge of its non-resident panel.

The first full-fledged Services Selection Board (SSB) of Indian Navy has been inaugurated by Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba at Diamond Harbour near Kolkata.

Sanjiv Puri has been appointed as the new CMD (Chairman and managing director) of ITC Ltd, India's largest cigarette maker. He will take over the legacy of noted industry leader and erstwhile ITC Chairman Y.C. Deveshwar, who passed away on 11 May.

ICICI Bank has launched a co-branded multi-currency card with online travel booking portal Goibibo. Anyone travelling abroad, whether they hold an ICICI Bank savings account or not, can apply for the Goibibo ICICI Bank Travel Card on the Goibibo website & mobile app.

Justice Arjan Kumar Sikri, the former judge of Supreme Court of India (SCI), has been appointed as the chairperson of News Broadcasting Standards Authority (NBSA) by the News Broadcasters Association (NBA).

The 5th edition of "International Army Scout Masters Competition" will be organized under the aegis of Konark Corps at Jaisalmer, Rajasthan from 24 July to 17 August 2019.

After 29 glorious years of service from 1990 to 2019, the Indian Coast Guard ship (ICGS) Vighraha has recently decommissioned at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh on May 16.

A comprehensive survey on plastic pollution has been conducted by marine scientists on the Australian external territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands. Around 600 people live in these remote places, which are sometimes described as “Australia's last unspoilt paradise”.

With sales estimated at Rs. 168.25 crore, London-based sculptor Anish Kapoor has topped the first edition of the Hurun India Art List. He is followed by artists Akbar Padamsee and Krishen Khanna, whose works were sold for Rs 45.84 crore and Rs 9.48 crore respectively.

Kadavoor Sivadasan (87), the veteran Congress leader and former Kerala Minister, has passed away in Thiruvananthapuram on May 17, 2019.

The book titled “Coming Round the Mountain”, will be released officially by India's beloved children's author Ruskin Bond on his 85th birthday on 19th May 2019 at Cambridge bookstores in Mussourie.

Dr. Pramod Kumar Mishra, Odisha-born IAS officer and Additional Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister of India, has been conferred with the prestigious United Nations Sasakawa Award for Disaster Risk Reduction for the year 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland.

As an initiative towards a greener ecosystem in Ganga Basin, the tripartite MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) was signed between National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), HCL Foundation and INTACH for taking up a project of ‘Plantation of Rudraksh Trees in Uttarakhand’ under the ‘Namami Gange’ Programme.

In Tennis, defending champion Rafael Nadal of Spain has clinched the Italian Open 2019 title after beating Novak Djokovic 6-0, 4-6, 6-1 in the final in Rome on May 19. This is Nadal's ninth Italian Open title. It is the 81st title of Nadal's career.

The researchers at University of British Columbia (UBC) in Canada have developed a specialized microscope that has the potential to diagnose diseases like skin cancer as well as perform precise surgery without making any incisions in the skin.

A Reserve Bank of India (RBI) - appointed committee headed by Aadhaar architect Nandan Nilekani submitted its report on promoting digital payments to RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on May 17.

On May 17, Kerala became the first sub-sovereign entity in the country to access the international market by listing masala bonds issued through its off-budget mechanism - the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB).

Ieoh Ming Pei (102), the Chinese-American architect behind buildings including the glass pyramid outside the Louvre in Paris, has passed away in Manhattan, United States on May 16, 2019. Pei sparked controversy for his pyramid at the Louvre Museum.

The 26th edition of Singapore India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX)-19 has commenced in the South China Sea on May 19.

A renowned Nepali mountaineer, Kami Rita Sherpa has created history by successfully scaling the Mount Everest peak (8848m) for the 23rd time on May 14, 2019.

The Union Ministry of Finance has launched Project Sparrow for online writing of Annual Performance Appraisal Report (APAR) in SPARROW (Smart Performance Appraisal Report Recording Online Window) for Group 'B' and 'C' Officers of Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC).

Joko Widodo has been officially re-elected to a second term as President of Indonesia. Widodo and his vice-presidential running mate Ma'ruf Amin won the election by a 55.5% to 44.5% margin over rival Prabowo Subianto and Sandiaga Uno.

India has recently signed the new global anti-terror initiative 'Christchurch Call to Action', which is the brainchild of New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern and French President Emmanuel Macron to fight terrorism.

On May 17, Taiwan has become the first in Asia to legalise same-sex marriage with the passage of legislation giving gay couples the right to marry.

An American politician, Nancy Pelosi has been honored with the 2019 John F Kennedy Profile in Courage Award at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Boston.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) have celebrated the 2nd edition of International Day of Light (IDL-2019) on 16th May to mark the role light plays in our daily lives.

Mueenul Haq, the current ambassador to France, has been appointed as the new Pakistan High Commissioner to India. The post of high commissioner to India fell vacant after Sohail Mehmood was appointed the foreign secretary in March 2019.

Niki Lauda (70), the 3-time Formula One world champion, has passed away in Vienna, Austria on May 20, 2019. One of the best-known figures in motor racing, Lauda took the title for Ferrari in 1975 and 1977 and McLaren in 1984.

The researchers at NASA space agency has found evidence for a unique mixture of methanol, water ice, and organic molecules on the surface of Ultima Thule, which is located in the Kuiper Belt - beyond the orbit of Neptune.

PCT Humanity, a charity run by an Indian in the UAE, has set the new Guinness Book of World Records for its hunger relief efforts during the holy month of Ramzan in Abu Dhabi.

India's social media platform - Helo has become the official team sponsor of Indian Wheelchair Cricket Association for 2019 Asia Cup, which has started on May 15 in Nepal. This association makes Helo the first social media app to host and promote Indian Wheelchair Cricket on its platform.

An author from Oman, Jokha Alharthi has won the prestigious 2019 Man Booker International Prize for her novel "Celestial Bodies".

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully launched its newest microwave earth observation satellite RISAT-2B from the Satish

Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota through its trusted workhorse PSLV-C46.

The 8th edition of Indo-Myanmar Coordinated Patrol (IMCOR-2019) has started at Port Blair in Andaman and Nicobar Command on May 20.

Priyanka Mohite, the 26-year-old Satara based mountaineer, has become the first Indian woman to successfully scale Mount Makalu — the fifth-highest mountain in the world at 8,481 metres.

The Prime Minister of United Arab Emirates (UAE), Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum has launched the permanent residency system “Golden Card” for expats investors, entrepreneurs, specialized talents and researchers to be a part of the UAE’s success story.

Shyam Saran, an Indian career diplomat, will be conferred with Japan's second highest national award- The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold & Silver Star.

Police Officer Jitender Kumar is among the 119 military, police and civilian personnel who will be honoured with a prestigious 2019 UN Dag Hammarskjold Medal for courage and sacrifice in the line of duty.

The Delhi High Court has ruled that the United Nations (UN) is not a State under Article 12 of the Constitution of India and is not amenable to its jurisdiction under Article 226 of the Constitution.

South African lawmakers have re-elected Cyril Ramaphosa as the president of the country. The African National Congress party with 57.5% of the vote has won 230 out of 400 seats in the election on May 8.

Surya Prakash (79), a well-known artist from Telangana, has passed away in Hyderabad on May 21, He received ‘Kala Vibhushan’ award & other honours.

Late Malawian soldier Chancy Chitete has been posthumously conferred with the UN’s highest peacekeeping award - Captain Mbaye Diagne Medal for Exceptional Courage - The award will be given during the 2019 International

Day of UN Peacekeepers commemorations at UN Headquarters in New York on May 24.

India has been ranked 117th out of 181 countries in the 2019 Kids Right Index, which ranks countries on the basis of how much they are involved and equipped to improve child rights.

Flight Lieutenant Bhawana Kanth, who belongs to Darbhanga (Bihar), has created history by becoming the India's first female fighter of the Indian Air Force (IAF) to qualify to undertake combat missions for day operations on a fighter aircraft.

Vijaya Mulay (98), the renowned filmmaker and film historian, has passed away at her south Delhi residence on May 19, 2019. Mulay founded the Delhi Film Society in 1959.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has unveiled a new strategy to dramatically cut deaths and injuries from snakebites. Each year, nearly 3 million people are bitten by poisonous snakes, with an estimated 81,000-138,000 deaths.

On May 23, the New Space India Ltd. (NSIL) has officially inaugurated in Bengaluru, Karnataka to scale up industry participation in Indian space programmes. It is the commercial arm of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

NASA has recently unveiled the calendar for the "Artemis" program that will return astronauts to the Moon for the first time in half a century. It will also include 8 scheduled launches and a mini-station in lunar orbit by 2024.

On May 24, the Defence Research and Defence Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight tested a 500 kg class Inertial Guided Bomb (IGB) from Su-30 MKI Aircraft from the Pokhran test range in Rajasthan. The guided bomb achieved the desired range and hit the target with high precision.

The workhorse of the Indian Air Force (IAF), the Russian made AN-32 transport aircraft was formally fleet certified to fly on a blended bio-jet fuel partly derived from trees. The fuel will be 10% tree-derived and 90% conventional aviation fuel.

In Ukraine, comedian and political newcomer Volodymyr Zelensky has been sworn-in as the new President of war-torn country.

The Reserve Bank of India has allowed large modern currency chests to increase the service charges on cash deposited by non-chest bank branches from the existing rate of Rs. 5 per packet of 100 pieces to a higher rate subject to a maximum of Rs. 8 per packet.

Bangladesh-based terror outfit — the Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) — was banned by the Government of India (GoI) under the anti-terror law UAPA. The terror outfit is also called as Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen India / Hindustan.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has officially recognized Algeria and Argentina as malaria-free countries, after no new cases of the deadly disease have been reported for at least 3 consecutive years. As per WHO, there were now 38 countries and territories that have been declared free of the disease.

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has officially passed a resolution demanding the United Kingdom withdraw its administration of the Chagos Islands.

On May 21, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj attended a two-day meeting of the 2019 Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Foreign Ministers in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

Saray Khumalo, a Zambia-born Johannesburg resident, has become the first black African women to conquer the summit of Mount Everest, with an elevation of 8,848m, in her fourth attempt.

Dr. Hema Divakar, a Bengaluru-based medical doctor, has been honoured with the 'Global Asian of the Year 2018-19' award in Dubai recently for her yeomen services and contributions to the women's healthcare ecosystem, in India.

In Germany, the international competition 'Elsevier Foundation-ISC3 Green and Sustainable Chemistry Challenge' was recently held at the 4th Green and Sustainable Chemistry Conference.

Sethu FC has clinched their first ever Indian Women's League trophy after defeating Manipur Police 3-1 at the Guru Nanak Stadium in Ludhiana on May 22, 2019. The Sethu FC is an Indian women's football club based in Tamil Nadu.

Cardiologist Prof. Balram Bhargava has won the 2019 Dr Lee Jong-wook Memorial Prize for Public Health at the 72nd World Health Assembly in Geneva.

The 2nd edition of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Mass Media Forum was held at Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan from 23-26 May, 2019.

Acharya Balkrishna, the Managing Director of Patanjali Ayurved Ltd., has received the 'UNSDG 10 Most Influential People in Healthcare Award' on behalf of Patanjali Group of Institutions in Geneva, Switzerland.

The naval drill exercise 'Pacific Vanguard' has been kick started by the United States, Japan, South Korea and Australia near Guam, United States. This drill brings together more than 3,000 sailors from the four countries to sharpen skills and strengthen practical cooperation at sea.

The British-Sri Lankan human rights documentary maker- turned debut novelist, Guy Gunaratne has won the 2019 £30,000 Swansea University International Dylan Thomas prize for his debut novel 'In Our Mad and Furious City'.

Veeru Devgan (85), veteran action choreographer and father of Ajay Devgan, has passed away in Mumbai, Maharashtra on May 27, 2019.

Prem Singh Tamang, the president of Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) and popularly known as P S Golay, has been sworn-in as the new chief minister of Sikkim. Governor Ganga Prasad administered the oath of office to Mr. Golay in a grand ceremony at the Palzor stadium in Gangtok.

In squash, Mahesh Mangaonkar from India has clinched the Sekisui Open title for the second time in his career in Kriens, Switzerland on May 25, 2019.

The architectural heritage of Orchha town in Madhya Pradesh has been included in UNESCO's tentative list of world heritage sites following a proposal sent by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to the U.N. body.

Russia has recently launched the third and final Project 2220 LK-60Ya-class nuclear-powered icebreaker – the Ural - at the Baltic Shipyard in St Petersburg to open up Arctic shipping routes.

The first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly has started at the headquarters of UN-Habitat in Nairobi, Kenya on May 27, 2019. In it, India has been elected to the Executive Board of the UN-Habitat Assembly.

Rahi Sarnobat booked an Olympic quota place for India at World Cup rifle pistol stage in Munich, Germany by winning gold in women's 25m pistol event.

Kalpana Dash (50), the first woman mountaineer of Odisha, has passed away near Balcony area of world's highest peak Mount Everest on May 23, 2019. She had first scaled Mt Everest in 2008.

The commandant of the Indian Army Infantry School, Lieutenant General Shailesh Tinaikar has been appointed as the new Force Commander of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).

In October 2020, Sweden will host an international conference against anti-Semitism in memory of the Holocaust.

The Union government has constituted the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Tribunal to adjudicate whether or not there is sufficient cause for declaring the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) as an unlawful association.

Lewis Hamilton, a British racing driver who races in Formula One for Mercedes-AMG Petronas Motorsport, has won the 2019 Monaco Grand Prix with a perfectly measured drive.

Murray Gell-Mann (89), a Jewish American physicist who theorized the existence of the quark and won a Nobel Prize for his method of classifying particles, has passed away in New Mexico on May 24, 2019.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has constituted a 6-member committee to review the existing state of mortgage securitisation in India and suggest measures to deepen it.

The Trump administration has recently removed India and Switzerland from its currency monitoring list of major trading partners. Both the countries were removed from the list because for two consecutive reports they had both met only one of three criteria necessary for inclusion on the monitoring list.

President Muhammadu Buhari has been sworn-in for his second term as President of Nigeria in a ceremony at the Eagle Square in Abuja.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has constituted a six-member task force, headed by Canara Bank chairman T.N. Manoharan, on the development of secondary market for corporate loans.

Actor Carmine Caridi (85), who is best remembered for playing Carmine Rosato in “The Godfather: Part II” has passed away in California, United States on May 28.

India has been ranked 43rd most competitive economy in the 2019 edition of the IMD World Competitiveness Rankings on the back of its robust economic growth, a large labour force and its huge market size.

N Kumar, Vice-Chancellor of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU), has been conferred the lifetime recognition award by the Confederation of Horticulture Association of India at the International Conference on Innovative horticulture at Pantnagar, Uttarakhand on May 28, 2019.

On 30 May 2019, James Marape has been nominated, elected, and sworn-in as the 8th Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea. He is a former finance minister and critic of a major global gas development deal. His appointment comes after the outgoing leader Peter O'Neill resigned recently.

To celebrate 2019 World Environment Day (WED), the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC) has recently launched the song 'Hawa Aane De' to spread awareness about Air pollution.

The scientists at the Stanford University in the US have developed a more stable prosthetic foot which they say could make challenging terrain more manageable for people who have lost a lower leg.

Admiral Karambir Singh has taken charge as the 24th Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) from Adm. Sunil Lanba, who stepped down upon retirement. He is the first helicopter pilot of the Navy to become the CNS.

The Gujarat government has decided to equip the traffic police with 'laser guns' for detection of over-speeding by vehicles. The state traffic police has purchased 39 such high-tech guns at a cost of Rs.3.9 crore.

The IIT-Madras has recently launched an Integrated Database on Infrastructure Projects (IDIP) at the 15th World Conference on Transport Research conference held at IIT Bombay.

In Madhya Pradesh, Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar Airport of Indore has been declared as International Airport. It was given the International status as per sub-rule (b) of rule 3 of the Passport (Entry into India) Rules, 1950 by the Central Government.

The IIT- Guwahati has signed a MoU with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to set up a Space Technology Cell (STC) within the premise of IIT Guwahati.

Indians Scientists has recently identified a new species of primate wasp from the genus Kudakrumia in Goa. The new species was collected in the forests of Western Ghats. The wasp, which is dubbed as Kudakrumiarangnekari, was named after Goa-based researcher Parag Rangnekar.

India's only orangutan, 'Binny', has passed away at the age of 41 at Nandankanan Zoological Park in Odisha. The great ape was brought to the Odisha zoo in November 2003 from Pune's Rajiv Gandhi Zoological Park on November 20, 2003, when she was 25.

The Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) have recently signed a MoU for getting Indian astronauts trained for ISRO's Gaganyaan mission.

## IMPORTANT DAYS – MAY 2019

- ❖ International Labour Day – May 1  
Theme 2019- Sustainable Pension for all: The Role of Social Partners.
- ❖ World Tuna Day – May 2
- ❖ World Press Freedom Day – May 3  
Theme 2019- “Media for Democracy: Journalism and Elections in Times of Disinformation”
- ❖ International Firefighters’ Day (IFFD) – May 4
- ❖ World Cartoonist’s Day – May 5
- ❖ World Athletics Day - May 7
- ❖ World Red Cross day - May 8  
Theme 2019: “LOVE”
- ❖ UN General Assembly declared 8–9 May as a time of remembrance and reconciliation for those who lost their lives during the Second World War.
- ❖ National Technology Day – May 11  
Theme: “Science and Technology for a Sustainable Future”. On this day in 1998, India successfully tested its nuclear bombs in Pokhran, Rajasthan.
- ❖ International Nurses' Day - May 12(Florence Nightingale's birthday)  
Theme: “Nurses - A Voice to lead - Health for All”
- ❖ World Mother’s Day 2019 – May 12 (The second Sunday in May)
- ❖ International Day of Families– May 15  
Theme 2019: Families and Climate Action: Focus on SDG 13

- ❖ International Day of Living Together in Peace – May 16
- ❖ World Hypertension Day - May 17
- ❖ World Telecommunication and Information Society Day - May 17
- ❖ International Museum Day - May 18  
Theme 2019: Museums as Cultural Hubs: The Future of Tradition
- ❖ World AIDS Vaccine Day – May 18
- ❖ World Metrology Day - May 20
- ❖ World Bee Day – May 20
- ❖ National Anti-Terrorism Day - May 21
- ❖ International Day for Biological Diversity – May 22  
Theme 2019: Our Biodiversity, Our Food, Our Health
- ❖ Raja Ram Mohan Roy Birthday – May 22  
Roy is considered the Father of Indian Renaissance for bringing about a number of social reforms. Born in Bengal Presidency in May 22, 1772. Roy founded the Brahma Samaj in 1828. He has taken many steps to abolish the Sati.
- ❖ World Turtle Day – May 23
- ❖ World Thyroid Day - May 25
- ❖ International Missing Children's Day – May 25
- ❖ International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers – May 29  
Theme 2019: “Protecting Civilians, Protecting Peace”
- ❖ World No Tobacco Day – May 31  
Theme 2019: “Tobacco and lung health”.  
World Health Organization (WHO) created World No Tobacco Day in 1987. It is highlighting the health and other risks associated with tobacco use, and advocating for effective policies to reduce tobacco consumption.