

## CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY 2018 PDF

### AWARDS & HONOURS

| NAME OF THE PERSON                        | NAME OF THE AWARD  | ADDITIONAL INFORMATION  |
|---|--|---|
| Singer Zubeen Garg                        | Hero to Animals Award  | Awarded by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India |
| Singchung Bugun Village Community Reserve | National Biodiversity Award 2018                                 | Awarded for conserving a bird species 'Bugun Liocichla'             |
| Real Madrid forward Cristiano Ronaldo     | World's most famous athlete                                      | Awarded by ESPN   |
| Late Actress Sri Devi                     | Lifetime Achievement in Indian Cinema                            | By BRICS Business Forum Leadership Award                            |
| Olga Tokarczuk                            | Man Booker International Prize                                   | For her novel 'Flights'. First Polish writer to receive the award   |
| Prajnesh Gunneswaran                      | T.K. Ramanathan award  | Awarded by Tamil Nadu Tennis Association (TNTA)                     |
| Japanese director Hirokazu Kore-eda       | Palme d'Or Award at Cannes Film Festival                         | Foe his movie 'Manbiki Kazoku' (Shoplifters)                        |
| Barcelona forward Lionel Messi            | European Golden Shoe   | Top-goal scorer for the fifth time                                  |
| Senior journalist Mark Tully              | Lifetime Achievement Award                                       | At the annual Red Ink Awards in Mumbai                              |
| US-based Kathak dancer Anindita Anaam     | Shri Jayadev Rashtriya Yuva Pratibha Puraskar 2018               | For outstanding contribution to the field of art                    |
| Shivangi Pathak                           | Youngest Indian woman to scale Mount Everest                     | She is 16 years old.  |
| Megastar Amitabh Bachchan                 | Honoured by European Union                                       | For being 'bridge builder between India and Europe'.                |
| Jagriti Yatra                             | Charity Award In United Kingdom                                  | Indian charity that organizes 15-day train journeys                 |
| Melody queen Lata Mangeshkar              | Swara Mauli title  | Awarded by spiritual guru Vidya Narasimha Bharati Swami.            |
| Late actress Sridevi                      | National Award for Best Actress                                  | At the 65th National Film Awards                                    |
| Startup Eckovation                        | Prime Minister's Excellence Award                                | For Best Innovation 2018  |
| Mohamed Salah                             | Football Writers' Association Footballer of the Year for 2017/18 |   |

## CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY 2018 PDF

### APPOINTMENTS

| NAME OF THE PERSON                     | DEPARTMENT/FIELD  | ADDITIONAL INFORMATION  |
|--|---|---|
| Lt Gen Ranbir Singh                    | Northern Army commander   | At present, Lt Gen Singh is Deputy Chief of the Army Staff.                 |
| Alicia Pucheta                         | First Woman Interim President of Paraguay                             |   |
| Former Supreme court Judge R K Agarwal | President of National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission          | He will succeed Justice D K Jain  |
| senior diplomat Pankaj Saran           | deputy national security advisor                                      | Ajit Doval is presently the national security advisor.                      |
| Sudha Balakrishnan                     | First-ever Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of Reserve Bank of India     | 12th executive director of RBI  |
| Kummanam Rajasekharan                  | Governor of Mizoram   | Senior BJP leader from Kerala   |
| Mia Mottley                            | First female Prime Minister of Barbados                               | Caribbean island - Barbados   |
| Professor Ganeshi Lal                  | Governor of Odisha  | Professor Lal is currently the President of the BJP Disciplinary Committee. |
| Anubrata Biswas                        | Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Airtel Payments Bank | -   |
| Charan Singh                           | Chairman of Punjab & Sind Bank  | Suggested by Banks Board Bureau   |
| Anjali Bansal                          | Chairman of Dena Bank   | Suggested by Banks Board Bureau   |
| Tapan Ray                              | Chairman of Central Bank of India                                     | Suggested by Banks Board Bureau   |
| Former Supreme Court judge C K Prasad  | Chairman of the Press Council of India (PCI)                          |   |
| HD Kumaraswamy                         | 24th Chief Minister of Karnataka                                      |   |
| G Parameshwara                         | Deputy CM of Karnataka  |   |
| Congress MLA KR Ramesh Kumar           | Assembly Speaker of Karnataka   |   |
| Pravin L. Agrawal                      | Director of Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL)                       |   |
| Nicolas Maduro                         | President of Venezuela  | For Second term   |
| Susheela Jayapal                       | Elected as a Member of the Board of Commissioners of                  | First South Asian to be elected in Oregon                                   |

## CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY 2018 PDF

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
|   | Multnomah County in Oregon                            |  |
| Gina Haspel                               | First female Director of CIA                          | CIA - Central Intelligence Agency of USA.                              |
| Harish Manwani                            | Independent Director of Tata Sons                     |  |
| Ambika Sharma                             | Head of U.S India Business Council                    | She is the highest ranked female executive of an Indian industry body. |
| Anil Kumar Jha                            | Chairman and Managing Director of Coal India Limited  | Jha will replace acting chairman Suresh Kumar                          |
| Shashank Manohar                          | Independent Chairman of International Cricket Council |  |
| Piyush Goyal                              | Additional charge of the Finance Ministry             | Arun Jaitley is recovering from a kidney transplant                    |
| Sarah Mullally                            | First female Bishop of London                         |  |
| Nikol Pashinyan                           | Prime Minister of Armenia                             |  |
| Nitin Bawankule                           | Head Of India Cloud Business                          |  |
| Carlos Alvarado                           | President of Costa Rica                               |  |
| Vladimir Putin                            | President of Russia                                   | For fourth time  |
| Former Australian cricketer Justin Langer | Australian cricket team's head coach                  | Langer replaces Darren Lehmann   |
| Sania Mirza                               | Brand ambassador OF Century Mattresses                |  |

### CURRENT AFFAIRS RELATED TO BANKING

#### Indian economy grew 7.7% in Q4

Indian economy grew 7.7% in the January-March quarter of 2017-18, the biggest expansion in seven quarters, on account of robust performance in manufacturing, construction and service sectors as well as good farm output, government data showed on May 31. The previous high GDP growth of 8.1% was recorded in April-June quarter of 2016-17. The GDP growth was 6.1% in January-March quarter in 2016-17.

#### Bharti Airtel completes acquisition of Telenor India

India's largest telecom operator Bharti Airtel completed the acquisition of the Indian arm of Telenor Communications. The Sunil Mittal-led company will begin integrating Telenor's operations across seven circles and all its customers will be transitioned to the Airtel

**Day Today GK - Join our WhatsApp Group - +916381085084**

## **CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY 2018 PDF**

network seamlessly. Following the deal, Airtel's mobile subscriber base in India now stands at over 33 crore.

### **GST Council approves system of filing single monthly return**

The GST Council has decided to introduce a single monthly return for businesses in order to simplify the process and increase compliance. The new system would come into force in six months, Finance Secretary Hasmukh Adhia said. The single filing return will be applicable for all except for businesses opting for composition scheme and filing nil returns.

### **India to reach 100% power target before deadline: World Bank**

According to the World Bank, India is set to achieve its target of universal access to electricity before the 2030 deadline. "India is doing extremely well on electrification...About 85% of the population has access to electricity," a World Bank official stated. This comes days after PM Narendra Modi announced that all Indian villages now have access to electricity.

### **GST Council approves making GST Network a government body**

The GST Council has approved a proposal to make the GST Network (GSTN) a government body. The government will acquire the 51% stake held by private entities and subsequently the central government will own 50% in GSTN and states will collectively hold the remaining 50%. Currently, a 49% stake in GSTN is held by the government.

### **FDI Confidence Index 2018: India ranks 11th**

India's ranking fell three places to 11th spot in global consultants AT Kearney's Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Confidence Index 2018. This is an annual survey which tracks the impact of likely political, economic and regulatory changes on the FDI preferences of chief executive officers and chief financial officers. Last year, India was ranked eighth. Its position was pushed out of the top 10 for the first time since 2015. Japan, the US, the UK, and Singapore consistently serve as large sources of FDI for India.

### **RBI places deposit, lending restrictions on Allahabad Bank**

The RBI has asked state-owned Allahabad Bank to reduce its exposure to unrated and high-risk advances in view of deteriorating financial health. The central bank also restricted the lender's access to raise high-cost deposits and creation of non-banking assets. Notably, the bank reported a loss of ₹3,509 crore for the March quarter amid worsening asset quality.

### **Fino Payments Bank Launched Digital Suite**

Fino Payments Bank launched a suite of digital products that can be accessed online and through mobile phones with the focus to build the transaction platform. Fino had launched its mobile banking app BPay in 2017.

**Day Today GK - Join our WhatsApp Group - +916381085084**

## CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY 2018 PDF

The latest initiatives include Unified Payments Interface (UPI), BHIM app – using which customers can access UPI and make P2P payments, net banking, digi savings account which can be opened with only Aadhaar number and PAN card and FasTag for making digital payments at toll plazas on national highways.

### **Walmart buys Flipkart in world's largest e-commerce deal**

US-based retail giant Walmart has closed the largest e-commerce deal in the world by acquiring a majority stake in the Indian e-commerce platform Flipkart, SoftBank CEO Masayoshi Son has confirmed. According to reports, Walmart will acquire 77% stake in Flipkart for \$16 billion, valuing the homegrown startup at around \$20.8 billion.

### **RBI imposes ₹5 crore penalty on South Indian Bank**

RBI has imposed a penalty of ₹5 crore on South Indian Bank for non-compliance with directions issued by it. The non-compliance pertained to bad loan classification, Know Your Customer (KYC) guidelines and treasury function. In April, RBI had slapped a fine of ₹3 crore on IDBI Bank for failing to comply with norms related to reporting of bad loans.

### **Allahabad Bank CEO Usha Ananthasubramanian loses all powers**

The Allahabad Bank board has stripped all functional responsibilities of the bank's MD and CEO Usha Ananthasubramanian with immediate effect. This comes after the Finance Ministry asked Allahabad Bank board to divest Ananthasubramanian of all powers after she was charged by the CBI in the Nirav Modi case. Ananthasubramanian had headed PNB between August 2015 and May 2017.

### **Paytm AshaKiran initiative launched to educate women**

Paytm Payments Bank has announced a programme Paytm AshaKiran aimed at educating rural women about financial services. With this program, Paytm Payments Bank aims to educate rural women about the financial services and create new employment opportunities across smaller towns and cities in India's formal banking systems.

### **YES Bank Launches Agenda 2525**

YES Bank and YES Global Institute have launched Agenda 25×25, which pledges to create a synergistic startup environment for budding women entrepreneurs in India. The effort would ensure that by 2025 at least 25% of all entrepreneurs in India are women. The study outlines Agenda 25×25 and the need to build a 10 Step Developmental Model focused on empowering women innovators.

### **BSE becomes first Indian stock exchange to get US SEC's DOSM recognition**

BSE, Asia's oldest stock exchange, has become the first Indian exchange to be recognised as a designated offshore securities market (DOSM) by the U.S. Securities and Exchange

**Day Today GK - Join our WhatsApp Group - +916381085084**

## CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY 2018 PDF

Commission (SEC). The DOSM status allows sale of securities to U.S. investors through the trading venue of BSE without registration of such securities with the U.S. SEC and thus eases the trades by U.S. investors in India.

### **India's economy is projected to grow 7.6% in 2018-19: UN WESP**

India's economic growth is expected to climb to 7.5% in 2017-18 and 7.6% in 2018-19 supported by robust private consumption, a more supportive fiscal stance and benefits from past reforms, says a new United Nations report.

The mid-year U.N. World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) report says India is gaining momentum among major economies and although "capital spending has shown signs of revival, a more widespread and sustained recovery in private investment remains a crucial challenge".

### **SIDBI, CSC SPV ink MoU to provide financial support to village level entrepreneurs**

Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) will provide financial support to village level entrepreneurs who operate the Common Service Centres that act as access points for delivery of electronic services. An MoU to this effect was signed between SIDBI and Common Service Centres (CSC). The existing VLEs (village level entrepreneurs) who have been operating CSCs for at least one year and looking to expand their operations are eligible for availing the financial support under the MoU, which is initially eyeing 50,000 VLEs.

### **Government reconstitutes FSDC: Includes secretaries from Revenue Department, MeitY, IBC Chairman**

The government has reconstituted the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) to include secretaries from the revenue department as well as Ministry of Information Technology (MeitY). Inclusion of MeitY Secretary in the council becomes significant given the offtake of digital transactions in the country, and the rising apprehensions around safety of personal data. The FSDC, chaired by the Union Finance Minister, was set up in 2010 by the then Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee.

The council comprises RBI Governor, Sebi Chairman, finance secretary, and secretaries in the departments of Economic Affairs, Financial Services and Corporate Affairs.

### **India signs 200 million US Dollar Loan Deal with World Bank for National Nutrition Mission**

The Government of India signed a loan deal worth \$ 200 million with the World Bank for the National Nutrition Mission (POSHAN Abhiyaan). The loan would help the Government of India in achieving its goal of reducing stunting in children 0-6 years of age from 38.4% to 25% by the year 2022.

**Day Today GK - Join our WhatsApp Group - +916381085084**

## CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY 2018 PDF

The POSHAN (PM's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment) Abhiyaan was launched by the Prime Minister on 8th March 2018 at Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan. The loan approved will support the first phase scale up to 315 districts across all states and union territories (UTs).

### **Reserve Bank of India Announced Rs 10,000 Crore Bond Purchases**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced that it would buy Rs. 10,000 crore (\$1.50 billion) of government bonds via open market operation (OMO), after failing to sell all the debt it had offered to bidders.

The 10-year government bond yield rose to 7.75% from 7.74% before the auction result was announced. The eligible participants should submit their offers in electronic format on the Reserve Bank of India Core Banking Solution (E-Kuber) system.

### **GOI and World Bank signs \$500 Million Additional Financing for Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana Rural Roads Project**

The Government of India and the World Bank have signed a \$500 million loan agreement to provide additional financing for the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) Rural Roads Project, implemented by Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India, which will build 7,000 km of climate resilient roads, out of which 3,500 km will be constructed using green technologies.

The World Bank has supported PMGSY since its inception in 2004. So far it has invested over \$1.8 billion in loans and credits mostly in the economically weaker and hill states across North India - Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, and Uttar Pradesh. It has built and improved about 35,000 km of rural roads and benefited about eight million people with access to all-weather roads.

### **Moody's cuts India's GDP growth forecast to 7.3% for 2018**

Global credit rating agency Moody's has cut India's GDP growth estimate to 7.3% for the calendar year 2018, down from its previous forecast of 7.5%. The agency said that higher oil prices were likely to weigh-in on the country's economic recovery pace. However, the rating agency retained the GDP growth forecast for 2019 at 7.5%.

### **India, World Bank ink \$21.7 million loan agreement for Rajasthan's Public Financial Management Project**

An Agreement for International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) Credit of USD 21.7 Million from World Bank for the Strengthening of Public Financial Management in Rajasthan Project has been signed.

- The Project size is approximately USD 31 million, of which USD 21.7 million will be financed by the World Bank, and the remaining amount will be funded-out of the State Budget. The Project duration is 5 years.

**Day Today GK - Join our WhatsApp Group - +916381085084**



## CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY 2018 PDF

- The Project objective is to contribute to improved Budget execution, enhanced accountability and greater efficiency in Revenue Administration in Rajasthan.
- The Project involves Strengthening of the Public Financial Management Framework; Strengthening of Expenditure and Revenue Systems; and Project Management and Capacity Building among others.

### Public sector banks lose ₹53,000 crore in March quarter

Government-owned banks have reported losses of ₹53,000 crore for the final quarter of 2017-18, according to data compiled by BloombergQuint. This compares with a net loss of ₹4,302 crore by the banks in the same quarter last year. Of the 17 listed public sector banks which have reported earnings till Friday, only Indian Bank and Vijaya Bank have posted profits.

### TCS becomes 1st Indian firm to cross Rs 7 trillion market cap

Tata Consultancy Services' (TCS) market capitalisation surged past the Rs 7 trillion mark, making it the first Indian company to achieve this milestone. The company's shares surged 1.9% during intraday trading, taking its market capitalisation to ₹7.03 trillion. This comes a month after TCS surged past the \$100 billion mark, becoming the second Indian company to achieve the milestone.

### Paytm acquires Chennai-based TicketNew for \$40 million

Paytm, the brand owned by One97 Communications, has acquired Orbgen Technologies, the entity that operates Chennai-based online ticketing platform TicketNew. Sources put the deal size at around \$40 million. Last year TicketNew raised Rs 1.2 billion from Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba.

With this acquisition, Paytm hopes to take on major players such as BookMyShow. According to the company, the acquisition will help it attain leadership status in south India.

### Tatas complete acquisition of Bhushan Steel

Bamnival Steel Ltd (BNPL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tata Steel, has successfully completed the acquisition of a controlling stake, of 72.65 percent, in Bhushan Steel Ltd (BSL). Tata Steel Ltd had won the bid to acquire debt-laden Bhushan Steel Ltd (BSL) in an insolvency auction.

### Fitch predicts 7.3% growth rate

Credit rating agency Fitch has said that India's economic growth will accelerate to seven point three per cent in the current financial year and seven point five per cent in the next fiscal. Fitch said the growth rate will accelerate as money supply has recovered to its pre-demonetisation level and disruptions related to the rollout of GST have diminished. The rating agency said that the country's business environment is likely to improve gradually

**Day Today GK - Join our WhatsApp Group - +916381085084**



## CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY 2018 PDF

with the implementation and continued broadening of the government's structural-reform agenda.

### **RBI puts Dena Bank under prompt corrective action**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has initiated prompt corrective action against public sector lender Dena Bank in view of high non-performing loans, restricting the bank from giving fresh credit and new hiring.

The public sector lender has reported widening of its net loss to Rs.1,225.42 crore in the March quarter on mounting bad loans and higher provisioning to cover them. The net loss stood at Rs.575.26 crore in the January-March quarter of 2016-17.

### **Flipkart co-founder Sachin Bansal quits after Walmart deal**

Flipkart co-founder Sachin Bansal announced his exit from the company on May 9, 2018, hours after the news of American retailer Walmart acquiring Flipkart broke in the nation. Bansal stated in a post on social media that it was time for him to hand over the baton and move on. Bansal's decision comes after Walmart's condition that it could accommodate only one of the Flipkart founders in the board.

Binny Bansal, on the other hand, will retain his 5.5 per cent stake in the company and remain Flipkart Group CEO. Kalyan Krishnamurthy will also continue as CEO of Flipkart.com.

## INDIAN AFFAIRS

### **Facebook partners with NCW to launch Digital Literacy Programme**

Social networking giant Facebook said it has partnered with National Commission for Women (NCW) to launch a digital literacy programme in collaboration with the Cyber Peace Foundation (CPF).

As part of the digital literacy programme pilot, awareness training will be conducted for 60,000 women in universities across major cities in Haryana, Delhi-NCR, Manipur, Sikkim, Meghalaya, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu over a one-year period.

### **President inaugurates Integrated Centre for Crisis Management for CBRN emergencies at BARC**

President Ram Nath Kovind has inaugurated an integrated centre for crisis management (ICCM) at the iconic Bhabha Atomic Research Centre here that will help the nation respond more effectively to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear emergencies. The new facility will monitor radiological data from a network of 504 radiation sensors across the country.

**Day Today GK - Join our WhatsApp Group - +916381085084**

## **CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY 2018 PDF**

### **IAF for first time successfully conducts online scheduled test for airmen recruitment**

The Indian Air Force successfully conducted scheduled test for airmen recruitment (STAR) online last week for the first time. A total of 4,09,169 candidates had registered for the online examination for airmen. The online examination was successfully conducted at 439 centres spread over 102 cities across the country from May 3-6.

The exam was conducted in collaboration with the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC) Pune, an organisation functioning under the ministry of electronics and information technology.

### **President Ram Nath Kovind becomes 2nd President to visit Siachen base camp**

President Ram Nath Kovind visited the Siachen glacier base camp in Jammu and Kashmir to interact with the soldiers posted there. He is the second President to visit the camp after former President APJ Abdul Kalam visited it in 2004. There is special respect in heart of Indians for the soldiers and officers guarding the borders, President Kovind said.

### **Govt approves green licence plates for electric vehicles**

The government has approved green licence plates for electric vehicles bearing numbers in white fonts for private cars and yellow font for taxis, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has said. A notification in this regard will be out in a week's time, Gadkari added. The government also plans to allow youth aged between 16-18 years to drive e-scooters, he further added.

### **Operation Insaniyat: India sends second relief consignment to Bangladesh for displaced Rohingyas**

India has sent to Bangladesh its second relief consignment to help tens of thousands of displaced Rohingya Muslims who fled Myanmar following a military crackdown, triggering one of the world's worst refugee crises. Over 6,00,000 Rohingya have fled Myanmar's violence-hit Rakhine State to neighbouring Bangladesh since August when the military intensified crackdown against alleged militant outfits in the area.

Over 6,00,000 Rohingya have fled Myanmar's violence-hit Rakhine State to neighbouring Bangladesh since August when the military intensified crackdown against alleged militant outfits in the area.

### **Government launches Digital India Internship Scheme portal**

The Government of India has launched a limited period chance for students to earn up to Rs 20,000 with the Digital India Internship. With this internship, students can secure a first-hand practical work experience under the guidance of a qualified and experienced Supervisor/Mentor. It is a two-month internship that will be offered twice a year.

### **Vijay Prahar exercise of Indian Army concludes in Suratgarh, Rajasthan**

**Day Today GK - Join our WhatsApp Group - +916381085084**

## **CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY 2018 PDF**

The Indian Army's 'Vijay Prahar' exercise in which over 25,000 troops of strike formation of South Western Command (SWC) participated has concluded. The month-long exercise was conducted in the Mahajan Field Firing Ranges of Jaipur close to Suratgarh in Rajasthan. Operations were carried to validate the preparation of the army under a tactical Nuclear, Chemical or Biological attack by the adversary with advanced CBRN capability.

### **Govt issues orders for extending assistance to sugarcane farmers**

In order to help sugar mills to clear cane dues of farmers, the Government has decided to provide financial assistance at the rate of Rs. 5.50 per quintal of cane crushed in sugar season 2017-18 to sugar mills to offset the cost of cane. The said assistance shall be paid directly to the farmers on behalf of the mills and be adjusted against the cane price payable due to the farmers against Fair and Remunerative Price including arrears relating to previous years.

### **15th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas to be held in Varanasi in January 2019**

The 15th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas will be held in the holy city of Varanasi in January 2019, giving a chance to the Indian diaspora to participate in Kumbha Snan and attend the Republic Day parade in New Delhi. The theme of the 15th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas will be "Role of Indian Diaspora in building a New India".

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is celebrated in India on 9 January each year. It is celebrated to mark the contribution of the overseas Indian community to the development of India. The day also commemorates the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa in Bombay on January 9, 1915.

### **Government launches Pilot scheme Procurement of Aggregate Power of 2500 MW for 3 years**

The Government kicks off a Pilot Scheme for Procurement of Aggregate Power of 2500 MW on competitive basis for 3 (three) years under medium term i.e. from generators with commissioned projects but without Power Purchase Agreement. Under the scheme a single entity can be allotted maximum capacity of 600 MW. The Scheme assures a minimum off-take of 55 per cent of contracted capacity. The Tariff will be fixed for three years without any escalation.

### **PM Modi among Forbes top 10 most powerful people in the world**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been ranked ninth on Forbes' 2018 list of the world's most powerful people. Chinese President Xi Jinping ranked first, followed by Russian President Vladimir Putin and US President Donald Trump at the second and third rank respectively. The only other Indian to feature on the list is Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani at 32.

### **India Ranks 4th In Asia-Pacific On Power Index**

**Day Today GK - Join our WhatsApp Group - +916381085084**

## **CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY 2018 PDF**

India ranked fourth out of 25 nations in the Asia-Pacific region on an index that measures their overall power. The US has topped the list. India pegged as a “giant of the future”. India is ranked fourth on the parameters economic resources, military capability, diplomatic influence and fifth on resilience. India ranks third for its aggregate resources score and is set to become the fastest-growing economy in the region, predicted to grow 169% between 2016 and 2030.

### **CBDT approves Amendment of India-Kuwait Tax Agreement**

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) notified the protocol amending the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) between India and Kuwait.

The protocol updates the provisions in the DTAA for the exchange of information as per international standards, and also enables sharing of information received from Kuwait for tax purposes with other law enforcement agencies, subject to an authorization of the competent authority of Kuwait and vice versa.

### **Third Edition of UNPCAP Inaugurated in New Delhi**

The third edition of the United Nations Peacekeeping Course for African Partners (UNPCAP) was inaugurated in New Delhi. The course is being conducted by the Centre for United Nations Peacekeeping in India (CUNPK) in partnership with the United States.

The main aim of the course is to build and enhance the capacity of the African Troop Contributing Countries to the UN and to further train the trainers from these countries.

### **Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission approves modern animal-free testing for drugs**

The Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission has approved modern, animal-free tests for drug manufacturers. In the 2018 edition of Indian Pharmacopoeia, that provides guidelines on tests for drugs manufactured and marketed in India, the IPC has replaced the pyrogen test carried out on rabbits and the abnormal toxicity test carried out on guinea pigs and mice with tests that can be done in test tubes.

With the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission’s new mandate, the pyrogen test will be replaced by a bacterial endotoxin test or a monocyte activation test which can be carried out in test tubes. Vaccine manufacturers can apply for waiver for the abnormal toxicity test by getting a compliance certificate from the National Control Laboratory instead.

### **Business Optimism Index: India slips to 6th position globally in first quarter of 2018**

India slipped to the 6th position globally in the business optimism index for the first quarter of this year. With a score of 89, India is at the sixth place in the index. The top five nations are Austria, Finland, Indonesia, the Netherlands and the US. Indian businesses have been citing regulations and red tape, availability of skilled workforce, lack of ICT infrastructure and shortage of finance as the biggest growth constraints.

**Day Today GK - Join our WhatsApp Group - +916381085084**

## **CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY 2018 PDF**

### **India to host 15th Asia Media Summit**

India would be hosting the 15th Asia Media Summit (AMS-2018) in New Delhi from May 10-12, 2018. The annual summit will be organised by Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) in collaboration with its partners and international organisations.

Summit's theme: "Telling our Stories Asia and More"

The summit mainly aims to provide a unique opportunity to the broadcasters in Asia to share their thoughts on broadcasting and information. The summit is expected to see in attendance media professionals, scholars, policy makers and stakeholders of news and programming from Asia, Pacific, Africa, Europe, Middle East and North America.

### **Skill India Organized 'Ajeevika And Kaushal Vikas Mela' In Bhubaneswar**

Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), together joined hands to amplify the "Gram Swaraj Abhiyaan" of the current incumbent government which is promoting social harmony and awareness around the pro-poor initiatives of the government.

MSDE organized a Kaushal and Rojgar Mela at New Women's College in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, where more than 5000 people from different walks of life participated.

### **NITI Aayog ink SoI with IBM to develop Precision Agriculture using Artificial Intelligence**

NITI Aayog and IBM signed a Statement of Intent (SoI) to develop a crop yield prediction model using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to provide real time advisory to farmers in Aspirational Districts. The partnership aims to work together towards use of technology to provide insights to farmers to improve crop productivity, soil yield, control agricultural inputs with the overarching goal of improving farmers' incomes.

### **Government launches India's first ever guidelines for Adventure Tourism**

The Union Government would soon be issuing first-ever guidelines for Adventure Tourism in India. The guidelines on Safety and Quality Norms for Adventure Tourism in India have been formulated along with the Adventure Tour Operators Association of India (ATOAI).

In an effort to make adventure sports safer, the set of guidelines list out the basic minimum standards required for adventure tourism activities in India.

### **Mission Raftar: Ministry of Railways organizes one day workshop to raise speed of trains**

Ministry of Railways conducted a one day workshop "Mission Raftar" aimed at raising the average speed of freight trains and coaching trains in New Delhi. The workshop was

**Day Today GK - Join our WhatsApp Group - +916381085084**

## CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY 2018 PDF

inaugurated by Rajen Gohain, Minister of State for Railways & Ashwani Lohani, Chairman, Railway Board. All the members of Railway Board along with General Managers of Zonal Railways & Senior Railway officers were present on the occasion.

### **Defence Minister inaugurates IAF Commanders' Conference**

Union Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the first biannual IAF Commanders' Conference of 2018 at Air Headquarters. During the inauguration, the Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa briefed the Defence Minister regarding the current status of the IAF and on Exercise 'Gagan Shakti', which was conducted in April 2018.

The two-day conference will involve discussions over operational, maintenance and administrative takeaways identified during the exercise and the way ahead.

### **NIC launches 1st data centre in eastern India in Bhubaneswar**

Union IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad has inaugurated the National Informatics Centre's (NIC) first data centre in eastern India in Bhubaneswar. Set up at a cost of ₹200 crore, the Bhubaneswar national data centre is NIC's fourth in India after Delhi, Hyderabad and Pune. The NIC provides technology support for all governance services and hosts almost 10,000 government websites.

### **Akshay Kumar Launches Twin Pit Toilet Technology Campaign**

Film actor Akshay Kumar launched the twin pit toilet technology campaign in New Delhi. The actor appealed everybody to spread the awareness on the issue and make the cleanliness drive more effective.

The twin pit toilet technology is an Indian invention that collects defecation for a period of five years and then it turns into a valuable organic compost.

### **Tata Trusts signs MoU with Government to provide development support in Naxal-hit districts**

The Tata Trusts has joined hands with the government to help it in development initiatives in eight worst Naxal-affected districts in Chhattisgarh, which were covered under the "transformation of aspirational" districts programme.

As per the pact, the Tata Trusts will help the government in conducting surveys and providing ground level and technical support in raising the living standards of citizens and ensuring inclusive growth for all. The eight worst Naxal-hit districts, which were chosen for the programme and would be helped by the Tata Trusts are Rajnandgaon, Kanker, Bastar, Bijapur, Kondagaon, Dantewada, Narayanpur and Sukma.

**Day Today GK - Join our WhatsApp Group - +916381085084**

## CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY 2018 PDF

### **PM Modi opens two Expressways in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana**

Two projects – phase one of the Delhi-Meerut expressway and Eastern Peripheral Expressway (EPE) – constructed to decongest Delhi, has been inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The 135-km-long EPE, built at a cost of Rs 11,000 crore, envisages signal-free connectivity between Ghaziabad, Faridabad, Greater Noida and Palwal and will ultimately decongest the national capital. The 135-km expressway is powered by solar energy and has provisions for rainwater harvesting every 500 metres.

Phase I of Delhi-Meerut expressway is almost 9-km long and has 14 lanes, and runs from Nizamuddin bridge to the Delhi-Uttar Pradesh border.

### **India ranks 145 out of 195 countries in healthcare: Report**

India has been ranked 145 out of 195 countries on the Healthcare Access and Quality Index (HAQ), according to a report published by The Lancet. The reason behind the poor rank of the country is the unequal income, which leads to unequal access to healthcare, a Manipal University professor said. Further, UP and Assam have the lowest HAQ in India.

### **Arjun Vajpai conquers Kangchenjunga; youngest to summit six peaks over 8,000 m**

Indian mountaineer Arjun Vajpai became the youngest person in the world to scale six peaks over 8,000 metres when he summited the treacherous Kangchenjunga, the third highest mountain in the world. Vajpai became the third youngest person to scale the Mount Everest at the age of 16 in 2010.

### **15th Finance Commission constitutes high level group for balanced expansion of health sector**

The Fifteenth Finance Commission has constituted a high level group consisting of eminent experts from across the country in Health Sector. Dr. Randeep Guleria, Director, AIIMS, New Delhi will be its Convenor.

The role and functions of the High Level Group on Health Sector will be:

- To evaluate the existing regulatory framework in the Health sector and examine its strength and weaknesses for enabling a balanced yet faster expansion of the health sector keeping in view India's demographic profile;
- To suggest ways and means to optimize the use of existing financial resources and to incentivize the state governments' effort on fulfillment of well-defined health parameters in India; and
- To holistically examine best international practices for the health sector and seek to benchmark our frameworks to these practices for optimizing benefits keeping in mind our local issues.



## **CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY 2018 PDF**

### **Indian Navy conducts Prasthan exercise**

The Indian Navy conducted a security exercise, called “Prasthan”, in the Offshore Development Area (ODA) off the coast of Mumbai. The exercise, conducted by the Headquarters Western Naval Command, is held every six months. The exercise aims to integrate maritime stakeholders, including the Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, ONGC, Port Trust, Customs, State Fisheries department and Marine Police, towards refining standard operating procedures for response to various contingencies that could occur in the ODAs.

### **Naval Commander’s Conference concludes**

The first biannual Naval Commander’s Conference of 2018 concluded on May 11, 2018 after four days of intense deliberations on a wide range of issues. The conference was inaugurated by Union Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, who set the tone for the deliberations stating that the Indian Navy is a force to reckon with in the Indo-Pacific region.

### **NITI Aayog signs SoI with Sushant Singh Rajput to promote Women Entrepreneurship Platform**

NITI Aayog has announced the signing of a Statement of Intent (SoI) with Sushant Singh Rajput, to collaborate and support NITI’s flagship initiative, the Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP). The agreement was signed in the presence of Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog by Anna Roy, Adviser (Industry), NITI Aayog and Sushant Singh Rajput.

### **LCU L54: Indian Navy commissions fourth ship of Landing Craft Utility MK-IV**

The Indian navy has commissioned its fourth Landing Craft Utility (LCU) Mk-IV, IN LCU L54, in a ceremony at Port Blair on South Andaman Island. A total of 8 vessels in the class are planned to be built for the Indian Navy. The commissioning of the third ship in the class took place in April 2018.

### **MHA creates Women Safety Division to address issues of women security**

Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has created a new division to address issues of women safety comprehensively. The new division will extensively deal with all aspects of women safety in coordination with relevant departments and state governments. Punya Salila Srivastava, AGMUT Cadre officer of 1993 batch has been appointed as Joint Secretary to head this Division.

### **ASEAN India Film Festival held in New Delhi**

I&B Minister Rajyavardhana Rathore launches six-day ASEAN India Film Festival in New Delhi. The six-day event was inaugurated by Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Col. Rajyavardhan Rathore. The Union Minister also said that the Information and

**Day Today GK - Join our WhatsApp Group - +916381085084**

## CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY 2018 PDF

Broadcasting ministry is taking measures to create and promote film festivals with ASEAN, BRICS and European nations.

### **I&B Minister Launches 6-Day ASEAN India Film Festival**

I&B Minister Col. Rajyavardhana Rathore launches six-day ASEAN India Film Festival in New Delhi. India and ASEAN share historical and cultural links. The Union Minister also stated that the Information and Broadcasting ministry is taking measures to create and promote film festivals with ASEAN, BRICS, and European nations.

### **Import duty on wheat hiked to 30% to curb cheaper imports**

The government has hiked the import duty on wheat from 20% to 30% to curb cheaper imports and protect domestic growers. The move comes at a time when the domestic production is expected to reach a record 98.61 million tonnes in the 2017-18 crop year. Further, the import duty on walnut shell has also been increased from 30% to 100%.

### **IIT-Kanpur signs Rs 15-crore deal to make flying cars in India**

IIT-Kanpur researchers have signed a Rs 15-crore MoU with VTOL Aviation India to develop vertical takeoff and landing (VTOL) craft prototypes, potentially to be used as flying taxis. AK Ghosh, the Aerospace Engineering head of IIT-Kanpur said the electric craft will be able to take off or land on any terrain. The project may span up to five years, he added.

### **India climbs one spot to 44th in global competitive rankings**

India has jumped one spot to 44th this year in global competitive rankings released by Switzerland-based IMD World Competitiveness Center. Meanwhile, China bagged the 13th rank this year as compared to the 18th in 2016. The US dethroned Hong Kong to retake first place on the list, which ranked 63 countries based on 258 indicators.

### **HRD Ministry launches Samagra Shiksha scheme**

Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar launched Samagra Shiksha scheme for school education. The scheme focuses on improving quality of education, enhancing the Learning outcomes and using technology to empower children and teachers.

The objectives of the scheme include

1. Provision of quality education
2. Enhancing learning outcomes of students
3. Bridging social and gender gaps in school education and promoting vocationalisation of education
4. Strengthening teacher education institutions like SCERTs and Diets to improve quality of teachers
5. Annual grant of Rs 5,000 to Rs 20,000 per school for strengthening of libraries

**Day Today GK - Join our WhatsApp Group - +916381085084**

## CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY 2018 PDF

### India at historic best on 'Ease of doing business' index

With foreign direct investment on a record high and several major reforms, India's economy has undergone a significant transformation in the past four years. According to the global ease of doing business report, India jumped up 30 notches into the 'ease of doing business' index. India now ranks 100 globally as compared to previous year's 130.

### India ranks 145th among 195 countries in healthcare access, quality: Lancet Study

India ranks 145th among 195 countries in terms of quality and accessibility of healthcare, behind its neighbours like China, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Bhutan, according to a Lancet study. Goa and Kerala had the highest scores in 2016, each exceeding 60 points, whereas Assam and Uttar Pradesh had the lowest, each below 40.

The five countries with the highest levels of healthcare access and quality in 2016 were Iceland (97.1 points), Norway (96.6), the Netherlands (96.1), Luxembourg (96.0), and Finland and Australia (each with 95.9).

### DAC approves measures to simplify Defence Procurement Procedure

In a major move, the Defence Ministry approved a series of measures to simplify procurement of military platforms and weapons for the three services with an aim to speed up their modernisation. The changes include devolution of powers within the ministry and the service headquarters, concurrent running of the acquisition process instead of sequential stage clearance, deletion of repetitive processes and aligning of various documents with revised financial guidelines.

### UDAN scheme: First commercial flight of Arunachal Pradesh lands at Pasighat

A wartime airstrip laid 66 years ago helped **Arunachal Pradesh** create history by becoming the last of the eight northeastern States to be on India's commercial flight service map. Pasighat Airport, too, made it to the record books – as India's easternmost airport with civilian operations – when an Alliance Air flight touched down from Kolkata via Guwahati carrying Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu and other passengers.

### First all-woman Indian crew sails across the globe in 252 days

The first all-woman Indian Navy crew took 252 days to sail across the globe and was welcomed in Goa by Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday. The six-member crew, which started the voyage onboard 55-foot INSV Tarini in September 2017, travelled over 21,600 nautical miles across three oceans. It sailed across four continents and crossed the equator twice.

## **CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY 2018 PDF**

### **India is 6th wealthiest country in the world**

India is the sixth wealthiest country in the world with a total wealth of USD 8,230 billion, according to the AfrAsia Bank Global Wealth Migration Review. The report further stated that the United States is the wealthiest country in the world with a total wealth of USD 62,584 billion.

China stood at the second place with USD 24,803 billion, while Japan was at the third place with USD 19,522 billion. The total wealth, in the report, refers to the private wealth held by all the individuals living in each country.

### **CRPF raises Bastariya Battalion to combat Naxals activities in Bastar region of Chhattisgarh**

In a bid to enhance combat capabilities in Naxal-hit area of Bastar district in Chhattisgarh, the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), for the first time, has decided to include local representation in a special unit.

The special unit has been numbered as 241 and named as 'Bastariya Battalion', as all the candidates are selected from four highly Naxal infested district in Chhattisgarh, i.e Bijapur, Dantewada, Narayanpur and Sukma.

### **Govt creating national registry of crimes against women**

The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) is in the process of creating a national registry of crimes against women. The move comes against the backdrop of an around three-percent increase in crimes against women and a 12-percent rise in incidents of rape in 2016 as compared to 2015.

In 2015, as many as 34,651 cases of rape were registered. The number increased to 38,947 in 2016. Overall crimes against women rose from 3,29,243 in 2015 to 3,38,954 in 2016, according to the NCRB data.

### **Govt approves Rs 685cr to stop farmers from burning stubble**

The Centre has approved Rs 685-crore relief funds for ensuring that Punjab farmers do not resort to burning stubble. Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh collectively burn 23 million tonne stubble between October and November.

### **PM Modi to lay foundation of Zojila Tunnel**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone of Zojila Tunnel on the Srinagar-Leh National Highway in Leh. The project has been built at a cost of Rs 5200 cr. Prime Minister Modi personally monitored the progress of this critical project. The construction of a 24 km long tunnel was constructed on the Kishenganga Dam was a challenging task.

**Day Today GK - Join our WhatsApp Group - +916381085084**

## **CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY 2018 PDF**

### **Commerce Ministry establishes Directorate General of Trade Remedies**

The Ministry of Commerce has issued a notification for a unified Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) that would subsume the Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied duties, Directorate General of Safeguards and some functions of the Directorate General of Foreign Trade.

DGTR will be the apex national authority for all trade remedial measures including anti-dumping, countervailing duties and safeguard measures.

### **NASA study warns of freshwater decline in India**

India is among the regions where overuse of water resources has caused a decline in freshwater availability, as per a NASA study. Earth's wetland areas are getting wetter and dry areas going drier due to human water management, climate change and natural cycles. Researchers used 14 years of satellite observations from the US/German GRACE mission to study 34 regions worldwide.

### **Union Minister Suresh Prabhu Launched Intellectual Property Mascot IP Nani**

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Suresh Prabhu launched the Intellectual Property (IP) mascot 'IP Nani'. The mascot was launched during a conference on the National Intellectual Property Rights Policy in New Delhi.

The first and foremost objective of the Policy is "IPR Awareness: Outreach and Promotion", aimed at raising awareness on IPR for school children to nurture creativity and the ability to innovate from a very young age.

### **India saw 211 tuberculosis cases per 1,00,000 population in 2016: WHO**

India saw an estimated 211 cases of tuberculosis per 1,00,000 people in 2016, better than neighbouring Bangladesh and Myanmar which recorded 221 and 361 cases respectively in this category, according to the World Health Statistics 2018 released by WHO.

India has pledged to eradicate tuberculosis by 2025, five years ahead of the global target set by WHO.

The WHO report also stated that maternal mortality ratio (MMR) in India was 174 per 1,00,000 births in 2015. The Sustainable Development Goals for 2030 is to lower MMR for all countries to less than 70 per 1,00,000 births.

### **Sagar cyclonic storm: IMD issues advisory to 5 states and 1 UT**

The India Meteorological Department has issued an advisory to Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra and the Lakshadweep archipelago over cyclonic storm 'Sagar'. The cyclonic storm lay centered over the Gulf of Aden, about 390 km east-northeast

**Day Today GK - Join our WhatsApp Group - +916381085084**

## CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY 2018 PDF

of Yemen's Aden city and 560 km west-northwest of Socotra Islands. Superior Dolby Atmos surround sound for the perfect gaming Legion Y720

### STATE RELATED CURRENT AFFAIRS

#### Andhra Pradesh notifies new state symbols after bifurcation

Andhra Pradesh was bifurcated to create Telangana in June, 2014. Now the state has come up with new state symbols. Neem and black buck have been declared as the state tree and animal respectively of Andhra Pradesh. Rose-ringed parakeet will be the state bird while jasmine will be the state's flower.

#### Himachal Govt Sanctions Rs 25 Cr For Renovating Bantony Castle

The Himachal Pradesh government will spend 25 crore rupees on renovating and developing the historic British Raj 'Bantony Castle Estate as a major tourist attraction. The Bantony Castle, owned by a business family and housing the state police headquarters, was acquired by the government for over 27 crores two years ago.

#### NTPC signs MoU with Bihar Government to improve performance of power sector in Bihar

With an aim to improve the performance of Power Sector in Bihar, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Government of Bihar (GoB) and NTPC Limited. The MoU envisages transfer of Barauni Thermal Power Station (720 MW) to NTPC.

In addition to this, Bihar State Power Generation Company's (BSPGCL) equities in Kanti Bijlee Utpadan Nigam Limited (KBUN) & Nabinagar Power Generating Company (Pvt.) Limited (NPGC) will also be transferred to NTPC.

NTPC, a Maharatna Company under Ministry of Power, Govt. of India is the largest power generating company of India with a total installed capacity of 53651 MW (including JVs) from coal, gas, hydro, solar and wind power projects.

#### Modi-led govt spent ₹4,300 cr on publicity since 2014: RTI

The PM Narendra Modi-led NDA government has spent over ₹4,300 crore on advertisements and publicity since 2014, according to an RTI response. While the maximum expenditure of over ₹1,263 crore was incurred in 2016-17, the government spent the least amount of ₹953.5 crore in 2014-15. It spent the maximum amount of over ₹2,000 crore on electronic media advertisements.

#### Centre submits draft of Cauvery scheme in Supreme Court

The Centre has submitted a draft of the Cauvery scheme on water sharing between Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Puducherry before the Supreme Court. The court said

**Day Today GK - Join our WhatsApp Group - +916381085084**

## **CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY 2018 PDF**

it would consider and approve the scheme on May 16. Earlier, it had said the Centre was in “sheer contempt” of its February verdict directing the scheme be framed within six weeks.

### **Govt planning unique codes to identify fake medicines**

The government is planning to introduce a mechanism to identify fake medicines wherein drugmakers will be required to print a unique 14-digit alphanumeric code on packages. Consumers will be able to text the code to a number to check whether the product is genuine. The government plans to initially build a data bank of 300 medicine brands.

### **Government to link 200 more mandis to eNAM**

The government will link additional 200 wholesale mandis to the online trading platform eNAM this fiscal and also encourage inter-mandi transactions. At present, 585 regulated mandis in 14 states are linked with the electronic National Agriculture Market (eNAM) launched in April 2016.

So far, 73.50 lakh farmers, 53,163 commission agents and over 1 lakh traders are registered on the eNAM platform from 14 states.

### **UNDP to set up skill development centre in Hyderabad**

Aimed at empowering vulnerable and marginalized women by imparting skills training, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) announced to set up a skill development center at ‘Bharosa,’ an integrated support center for distressed women and children in Hyderabad. Bharosa,’ an initiative of Hyderabad City Police, is a state-of-the-art center to support women and children who are victims of violence.

### **Indian Army finalises Rs. 15000 crore indigenous ammunition project**

After years of deliberations, the Army has finalised a mega Rs 15,000-crore project under which a range of ammunition for its critical weapons and tanks will be produced indigenously to overcome long delays in imports and address the problem of a dwindling stockpile.

### **Par Panel To Look Into Black Money Recovery, Performance Of PSBs**

A parliamentary panel headed by veteran BJP leader Murali Manohar Joshi decided to study the recovery of black money and performance of public sector banks (PSBs) among a host of subjects.

The 30-member Estimates Committee, in a meeting, decided to study a host of subjects related to various ministries in the year 2018-19. As per the memorandum of the committee, the panel will look into the import of uranium for nuclear plants, mining activities and environment, upgrading of India Post offices and the drought situation in the country among other matters.

**Day Today GK - Join our WhatsApp Group - +916381085084**



## CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY 2018 PDF

### North Eastern State Capitals to be connected by railway network by 2020

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to develop India's north-east region is taking shape. A couple of days ago he declared that Sikkim will have air connectivity before it gets a railway line. And that happened. Now he is planning to join the capital cities of Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Sikkim, and Nagaland by railway route. As per the target fixed, by 2020 all the capital cities of the northeastern states will be connected with each other by railway network.

### Government to expand Buddhist tourism circuit to 21 more states

The government already had plans to have seven main Buddhist pilgrimage sites in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. Now the government plans to expand the 'Buddhist Circuit' to other 21 states. The states included in the plan are Kerala, Goa, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Jammu and Kashmir and West Bengal. The Ministry of Tourism has already identified stupas and viharas in these states and small intrastate Buddhist zones will be made around these.

The Buddhist circuit is considered as India's first trans-national tourist circuit. The plan is to promote tourism starting from Lumbini in Nepal, where Buddha was born, to the places he visited in India including Bodh Gaya, Sarnath, Vaishali, Sravasti, Sankasia, Kushinagar and Rajgir.

### Delhi to become world's most populous city by 2028: UN

Delhi will surpass Tokyo as the most populous city in the world by 2028, a UN report has estimated. By then, India is also estimated to replace China and become the world's most populous country, the report added. Further, India, Nigeria, and China will account for over one-third of the projected growth in the world's urban population by 2050.

### Tamil Nadu To Build Indias Next Generation Defence Aircraft

The Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA), which had conceived and designed the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas, has set the ball rolling for building the next generation defense aircraft, the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA), by extending an invitation to private players in Coimbatore to build a technology demonstrator.

The project to be implemented in Sulur in Coimbatore district which may house the permanent base of the Tejas squadron marks Tamil Nadu's first major defense aircraft project.

### Kerala on high alert after rare disease kills 10

The Kerala Health Department has been put on high alert after the Nipah virus led to the death of around ten people in the state. There is no vaccine or medicine for the disease and the only form of treatment is intensive supportive care. The health department has decided to set up isolation wards to contain the virus.

**Day Today GK - Join our WhatsApp Group - +916381085084**

## CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY 2018 PDF

### **Black Panther: Chhattisgarh to get specialised anti-Naxal combat force**

Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh said Chhattisgarh would get a specialised anti-Naxal combat force called the “Black Panther”, on the lines of the Greyhounds unit. The Greyhounds is a special force in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh that specialises in anti-insurgency operations against Naxals and Maoists.

### **Punjab has the lowest meat consumption in India**

Punjab has the lowest consumption of meat in India, with 10% of the men and 4% of the women in the state eating meat weekly, the IndiaSpend analysis of national health data has revealed. Rajasthan and Haryana are the second and third lowest meat-consuming states, the analysis further revealed. Additionally, meat-consumption is highest in south and northeast India.

### **First organised census of Indus Dolphins begins in Punjab**

The Punjab Government, together with the WWF, started the census of the Indus Dolphin found in the Indus River. This is the world’s extinct mammal species. Its aim is to preserve this species. The dolphin found in the Indus River is found only in the area of 185 km between India and Pakistan. This dolphin is found in the Beas river of India between Talwada and Harike Port.

According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), since 1944, the population of dolphins found in this area has decreased by 50 percent.

### **Google to set up 25,000 Wi-Fi hotspots in Andhra villages**

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu said that Google and his government will facilitate all Gram Panchayats with internet access, installing 25,000 Wi-Fi hotspots by December 2018. In 2016, Google had installed public Wi-Fi networks at 100 railway stations and is now working to expand the project to as many as 400 stations by 2018 end.

### **EPFO launches View Pension Passbook Service on Umang App**

Pensioners would now be able to view their pension passbook on mobile phones with the help of Umang app. Retirement fund body EPFO announced the launch of a facility to extend the special service to pensioners. Pensioners would now be able to view their pension passbook on mobile phones with the help of Umang app. Umang app was launched by the government last year and provides access to various government services at one place. It is a common platform for services such as gas booking, Aadhaar, crop insurance, EPF and National Pension System.

## **CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY 2018 PDF**

### **Dalmia Group adopts Gandikota Fort along with Red Fort**

The Dalmia Bharat Group has adopted Gandikota Fort in Andhra Pradesh, along with the Red Fort in Delhi, for a period of five years under the government's 'Adopt A Heritage' scheme. Under the scheme, the firm will only be responsible for maintaining and revamping the monument and will not undertake any profit-making activities.

### **India now among world's top 5 military spenders**

India has surpassed France to become one of the world's five largest military spenders, according to Swedish arms watchdog SIPRI. India spent \$63.9 billion on its military in 2017, an increase of 5.5% compared with 2016, the report stated. The other countries in top five include the US, China, Saudi Arabia, and Russia.

### **14 of world's 20 most polluted cities are in India: WHO**

As many as 14 Indian cities are among the 20 most polluted cities in the world in terms of PM2.5 levels, according to World Health Organisation's latest report on air quality. The data reveals that Kanpur is the most polluted city in the world, while three cities in the United States are the least polluted.

### **PM Modi most popular world leader on Facebook**

According to the study "World Leaders on Facebook" released in Geneva by Burson Cohn & Wolfe, over 43 million people follow PM Modi on the social media platform. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is far ahead of other world leaders, including US President Donald Trump, when it comes to popularity on Facebook.

The Prime Minister has been using social media to communicate directly with the people of India and the world on a wide range of issues.

### **Army's 'Vijay Prahar' exercise underway in Rajasthan**

Over 20,000 troops of the strike formations of the Army's South Western Command are engaged in the "Vijay Prahar" exercise to fine-tune the Army's jointmanship with the Indian Air Force (IAF) near Suratgarh in Rajasthan. The exercise is being held in the wake of the IAF testing its might in the "Gagan Shakti" exercise in the western sector of Rajasthan, which shares an over-1,000-kms border with Pakistan.

### **MP govt brings onion crop under Bhavantar scheme**

Apparently rattled by steep fall in prices of onions and its possible political implications in an election year, the Madhya Pradesh government has brought the crop under the ambit of "Bhavantar Bhugtan Yojana" with an aim to provide relief to farmers.

**Day Today GK - Join our WhatsApp Group - +916381085084**

## CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY 2018 PDF

The aim of the scheme is to primarily support farmers in case of distressed sales in the mandis which fetches them prices below the Minimum support prices (MSP).

### **Madhya Pradesh Launches 'My MP Rojgar Portal'**

The Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched 'My MP Rojgar Portal' to provide jobs to youths as per their educational qualification, skills, and interest and ensure availability of able candidates to employers as per the need of their business.

The portal was launched as a part of the 'Ham Chhu Lenge Asman' Mukhyamantri Career Counselling programme 'Pahal' in Model School of Bhopal.

### **Nidaan: Rajasthan Government launches software for disease monitoring**

A new software, 'Nidaan', has been launched in Rajasthan for presumptive diagnosis and monitoring of seasonal and non-communicable diseases as well as the trends of ailments found in specific areas. It is expected to help in formulation of specific action plans for control of diseases. "Nidaan" will facilitate online entries of as many as 46 diseases and healthcare services available for their treatment in different institutions.

### **Manipur becomes first north eastern state to get solar toilet**

Manipur has become the first state in north east and third in India to get solar toilets, which were inaugurated at Ibudhou Marjing Hill Heingang. Tourism Director Waikhom Ibohal said the idea came to him through an entrepreneur he met at a Guwahati summit. Such toilets may be installed at other tourist spots if this project turns successful, he added.

### **Rythu Bandhu Scheme: Telangana government launches investment support scheme for farmers**

The Telangana government has launched a new scheme in which the farmers in the state will get Rs 8,000 per acre each every year as crop investment support. The government plans to spend Rs 12,000 crore every year under this scheme, benefiting 58 lakh farmers. The financial assistance will be for two crops each year. KCR, as Rao is popularly known, distributed cheques among the farmers to formally launch the scheme.

### **World's Largest Bird Sculpture 'Jatayu' to be inaugurated in Kerala**

Kerala tourism will inaugurate the world's largest bird sculpture, Jatayu Earth's Centre in Thiruvananthapuram. The replica of the bird 'Jatayu' – a character in the Ramayana – is 200 feet long, 150 feet wide, 65 feet tall and is positioned right at the top of a rock situated 1,000 feet above sea level. The sculpture, spread over 65 acres in Thiruvananthapuram, has been built at a cost of Rs 100 crore.

**Day Today GK - Join our WhatsApp Group - +916381085084**

## **CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY 2018 PDF**

### **Kerala becomes first state to cut tax on fuel, price down Rs 1/L**

The Kerala government on Wednesday decided to cut the excise duty on fuel to effect a Rs 1 per litre reduction in petrol and diesel prices, starting June 1. Kerala has become the first state to slash taxes on fuel after the recent price rally. This is expected to cause a revenue loss of Rs 500 crore annually to the state government.

### **Gujarat Government Launches Reuse Of Treated Waste Water Policy**

The Gujarat government unveiled its 'Reuse of Treated Waste Water Policy' which aims to reduce the state's dependence on freshwater sources like the Narmada river.

Chief Minister Vijay Rupani and Deputy Chief Minister Nitin Patel launched the policy at a function held in Gandhinagar.

The policy will promote the use of treated wastewater and will see the setting up of sewage treatment plants (STP) in all major towns and cities of Gujarat.

### **Ministry Of Women And Child Development Signs MoU With Uttar Pradesh**

The Ministry of Women and Child and Development, Government of India signed a MoU with Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Uttar Pradesh, in New Delhi for management of Home of Widows at Sunrakh Bangar, Vrindavan.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development has constructed this shelter home for widows with a capacity of 1000 inmates. The MoU shall be in force for a period of 2 years which may be renewed for further period on the satisfactory running of the Home.

### **Gaj Yatra launched in Garo Hills of Meghalaya**

Gaj Yatra Gaj Yatra is an 18-month-long national campaign aimed to protect elephants, India's national heritage animal in 12 elephant range states.

It was organized by the Wildlife Trust of India in collaboration with the State Forest Department.

Under this campaign, an elephant mascot will be there. It was launched to the acknowledged good gesture of villagers from Garo Hills who had set aside part of their community-owned land to create village researchers.

### **TN govt orders permanent shut down of Sterlite plant**

Tamil Nadu CM EK Palaniswami has passed an order to permanently shut down Vedanta's Sterlite copper plant in Tuticorin after at least 13 people were killed in police fire during protests against the plant. Protestors alleged that the plant was polluting groundwater and

**Day Today GK - Join our WhatsApp Group - +916381085084**

## CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY 2018 PDF

causing health problems for locals. Earlier, the Madras High court stayed the expansion of the plant.

### **UNEP recognizes Cochin International Airport as world's first fully solar energy-powered airport**

The United Nations Environment Programme has recognised Cochin International Airport Ltd (CIAL) as the world's first fully solar energy-powered airport. The power plant is accompanied by a solar farm, with vegetables grown below and between solar panels. Erik Solheim, executive director of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), appreciates Cochin International Airport Ltd's solar power plant.

### **Telangana Government announces unique life insurance scheme for farmers**

Telangana government has announced a unique life insurance scheme for farmers. Under the scheme, the government will provide life insurance facility of five lakh rupees to the nominee, after the death of the insured farmer. The entire premium will be paid by the government to the insurance agency and the nominee will get the amount within ten days of the claim after the death of the farmer. The dependent family will get the benefit irrespective of the reason for the death of the farmer.

The farmers in the age group of 18 to 60 are eligible to enroll their names to get benefit from it. The scheme will come into force from 15th of August this year.

The Telangana government has enhanced the retirement age limit for teaching professors of state health department from 58 to 65. This decision was taken in a Cabinet meeting held on May 27, 2018.

### **13. Himachal government to promote organic farming**

The state government of Himachal Pradesh has decided to promote organic farming in a big way and plans to adopt an integrated approach for promoting organic and zero budget natural farming system. At present, 39,790 farmers have already switched over to organic farming ensuring production of healthy food grains, free from harmful chemical ingredients. The state government has introduced 'Prakritik Kheti Khushhaal Kisaan Yojana' to enhance agricultural income by adopting low-cost climate-resilient Zero Budget Natural Farming System.

### **PM Modi unveils projects of Rs 27,000 cr in Jharkhand**

Prime Minister Modi laid the foundation stone of various projects of Central and state governments, including Ranchi City Gas Distribution Project, All India Institute of Medical Sciences in Deoghar, development of Deoghar Airport and revival of Sindri Fertilizer Project.

**Day Today GK - Join our WhatsApp Group - +916381085084**

## CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY 2018 PDF

He laid the foundation stone of the revival of the Sindri Urea plant; The plant, shut for two decades, near Dhanbad, is being revived with an investment of about 7 thousand crore rupees.

### World's second oldest rock discovered in Odisha

A rock sample recovered nearly eight years ago from Champua in Odisha's Kendujhar district has put India at the forefront of geological research in the world. Scientists have found in the rock a grain of magmatic zircon (a mineral that contains traces of radioactive isotopes) that is an estimated 4,240 million years old – a discovery of great promise to study the earth's early years.

### Sindhudurg Airport will be a boost for Aviation Sector in Maharashtra

Maharashtra will get a new airport at ParuleChipi in Sindhudurg district in 2018. Work on the project is expected to be completed in June this year, before the onset of monsoon and the Ganesh Festival, which will begin in September this year.

The airport is being constructed by IRB Sindhudurg Airport Pvt. Ltd. on a design-build-finance-operate-transfer (DBFOT) basis for the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC). Sindhudurg airport will have a 2500-meter runway which has provision for future development. The airport will be built at an approximate cost of 520 crores.

## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

### Kuwait proposes 'international protection' for Palestinians

Kuwait has proposed setting up an international protection mission for Palestinians. A draft UN Security Council (UNSC) resolution presented by Kuwait calls for measures to guarantee the safety and protection of Palestinian civilians "in the occupied Palestinian territories and Gaza Strip". More than 100 Palestinians have been killed in Israeli firing in the last two months.

### US closes anti-ISIS ground forces headquarters in Iraq

The US-led coalition has shut down the Combined Joint Forces Land Component Command (CJFLCC) headquarters in Iraq, which was responsible for coordinating ground operations against the Islamic State. The coalition said in a statement that the move signified "the end of major combat operations against (ISIS) in Iraq". Iraq declared victory over the militant group in December last year.

### Scotland first country to introduce minimum alcohol pricing

Scotland has become the first country in the world to introduce a minimum unit pricing for alcohol, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said. Under the new regulation, alcoholic products

**Day Today GK - Join our WhatsApp Group - +916381085084**



## CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY 2018 PDF

in Scotland will cost a minimum of 50 pence (nearly ₹46) per unit. The move is aimed at reducing the rising number of alcohol-related deaths due to the availability of cheap alcohol.

### UNICEF allows users to donate funds via crypto mining

UNICEF Australia has launched 'The HopePage', which allows users to make a donation by mining cryptocurrency Monero using the visitor's computer processing power. The website also allows users to select how much processing power they want to give. The proceeds from this mining will be converted into fiat currency and will be used by UNICEF to support vulnerable children worldwide.

### Indonesia's most active volcano erupts, spews ash 5 km high

Mount Merapi, the most active of over 120 Indonesian volcanoes, has erupted, sending an ash column as high as 5,500 metres into the sky. People living within 5 kilometres of the crater were evacuated while there are no immediate reports of casualties. Its last major eruption in 2010 killed 347 people and caused the evacuation of 20,000 villagers.

### 7.6 million babies are not breastfed each year: UNICEF

The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) on May 10, 2018 released a report titled 'Breastfeeding: A Mother's Gift, for Every Child', claiming that over 7.6 million babies are not breastfed each year.

Despite the fact that breastmilk saves lives, protects babies and mothers against deadly diseases and leads to better intellectual and educational outcomes, 21 percent of babies are never breastfed in high-income countries and in low-and-middle-income countries, the rate is 4 percent.

### Malaysia's Mahathir becomes world's oldest leader aged 92

Malaysia's Mahathir Mohamad became the world's oldest PM at the age of 92. Mahathir, who earlier led the country from 1981-2003, defeated scandal-hit Najib Razak in the general election, ending six decades of rule by a coalition he once led. The veteran led the opposition coalition, Pakatan Harapan, to its first election victory since Malaysian independence in 1957.

### Pakistan passes landmark bill granting rights to transgenders

Pakistan's Parliament has passed a landmark bill granting fundamental rights to transgenders and outlawing discrimination against them. The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act allows people to self-identify their gender and to have that identity recognised on official documents, including national IDs and passports. The bill is pending approval by President Mamnoon Hussain.

**Day Today GK - Join our WhatsApp Group - +916381085084**

## **CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY 2018 PDF**

### **US varsity to partner with UP to combat chronic diseases**

Uttar Pradesh Health Minister Sidharth Singh has said that the Stanford University in the United States will partner with UP to combat diseases like Japanese encephalitis and acute encephalitis syndrome. Companies like Boeing, Lockheed Martin also want to set up their plants in India, Singh added. Singh had led a delegation to the US to get investments from the country.

### **New Ebola outbreak declared in Democratic Republic of Congo**

The Democratic Republic of Congo declared a new outbreak of Ebola in the northwestern part of the country. The Health Ministry said there were two confirmed cases of the virus and 17 deaths in the Bikoro province. This is the ninth outbreak of Ebola since the discovery of the virus in Congo in 1976.

### **Kim Yong-chol 1st N Korean official to visit US in 18 years**

Former North Korean spy chief Kim Yong-chol has arrived in New York, becoming the most senior North Korean official to visit the US since 2000. An adviser to North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, Yong-chol met US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo amid uncertainty over the June 12 summit between the leaders of the two countries.

### **Colombia joins NATO as global partner**

One year after reaching partnership deal through a peace agreement with South America, Colombia has formally joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Colombia joined the ranks of Afghanistan, Australia, Iraq, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mongolia, New Zealand and Pakistan.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization is an intergovernmental military alliance between 29 North American and European countries based on the North Atlantic Treaty that was signed on 4 April 1949.

### **Germany to host first edition of Global Wind Summit**

The first edition of the Global Wind Summit will be held in Hamburg, Germany, from September 25-28, 2018.

The organisers of the four-day event are expecting speakers from about 100 countries, including India, China, the US, Spain and Denmark. The conference on wind is the largest and most important meeting of the wind industry worldwide. The event combines two conferences, WindEnergy Hamburg and WindEurope.

India is fourth largest country – after China, the US and Germany – in terms of wind energy installation capacity at around 33 GW.

**Day Today GK - Join our WhatsApp Group - +916381085084**

## **CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY 2018 PDF**

### **Ireland votes by landslide to legalise abortion in referendum**

Over two-thirds of the Irish electorate has voted to overturn the ban on abortions in a historic referendum. Earlier, a constitutional amendment gave equal right to life to pregnant women and unborn children, allowing abortion only if the mother's life was in danger. Illegal abortion in Ireland is punishable by up to 14 years in prison.

### **Type 001A: China's first indigenous aircraft carrier begins sea trial**

China's first domestically manufactured aircraft carrier started sea trials, a landmark in Beijing's ambitious plans to modernise its navy as the Asian giant presses its claims in disputed regional waters. The carrier, known only as "Type 001A", set out for the trials from a port in northeastern China.

### **Iraq holds first nationwide election since IS defeat**

Iraq has begun voting in its first parliamentary election since declaring victory over the Islamic State group. Approximately 24.5 million voters face a fragmented political landscape five months after IS were ousted from the country. Corruption, security, poverty, Iran's influence and the future of US forces currently in Iraq are other issues that have dominated the run-up to the election.

### **September 2019 Climate Summit To Be Held In New York: UN Chief**

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres announced to hold a climate summit in September 2019 in New York to review the commitments of the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change. The announcement was made at the opening ceremony of the 37th session of the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

In March 2018, Guterres appointed former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg as his Special Envoy for Climate Action who was tasked to support the United Nations (UN) in its climate strategy and in organizing the 2019 summit.

### **USA Withdraws From Iran Nuclear Deal**

President Donald Trump announced US withdrawal from the 2015 landmark nuclear deal with Iran. Mr. Donald Trump signed a fresh set of sanctions against Iran and warned countries against any cooperation with Tehran on its controversial nuclear weapons programme.

According to the President, the deal gave Iran millions in cash and did not prevent it from acquiring nuclear weapons. The historic nuclear deal was reached in Vienna in July 2015 between Iran and the P5 (the five permanent members of the UN Security Council) along with Germany and the European Union.

**Day Today GK - Join our WhatsApp Group - +916381085084**

## **CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY 2018 PDF**

### **Hamburg to host 2018 Global Wind Summit**

The first edition of the Global Wind Summit will be held here from September 25-28, 2018. The organisers of the four-day event are expecting speakers from about 100 countries, including India, China, the US, Spain and Denmark. The conference on wind is the largest and most important meeting of the wind industry worldwide.

### **London Stock Exchange backs new icon award in UK**

ELITE, the London Stock Exchange Group's business support and capital raising programme, will present the first-ever 'ELITE Rising Star Award' at this year's 21st Century Icon Awards 2018. The awards, launched in 2017 by Indian-origin entrepreneur Tarun Gulati, will be held in London in September this year to celebrate the success of budding business talent.

### **Mission Innovation Ministerial Meeting Held In Sweden**

The Third Mission Innovation Ministerial Meeting was held at Malmo, Sweden. The Indian delegation was led by Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Science, Technology and Earth Sciences. Mission innovation countries launched Mission Innovation Champions Programme to felicitate clean energy innovators. India announced setting up of First International Incubator for clean energy in a public-private partnership at a total investment of around US \$ 5 million in Delhi.

### **Trump cancels US-N Korea summit citing 'tremendous anger'**

US President Donald Trump cancelled the talks scheduled for June 12 with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, citing North Korea's recent "tremendous anger and open hostility". "You talk about your nuclear capabilities, but ours are so massive and powerful that I pray to God they will never have to be used," Trump said in a letter to Kim.

### **Palestine joins Chemical Weapons Convention**

Palestine has become the 193rd nation to join the Chemical Weapons Convention and the move will take effect on June 16. The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons is tasked with implementing the convention which is aimed at preventing the manufacture, stockpiling, and use of chemical weapons. South Sudan, Egypt and North Korea are not part of the organisation.

### **Nepal becomes first country in south-east Asia to eliminate Trachoma: WHO**

The World Health Organization (WHO) has validated Nepal for having eliminated trachoma as a public health problem – a milestone, as the country becomes the first in WHO's South-East Asia Region to defeat the world's leading infectious cause of blindness. In 2002, the Government of Nepal stepped up efforts to eliminate the disease with the establishment of a national trachoma programme.

**Day Today GK - Join our WhatsApp Group - +916381085084**

## **CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY 2018 PDF**

Approximately 30 000 operations were provided to manage trichiasis, and almost 15 million doses of azithromycin were distributed.

### **New Zealand removes prostitution from skills list for immigrants**

New Zealand has removed prostitution from its list of employment skills for would-be immigrants. The removal of the listing was to “avoid further confusion” that people could get a visa as skilled prostitutes, Immigration New Zealand said. According to the Prostitution Reform Act 2003, only the country’s citizens and residents are allowed to “legally work in the sex industry”.

### **Israel withdraws from race for UN Security Council seat**

Israel has announced its withdrawal from the bid for a non-permanent seat at the UN Security Council (UNSC) for the 2019-2020 term. Israel was competing with Germany and Belgium for one of the two seats allocated to the Western European and Others Group. The UNSC has five permanent and 10 non-permanent members who are elected for a two-year term.

### **Japan’s child population hits new record low**

The population of children in Japan fell for the 37th consecutive year, government data has revealed. The number of children aged 14 or under fell to 1.5 crore as of April 1 this year, the lowest ever since comparative data became available in 1950. Further, the ratio of children to Japan’s overall population dropped to a record low of 12.3%.

### **US state surpasses UK to become world’s 5th largest economy**

US state California’s economy has surpassed that of the UK to become the world’s fifth largest, according to new federal data released on Friday. With a GDP of \$2.7 trillion, California is now only behind the US, China, Japan and Germany. The UK and India are next on the list, followed by France, Brazil and Italy respectively.

### **North and South Korea to send joint TT team at world championship**

North and South Korea requested to field a unified team for the semi-finals of the championships, which will be played against Japan or Ukraine in Halmstad, Sweden. The last time that a unified Korea team played the world table tennis championships was 1991 in Chiba, Japan where women’s team shocked defending champions China to win the gold medal. The decision to form a unified team was a tripartite agreement between the leaders North and South Korean Table Tennis teams and the ITTF.

**Day Today GK - Join our WhatsApp Group - +916381085084**

## **CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY 2018 PDF**

### **Pakistan hosted SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure meeting in Islamabad**

Pakistan hosted its first ever Shanghai Cooperation Organisation-Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (SCO-RATS) three day meeting in Islamabad. Issue related to terrorist threats in the region and how to overcome them were discussed.

The three day meeting saw participation of legal advisors from eight SCO member states including China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, India, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Pakistan as well as representatives of the SCO-RATS executive committee. The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation was founded on June 15, 2001 and has a total 8 member states.

### **US threatens Iran with 'strongest sanctions in history'**

The US has threatened to impose the "strongest sanctions in history" on Iran if it does not accept several demands made by the country. Minimising Iran's role in the Middle East, ending its support for Yemen's Houthi rebels, withdrawing all forces from Syria, and an end to its nuclear weapons programme are among the 12 demands listed by the US.

### **UK lists Pakistan among top three money launderers**

The United Kingdom has listed Pakistan, along with Nigeria and Russia, as the top three sources of money laundering to the country. Reports said that corrupt leaders from developing nations buy expensive real estate in London using wealth looted from their people, making UK's capital the 'money laundering capital of the world'.

### **China mulls ending birth limits policy by 2019**

China's State Council has commissioned a research to understand the repercussions of ending birth limits and plans to end the policy by 2019, reports said. China ended its one-child policy and enforced a two-child limit in 2015. The State Council had earlier predicted that 25% of the population will be aged over 60 years by 2030.

### **UAE to allow 100% foreign ownership of businesses**

The United Arab Emirates Cabinet has approved a plan to allow foreign investors to own 100% of UAE-based businesses by end of 2018. Foreign investors can presently not own more than 49% of UAE firms, with the exception of firms listed in 'free zone'. It also approved a proposal for granting residency visas of up to 10 years to investors.

### **Congo to use experimental vaccines as Ebola deaths rise to 26**

A new experimental vaccine will be used to try and control the Ebola outbreak in the African nation of Congo after the death toll increased to 26. In the current outbreak, a total of 46 cases of hemorrhagic fever, including 21 confirmed cases, have been reported. This is Congo's ninth Ebola outbreak since 1976, when the disease was first identified.

**Day Today GK - Join our WhatsApp Group - +916381085084**

## **CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY 2018 PDF**

### **Malaysia to stop collecting GST from June 1**

Malaysia's Ministry of Finance on Wednesday said the Goods and Services Tax (GST) will be reduced to 0% effective June 1. New Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad had promised to abolish the 6% levy before his electoral victory. The GST was introduced in April 2015 by ousted leader Najib Razak to offset a fall in oil revenue.

### **UN, East Africa boost response as Ebola toll mounts in DR Congo**

World agencies and neighbouring countries today hiked their response to an Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo as the toll from the notorious disease mounted. A World Health Organization (WHO) emergency panel met in Geneva to determine whether the outbreak was "a public health event of international concern" – a move that would step up global action. The death toll rose by two to 25 out of 45 cases.

Ebola is notorious for its high fatality rate and extreme symptoms, which can include internal and external bleeding.

### **Prince Harry marries Meghan Markle in impressive royal wedding**

Prince Harry and Meghan Markle have been proclaimed husband and wife after pledging their love to one another at a fairytale wedding at Windsor Castle. Around the world, millions were watching on television – even in the wee hours of the morning, or late at night in some time zones.

Harry, 33, and Meghan, 36, became the sixteenth Royal Couple to celebrate their Marriage at Windsor Castle since 1863. An estimated 100,000 people lined the streets of Windsor, around 26 miles from London, hoping to catch a glimpse of the happy couple.

### **China to deliver world's largest amphibious aircraft by 2022**

China aims to deliver its domestically developed AG600, the world's largest amphibious aircraft, by 2022, state media reported. The AG600, which can carry 50 people during maritime search-and-rescue missions, has been developed as part of a drive to modernise China's military in a bid to handle territorial disputes in places like the South China Sea.

### **Nepal to host 2018 BIMSTEC summit**

Nepal's Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli announced to host the 2018 Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) summit. The BIMSTEC is an international organisation of seven nations of South Asia and South East Asia, including Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bhutan, and Nepal.

**Day Today GK - Join our WhatsApp Group - +916381085084**



## CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY 2018 PDF

### FOREIGN RELATIONS

#### US warns India against purchasing missile system from Russia

Warning that procurement of Russian advanced missile systems may affect cooperation between the US and India, the US House Committee on Armed Services has told India not to rush and carefully consider all potential consequences. This comes after India said it will acquire the S-400 defence system despite the sanctions imposed by the US on defence trade with Russia.

#### Arun-3 Hydropower Project: Nepal grants license to India's Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd to generate power

Nepal has granted an Indian government-owned subsidiary the power generation licence from a 900-megawatt hydropower project, days ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's two-day visit to the country from May 11. Investment Board Nepal (IBN) recently granted the licence to Satluj Jala Vodyut Nigam Power Development Company, a subsidiary of Indian government-owned Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd, to generate power from the Arun-3 Hydropower Project located in eastern Nepal.

Arun-3 is the largest capacity project in the history of hydroelectricity that is scheduled to be constructed within the next five years.

#### India takes US to WTO over steel, aluminium import duties

India has dragged the US to the World Trade Organisation's dispute settlement mechanism over imposition of import duties on steel and aluminium, according to reports. The country has sought consultations with the US over the matter. The US has imposed 25% tariff on steel and 10% tariff on aluminium imported from all countries except Canada and Mexico.

#### SCO Tourism Ministers' conference held in Wuhan, China

The Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Tourism and Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology, Shri K. J. Alphons attended the Tourism Ministers' conference by Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in Wuhan, China. At the sidelines of the event, the Minister also met the Chinese Tourism and Culture Vice Minister, Mr. Li Jinzao.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is an international alliance that consists of 8 member states and 3 observers from Eurasia.

#### India, China contribute 45% to global growth: IMF

China and India should aim for 'growth-friendly' fiscal consolidation to promote sustainable, inclusive growth as they together contribute 45% to global growth, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has said. Asia is the world's fastest-growing region and

**Day Today GK - Join our WhatsApp Group - +916381085084**

## CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY 2018 PDF

the main engine of the world's economy, it added. IMF has projected India's growth at 7.4% in FY19 from an estimated 6.7% in FY18.

### **India, Panama sign two agreements**

India and Panama have signed two agreements on exemption of Visas for holders of Diplomatic and Official Passports and in the field of Agriculture. These agreements were signed in the presence of Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu and President of Panama Juan Carlos Varela Rodrigues and Vice President and Foreign Minister Isabel de Saint Malo de Alvarado in Panama city last night.

Two centres for Biodiversity and Innovation will be setup by India in Panama worth US \$10 mn. and US \$15 mn. each.

### **Zuckerberg, Gates' Foundations partner to improve education**

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg's Chan Zuckerberg Initiative and Bill Gates' Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation have partnered to accelerate breakthroughs in education. The initiative will focus on math, writing, and skills that correspond with things like memory and self-control. The teams would produce models, practices and other resources designed to achieve specific improvements in student outcomes.

### **Netherlands joins Solar Alliance**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Netherlands Prime Minister Mark Rutte, who is in India at PM Modi's invitation held wide-ranging discussions on bilateral and international issues. Both leaders acknowledged the private sector's role in boosting trade and investment. PM Modi assured investors from the Netherlands that government of India is committed to economic reforms.

### **Nima Jangmu Sherpa scales 3 highest mountains in single season**

Nima Jangmu Sherpa, a Nepali woman created a world record by scaling three highest mountains in a single climbing season. 28 year old Nima Jangmu has become only woman in the world to climb three highest peaks in Nepal above 8,000 meters in one season within 25 days. She had successfully scaled Mt Everest on May 14 and Mt Lhotse on April 29. She made her historic ascent on Mt Kanchenjunga, third highest peak of the world.

### **PM Modi reaches Russia for informal talks with Prez Putin**

PM Narendra Modi reached Russia's Sochi for an informal summit with President Vladimir Putin, a month after holding talks in a similar format with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Wuhan. The day-long summit comes weeks after National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale visited Moscow reportedly to discuss US sanctions on Russian firms.

**Day Today GK - Join our WhatsApp Group - +916381085084**

## **CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY 2018 PDF**

### **26th BASIC Ministerial Meeting of Environment Ministers held in Durban**

The 26th BASIC Ministerial Meeting of Environment Ministers was organised in Durban, South Africa. The grouping is a bloc of 4 nations including Brazil, South Africa, India and China. India was represented by Union Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan. BASIC nations decided to safeguard integrity of historic 2015 Paris Agreement, including values of common but differentiated tasks and equity.

### **PM Modi concludes his 2-day successful visit to Nepal**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has reiterated India's strong support to Nepal in its pursuit of development. Meeting Nepal PM KP Sharma Oli twice in less than two months, Modi assured him that all genuine and necessary grievances of Nepal would be addressed in a time-bound manner.

### **India, Peru signs agreement in field of Renewable Energy**

India and Peru signed an agreement in the field of Renewable Energy at Lima. The pact was signed in the presence of Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu and the Prime Minister Cesar Villanueva Arevalo. Vice President's visit to Guatemala, Panama and Peru is very important as this will enhance and strengthen the bilateral relations and will increase trade, investments and cooperation among these countries.

### **India Nepal flag offs bus service between Janakpur and Ayodhya under Ramayan Circuit**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Nepalese counterpart K P Sharma Oli have jointly inaugurated a direct bus service between Janakpur and Ayodhya – the two sacred cities for Hindus. Modi flagged off the bus after visiting the famed 20th century Janaki temple, dedicated to the Hindu goddess Sita, where he offered special prayers.

### **Vice President of India departs for a 6-day visit to Guatemala, Panama and Peru**

The Vice President of India, Venkaiah Naidu departed for a 6-day visit to Guatemala, Panama and Peru. This is the first official foreign visit of Venkaiah Naidu since he assumed office of the Vice President in August last year. The Vice President said his visit will strengthen relations with these Latin American countries.

### **India and Sri Lanka Agree On Information Exchange For Drug Control**

India and Sri Lanka agreed on cooperation on exchange of information and other aspects to tackle smuggling of drugs in both countries. A decision to this effect was taken at the third bilateral meeting between delegations from India's Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) and Sri Lanka's Police Narcotics Bureau (PNB) on narcotics, drugs and psychotropic substances and related matters in New Delhi.

**Day Today GK - Join our WhatsApp Group - +916381085084**

## **CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY 2018 PDF**

### **India-Netherlands launches Clean Air India Initiative**

Prime Minister of Netherlands Mark Rutte, who is in India on a two-day visit, launched the 'Clean Air India Initiative' in the national capital. The campaign aims to curb air pollution in Indian cities by promoting partnerships between Indian start-ups and Dutch companies and build a network of entrepreneurs working on business solutions for cleaner air.

The Clean Air India Initiative is a collaborative project between Get In The Ring, a platform for start-ups, the government of the Netherlands, Start-up India, and INDUS Forum, an online matchmaking platform of Indian and Dutch businesses.

### **UAE bans fruit imports from Kerala over Nipah virus outbreak**

The UAE has banned the import of fresh fruits and vegetables from Kerala following the outbreak of the Nipah virus. The UAE's Ministry of Environment said the decision was based on the information provided by the World Health Organisation. The virus has claimed at least 12 lives in the state.

### **WHO adopts resolution on Digital Health proposed by India**

Union Health and Family Welfare Minister JP Nadda announced that the World Health Organisation (WHO) has adopted the resolution on Digital Health, brought out by India, during the 71st World Health Assembly.

The 71st World Health Assembly was held in Geneva and was attended by delegations from all WHO member states.

The resolution recognises that Digital health technology has a huge potential for supporting Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and improving accessibility, quality and affordability of health services.

### **Indonesia, India Upgrade Ties With 15 Agreements**

Indonesia and India agreed to upgrade bilateral relations by signing more than a dozen agreements on a broad range of areas. The 15 agreements include cooperation in defense, exploration and use of outer space, science and technology, capacity building of public officials, dialogue and interaction between governments and think tanks as well as in health and railways. Indonesia was the first leg of Modi's three-nation visit that will also take him to Malaysia and Singapore.

### **India launches second IT corridor in China**

India launched its second IT corridor in China in the southwestern city of Guiyang which will focus on Big Data. Agreements worth ₹38 crore were signed at the launch of the corridor by Guiyang Municipal Government and India's NASSCOM. India's first IT corridor in China was established in the port city of Dalian last December.

**Day Today GK - Join our WhatsApp Group - +916381085084**

## **CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY 2018 PDF**

### **S-400 Triumf air defence missile systems: India concludes price negotiations with Russia**

India has concluded price negotiations with Russia for a nearly Rs 40,000 crore deal to procure S-400 Triumf air defence missile systems for the Indian Air Force.

The US had announced sanctions against Russia under the stringent law for its alleged meddling in the American presidential election in 2016. CAATSA, which came into effect in January, mandates the Donald Trump administration to punish entities engaging in significant transaction with the defence or intelligence establishment of Russia.

### **Surya Kiran-XIII: India-Nepal joint battalion level exercise to be held in Uttarakhand**

India and Nepal's joint military exercise Surya Kiran-XIII will be held at Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh district from May 30 to June 12. The exercise would comprise of nearly 300 soldiers from both Nepali and Indian armies who would share their respective experiences of counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism operations.

Surya Kiran is a bi-annual event which is hosted alternatively by Nepal and India. The aim of this exercise is to conduct battalion level joint training with emphasis on counterterrorism operations in mountainous terrain.

### **5th India-CLMV Business Conclave held at Phnom Penh, Cambodia**

The Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India along with Ministry of Commerce of Cambodia organized the 5th India-CLMV Business Conclave in Phnom Penh on 21-22 May 2018. After four rounds of the Business Conclave in India, this initiative was brought by Department of Commerce of Government of India to Cambodia, for greater participation from the region. The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) is the institutional partner of the event. The inaugural session of 5th India CLMV Conclave was presided over by Deputy Prime Minister of Kingdom of Cambodia and was attended by Suresh Prabhu, Minister of Commerce and Industry of Government of India.

### **India Released Grant Of NRs 18.07 Crore To Nepal For River Training**

India released a grant of Nepalese Rupees (NRs) 18.07 crore for river training and construction of embankments along Lalbakeya, Bagmati and Kamla rivers in Nepal. The river training and embankment work is aimed at flood control and water resources management, which benefit several million people inhabiting in the watershed of these rivers in India and Nepal.

### **PM Modi to visit Russia for informal summit with Putin**

PM Narendra Modi will travel to Russia on May 21 for an informal summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin, the External Affairs Ministry announced. "The informal summit...is in keeping with the tradition of regular consultations between India and Russia

**Day Today GK - Join our WhatsApp Group - +916381085084**

## CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY 2018 PDF

at the highest levels,” it said. The two leaders will exchange their views on international matters, it added.

### **6th US-India Aviation Summit held in Mumbai**

The US-India Aviation Summit is being hosted next month in Mumbai as a technical, policy and commercial forum by the Indian Ministry of Civil Aviation and the US Trade and Development Agency. The summit from May 9 to 11 will include sessions on India’s projected aviation growth in next five years, aviation security, aviation and runway safety, technologies for worldwide airspace management, and regional connectivity using linking hubs for underserved/unserved airports.

### **India, US hold round 3 of Maritime Security Dialogue in Goa**

India and United States held the third round of the India-US Maritime Security Dialogue in Goa focussing on cooperation and developments in the Indo-Pacific region. Both the sides discussed the developments in maritime domain in Indo-Pacific Region and exchanged views on ways to further strengthen bilateral maritime security cooperation. They also reviewed implementation of decisions taken during the previous Maritime Security Dialogues.

### **India, China to set up hotline between military HQs: Report**

The militaries of India and China have reportedly agreed to set up a hotline between their headquarters after an informal summit between Indian PM Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping. The hotline would enable the militaries to intensify communication in order to avoid confrontations like the 73-day Doklam standoff at the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

### **India and France conduct final phase of Varuna naval exercise near Reunion Island**

The Indian and French navies are conducting the third and last phase of the 2018 Varuna naval exercise, from 1st to 7th of May, in the vicinity of Reunion Island, a French administrative department in the India Ocean. The seven-day exercise sees the sailors simulating different scenarios, including air defense, firing, manoeuvres, asymmetric warfare and embarkation.

### **Harimau Shakti 2018: India and Malaysia joint military exercise begins**

The Indian and Malaysian armies will hold a two-week military exercise in Malaysia as part of efforts to bolster defence cooperation. The joint exercise ‘Harimau Shakti’ will take place in the dense forests of Sengai Perdik in Hulu Langat district of Malaysia. The exercise is aimed at bolstering cooperation and coordination between the armed forces of both the nations and to share the expertise of both the contingents in conduct of counter-insurgency operations in jungle terrain.

**Day Today GK - Join our WhatsApp Group - +916381085084**

## **CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY 2018 PDF**

### **SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

#### **Upgraded indigenous Pinaka rocket test-fired successfully**

An upgraded version of the indigenous Pinaka rocket was successfully test-fired from Proof & Experimental Establishment in Odisha's Chandipur. While two rounds of tests have been conducted, a few more rounds have been planned. While the earlier version of the rocket was unguided, the new rocket includes a guidance, navigation, and control kit.

#### **TRAI proposes use of blockchain technology to curb spam calls, texts**

In a first of its kind initiative, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India TRAI has issued draft guidelines to curb pesky calls and SMSes by using blockchain technology.

The regulator said that it will work together with telecom operators and other stakeholders to firm up a regulatory framework to address unsolicited commercial communication.

#### **PRAAPTI App and Web portal launched to bring transparency in electricity payments to Generators**

The Ministry of Power has launched a web portal and an app called PRAAPTI (Payment Ratification and Analysis in Power procurement for bringing Transparency in Invoicing of generators) in an effort to bring in greater transparency in power purchase transactions between generators and distribution companies (DISCOMs).

The app is currently available for download on Android devices only. The main purpose of this initiative is to herald a new era of transparency in financial transaction in the power sector.

#### **Ramdev's Patanjali launches 'Swadeshi' SIM cards with insurance**

Yoga guru Ramdev's Patanjali Ayurved launched 'Swadeshi Samridhi' SIM cards, in partnership with state-owned telecom operator BSNL. The SIM, which is currently available only to Patanjali employees, offers ₹2.5-lakh health insurance and ₹5-lakh life insurance alongside data and voice calling benefits. Ramdev said that the key idea behind introducing the SIM card was "prosperity for charity".

#### **IMD to team up with BSNL for sending extreme weather warnings**

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) is teaming up with state-run Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) to send extreme weather warnings to people. BSNL has come up with a technology. If IMD sends an alert, it will be passed on to all BSNL numbers in Delhi (about an impending extreme weather event warning like thunderstorm, dust storm, heatwave).

**Day Today GK - Join our WhatsApp Group - +916381085084**



## **CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY 2018 PDF**

### **Fourth element showing magnetism at room temperature found**

A University of Minnesota-led research has discovered that ruthenium (Ru) is the fourth single element to have unique magnetic properties at room temperature. So far only three periodic table elements have been found to be ferromagnetic at room temperature: iron (Fe), cobalt (Co), and nickel (Ni). The discovery could help improve magnetic devices like sensors and hard disks, noted researchers.

### **Rustom-2 drone to be delivered to armed forces by 2020: DRDO**

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) said the Rustom-2 drone would be ready for use in two years. Rustom drones are medium-altitude, long-endurance unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV). They are a part of India's Rs 1,500 crore UAV project that will cater to the needs of the Indian Army, Navy and Air Force. Rustom-2 is being developed on the lines of USA's predator drones.

### **UNICEF launches data visualisation app on education scenario in India**

The UNICEF launched a 'data visualisation app' which provides a user-friendly visual representation of complex analytics of the education scenario in the country. The app has been made with technical inputs from the UNICEF, in collaboration with the National Institute of Education Planning and Administration (NIEPA) and the National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT).

### **SpaceX launches NASA satellites to track Earth's water cycle**

Elon Musk-led SpaceX launched twin NASA satellites that would track the Earth's water movement and ice melt. The GRACE-FO satellites are at an 490-km altitude in a near-polar orbit, circling the Earth once every 90 minutes. The two satellites track movement of mass by measuring deviations caused in their 220-km separation with a hair-width accuracy by gravitational changes.

### **Astronomers propose new evidence for Planet Nine**

Astronomers have discovered that an object beyond Neptune orbits the Sun in a plane nearly perpendicular to the plane established by the known planets, which could be due to gravity from Planet Nine. Planet Nine is believed to be roughly four times the size of Earth, but with 10 times its mass, taking around 10,000-20,000 years to orbit the Sun.

### **Novel robotic system can grow mini human organs**

Scientists have developed an automated robotic system that can rapidly produce mini human organs required for medical research and drug testing.

In recent years, researchers have been increasingly successful in growing stem cells into more complex, 3D structures called mini-organs or organoids. These resemble rudimentary

**Day Today GK - Join our WhatsApp Group - +916381085084**

## CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY 2018 PDF

organs and in many ways behave similarly. While these properties make organoids ideal for biomedical research, they also pose a challenge for mass production. The ability to mass produce organoids is the most exciting potential applications of the new robotic technology.

### **China sends landing mission to dark side of the moon**

China launched a Queqiao (Magpie Bridge) satellite, that will be the first ever to communicate with the Earth from the far side of the Moon. The farther hemisphere of the Moon is never directly visible from the Earth. The Chinese space agency is also planning on sending a rover to the Moon next year, to collect and bring back samples.

### **BrahMos successfully tested under life extension programme**

India successfully test-fired the BrahMos missile to validate life extension technologies developed for the first time in the country. It has become the first Indian missile whose life has been extended from 10 to 15 years. The test will result in huge savings of replacement cost of missiles, Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said.

### **India to integrate AI in defence to boost preparedness**

Defence Production Secretary Ajay Kumar has said India will integrate Artificial Intelligence (AI) in defence forces to improve preparation for “next-generation warfare”. The initiative, which will be undertaken in partnership with private sector, is aimed at producing unmanned vehicles and weaponry. A task force led by Tata Sons chairman N Chandrasekaran has been formed to oversee the project.

### **China launches first rocket designed by private company**

China launched its first privately developed rocket ‘Chongqing Liangjiang Star’. The launch of the rocket developed by ‘OneSpace Technology’ marks the first time a non-state Chinese rocket has successfully entered the orbit. The rocket can place a 100-kilogram load into orbit 800 kilometres from the earth, according to state media.

### **Fastest growing blackhole of the universe discovered**

Scientists have discovered the fastest-growing black hole known in the universe, describing it as a monster that devours a mass equivalent to our Sun every two days. The astronomers have looked back more than 12 billion years to the early dark ages of the universe, when this supermassive black hole was estimated to be the size of about 20 billion suns with a one per cent growth rate every one million years.

### **World’s 1st migraine-prevention drug approved for sale in US**

US drug regulator has approved the sale of the first-ever medicine that prevents migraine, a debilitating headache which can last from hours to days, affecting nearly 15% people worldwide. Developed by pharmaceutical firms Novartis and Amgen, the medicine would

**Day Today GK - Join our WhatsApp Group - +916381085084**

## **CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY 2018 PDF**

be sold in the US at \$575 for a monthly self-administered injection, while no sale plans for Indian markets were announced.

### **Russia unveils world's first floating nuclear power station**

Russia unveiled the world's first floating nuclear power station at a ceremony in the port of the far northern city of Murmansk, where it will be loaded with nuclear fuel before heading to eastern Siberia. Built in Saint Petersburg, the Akademik Lomonosov ship holds two reactors with two 35 megawatt nuclear reactors that are similar to those used to power icebreaker ships. The barge can produce enough electricity to power a town of 2,00,000 residents, far more than the 5,000 who live in Pevek, Russia's northernmost town.

### **ISRO developing environment-friendly propellant**

Scientists at the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) have reported progress in the development of an environment-friendly propellant to power satellites and spacecraft. The effort is to replace the conventional hydrazine rocket fuel, a highly toxic and carcinogenic chemical, with a greener propellant for future missions.

Due to its high performance characteristics, hydrazine has dominated the space industry as the choice of propellant for over six decades, despite its environment and health hazards and the challenges faced in its manufacturing, storage, ground handling and transportation.

### **IMD to deploy 30 more doppler radars across India**

The Met Department will add 30 doppler radars in the next two-three years across the country, of which several will be in the northeast. A doppler radar are a tool to provide precise information about thunderstorms, dust storms, hailstorms, rainfall and wind patterns.

Right now, the IMD is working on selecting locations in hilly states to install these radars. The hilly states of Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir witness erratic patterns like thunderstorms and heavy rains and snowfall, so do the north eastern states.

### **US cancels NASA's carbon monitoring project**

A NASA programme that cost \$10 million per year to track carbon and methane, key greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming, has been cancelled. The end of the programme – called the Carbon Monitoring System (CMS) – which tracked sources and sinks for carbon and made high-resolution models of the planet's flows of carbon .

### **NASA to send helicopter to Mars in 2020**

NASA is planning to send the first unmanned helicopter to Mars in its mission scheduled to launch in 2020, to test the viability and potential of heavier-than-air vehicles on the red planet. Started in August 2013 as a technology development project at NASA's Jet Propulsion

**Day Today GK - Join our WhatsApp Group - +916381085084**

## **CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY 2018 PDF**

Laboratory (JPL), the Mars Helicopter had to prove that big things could come in small packages. The result of the team's four years of design, testing and redesign weighs in at little under 1.8 kilogrammes.

Mars 2020 will launch on a United Launch Alliance (ULA) Atlas V rocket from Space Launch Complex 41 at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida, and is expected to reach Mars in February 2021.

### **Rolls-Royce launches its first-ever SUV at ₹2.1 crore**

Luxury automaker Rolls-Royce has launched its first-ever SUV named Cullinan after the largest diamond ever discovered. Priced at over ₹2.1 crore, the all-terrain car is powered by 6.75 litre twin-turbo engine delivering 563 horsepower of torque. The two rear seats are separated by a console incorporating a drinks cabinet with Rolls-Royce whisky glasses, decanter, and champagne flutes.

### **Yahoo launches invite-only group messaging app Squirrel**

Yahoo has launched a group messaging app called Squirrel on iOS and Android, focussed on friends, family and work groups. Users can add members to a group through invitation links and can create separate 'chat rooms' for specific people or topics. The app which is in testing mode also includes a Blasts feature to ensure participants see important messages.

### **Railways to use AI system to ensure hygienic food on trains**

After a CAG report last year called the food served by the Indian Railways "unfit for human consumption", the national transporter has decided to use an Artificial Intelligence system to ensure that hygienic food is served. As many as 16 kitchens have been equipped with eight CCTV cameras each to track anomalies during the preparation and packaging of meals.

### **700-km-long hyperloop system proposed in Andhra Pradesh**

High-speed transportation system developer Hyperloop Transportation Technologies has submitted a pre-feasibility route study for building a hyperloop system in Andhra Pradesh. The 700-800-kilometre-long system will connect the cities of Anantapur, Amaravati, and Vijayawada in the state. The system will enable cargo and passenger capsules to travel in low-pressure tubes at airplane speeds.

### **CSWRI scientists comes up with new sheep insemination technique**

Scientists at central Sheep and Wool Research Institute (CSWRI) Avikanagar, Rajasthan have come up with new laparoscopy technique involves into the abdomen through a small incision. Using it, Reproductive track of sheep kept as a livestock. The new technique is resolved and finally 60% of survival in the birth of lambs. Using this technique, as many as females can be inseminated from a single ejaculate. It will be a great technique in the breed improvement techniques.

**Day Today GK - Join our WhatsApp Group - +916381085084**

## **CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY 2018 PDF**

### **Google launches Android Things for IoT platform**

Alphabet Inc's Google launched Android Things (codenamed Brillo), a variant of an Android Operating System for the Internet of Things (IoT) devices. Its goal is to enable IoT machines developers to be built faster, cheaper and more secure.

### **ISRO Develops Atomic Clock For Indigenous Navigation Satellites**

The Indian Space Research Organization developed an atomic clock to be used in navigation satellites. It is supposed to measure precise location data. Once it successfully clears all tests, the desi atomic clock will be used in an experimental navigation satellite to test its accuracy and durability in space. At present, ISRO imports atomic clocks from European aerospace manufacturer Astrium (EAMA) for its navigation satellites.

### **NASA launches \$993-mn spacecraft to dig deep inside Mars**

NASA has successfully launched a \$993-million spacecraft called InSight which is designed to study quakes on Mars and explore the red planet's deep interior. InSight will travel around 300 million miles and take six months to get to Mars. The 360-kg InSight aims to be the first NASA spacecraft to land on Mars since the Curiosity rover in 2012.

### **APSTAR-6C: China launches communication satellite**

A Chinese-built communications satellite owned by Hong Kong-based operator launched aboard a Long March 3B rocket from the Xichang space base in southwest China. The Apstar 6C communications craft lifted off from Xichang, a launch site in a mountainous region in Sichuan province. Apstar has another Chinese-built satellite, Apstar 6D, under construction for launch on a Long March 3B rocket in 2019.

### **Namami Gange Programme: NMCG approves used of GIS technology**

National Mission for Clean Ganga has brought on board Survey of India, the oldest scientific department in the country set up in 1767, to facilitate the Ganga rejuvenation task by using Geographic Information System (GIS) technology. The project includes use of Digital Elevation Model (DEM) technology which ensures accurate data collection, an important aspect for river basin management planning. The technology will also enable people to send their feedback up to the national level thereby providing an interactive and transparent platform.

### **Scientists produce alcohol from wood for the first time**

Japanese scientists have invented a way of producing alcoholic beverages from wood of cherry, cedar, and birch trees. The method involves pulverising wood into a creamy paste and adding yeast and enzymes to start fermentation. Four-kilogram cedar wood produced 3.8 litres of liquid, with a 15% alcohol content. They hope to make their "wood alcohol" commercial within three years.

**Day Today GK - Join our WhatsApp Group - +916381085084**

## **CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY 2018 PDF**

### **IISc scientists discover gene mutation behind brain tumour**

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru and AIIMS, New Delhi have uncovered a previously unknown gene mutation linked to glioblastoma, the deadliest and most common form of brain cancer. They found a pathway of various signalling molecules and receptors severely mutated in a small fraction of glioblastoma patients who had a survival time of about three months.

### **New beetle species named after Leonardo DiCaprio**

Citizen scientists have named a new species of beetle 'Grouvellinus leonardodicaprio' after Hollywood actor Leonardo DiCaprio for his environmental activism. The first known specimen of the 3-mm-long beetle, which lacked a left antenna, was found in the South Asian island of Borneo. Kate Winslet, who starred alongside DiCaprio in 'Titanic', already has a beetle named after her.

### **Floating nuclear plant launched, slammed as Nuclear Titanic**

Russia has launched the world's only floating nuclear power unit into the Baltic Sea. The 70-megawatt vessel left its shipyard from St Petersburg towards the Arctic via a Russian town to load nuclear fuel. Environmental activists have slammed the move, calling it 'Nuclear Titanic' and 'Chernobyl on ice'. The US once used a floating nuclear plant in Panama from 1968-1975.

### **InSight: NASA to launch its first mission to study deep interior of Mars**

NASA's first-ever mission to study the deep interior of Mars is on schedule to launch in few days. The Interior Exploration using Seismic Investigations, Geodesy and Heat Transport (InSight) is the first planetary mission to take off from the West Coast of US. The lander will study the deep interior of Mars to learn how all rocky planets formed, including Earth and its Moon. Its instruments include a seismometer to detect marsquakes and a probe that will monitor the flow of heat in the planet's subsurface.

### **GOBAR-DHAN Scheme launched to promote wealth and energy from waste**

Union Minister for Drinking Water and Sanitation, Uma Bharti, launched the GOBAR (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources) - DHAN scheme at the National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI) Auditorium, Karnal. The scheme aims to positively impact village cleanliness and generate wealth and energy from cattle and organic waste. The scheme also aims at creating new rural livelihood opportunities and enhancing income for farmers and other rural people.

### CABINET APPROVALS

#### **India's first National Sports University in Manipur: Union Cabinet approves ordinance**

The Union Cabinet approved an ordinance to set up the country's first national sports university in Manipur. The Manipur government has already allocated land for the proposed university. The proposal to set up the national sports university in Manipur was initially announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while Rs. 100 crore funds for it were allocated in the 2014-15 budget.

#### **Cabinet approves USOF scheme for Meghalaya under CTD**

The Union Cabinet has approved the "Universal Service Obligation Fund [USOF]" supported scheme to provide mobile services at 4072 tower locations identified by MHA in inhabited uncovered areas affected by Left Wing Extremism [LWE] of 96 districts in 10 States for Phase-II project. The total project cost would be Rs.7,330 Crore.

This network would be used by the security personnel deployed in LWE affected areas. Project will also provide the mobile services to help the residents in unconnected inhabited villages which would improve the economic activities in the region. It will give impetus to the e-Governance activities in the backward and LWE affected area with the availability of digital mobile connectivity.

#### **Cabinet approves MoU between India and Turkey on trade in poppy seeds**

The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Turkey on trade in poppy seeds to ensure quick and transparent processing for import of poppy seeds from Turkey. In this way genuineness of import contract can be easily ensured as well as many litigation matter resulting in delay in the import can be avoided.

The MoU will ensure continuous availability of poppy seeds in domestic market of India and ultimately Indian consumers of poppy seeds will be benefited.

#### **Cabinet approves MoU between India and Singapore on Cooperation in the field of Personnel Management and Public Administration**

The Union Cabinet has approved signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Singapore on Cooperation in the field of Personnel Management and Public Administration. The MoU aims at improving the current system of governance, particularly in the areas of Workforce, Workplace and Jobs, Public Service Delivery, Human Resource Management, Public Sector Reform, Leadership/ Talent Development and E-Governance/Digital Government.



## **CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY 2018 PDF**

### **Cabinet approves MoU between India and Morocco on India-Morocco cooperation in Renewable Energy**

The Union Cabinet has given its ex-post facto approval for the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Morocco on India-Morocco Cooperation in Renewable Energy. The MoU was signed on 10th April, 2018 in New Delhi.

Both sides aim to establish the basis for a cooperative institutional relationship to encourage and promote technical bilateral cooperation on new and renewable energy issues on the basis of mutual benefit, equality and reciprocity. The MoU envisages establishing a Joint Working Committee to review, monitor and discuss matters relation to areas of cooperation. The MoU aims for exchange of expertise and networking of information. The MoU will help in strengthening bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

### **Cabinet approves MoU between India and Denmark on Food Safety Cooperation**

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its ex-post facto approval to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Denmark regarding cooperation in the areas of food safety. The MoU will help deepen bilateral ties, mutual understanding and trust, eventually strengthening both sides in their capacity building efforts towards food safety. It will further promote understanding of the best practices in the areas of food safety in both countries and in faster resolution of issues related to food safety.

### **Cabinet approves MoU signed between India and France in the field of Renewable Energy**

The Union Cabinet has given its ex-post facto approval to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between India and France in the field of Renewable Energy on 10th March, 2018 in New Delhi. Both sides aim to identify research/ demonstration/ pilot project between National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE), India and Commissariat a l'Energie Atomique et aux Energies Alternatives (CEA), France in the mutually identified areas. Based on mutual agreement, both parties would work for implementation & deployment of pilot project in ISA member countries.

### **Cabinet apprised of the MoU between India and Angola**

The Union Cabinet has been apprised of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Angola for promoting bilateral cooperation in the field of Electronics and Information Technology. The MoU intends to promote closer cooperation in the areas of e-Governance, HRD for IT education, Information Security, Electronics Hardware manufacturing, IT embedded Software industry, Telemedicine etc.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY 2018 PDF

### **Cabinet apprised of MoU between India and France on Technical Cooperation in the field of railways**

The Union Cabinet has been apprised of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Indian Railways and SNCF Mobilites (a company owned by the French State) on Technical Cooperation in the field of Railways. The MoU was signed on 10th March, 2018.

The MoUs provide a platform for Indian Railways to interact and share the latest developments and knowledge in the railway sector. The MoUs facilitate exchange of technical experts, reports and technical documents, training and seminars/workshops focusing on specific technology areas and other interactions for knowledge sharing.

The MoU will provide a framework of cooperation for focused approach in following key areas :-

1. High speed and semi-high speed rail;
2. Station renovation and operations;
3. Modernisation of current operations and infrastructure;
4. Suburban trains.

### **Cabinet approves MoU between India and Morocco in the legal field**

The Union Cabinet has given its ex-post facto approval for signing of the MoU for cooperation in the legal field between India and Morocco, in order to share their experience and expertise in the field of law and legislation.

The MoU will give an opportunity to the Lawyers, Law Officers and law students to discuss issues in the field of law and justice in seminars, symposiums and workshops arranged by authorities of India and Morocco.

### **Cabinet approves MoU between the India and Swaziland on cooperation in the field of Health and Medicine**

The Union Cabinet has given its ex-post-facto for the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the India and Swaziland on cooperation in the field of Health and Medicine. The MoU was signed on 9th April 2018.

The MoU covers the following areas of cooperation:-

- i) Drugs & Pharmaceutical products;
- ii) Medical Consumable products;

**Day Today GK - Join our WhatsApp Group - +916381085084**

## CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY 2018 PDF

- iii) Medical Research;
- iv) Medical Equipment;
- v) Public Health;
- vi) Communicable Disease Control & Surveillance;
- vii) Health Tourism; and
- viii) Any other area of mutual interest.

A Working Group will be set up to further elaborate the details of cooperation and to oversee the implementation of this MoU.

### **Cabinet approves MoU between India and Suriname for cooperation in the field of electoral management and administration**

The Union Cabinet has approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Suriname on cooperation in the field of electoral management and administration including exchange of knowledge and experience in the field of organizational and technical development of electoral process; support in exchanging information, institutional strengthening and capacity building, training of personnel, holding regular consultations etc.

The MoU will promote bilateral cooperation, aimed at building technical assistance / capacity support for Suriname envisaging cooperation in the field of electoral management and administration.

### **Cabinet approves MoU between India and Equatorial Guinea for Cooperation in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine & Medicinal Plants**

The Union Cabinet has given its ex-post facto approval to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Equatorial Guinea for Cooperation in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine and Medicinal Plants.

The MoU will enhance bilateral cooperation between the two countries in the areas of Traditional Systems of Medicine. The financial resources necessary to conduct research, training courses, conferences/ meetings and deputations of experts will be met from the existing allocated budget and existing plan schemes of Ministry of AYUSH.

### **Cabinet approves MoU between India and Morocco in the field of Mining and Geology**

The Union Cabinet has given its ex post facto approval to the signing of MoU between India and Morocco in the field of mining and geology. The agreement was signed on 11.4.2018 in

## CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY 2018 PDF

New Delhi between the Moroccan Ministry of Energy, Mines and Sustainable development and the Ministry of Mines, Govt. of India.

The MoU will provide an institutional mechanism between India and Morocco for cooperation in the field of geology and mining. This cooperation will be mutually beneficial on economic, social and environmental fields in both countries.

### **Cabinet approves MoU on Cooperation in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine between India and Colombia**

The Union Cabinet has given its approval to the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Colombia on establishing cooperation on Traditional Systems of Medicine of India.

It will lead to promotion and propagation of Traditional Systems of Medicines of India in Colombia. As a consequence of this MoU, exchange of experts for training the practitioners, conducting collaborative research in Traditional Systems of Medicine is expected to lead to new innovations in drug development and traditional medical practice.

### **Cabinet approves setting up of a new AIIMS in Deoghar, Jharkhand**

The Union Cabinet has approved setting up of a new All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Deoghar, Jharkhand. A provision of funds worth Rs. 1103 crore has been approved for the project and the said AIIMS will be set up under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY).

The AIIMS at Deoghar will consist of:

1. A hospital with a capacity of 750 beds, trauma center facilities
2. A medical college with an in-take of 100 MBBS students per year
3. A nursing college with an int-ake of 60 B.Sc.(Nursing) students per year, residential complexes and allied facilities / services, broadly on the pattern of AIIMS, New Delhi.
4. 20 Speciality/Super Speciality Departments including 15 Operation Theatres.
5. An Ayush Department with 30 beds for providing treatment facilities in the traditional system of medicine.

### **Cabinet approves signing and ratification of Agreement between India and Brunei Darussalam**

The Union Cabinet has approved the signing and ratification of Agreement between India and Brunei Darussalam for the Exchange of Information and Assistance in Collection with respect to Taxes. The Agreement will stimulate the flow of exchange of information between India and Brunei for tax purposes which will help curb tax evasion and tax avoidance. It will also enable assistance in collection of tax revenue claims between both countries.

## **CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY 2018 PDF**

The Agreement enables the competent authorities of India and Brunei Darussalam to provide assistance through exchange of information that is foreseeably relevant to the administration and enforcement of the domestic laws of the two countries concerning taxes covered by this Agreement.

### **Cabinet approves setting up of a Central University in Andhra Pradesh**

The Union Cabinet has given its in-principle approval for establishing a Central University by the name of “Central University of Andhra Pradesh” in Jantalur Village of Ananthapur District, Andhra Pradesh. A provision of funds worth Rs. 450 crore has been approved for meeting the first phase expenditure towards establishment of the said University.

The Central University would be mentored by an existing Central University till its governing structure is in place. The approval would increase access and quality of higher education and help in minimizing the regional imbalances in education facilities, and give effect to the Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act, 2014.

### **Cabinet approves extension of Delhi Metro corridor from Noida City Centre to Sector-62, Noida Uttar Pradesh**

In a major boost to public transport infrastructure in NOIDA, the Union Cabinet has approved extension of Delhi Metro corridor from Noida City Centre to Sector-62, Noida Uttar Pradesh covering a length of 6.675 k.m. at the total completion cost of Rs.1,967 crores. The Project will be implemented by Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Limited (DMRC), the existing Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) of the Government of India and Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi.

### **Cabinet approves establishment of National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation at Bhopal**

The Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation (NIMHR) at Bhopal as a Society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 under the aegis of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities. The estimated cumulative cost of the project is Rs. 179.54 crore in first three years. This includes non-recurring expenditure of Rs. 128.54 crore and recurring expenditure of Rs. 51 crore.

The Union Cabinet has also approved the proposal to create three Joint Secretary level posts, which include one post of Director of the Institute and two posts of Professors.

The main objectives of the NIMHR are to provide rehabilitation services to the persons with mental illness, capacity development in the area of mental health rehabilitation, policy framing and advanced research in mental health rehabilitation.

## **CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY 2018 PDF**

### **Cabinet approves strengthening the mechanism for resolution of commercial disputes of Central Public Sector Enterprises**

The Union Cabinet Chaired has approved the strengthening of the mechanism for resolution of commercial disputes of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) inter se and also between CPSEs and other Government Departments/Organizations. The Cabinet decision is based on recommendations of the Committee of Secretaries (CoS). The decision will put in place an institutionalized mechanism within the Government for speedy resolution of commercial disputes of CPSEs without the matter being referred to the Courts of law.

### **Cabinet approves National Policy on Biofuels – 2018**

The Union Cabinet has approved National Policy on Biofuels – 2018.

The Policy categorises biofuels as “Basic Biofuels” viz. First Generation (1G) bioethanol & biodiesel and “Advanced Biofuels” – Second Generation (2G) ethanol, Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) to drop-in fuels, Third Generation (3G) biofuels, bio-CNG etc. to enable extension of appropriate financial and fiscal incentives under each category.

The Policy encourages setting up of supply chain mechanisms for biodiesel production from non-edible oilseeds, Used Cooking Oil, short gestation crops.

### **Cabinet approves development of Trunk Infrastructure Components for Logistics Hub**

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given its approval for the development of Freight Village, an Integrated Multi Modal Logistics Hub (IMLH), Nangal Chaudhary, Haryana. The proposed development of a Freight Village as Multi Modal Logistics Hub is estimated to generate over four thousand direct and six thousand indirect employment. Job creation will not be limited to core logistics facilities but would also entail opportunities for entire logistics supply chain.

### **Cabinet approves Corpus for Micro Irrigation Fund with NABARD under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana**

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved an initial Corpus of Rs.5,000 crore for setting up of a dedicated “Micro Irrigation Fund” (MIF) with NABARD under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY). The dedicated Micro Irrigation Fund would supplement the efforts of Per Drop More Crop Component (PDMC) of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana in an effective and timely manner.

The allocation of Rs. 2,000 crore and Rs. 3,000 crore will be utilised during 2018-19 and 2019-20 respectively. NABARD will extend the loan to State Governments during this period. Borrowings from NABARD shall be paid back in 7 years including the grace period of two years.

**Day Today GK - Join our WhatsApp Group - +916381085084**

## CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY 2018 PDF

### **Cabinet approves enhancement of budget for implementation of Network for Spectrum for Defence Services**

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given its approval for enhancement of budget by Rs. 11,330 crore for Network For Spectrum (NFS) project for laying of alternate communication network for Defence Services for release of spectrum over and above Rs.13,334 crore already approved by Cabinet Committee on Infrastructure in July, 2012.

The project, being implemented by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), will be completed in a period of 24 months.

The NFS project will boost the communication capabilities of the Defence Forces in a major way leading to enhanced national operational preparedness. The project will also have forward linkages to other related industries such as telecom equipment manufacturing and other telecommunication related services.

### **Union Cabinet approves plan to set up 20 AIIMS across India**

The Union Cabinet has approved a plan to set up 20 All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) across the country and upgrade 73 medical colleges. The new AIIMS would address the shortfall of healthcare professionals, transform health education and training, and lead to employment generation.

### **Cabinet approves financial assistance to sugar mills for clearing cane dues of farmers**

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given its approval to provide financial assistance @ of Rs. 5.50 per quintal of cane crushed in sugar season 2017-18 to sugar mills to offset the cost of cane, in order to help sugar mills to clear cane dues of farmers.

- The assistance shall be paid directly to the farmers on behalf of the mills.
- It will be adjusted against the cane price payable due to the farmers against Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) including arrears relating to previous years.
- Subsequent balance if any, shall be credited into the mill's account.

### **Cabinet approves restructuring of Multi-sectoral Development Programme**

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the proposal for renaming and restructuring of Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP) as Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK). CCEA has also approved its continuation during the remaining period of the 14th Finance Commission.

- The restructured programme would provide better socio economic infrastructure facilities to the minority communities particularly in the field of education, health & skill development as compared to the present situation, which would further lead to lessening of the gap between the national average and the minority communities with regard to backwardness parameters.



## CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY 2018 PDF

- The area to be covered under PMJVK would be 57% more as compared to the existing MsDP.
- The MsDP covered 196 district of the country whereas PMJVK will cover 308 districts of the country.

### **Cabinet approves Upgradation and Expansion of airport infrastructure at Lucknow, Chennai & Guwahati Airport**

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given its approval to for expansion and upgradation of integrated terminals at Chennai, Guwahati & Lucknow Airports, at a cost of Rs.2467 crore, Rs.1383 crore and Rs.1232 crore, respectively.

Lucknow Airport: Construction of New Integrated Terminal will have an area of 88,000 sqm along with the existing terminal building with 16292 sqm and will have annual capacity to handle 2.6 million international and 11 million domestic passenger traffic.

Chennai Airport: Total built up area of the proposed terminal building, including the present proposal measuring 197000 sqm shall be 336000 sqm with an annual capacity to handle 35 mppa. The new terminal building incorporates green building features with an aim to achieve GRIHA-4 Star rating.

Guwahati Airport: The New Terminal Building shall have an area of 102500 sqm to handle combined annual capacity (old and new terminals) of 9 mppa.

According to IATA Traffic Study, India, at 7th position as of now, is likely to take 3rd position by 2023-24 by overtaking UK, Japan, Spain & Germany. The current rate of the growth in domestic aviation sector of India is the highest globally.

### **Cabinet approves continuation of Umbrella Scheme 'Green Revolution – Krishonnati Yojana' in Agriculture Sector**

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given its approval for the Umbrella Scheme, "Green Revolution – Krishonnati Yojana" in agriculture sector beyond 12th Five Year Plan for the period from 2017-18 to 2019-20 with the Central Share of Rs. 33,269.976 crore. The Umbrella scheme comprises of 11 Schemes/Missions. These schemes look to develop the agriculture and allied sector in a holistic and scientific manner to increase the income of farmers by enhancing production, productivity and better returns on produce.

The Schemes that are part of the Umbrella Schemes are :

1. Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)
2. National Food Security Mission (NFSM)
3. National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)
4. Submission on Agriculture Extension (SMAE)
5. Sub-Mission on Seeds and Planting Material (SMSP)
6. Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanisation (SMAM)
7. Sub Mission on Plant Protection and Plant Quarantine (SMPPQ)

**Day Today GK - Join our WhatsApp Group - +916381085084**

## CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY 2018 PDF

8. Integrated Scheme on Agriculture Census, Economics and Statistics (ISACES)
9. Integrated Scheme on Agricultural Cooperation (ISAC)
10. Integrated Scheme on Agricultural Marketing (ISAM)
11. National e-Governance Plan (NeGP-A)

### **Cabinet approves accession to the Protocol under WHO Framework Convention**

The Union Cabinet has given approval to accede to the Protocol under World Health Organization (WHO) Framework Convention on tobacco control to eliminate illicit trade in tobacco products. It will be applicable to both smoking and chewing or smokeless tobacco (SLT) forms as negotiated and adopted under Article 15 of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC). India is a party to WHO FCTC.

The protocol lists out offences, enforcement measures such as seizures and disposal of seized products. It calls for international cooperation in information sharing, maintaining confidentiality, training, technical assistance and cooperation in scientific and technical and technological matters.

### **Cabinet approves continuation of Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana upto 2019-20**

In a major boost to the expansion of healthcare infrastructure in the country, the Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) beyond 12th Five Year Plan to 2019-20. The financial outlay for this purpose is Rs 14,832 crore. Under this scheme, new AIIMS are established and Government medical colleges are upgraded.

The PMSSY, a Central Sector Scheme, aims at correcting the imbalances in the availability of affordable tertiary healthcare facilities in different parts of the country in general, and augmenting facilities for quality medical education in the under-served States in particular.

### **Cabinet approves construction and operationalisation of 100 bedded General Hospital at Najafgarh, New Delhi**

The Union Cabinet has given its approval for construction and operationalisation of 100 bedded General Hospital at Rural Health Training Centre (RHTC), Najafgarh, New Delhi at an estimated cost of about Rs. 95 Crore. The Project envisages setting up of the 100 bedded hospital in Najafgarh in two years to cater to the local population of 13.65 Lakh spread across 73 villages.

The hospital will include four major clinical services in Medicine, Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Paediatrics and Surgery, including a blood bank, diagnostic services and separate Out Patient Departments (OPD) for General Medicine, Surgery, Dental, ENT, Ophthalmology, audiometry and paediatric care through a staff of more than 30 doctors and 40 nurses, apart from 50 Allied and Healthcare staff.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY 2018 PDF

### **Cabinet approves Restructuring of the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM)**

The Union Cabinet has approved the Restructuring of the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) by upgradation, creation and abolition of certain posts of Joint Secretary-level and above. The total cadre strength of Indian Bureau of Mines has been maintained at the existing strength of 1477.

The restructuring would help in enabling the IBM to effectively discharge its function to help reform and transform the regulation of the mineral sector. It will enable the adoption of IT and space technology by the IBM to improve its effectiveness in mineral regulation and development. Further, the posts entail a great deal of decision-making and accountability in the functioning of the organization.

### **Cabinet approves Mutual Recognition Agreement between the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants**

The Union Cabinet has approved the Mutual Recognition Agreement between the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and The South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA).

The Agreement will:

- Recognition of Indian Accountancy Professionals with local Accountancy qualification in addition to existing ICAI qualification, which will increase their professional avenues in South African markets.
- Foster strong working relations between the two accounting institutes.
- Increase mobility of professionals at either end and would herald a new dimension for small and medium businesses in both countries.

### **Cabinet approves Doubling of Investment Limit for Senior Citizens from Rs. 7.5 lakh to Rs.15 lakh under Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandan Yojana (PMVVY)**

The Union Cabinet has given its approval for extending the investment limit from Rs 7.5 lakhs to Rs 15 lakhs as well as extension of time limits for subscription from 4th May 2018 to 31st March, 2020 under the Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandan Yojana (PMVVY) as part of Government's commitment for financial inclusion and social security.

As of March, 2018, a total number of 2.23 lakh senior citizens are being benefited under PMVVY. In the previous scheme of Varishtha Pension Bima Yojana-2014, a total number of 3.11 lakh senior citizens are being benefited.

The scheme provides an assured pension based on a guaranteed rate of return of 8% per annum for ten years, with an option to opt for pension on a monthly / quarterly / half yearly and annual basis.

**Day Today GK - Join our WhatsApp Group - +916381085084**

## CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY 2018 PDF

### SPORTS

| WINNER           | TITLE                                | ADDITIONAL INFO   |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| Real Madrid      | UEFA Champions League                | Defeated Liverpool 3-1 in Kiev  |
| Daniel Ricciardo | Monaco Grand Prix                    |   |
| South Korea      | Asian Champions Trophy 2018 (Hockey) | Defeated India in the final match.<br>Venue : Donghae City, South Korea         |
| Rafael Nadal     | Italian Open Title                   | Defeated world number three Alexander Zverev                                    |
| Chelsea          | 8th FA Cup title                     | Defeated Manchester United  |
| India            | Four-Nation Tournament.              | The four-nation tournament played between India, Serbia, Tajikistan and Jordan. |
| Lewis Hamilton   | Spanish Grand Prix                   | -   |

#### CSK defeat SRH to clinch third IPL title

Chennai Super Kings defeated SunRisers Hyderabad to clinch their third Indian Premier League title. With this, Chennai Super Kings equalled Mumbai Indians' record for winning the most number of Indian Premier League titles (3).

#### Awards:

- Man of the Match (Final): Shane Watson
- Orange Cap (Most Runs) : Kane Williamson
- Purple Cap (Most Wickets) : Andrew Tye
- Emerging Player: Rishabh Pant
- Stylish Player : Rishabh Pant
- Perfect Catch: Trent Boult
- Super Striker: Sunil Narine
- Valuable Player : Sunil Narine
- Fairplay Award: Mumbai Indians

#### Roger Federer breaks own record to become oldest world no. 1

Roger Federer has become the oldest world number one male tennis player for the second time in his career, despite not playing a match since March. He had achieved the top rank for the first time in February this year, surpassing Andre Agassi. The 36-year-old regained the top rank after Rafael Nadal lost in the Madrid Open quarter-final.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY 2018 PDF

### **Australian fastest to scale highest peaks in 7 continents**

Australian Steve Plain became the fastest climber to scale the highest peaks on seven continents, taking 117 days, after he scaled Mount Everest, according to his expedition company in Nepal. The 36-year-old began his mission by climbing Mount Vinson in Antarctica. The record was earlier held by a Polish climber who scaled the peaks in 126 days.

### **New Zealand's female and male footballers to be paid equally**

New Zealand's female international football players are set to be paid the same as the male international football players. The female players will also receive equal prize money, equal rights for image use and will also have the same travel benefits as their male counterparts. The move has come after Norway took the decision for equal pay in December.

### **FIFA proposes staging mini-World Cup every two years**

World football governing body FIFA's president Gianni Infantino has proposed staging a 'mini-World Cup' every two years. The tournament, which will be called 'Final 8', would feature eight teams and could commence in October or November 2021. The biennial tournament would replace the Confederations Cup, which is currently staged every four years in a year before the World Cup.

### **Indian shooter becomes World No.1 in 10m air pistol rankings**

Indian shooter Shahzar Rizvi became the world number one shooter in the 10-metre air pistol category after having won a silver medal at the recently concluded shooting World Cup in South Korea. The other Indian shooter in the world top-10 rankings is Jitu Rai, who is placed sixth, while shooter Om Prakash Mitharval is placed 12th in the list

### **Third South Asian Junior Athletics Championships: India Tops With 50 Medals**

India finished on top in the 7-nation 3rd South Asian Junior Athletics Championships in Colombo, Sri Lanka on the final day.

1. India ended with 20 gold, 22 silver and 8 bronze medals (Total 50 Medals).
2. Sri Lanka bagged rest of the 12 gold medals in the competition along with 10 silver and 19 bronze.
3. Pakistan won one silver and a bronze to settle for the third place.

The juniors will next represent India at the 18th Asian Junior Athletics Championships to be held in Gifu, Japan in June 2018.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY 2018 PDF

### **BCCI partners with United Nations to promote 'green cricket'**

The BCCI and United Nations Environment have signed an agreement to promote 'green cricket' in India. "The BCCI will endeavor to reduce its environmental impact by greening operations and engaging cricketers and fans in green initiatives", a statement by BCCI read. The partnership will focus on phasing out single-use plastic across stadiums in the country.

### **World's highest mountain biking race to be held in Sikkim**

Sikkim's north district administration is organising a mountain biking race, touted to be the world's highest, at over 17,000 feet across 330 km in June. The themes for the race are 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' and 'Secure Himalayas'. District Collector Karma R Bonpo said he hoped the race would be a "game-changer" for tourism development in the area.

### **2018 World Cup official song featuring Will Smith released**

The official song for the 2018 FIFA World Cup titled 'Live It Up', sung by American actor-rapper Will Smith, singer Nicky Jam and Albanian pop star Era Istrefi, has been released. "At the end of the day we just want to see the world dance," said Smith about the song. The trio will perform it live at the WC final.

### **WHO, Russia Launch New Campaign For Football World Cup 2018**

A new video campaign has been launched targeting football fans on the occasion of the World Cup 2018 next month to promote healthier and more active lives. The series of videos have been produced jointly by WHO, Russia's Ministry of Health and the 2018 World Cup Russia Local Organising Committee. The campaign consists of 3 videos, each tackling key health risk issues of Tobacco use, excessive salt consumption and physical inactivity.

1. The WHO video says tobacco use is one of the most damaging lifestyle choices and is currently responsible for 16 per cent of all deaths in adults over 30 in the European region.
2. The second video propagates that one can significantly reduce risk of developing non-communicable diseases by eating salt upto 5 grams or less in a day.
3. Third video emphasises that 150 minutes of moderate or 75 minutes of vigorous physical activity per week can enhance well-being.

### **AB de Villiers retires while being number 2 in ODI rankings**

South African cricketer AB de Villiers announced his retirement from all forms of international cricket while holding the number two spot in the ICC ODI rankings for batsmen. The 34-year-old had scored 773 runs in 19 ODIs at an average of 59.46 last year. Further, the 34-year-old won the ICC ODI Player of the Year for a record three times.

**Day Today GK - Join our WhatsApp Group - +916381085084**

## CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY 2018 PDF

### OBITUARY

| NAME OF THE PERSON DIED                 | ASSOCIATED FIELD  |
|---|---|
| Serge Dassault                          | Chairman of aerospace giant Dassault Group  |
| NASA astronaut Alan Bean                | Fourth person to walk on the Moon in 1969   |
| Lieutenant General Zorawar Chand Bakshi | He played a major role in capturing the strategically important Haji Pir Pass during the 1965 war with Pakistan   |
| Author Philip Roth                      | He wrote more than 30 books, including the 1991 memoir "Patrimony," which examined his complex relationship with his father and won the National Book Critics Circle Award, and "American Pastoral," for which he won the Pulitzer Prize in 1998. |
| Actor Hemu Adhikari                     | Known for his contribution to Marathi theatre.  |
| Margot Kidder                           | Known for the role Lois Lane in the Superman film franchise   |
| E C G Sudarshan                         | World famous Physicist  |
| Nandram Das Bairagi                     | Hindi film lyricist   |
| Anne V. Coates                          | British film editor   |
| Arjun Hingorani                         | Filmmaker   |
|   |   |

### IMPORTANT DAYS IN MAY 2018

| DATE   | DAY OBSERVED                                  | THEME   |
|--------|---|---|
| May 01 | International Labour Day                      |   |
| May 3  | World Laughter Day                            |   |
| May 3  | World Press Freedom Day                       | Keeping Power in Check: Media, Justice and the Rule of Law".                            |
| May 04 | International Firefighters' Day               |   |
| May 05 | World Asthma Day                              | Never too early, never too late. It's always the right time to address airways disease. |
| May 07 | Border Roads Organisation (BRO)'s Raising Day |   |
| May 08 | World Red Cross Day                           |   |
| May 10 | Mother's Day                                  |   |
| May 11 | National Technology Day                       |   |
| May 12 | International Nurse Day                       | Nurses A Voice to Lead - Health is a Human right  |



## CURRENT AFFAIRS MAY 2018 PDF

|        |   |   |
|--------|---|---|
| May 15 | International Day of the Family                               |   |
| May 17 | World Telecommunication and Information Society Day           | Enabling the positive use of Artificial Intelligence for All. |
| May 17 | World Hypertension Day  |   |
| May 18 | International Museum Day                                      | Hyperconnected museum: New approaches, new publics            |
| May 20 | World Metrology Day   |   |
| May 21 | World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development |   |
| May 22 | International Day for Biological Diversity                    | Celebrating 25 Years of Action for Biodiversity               |
| May 23 | International Day to End Obstetric Fistula                    |   |
| May 25 | World Thyroid Day   |   |
| May 28 | International Day of Action for Women's Health                |   |
| May 29 | International Day of UN Peacekeepers                          | UN Peacekeepers: 70 Years of Service and Sacrifice            |
| May 30 | Goa Statehood Day   |   |
| May 31 | World No Tobacco Day  |   |

- First Sunday of May - World Laughter Day
- First Tuesday of May - World Asthma Day
- Second Weekend of May - World Migratory Bird Day