

## GK Digest - May Month

### International Affairs

#### International Buddhist Conference held in Lumbini, Nepal

- Lumbini is the birthplace of Gautama Buddha, founder of the Buddhist religion.
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- The basic objective of the conference was to disseminate teachings of Buddha and spread messages of nonviolence, brotherhood, coexistence, love, and peace.

#### 14 Indian Cities Figure In World's 20 Most Polluted Cities List: WHO

- As per the data released by the World Health Organisation (WHO), 14 Indian cities figure in a list of world's 20 most polluted cities in terms of particulate matter PM2.5 levels in 2016.
- The particulate matter PM2.5 includes pollutants like sulfate, nitrate and black carbon, which pose the greatest risk to human health.
- The WHO Global Urban Ambient Air Pollution Database ranked Kanpur as the most polluted city among 4300 world cities which were monitored for their air pollution levels in the year 2016.
- The other Indian cities that registered very high levels of PM2.5 pollutants were Faridabad, Varanasi, Gaya, Patna, Delhi, Lucknow, Agra, Muzaffarpur, Srinagar, Gurgaon, Jaipur, Patiala, and Jodhpur.

### **Twelfth Informal Meeting Of SAARC Finance Ministers Held In Manila**

- The 12th informal meeting of SAARC Finance Ministers was held in Manila, Philippines, on the sidelines of the 51st Annual Meeting of Asian Development Bank (ADB).
- The meeting was attended by the Finance Ministers/Heads of Delegations from the SAARC member states. Finance Minister of Nepal Yuba Raj Khatiwada chaired the meeting.

- The Finance Ministers/Heads of Delegation briefed the meeting about the current status of economic progress achieved by their countries.
- They also appreciated ADB for its contribution in the economic growth of SAARC countries.

## California Surpasses UK To Become World's 5th Largest Economy

- US state California's economy surpassed that of the UK to become the world's fifth largest, according to new federal data released. 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.
- Despite having a population of only 40 million compared with the UK's 65 million people, California's gross domestic product of \$2.7tn has overtaken the UK's \$2.6tn.

## Cognizant Acquires Belgium-Based Hedera Consulting

- IT firm Cognizant acquired privately-held Belgium based Hedera Consulting, a move that will strengthen the former's consulting and digital transformation capabilities for clients in Belgium and the Netherlands.

- The size of the deal was however not disclosed. Founded in 2009, Hedera specializes in business advisory and data analytics services across sectors, helping clients in areas like growth strategy, innovation, marketing, sales and customer service.

### **Israel Withdraws From Race For UN Security Council Seat**

- Israel withdrew from a race against Germany and Belgium for two seats on the United Nations Security Council in 2019-20.
- Israel, Germany and Belgium were competing for two seats allocated to the Western European and Others Group.
- Germany and Belgium are now running uncontested, but they still need to win more than two-thirds of the overall General Assembly vote to be elected.

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

- The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) 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.

- The report was launched just before the Mother's Day that will be held on May 13, 2018.
- Babies are much more likely to be breastfed at least once in low- and-middle-income countries like Bhutan (99 percent), Madagascar (99 percent) and Peru (99 percent) than those born in Ireland (55 percent) the United States (74 percent) or Spain (77 percent).

## 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.

## Carlos Alvarado Sworn In As Costa Rican President

- Carlos Alvarado was sworn in as the new President of Costa Rica.
- Alvarado swept to victory against conservative Protestant singer Fabricio Alvarado Munoz.
- At 39, Alvarado is the country's youngest president in modern history.

## **Walmart Buys Flipkart In World's Largest E-Commerce Deal**

- US-based retail giant Walmart confirmed that it will buy 77% stake in India's largest e-commerce startup Flipkart for \$16 billion.
- The acquisition, which is the largest e-commerce deal in the world, will value the homegrown startup at a reported amount of \$20.8 billion.
- Notably, SoftBank CEO Masayoshi Son had announced the deal by mistake earlier in the day.

## **Beijing To Hold World Robot Conference**

- The 2018 World Robot Conference (WRC) will be held in Beijing, China in August 2018.
- The event will see over 12,000 competing teams and 50,000 participants from more than 10 countries and regions.
- A robot competition will be held during the conference where participants will compete in five categories.

## **UNDP to Set Up Skill Development Centre In Hyderabad**

- UNDP 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.

## WHO Launches 'REPLACE' To Eliminate Trans Fat In Foods By 2023

- The World Health Organization (WHO) launched a comprehensive plan to eliminate industrially-produced artificial trans fats from the global food supply by 2023.
- WHO calls on governments to use the 'REPLACE' action package to eliminate industrially-produced trans-fatty acids from the food supply.
- Elimination of trans fats is key to protecting the health and saving lives.
- The global health body estimates that every year, trans fat intake leads to over 5,00,000 deaths worldwide from cardiovascular diseases.

## North Korea pledges to dismantle its nuclear site between 23 to 25 May

- The decision was taken by North Korea citing to dismantle the nuclear site has been welcomed by everyone.
- But the decision to dismantle it was not taken underway and shutting down every speculation, North Korean foreign ministry announced that the country will begin dismantling its nuclear test site between May 23rd and 25th.
- The site is located in a northeastern part of the country. Ministry officials say the complete tunnel complex used for nuclear testing will be destroyed.
- This will be followed by the removal of all observation facilities and closing off of the whole area.
- The dismantling of the nuclear site will be conducted through a ceremony which will involve the collapsing of all tunnels using explosives and the removal of all observation facilities, research buildings, and security posts.

## Sri Lanka swayed by heavy flash flood affecting over 8000 people

- Lashes of heavy rainfall swayed and created havoc in Sri Lanka Galle and Kalutara districts, affecting around 8000 people.



- Several people had been evacuated from their homes due to the heavy downpour, but as the rains had ceased by Monday morning, the situation was normalizing.
- Disaster Management Centre spokesperson Pradeep Kodippili said that nearly 7,740 people in Galle District and 635 people in Kalutara District were affected by the flood situation.
- There is no casualties or damages were reported but those living in low areas were urged to be vigilant.

### **IMF reaffirms that India will be the fastest-growing major economy in 2018**

- The International Monetary Fund, IMF reaffirmed today that India will be the fastest-growing major economy in 2018, with a growth rate of 7(point)4 percent that rises to 7(point)8 percent in 2019 with medium-term prospects remaining positive.
- The IMF's Asia and Pacific Regional Economic Outlook report said that India was recovering from the effects of demonetization and the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax.
- The recovery is expected to be underpinned by a rebound from transitory shocks as well as robust private consumption.

- The Medium-term consumer price index inflation is forecast to remain within but closer to the upper bound of the Reserve Bank of India's inflation-targeting band of four percent with a plus or minus two percent change.
- The consumer price increase in 2017 was 3.6 percent and projected it to be five percent in 2018 and 2019. Overall, the report said that Asia continues to be both the fastest-growing region in the world and the main engine of the world's economy.

### **Venezuela's President Maduro Wins Re-Election**

- Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro was re elected for a second six-year term in presidential elections, according to the National Electoral Council (CNE).
- Some 14,638 voting centers have been set up nationwide for Venezuela's more than 20.5 million eligible voters, who are also voting for state legislators.
- Mr. Nicolas replaced Hugo Chavez after his death from cancer in 2013.

### **Fifth India CLMV Business Conclave Held In Cambodia**

- The Ministry of Commerce & Industry of India, along with Ministry of Commerce of Cambodia organized the 5th India-CLMV Business Conclave in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
- 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) was the institutional partner of the event.
- The inaugural session of the Conclave was attended by Suresh Prabhu, Minister of Commerce and Industry.
- Ministers of Commerce and Industry and Trade of Cambodia, Myanmar, Vietnam and Lao PDR were also present on this occasion.

### **India Stands 44th In Competitive Rankings, USA Tops: Report**

- India rose one place to 44th this year in the global competitive rankings out of 63 countries that were ranked by the IMD World Competitiveness Center. India started from the 40th position in 2013 and dropped to the 44th rank in 2014.

- India's rank remained at 44 in 2015 and jumped four places to 41 in 2016, dropping to 45 in 2017, and rising to 44 in 2018.
- In contrast, China bagged the 13th rank in 2018 as compared to the 18th rank in 2016.
- The top 5 most competitive economies in the world are: 1. The USA, 2. Hong Kong, 3. Singapore, 4. The Netherlands and 5. Switzerland.

### **Barbados Elects Mia Mottley As first Female Prime Minister**

- The Caribbean island of Barbados elected Mia Mottley as its first female Prime Minister since gaining independence from the UK in 1966.
- Mottley's Barbados Labour Party won all 30 seats in the country's Parliament, coming to power for the first time in a decade.

### **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.
- Dr Harsh Vardhan inaugurated Smart Grid Workshop at Copenhagen and Chaired public-private roundtable on Strategies on Decarbonisation through innovations in Smart Grids.
- 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.

## **US President Trump US in productive talks about reinstating North Korea summit**

- US President Donald Trump very productive talks have been held with North Korea about reinstating the summit with Kim Jong-un.
- In a tweet Mr Trump the meeting could still take place on June 12 in Singapore and if necessary will be extended beyond that date.
- He cancelled the summit blaming the North's open hostility.

- But North Korea declared it was willing to talk to the US at any time in any form.
- Meanwhile, South Korea has welcomed the renewed prospect of the summit.
- The summit would be an unprecedented meeting between a sitting US president and a North Korean leader, which Washington hopes will result in the full denuclearization of the reclusive state.

## National Affairs

### West Bengal to promote cultural tourism at Darjeeling hills

- Taking on an enhancing route of tourism in the state, West Bengal chalked out development plans so as to promote cultural tourism in the hilly chilled region of Darjeeling.
- The state tourism department will be showcasing the customs, food habits and rituals of the tribal groups residing there.
- West Bengal Khadi and Village Industries Board (WBKVIB), which comes under the aegis of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Department, will be executing the project. Exhibiting cultural variability, West Bengal Khadi and Village Industries Board (WBKVIB) has inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with 15 of the culture and development boards set up by the government.

Taking cognizance of each of these boards, the WBKVIB will set up folk art centers, where the tribal people will be able to display their traditional dress, weapons, musical instruments and other specialties.

### **Surat Railway Station to be third in country to have airport-like facilities**

- The Surat railway station will be the third in the country and the second in Gujarat after Gandhinagar to be developed as a world-class facility under a Railway Ministry station redevelopment programme.
- The station will be equipped with several “airport-like” amenities under the ministry’s ‘Rs 1 lakh crore station redevelopment’ programme,.
- ITCO, a joint venture between the IRSDC, the Surat Municipal Corporation, and the Gujarat State Road Transport Corporation invited request for qualification (RFQ) and request for proposal (RFP) for the development of a multi-modal transportation hub at the station.

### **Maharashtra Becomes first To Provide digitally-Signed Documents**

- Maharashtra became the first state to provide digitally-signed land record receipts (also known as 7/12 receipts), which Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis claimed would check irregularities and bring in transparency.

- The 7/12 receipt is the most important document which establishes the ownership of the land and is primarily used by farmers while applying for loans.
- It is also used by the government during crop surveys and to extend various facilities.

## India Rises To 5th Spot In World's Top Five Defense Spenders

- India surpassed France to become one of the world's five largest military spenders, Swedish arms watchdog Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) Report.
- India spent \$63.9 billion on its military in 2017, an increase of 5.5% compared with 2016.
- The other countries in top five include the US, China, Saudi Arabia, and Russia.

## 'Go To Village' Mission Launched In Manipur

- Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh launched 'Go to Village' mission throughout the state from Konuma ground.
- The mission was launched in 60 villages of all the 60 Assembly constituencies.
- The mission is aimed at identifying the eligible and deserving beneficiaries in every corner of the state and delivering government services at their doorstep.



## EPFO launches View Pension Passbook Service on Umang App

- Retirement fund body Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) launched View Pension Passbook Service for pensioners on Umang App.
- Umang app UMANG (Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance) app aims to build common, unified platform and mobile app to facilitate single was launched part of EPFO's plan to go paperless by August this year and provide all services online.
- It will allow pensioners view their pension passbook on mobile phones with the help of Umang app.
- EPFO is already providing various e-services for its stakeholders through Umang.

## HRD Ministry Launches Initiatives For Online Professional Development Using SWAYAM

- Human Resource Development Ministry launched a major and unique initiative of online professional development of 1.5 million higher education faculty using the Massive Open Online Courses platform SWAYAM.
- In the first phase, 75 discipline-specific National Resource Centres (NRCs) have been identified.
- National Resource Centres are tasked to prepare online training material with focus on new and

emerging trends, pedagogical improvements and methodologies for transacting revised curriculum.

## **Legendary Singer Asha Bhosle Honored With PC Chandra Puraskaar**

- Legendary singer Asha Bhosle was honored with 26th PC Chandra Puraskaar for her contribution in the field of Indian music.
- Sharmila Tagore was the Chief Guest at the event who also presented the prestigious award to Asha Bhosle.
- Asha Bhosle made her singing debut in 1943 and she has sung in a great variety of musical genres. Her career spans over almost seven decades.

## **Vibrant North East 2018 Held In Guwahati**

- The 'Vibrant North East 2018', an event in which people would be made aware of central government schemes and programmes, was held in Guwahati, Assam.
- Players from the agriculture, food processing, consumer affairs, civil supply, drinking water and sanitation sectors participated in the three-day event. The event is organized by Delhi-based NGO, Centre for Agriculture and Rural Development (CARD).
- The main purpose of the event is to disseminate information about the schemes, grants, and projects

of the Central Government to ensure that they are implemented as envisaged officially.

### **India's Neeraj Goyat Is WBC Asia Boxer Of The Year**

- Indian pugilist Neeraj Goyat has been conferred with the 'WBC Asia Boxer of the Year Award'. Neeraj is the current WBC Asia champion in welterweight category.
- Since turning pro in 2011, Neeraj won nine fights including two knockouts.
- Neerav Tomar, promoter of IOS Boxing Promotions which manages Neeraj and Vijender Singh, was bestowed with 'WBC Asia honorary Promoter of the year 2017 Award' by the Asian Boxing Council at WBC Asia and WBC Muaythai annual awards presentation ceremony in Bangkok, Thailand.

### **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 Abhiyan” 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.

- More than 29 states of art multi-skill 'Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras' was also launched digitally across the country by Union Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan

## **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.
- With the development of indigenous atomic clocks, the space agency sure gets a mark of technological advancement.

## **India Signs USD 200 Million Loan Deal With World Bank For National Nutrition Mission**

- India signed a loan deal worth \$ 200 million with the World Bank for the National Nutrition Mission (POSHAN Abhiyan).

- The loan would help India in achieving its goal of reducing stunting in children 0-6 years of age from 38.4% to 25% by the year 2022.
  - A large component of POSHAN Abhiyaan involves gradual scaling-up of the interventions supported by the ongoing World Bank assisted Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Systems Strengthening and Nutrition Improvement Project (ISSNIP) to all districts in the country
- Google Names Nitin Bawankule Head Of India Cloud Business

### **NSIC signed MoU With MSME Ministry For Financial Year 2018-19**

- The National Small Industries Corporation Limited (NSIC) signed a MoU with Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) for the year 2018-19.
- The MoU envisages provision of enhanced services by NSIC under its marketing, financial, technology, and other support services schemes, for MSMEs in the country.
- The corporation projects to increase its total business by 21.30% from Rs. 22,258 crore in the year 2017-18 to Rs. 27,000 crore in the year 2018-19.

### **Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates 330-MW Kishanganga hydel power project in Srinagar**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 330-MW Kishanganga hydel power project in Srinagar. Jammu and Kashmir Governor, Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti and Union Ministers Nitin Gadkari and Jitendra Singh were present on the occasion.
- The project has been built by the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation in north Kashmir's Bandipora district.
- It has been constructed at a cost of 5200 crore rupees.
- It is expected to generate 1,713 million units of electricity per annum.
- Jammu and Kashmir would get 12 percent of power from the project.
- He also laid the foundation stone of the ring road project in Srinagar.
- This will boost connectivity with Bandipora, Uri, and Ganderbal.
- Earlier, PM Modi laid the foundation stone of Zojila Tunnel, providing all-weather connectivity between Srinagar, Kargil, and Leh.
- The Zojila pass will be Asia's longest bi-directional tunnel.

- It is situated at an altitude of 11,578 feet on Srinagar-Kargil-Leh National Highway which remains closed during winters.
- Jammu and Kashmir is going to get development projects worth 25,000 crore rupees.
- These projects will have a positive impact on the people of the states.
- There is great scope for agricultural growth across the state. He said Jammu and Kashmir can play a key role in holistic healthcare.

## **Tamil Nadu To Build India's 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 proposal is not only the first time an indigenous military aircraft programme is seeing the involvement of private players, but it is also the first time a defense plane development project is proposed to be executed outside Bengaluru.

- 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.

## India Successfully Test-Fires BrahMos Missile Along Odisha Coast

- India successfully test-fired the Indo-Russian joint venture BrahMos supersonic cruise missile from a test range along the Odisha coast to validate some new features.
- The missile was test-fired from a mobile launcher stationed at Launchpad 3 of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur, according to DRDO.
- The trial was conducted to validate its "life extension" technologies developed for the first time in India by DRDO and team Brahmos.

## India ranked 6th wealthiest country in the world - AfrAsia Bank Global Wealth Migration Review

- The AfrAsia Bank Global Wealth Migration Review ranked India as the 6th wealthiest country in the world with a total wealth of \$8,230 billion, while the United



States was ranked as the wealthiest with a total wealth of \$62,584 billion.

- The review ranked China with a total wealth of \$24,803 billion in the second position and Japan with \$19,522 billion at the third place.

### **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 Aasman' Mukhyamantri Career Counselling programme 'Pahal' in Model School of Bhopal.
- It was prepared by the Madhya Pradesh Skill Development and Employment Generation Board under youth empowerment mission.

## **Sports**

### **Mohamed Salah Named Writers Footballer Of The Year**

- Liverpool forward Mohamed Salah named the Football Writers' Association Footballer of the Year.

- Manchester City midfielder Kevin de Bruyne came second with Tottenham striker Harry Kane third. Salah, 25, has scored 31 goals in 34 league appearances for Liverpool this season.
- The Egypt star - the first African winner of the award - also won the Professional Footballers' Association player of the year award.

### **Wimbledon Champions' Prize Money Hiked By 50,000**

- According to the Wimbledon officials, the 2018 men's and women's singles champions will receive £2.25 million, an increase of £50,000 on last year.
- Lower-ranked players at Wimbledon will enjoy a greater uplift, with an increase of 10% across qualifying and the first to fourth rounds of the singles, boosting the overhaul prize money total to £34 million this year.
- Wimbledon officials warned players they face losing prize money if they withdraw after competing with an existing injury and are not perceived to have given maximum effort.
- There were a total of seven mid-match withdrawals in the 2017 tournament.

### **India loses top spot to England in ICC ODI Team Rankings; slips to second position with 122 points**

- India lost the top position to England in the annual update of ICC ODI team rankings.
- England topped the ODI rankings in January 2013 have gained eight points and moved to 125 points while India is on the second place with a total of 122 points.
- Notably, England overtook India to seize the top spot in the MRF Tyres ICC ODI Team Rankings following the annual update while Nepal has rejoined the T20I ratings but will need to play one more match before they are ranked on the MRF Tyres ICC T20I Rankings.
- England, who last topped the ODI rankings in January 2013 have gained eight points and moved to 125 points. India, who were at the top before the update, have lost a solitary point and are in second place with a total of 122 points.
- South Africa, who was second, have dropped down to third place after losing four points, from 117 to 113, leaving them nine points adrift of India and only one point ahead of fourth-placed New Zealand.

## **Justin Langer appointed as Head Coach Of Australian Cricket Team**

- Former Australian cricketer Justin Langer appointed as Australian cricket team's head coach for all three formats.
- Langer replaces Darren Lehmann, who had stepped down after Australia's tour of South Africa amid the ball-tampering controversy.
- The 47-year-old, who represented Australia in 105 Tests, will begin his four-year term ahead of limited-overs series against England in June.

## Sports

### 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.
- India ended with 20 gold, 22 silver and 8 bronze medals (Total 50 Medals).
- Sri Lanka bagged rest of the 12 gold medals in the competition along with 10 silver and 19 bronze. 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.

## Indian duo Manu Attri and Sumeeth Reddy storms into semi-finals of Australian Open

- The Indian duo of Manu Attri and B Sumeeth Reddy entered into the semi-finals of the Men's doubles event of Australian Open 2018.
- However, Sameer Verma and B Sai Praneeth bowed out of the tournament after losing their respective men's singles quarter-final matches. Manu Attri and B Sumeeth Reddy qualified for the semifinals after edging past compatriots Arjun MR and Shlok Ramchandran.
- Manu and Sumeeth defeated Arjun MR and Shlok Ramchandran by 17-21, 21-19, 21-18 in a match that lasted for only 51 minutes.
- The Indian pair will now take on top seeds Berry Angriawan and Hardianto Hardianto of Indonesia in the semi-finals. In singles, second seed Sai Praneeth lost to Lee Cheuk Yiu by 21-23, 13-21 in a match that lasted for an hour.
- Earlier in the first round, Lee Cheuk Yiu also outclassed India's Lakshya Sen.
- Meanwhile, Sameer Verma lost to Lu Guangzu in straight games.
- Sameer went down 21-14 in the first game after Lu won six straight points after the mid-game break.

## Shooting high on success and victory, Heena Sindhu clinches gold in International Shooting in Hannover

- Ace Indian shooter Heena Sidhu secured the gold medal in the 10-meter air pistol category of the international shooting competition of Hannover, marking a strong build-up to next week's ISSF World Cup in Munich.
- Heena was in a carefree form in the final where she was tied with France's Mathilde Lamoille on 239.8 points.
- She won the tie to win the gold ahead of Mathilde. While Shri Nivetha finished on 219.2. After beginning with a series of scores in the 9s, Heena switched gears and scored 10 and above steadily to break away from the field.
- Her second series produced consistent 10s and she even hit a perfect 10.9 in the elimination round to put herself in contention for gold.

## Lewis Hamilton Won Spanish Grand Prix

- Lewis Hamilton (of Mercedes) won for the second race in succession by dominating an eventful Spanish Grand Prix 2018.
- Valtteri Bottas of Mercedes stood second in the race.
- Sebastian Vettel finished fourth in the event.

## First Para-National Games To Be Held Under Khelo India Scheme

- The inaugural National Para Games, on the lines of National Games for able-bodied athletes, will be held under the Khelo India Scheme in June-July 2018 in Bengaluru.
- The Games will be held for the age group of 16 to 40 (men and women) in 10 disciplines namely para-athletics, badminton, chess, blind judo, para powerlifting, shooting para-sport, para-swimming, table tennis, wheelchair basketball, wheelchair fencing.

## South Korea Won Asian Champions Trophy 2018

- The Indian women's Hockey team failed to defend its crown at the fifth Asian Champions Trophy, as it lost to hosts South Korea, 0-1 in the summit clash at Donghae City, South Korea.
- A goal by Youngsil Lee clinched the Korean team as the winner of Champions Trophy.
- The final was India's first defeat of the tournament. South Korea has lifted the title for the third time after having won it in 2010 and 2011.
- India, on the other hand, finished second best for the second time after having lost to Japan in the final of the 2013 edition.

- Indian striker Vandana Katariya was declared player of the tournament while youngster Lalremsiami was named as the upcoming player of the tournament.

## **Bala Prasath Won Formula Junior Racing Series 2018 Championship**

- Coimbatore racer Bala Prasath won the Formula Junior Racing Series 2018 Championship in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.
- Bala, who was trailing in second place after Round 1 with 91 points, was in his element in Round 2 at the Kari Motor Speedway.

## **AB De Villiers Retires from International Cricket**

- Star South African batsman AB de Villiers announced his decision to retire from international cricket with immediate effect.
- In his 14-year career, he played 114 Tests, 228 One-Day Internationals (ODI) and 78 T20 Internationals.
- Some of the Phenomenal Records of ABD are: The World Record for the fastest ODI 50 (16 balls), 100 (31 balls) and 150 (64 balls), the second highest individual Test score for South Africa (278\*), the



highest points (935) by a South African on the ICC Test rankings and has claimed the coveted SA Cricketer of the Year award twice (2014 and 2015).

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

- A new video campaign launched targeting football fans on the occasion of the World Cup 2018 to promote healthier and more active lives.
- The series of videos produced jointly by World Health Organization (WHO), Russia's Ministry of Health and the 2018 World Cup Russia Local Organising Committee.
- It is one of many joint activities that will be implemented around the month-long World Cup starting from 14th of June.
- The campaign consists of 3 videos, each tackling key health risk issues of Tobacco use, excessive salt consumption, and physical inactivity.

## **Archery World Cup Stage II 2018 Starts In Turkey**

- The second stage of Archery World Cup 2018 started in Antalya, Turkey.
- India opened its account with a silver and a bronze medal in the compound section.

- India's women compound team of Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Muskan Kirar, and Divya Dhayal recovered from a poor start to lose to their Chinese Taipei opponents by three points to settle for a silver.

## Important Quiz Questions - Weekly

- 1) Who won Azerbaijan Grand Prix 2018?
  - a) Lewis Hamilton
  - b) Don Garlits.
  - c) Alain Prost
  - d) Jackie Stewart
- 2) Which country rises to 5th Spot In World's Top Five Defense Spenders?
  - a) Pakistan
  - b) Saudi Arabia
  - c) Indonesia
  - d) India
- 3) Which rank did India obtained in the World Press Freedom Index Report recently?
  - a) 152
  - b) 138
  - c) 148
  - d) 168



- 4) Which company acquires Belgium-Based Hedera Consulting recently?
- a) Cognizant
  - b) Infosys
  - c) Tech mahindra
  - d) Flipkart
- 5) Which scheme To Collaborate With IBM To Develop Precision Agriculture Using AI ?
- a) Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana
  - b) NITI Aayog
  - c) Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana
  - d) Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojna
- 6) Who Introduces 'Tap Card' Offline Payments Solution ?
- a) Snapdeal
  - b) Payzapp
  - c) Mobikwik
  - d) Paytm
- 7) How many megawatts Union Government Launches Pilot Scheme For Procurement Of Aggregate Power?
- a) 2500
  - b) 4500
  - c) 1500
  - d) 1850



8) Who is the First Woman Lawyer Appointed As SC Judge ?

- a) R Banumathi
- b) Indira Jaising
- c) Indu Malhotra
- d) Sujata Manohar

9) Who is honoured with PC Chandra Puraskaar recently?

- a) Anil Kapoor
- b) Asha Bhosle
- c) Sunil Raj
- d) Dinesh Karthik

10) Which day is celebrated on 3rd May ?

- a) World Press Freedom Day
- b) World Heritage Day
- c) World Heart Day
- d) World Organs Day

11) Among the online search engine, who is the Most Trusted Internet Brand In India?

- a) Yahoo
- b) Look smart
- c) Google
- d) Lookup



12) Which day is observed on 26 April recently?

- a) World Intellectual Property Day
- b) World Laughter Day.
- c) World War Orphan Day.
- d) World Day for Water

13) Who is sworn in as As New US Secretary Of State recently?

- a) Mike Pompeo
- b) Ryan Zinke
- c) Wilbur Ross.
- d) R. Alexander Acosta.

14) Who chairs the 27th GST Council meeting intending to simplify returns filing process ?

- a) Shri Suresh Kumar
- b) Shri Naresh Singh
- c) Shri Naresh Iyer
- d) Shri Arun Jaitley

15) Who took Oath As Jammu & Kashmir Deputy chief Minister recently?

- a) Shri Kavinder Gupta
- b) Shri Suresh menon
- c) Shri Vijay Raghavan

d) Shri Naresh Singh

16) With Which company NITI Aayog ink Sol to develop Precision Agriculture recently?

- a) IBM
- b) Cognizant
- c) Tech Mahindra
- d) Tata Consultancy Services

17) Which country tops with 50 medals Third South Asian Junior Athletics Championships ?

- a) Pakistan
- b) Indonesia
- c) Iran
- d) India

18) Which place Skill India Organized 'Aajeevika And Kaushal Vikas Mela' recently?

- a) Chennai
- b) Bhubaneshwar
- c) Hyderabad
- d) New Delhi

19) How many crores did Reserve Bank of India Bond Purchases worth ?

- a) 10,000
- b) 8,000
- c) 9,500
- d) 7,500

20) Which place First Apex Conference For CEOs Of Smart Cities inaugurated ?

- a) Bhopal
- b) Chennai
- c) Bhubaneshwar
- d) Hyderabad

21) Which country To Host 15th Asia Media Summit recently?

- a) Pakistan
- b) India
- c) Indonesia
- d) Iran

22) Which country Withdraws From Iran Nuclear Deal?

- a) USA
- b) Pakistan
- c) Iran
- d) Indonesia

23) Who Names Nitin Bawankule Head Of India Cloud Business ?

- a) Samsung
- b) Apple
- c) Google
- d) Vodafone



24) Which rank did India In Asia-Pacific On Power Index recently?

- a) 5
- b) 4
- c) 6
- d) 10

25) Which country withdrawn from Nuclear Deal with USA?

- a) Indonesia
- b) Iran
- c) Pakistan
- d) South Africa

26) With Which Team NASA joined to Make Flying Cars A Reality ?

- a) Uber
- b) Ola
- c) Fastrack
- d) Meru

27) Which company Buys Flipkart In World's Largest E-Commerce Deal?

- a) Amazon
- b) Snapdeal
- c) Walmart
- d) Big basket





28) Which country signed two agreements with India - Venkaiah Naidu 3-Nation Visit ?

- a) Panama
- b) Thailand
- c) Indonesia
- d) Singapore

29) Who Launches Website Of Digital India Internship Scheme recently?

- a) Shri Arun Jaitley
- b) Shri Suresh menon
- c) Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad
- d) Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar

30) Who is Conferred With 'WEF 2018' Award ?

- a) Sudha Rajan
- b) Nithya Prakash
- c) Vinitha Suresh
- d) Nisha Bhalla

31) Who won Spanish Grand Prix recently?

- a) Lewis Hamilton
- b) Valtteri Bottas
- c) Daniel Ricciardo
- d) Brendon Hartley

32) Who presents National Geoscience Awards recently?

- a) Shri Arun Jaitley
- b) Shri Suresh Kumar

- c) Shri Ram Nath Kovind
- d) Shri Prakash Javadekar

33) Which union minister presented DRDO Awards 2016 & 2017 ?

- a) Shri Arun Jaitley
- b) Shri Nirmala Sitharaman
- c) Shri Naresh Iyer
- d) Shri Suresh Prabhu

34) Which steel To Acquire Bhushan Steel Through Its Step-Down Subsidiary Bamnipal Steel ?

- a) Bajaj Steel
- b) Tata Steel
- c) Ashok Leyland
- d) Birla Steel company

35) How many crores Smart Cities Mission Smart Cities Mission- 1,333 Projects Completed Or Under Implementation?

- a) 45,000 crores
- b) 25,000 crores
- c) 38,000 crores
- d) 50,026 crores

36) Who launched Intellectual Property Mascot IP Nani ?

- a) Shri Prakash Javadekar

- b) Shri Arun Jaitley
- c) Shri Suresh Prabhu
- d) Shri Kartik Prasad

37) Whom to head USIBC India Office recently?

- a) Smt Nithya Suresh
- b) Shri Suresh Vijayan
- c) Smt Ambika Sharma
- d) Shri Nitish Kumar

7) Under which scheme First Para-National Games recently?

- a) Jan Dhan Yojana
- b) Khelo India Scheme
- c) Suraksha Scheme
- d) Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana

38) Which department Launches Green Skill Development Programme recently?

- a) Finance Minister
- b) Defence Minister
- c) External Affairs Minister
- d) Environment Minister

39) Who was honoured at Cannes Film Festival recently?

- a) Smt Late Sridevi
- b) Smt Madhuri Diskidhi



- c) Shri Vivek misra
- d) Shri Nitya Bhaskar

40) Whom to Lay Foundation Stone Of India's Longest Road Tunnel In Jammu and Kashmir ?

- a) Shri Arun Jaitley
- b) Shri Prakash Javadekar
- c) Shri Narendra Modi
- d) Shri Naresh Iyer

41) Who is Confirmed as first female Director Of CIA ?

- a) Gina Haspel
- b) Avril Haines
- c) John Federel
- d) Ferrari Joseph

42) Who Becomes Youngest Indian Woman To Scale Mount Everest ?

- a) Bachendri Pal
- b) Shivangi Pathak
- c) Nungshi & Tashi Malik
- d) Anshu Jamsenpa

43) Who to share his thoughts with people in Mann Ki Baat programme on All India Radio ?

- a) Shri Suresh Prabhu
- b) Shri Naresh iyer

- c) Shri Narendra Modi
- d) Shri Suresh Rajan

44) Who launched China's 1st India-Dedicated Investment Fund recently?

- a) World bank
- b) ICBC
- c) Asian Express
- d) North Airway

45) Which year IMF reaffirms that India will be the fastest-growing major economy ?

- a) 2018
- b) 2026
- c) 2025
- d) 2058

46) Which country Unveils World's 1st Floating Nuclear Power Station recently?

- a) Australia
- b) Russia
- c) China
- d) Japan

47) Which state to Build India's Next Generation Defence Aircraft recently?

- a) Tamil Nadu



- b) Kerala
- c) Andhra Pradesh
- d) Madhya Pradesh

48) Which country Won Asian Champions Trophy 2018 ?

- a) South Africa
- b) Pakistan
- c) Indonesia
- d) Japan

49) Which day is observed as May 21 recently?

- a) World War Orphan Day.
- b) Army day.
- c) Anti Terrorism Day
- d) World Laughter Day.

50) Who Won T.K. Ramanathan Award For 2017-18 recently?

- a) Dinesh Gupta
- b) Ramesh Kumar
- c) Vinoth Kumar
- d) Prajnesh Gunneswaran

## Answers:

1) A 2) D 3) A 4) A 5) B 6) D 7) A 8) C 9) B 10) A  
 11) C 12) A 13) A 14) D 15) A 16) A 17) D 18) B  
 19) A 20) D 21) B 22) C 23) C 24) B 25) B  
 26) A 27) C 28) A 29) C 30) D 31) A 32) C 33) B 34)  
 D 35) B 36) C 37) B 38) D 39) A 40) C 41) A 42) B  
 43) C 44) B 45) A 46) B 47) A 48) B 49) C 50) D

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