

NATIONAL

India's first global, Mega-Science Exhibition 'Vigyan Samagam' held in Mumbai

- India's first global, Mega-Science Exhibition 'Vigyan Samagam' was held in Mumbai at the Nehru Science Centre, Worli on May 08, 2019.
- In the span of 11 months, the exhibition will also be held in Bengaluru, Kolkata and New Delhi.
- The exhibition will take the viewers through the workings of the Universe. will also provide answers and insights into the exciting world of front-ranking science and technology to science enthusiasts, students and people at large.
- This is jointly organised by the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), Department of Science and Technology (DST), the funding agencies of these projects, the National Council of Science Museums (NCSM) and Ministry of Culture.

WTO Ministerial Meeting of Developing Countries to be held in New Delhi

- WTO Ministerial meeting of developing countries will be held in New Delhi on 13-14 May 2019.
- 16 countries will participate in the meet.

Centre to Form Panel under DGFT to Look at Steel Availability for Engineering Exporters

- The government has decided to set up a committee to be Chaired by the Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) that will look into availability of steel at competitive prices for engineering goods exporters.
- The committee will have to submit its report to steel and commerce ministries within two months.
- The decision was taken after engineering goods exporters complained that they should get steel at global prices as domestic rates are higher. However, steel producers state that freight charges and cost of production is high in the country, which push up prices.

CBIC organised a meeting of regional heads of Customs Administration of Asia Pacific Region of the WCO in Kochi

- Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) organised a meeting of the Regional Heads of Customs Administration of Asia Pacific Region of the World Customs Organisation (WCO) in Kochi.

INTERNATIONAL

The US approves dengue vaccine Dengvaxia

- The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved the first vaccine for dengue, Dengvaxia.
- FDA has also placed significant restrictions on its use because the vaccine has been shown to put some people at heightened risk.
- It can be only given to the people aged 9 to 16 who live in areas where dengue is endemic and who are shown by lab testing already to have been infected with the disease.
- The Philippines, which became the first country to approve it in 2016, was also the first to ban it in February this year over safety concerns.
- Dengvaxia is produced by the French pharmaceutical firm Sanofi Pasteur.

Indian Air Force gets first Apache Helicopter from the US

- The first Apache Helicopter AH-64E (I) was formally handed over to the Indian Air Force, IAF at Boeing production facility in Mesa, Arizona, USA.
- The IAF had signed a contract with the US Government and Boeing Company in September 2015 for 22 Apache helicopters.

World's 1st parent-wise genome for buffaloes developed

- The National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has developed the world's first complete parent-wise genome assembly called "NDDB_ABRO_Murrah" of riverine buffaloes.
- This comes after the successful launch of INDUSCHIP, a customized genotyping chip for indigenous cattle and their crosses.
- Buffaloes contribute more than 50% to the total milk production in India which is the world's largest milk producer.

Ireland becomes the second country to declare a climate emergency

- Ireland has declared a climate emergency in their country, to be the second country after Britain to do so.
- An amendment to a parliamentary report declaring a climate emergency and calling on parliament to examine how the Irish government can improve its response to the issue of biodiversity loss was accepted.
- Britain's parliament became the first in the world to declare a climate emergency, passing the largely symbolic motion on May 1.

2020 United Nations Ocean Conference to be Held in Lisbon

- The second edition of the United Nations Ocean Conference, to support the sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources, will be held in Lisbon, Portugal in early June 2020.
- The first edition was held in United States in 2017.
- The theme of the 2020 conference will be- Scaling up ocean action based on science and innovation for the implementation of Goal 14: stocktaking, partnerships and solutions.

India Participates in Venice Biennale First Time in 8 Years

- The Venice International Art Exhibition or simply the Venice Biennale is one of the oldest, most important and prestigious international art exhibitions in the world started in 1895.
- The theme of the 58th International Art Exhibition 'May You Live in Interesting Times'
- India is participating at the art world's oldest Biennale after a gap of 8 years since 2011.

ECONOMY

Australian Central Bank prints 46 million piece of \$50 note with spelling mistake

- Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) i.e the Central Bank of Australia has printed the \$50 note with a spelling mistake where the word "responsibility" is printed as "responsibility".
- Around 400 million notes of \$50 were printed and 46 million of them are in circulation. The total value of the notes in circulation is around \$2.3 billion.

Reliance Industries' subsidiary acquires iconic British toy retailer Hamleys

- Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries has announced it will acquire iconic British toy-maker Hamleys for 67.96 million pounds (around Rs 620 crore) in an all-cash deal.

BharatPe launches India's first UPI Bahi Khata for merchants

- BharatPe - India's first Fintech start-up enabling payments for merchants through interoperable UPI QR codes, has announced its foray into merchant services with a new app.
- The app allows merchants to record their cash/credit (Udhar) sales customer wise, request accounts receivable from customers via SMS payment links, and keep track of accounts payable to suppliers, among other services.
- The BharatPe app also serves as a networking platform for merchants to connect with other BharatPe merchants near them.

PERSON IN NEWS

Iffco elects Balvinder Singh Nakai as Chairman

- Cooperative major IFFCO has elected Balvinder Singh Nakai as its Chairman and Dileep Sanghani as Vice Chairman.
- Balvinder Singh Nakai is a farmer – co-operator – who has been deeply involved in providing strength to Indian cooperative movement.

Nigerian Professor Muhammad-Bande appointed President Elect of UNGA

- Tijjani Mohammad Bande, a professor from Nigeria, has been appointed as the new President of the United Nations General Assembly.
- He will succeed incumbent María Fernanda Espinosa Garces after her tenure lapses in September 2019.
- He served as the permanent representative of Nigeria to United Nations before his appointment as President of UNGA.

India's Jagjit Pavadia re-elected to International Narcotics Control Board

- India's Jagjit Pavadia was re-elected to the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) for another term.

- Ms Pavadia has been a member of the INCB since 2015 and her current term is set to expire in 2020.

Gates Foundation names Hari Menon as Country Director in India

- The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation named M Hari Menon as the Country Director in India effective from May 24.
- Menon will replace Nachiket Mor, who held this position for the past three years and resigned last month.

Actress Dia Mirza, Alibaba chief among 17 new SDG Advocates of UN

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

SPORTS AND GAME

Kiki Bertens beats Simona Halep to win Madrid Open

- Kiki Bertens beat two-time Madrid Open champion Simona Halep 6-4, 6-4 to take the women's title.
- The seventh-ranked Dutch became the first woman to win the Madrid title without dropping a set.
- In the men's competition, Novak Djokovic will face Stefanos Tsitsipas in men's final.

First edition of world's first women's cricket magazine 'CRICZONE' launched

- The first edition of world's first exclusive women's cricket magazine named 'Criczone' was released in Jaipur, Rajasthan.
- Indian team cricket vice-captain Smriti Mandhana has featured as the cover story.

Mukesh Kumar wins PGTI Players Championship

- Golfer Mukesh Kumar has won the TATA Steel PGTI Players Championship.
- This was his 20th title on the TATA Steel PGTI (Professional Golf Tour of India).

AWARDS AND HONOURS

Hinduja Brothers Top UK's Rich List 2019 for Straight Third Time

- The billionaire Hinduja brothers have been named as the wealthiest people in the UK for a third time as per the Sunday Times Rich List 2019
- The UK Rich List 2019 is the 31st edition of the annual survey of the wealthiest people resident in the United Kingdom, published by The Sunday Times on 12 May 2019.

Winners of 2019 BAFTA Awards

- The 72nd British Academy Film Awards also known as the BAFTA was held on 10 February 2019 by the British Academy of Film and Television Arts.

List of Winners

- BAFTA Fellowship –Thelma Schoonmaker
- Outstanding British Contribution to Cinema – Elizabeth Karlsen and Stephen Woolley for Number 9 Films
- Best Film-Roma – Alfonso Cuarón and Gabriela Rodríguez
- Best Director – Alfonso Cuarón – Roma
- Best Actor in a Leading Role- Rami Malek – Bohemian Rhapsody as Freddie Mercury
- Best Actress in a Leading Role-Olivia Colman – The Favourite as Queen Anne
- Best Actor in a Supporting Role-Mahershala Ali – Green Book as Don Shirley
- Best Actress in a Supporting Role-Rachel Weisz – The Favourite as Sarah Churchill

MISCELLANEOUS

Australian Airline Launches World's First-Ever 'Zero-Waste' Flight

- Qantas Airlines of Australia has launched the world's first-ever "zero-waste" flight. The flight was from Sydney to Adelaide.
- All products and packaging on the plane will either be reused, recycled or disposed of as compost.

Indian Army to Observe 2019 as 'Year of Next of Kin'

- The Indian Army has announced to commemorate the year 2019 as the 'Year of Next of Kin'.

- It plans to reach out to the next of kin of battle casualties, ex-servicemen and serving soldiers to inform them of entitled financial benefits, welfare schemes and help resolve pension related problems since most of them are unaware of the financial benefits that are entitled to them.

Jeff Bezos unveils lunar lander project 'Blue Moon'

- Jeff Bezos, the owner of Amazon and the richest man in the world has unveiled a project named 'Blue Moon' which aims to transport equipment, and possibly human beings, to the south pole of the Moon by 2024.

IIT Bombay Researchers Develop Made in India Microprocessor AJIT

- Engineers from the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay) have developed a home grown microprocessor called AJIT.
- It is the first microprocessor to be conceptualised, designed, developed and manufactured in India.

Samsung Launches World's Ultra-High Resolution Image Sensor

- Samsung Electronics Co has introduced the world's highest-resolution image sensors that will help smartphones capture images at vibrant ultra-high resolution.

Japan Tests World's Fastest Bullet Train With Speed of 400 kmph

- Japan began the testing of the world's fastest bullet train called ALFA-X on May 10, 2019 and this testing will continue for a period spanning three years.
- The latest version of Shinkansen train is capable of reaching speeds as much as 400 kilometers per hour (249 miles per hour).
- The train is scheduled to go into service in 2030.
- It will then surpass China's Fuxing train which is currently the fastest train running at the speed of 350 kph.

DAY&DATE**National Technology Day: May 11**

- India celebrates the National Technology Day every year on 11 May.
- It was on this day in 1998 that India successfully tested Shakti-I nuclear missile at the Indian Army's Pokhran Test Range in Rajasthan.

World Migratory Bird Day 2019: May 11

- The day is observed to spread awareness for the need to conserve migratory birds and their habitats
- The theme for 2019 WMBD is "Protect Birds: Be the Solution to Plastic Pollution."

International Nurses Day: May 12

- The day marks the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale, also known as 'The Lady with the Lamp', who was a famous manager and trainer of nurses during the Crimean War.
- The theme for the International Nurses Day 2019 is 'Nurses – A Voice to Lead –Health for All'.

Mother's Day: 12 May 2019

- Mother's Day is celebrated on the second Sunday of every May to honour motherhood and pay homage to mothers who have and continue to inspire us all.
- This year, the occasion falls on May 12.

OBITUARY

- ITC chairman Y.C. Deveshwar passed away
- The noted novelist and Sahitya Akademi awardee from Tamil Nadu, Thoppil Mohamed Meeran, passed away. He was 74.
- Bhojpuri Singer & Padma Shri Awardee Hiralal Yadav Passes Away
- N. R. Madhava Menon, Father of Modern Legal Education, Passes Away

ONE LINER

- NASA to crash spacecraft into an asteroid in 2022.
- Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu presented the artificial limb fitments to the beneficiaries at the Embassy of India in Hanoi under India for Humanity initiative.
- The 2019 edition of the Thrissur Pooram is an extravagant temple festival in Kerala.