

Do you know the important terms and names used this month?

- Belt and Road Forum
- CPEC
- OBOR
- WannaCry
- Ransomware
- EternalBlue
- *Aedes aegypti*
- Real Estate Act
- Tarang Sanchar
- Electromagnetic field (EMF) emission norms
- Malware named JUDY
- cyclone named 'Cyclone Mora'

Personality?

- Judge Ronny Abraham
- Who is Emmanuel Macron?
- Know who is Harish Salve and his role at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague, Netherlands.
- C.A. Bhavani Devi – Sports
- Amul Thapar - Indian-American
- How Bhupen Hazarika associated with Dhola-Sadiya bridge?
- Anil Madhav Dave - who passed away on 18 May 2017, was Minister of – Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- With whom is Operation Black Thunder- II is associated who passed away in the month of May'17?

Missions

- Vidya-Veerta Abhiyan
- What is a new security operations doctrine called to counter Naxalism menace in the country? 'SAMADHAN'.
- Narmada Seva Mission - conservation mission launched in Amarkantak (Madhya Pradesh) for conservation of Narmada

River. Amarkantak in Maikal Hills is the originating point of Narmada.

Development

- Which iconic bridge has reduced travel time between 2 states by 5 hours?
- Android Go – Operating system for Phones with less than 1 GB RAM.
- Global Burden of Disease (GBD) – India now ranks 154 out of 195 countries.
- What is AWSs? - Automated Weather Stations.
- What is Comac C919?
- The term 'SAMPADA' stands for which scheme to boost processing of Marine and Agriculture produce.
- Why GSAT-9, is termed as the South Asia Communication Satellite?

Corporate

- What is the significance of following logo?



- How Punj Lloyd Raksha Systems are associated with Defence?
- General Motors (GM) – Decided to exit India – having Chevrolet brand in India.
- Turbo Megha Airways - first private airline to get a licence to fly under UDAN.

The following logo is associated with which Summit?



1-3 May 2017

1) What is the name of the portal launched by the Department of Telecom (DoT) on 2 May 2017 that allows people to track radiation emitted from mobile towers within their locality? – **“Tarang Sanchar”**

Explanation: ‘Tarang Sanchar’ is the name of the web-portal launched by the Department of Telecom (DoT) on 2 May 2017.

– It will empower consumers to know, at the click of the mouse, about the towers working in a particular area and whether they are compliant to the electromagnetic field (EMF) emission norms defined by the government. It will also help in clearing ‘myths and misconceptions’ about mobile towers and emissions from them.

– The timing of the launch of this web portal coincides with the recent SC order on deactivation of a mobile tower in Gwalior on the plea of a 42-year-old cancer patient.

2) The Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Bill, 2016, which seeks to protect the right of consumers and ushering in transparency in real estate transactions, came into effect from 1 May 2017. How many states and union territories have notified the rules pertaining to the act as on this date? – **Thirteen**

Explanation: The much awaited Real Estate Act came into effect on 1 May 2017. However, only 13 states and UTs have notified rules for the Act, as on this date.

– The states that have notified the Act are – Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar. On the other hand Union Territories- Andaman and Nicobar Islands, National Capital Region of Delhi, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, and Lakshadweep have also notified the rules.

– The Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Bill, 2016 was passed by Parliament in March last year and all the 92

sections of the Act come into effect from 1 May 2017. The government has brought in the legislation to protect home buyers and encourage genuine private players.

– The developers will now have to get the ongoing projects that have not received completion certificate and the new projects registered with regulatory authorities within 3 months from 1 May.

3) What is the name of the nationwide mission launched by the Union Government on 2 May 2017 that seeks to promote nationalism among youth? – **“Vidya-Veerta Abhiyan”**

Explanation: ‘Vidya-Veerta Abhiyan’, the nationwide mission to instill patriotism in the younger generation and to promote nationalism among youth, was launched by Human Resource Development (HRD) Minister Prakash Javadekar on 2 May 2017.

– The mission is being seen as an effort to send out a message that it’s not only soldiers but every citizen and every youth of this country is responsible for the safety of the country.

– It is the brain child of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Tarun Vijay. The Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) also played a significant role in giving its shape to the campaign.

– Under ‘Vidya-Veerta Abhiyan’, it has been proposed to construct at least one 15-20 feet wall in higher educational institution campuses to display the portraits of 21 soldiers decorated with Param Vir Chakra, highest military recognition.

4) Which state became the first Indian state to use Automated Weather Stations (AWSs) for farmers by inaugurating the first such station on 30 April 2017? – Maharashtra

Explanation: Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis inaugurated the state’s first automatic weather stations for farmers in Dongargaon (Nagpur) on 30 April 2017. The state government is planning to

establish 2,065 such weather stations across the state.

– The AWSs will be established on public private partnership (PPP) model in this year and 1,000 of these will be set up by June 2017.

– The weather conditions for farmers in different regions will be available on Mahavedh portal (Maharashtra agriculture weather information network) and mobile application of Skymet. The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) forecast is limited to four zones. However, this new system of AWS will provide forecast up to taluka level.

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5) Who won the Russian F1 Grand Prix on 30 April 2017 to win his maiden F1 title? – Valtteri Bottas

Explanation: Mercedes driver Valtteri Bottas (Finland) secured his maiden Formula 1 victory by holding off a late charge from Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel (Germany) in the Russian Grand Prix on 30 April 2017.

– Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen (Finland) finished third to complete the podium finish. Bottas jumped Vettel and team-mate Raikkonen at the start from his third position on the grid and dominated until the closing stages.

– Force India's Sergio Perez (Mexico) and Esteban Ocon (France) finished sixth and seventh respectively to accumulate 14 points together. Sebastian Vettel is leading the season.

4 May 2017

1) Which state on 2 May 2017 became the first Indian state to move to a January-December financial year? – Madhya Pradesh

Explanation: Madhya Pradesh on 2 May 2017 became the first Indian state to move to



a January-December financial year. This move of the state government came after Prime Minister Narendra Modi had urged for such a shift some days ago.

– During April 2017, Prime Minister Modi suggested at the NITI Aayog's governing council meeting that states should take the lead in changing the financial year to January-December. The government is of the view that such a shift will help in better economic and political management of the country and also help the Indian economy integrate with the global economic architecture.

– During 2016, a committee headed by former Chief Economic Adviser Shankar Acharya recommended changing the fiscal year to January-December.

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2) The Union Government gave its approval to a new Rs. 6,000 crore central scheme 'SAMPADA' for the 2016-20 period with an aim to boost processing of marine and agriculture produce. The term 'SAMPADA' stands for – Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing And Development of Agro-Processing Clusters

Explanation: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, gave its approval to Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing And Development of Agro-Processing Clusters (SAMPADA) on 3 May 2017. It has total allocation of Rs. 6,000 crore.

– SAMPADA is an umbrella scheme incorporating ongoing schemes like mega food parks, integrated cold chain and value addition infrastructure, food safety and quality assurance infrastructure, and others. It also includes new schemes like infrastructure for agro-processing clusters, creation of backward and forward linkages, creation/expansion of food processing and preservation capacities.

– The primary objective of SAMPADA is to supplement agriculture, modernise processing and decrease agri-waste

– SAMPADA will help in generating an investment of Rs. 31,400 crore and facilitate handling of 334 lakh tonnes of agro-produce valuing Rs.1,04,125 crore. This is expected to benefit 20 lakh farmers and create about 5,30,500 direct and indirect employment.

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3) Which renowned Indian IT firm revealed its new logo on 2 May 2017, after almost two decades? – Wipro

Explanation: Azim Premji led Bengaluru-headquartered Wipro Limited on 2 May 2017 revealed its new logo by replacing its iconic multi-coloured sunflower logo that has been part of the group since 1998. The new logo comprises of multi-coloured dots, which Wipro says, represent the way it 'connects the dots' for its clients.

– Wipro was established as Western India Vegetable Products Limited in Amalner, Maharashtra in 1945. It forayed into the IT industry in 1981 and became a pioneer in marketing indigenous personal computers in 1985.

– Today it has over 1.7 lakh employees on its payrolls. It posted gross revenue of \$8.5 billion for the financial year which ended on 31 March, 2017.

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4) According to media reports, India being upset with Iran for its consortium being not awarded the rights to develop a huge natural gas field, it has warned that it would reduce purchases from it. Which gas field is involved in this development? – **Farzad B**

Explanation: Numerous media reports of 3 May 2017 have reported that India has warned that it would reduce purchases from Iran if an Indian consortium is not awarded the rights to develop Iran's huge Farzad B natural gas field.

– India has said that it would order four state refiners to cut back their business with Iran.

– India's overall crude demand is around 4.6 million bpd, third highest in the world behind the United States and China. It was one of

the few countries that continued to deal with Iran despite international sanctions that were in place until 2016.

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5) What is India's rank in World Press Freedom Index that was released on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day on 3 May 2017? – **136 (out of 180 countries)**

Explanation: India is ranked 136th in the World Press Freedom Index 2017, three points down from last year. World Press Freedom Index is released annually by Reporters Without Borders (RWB).

– India has gone down from last year's 133 rank. The report blames the rise of Hindu nationalism for the drop in ranking.

– The 2017 Index has ranked 180 countries according to the level of freedom available to journalists. It was released on 3 May 2017 on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day.

– Norway is in the top position while North Korea in the bottom of the 180 list of nations.

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5-6 May 2017

1) India launched the ambitious South Asia Communication Satellite (GSAT-9) from Sriharikota launch centre in coastal Andhra Pradesh on 5 May 2017. The satellite originally conceived as SAARC satellite, includes which 6 neighbours of India as partner countries? – **Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka**

Explanation: GSAT-9, termed as the South Asia Communication Satellite, was launched through GSLV F09 rocket from Sriharikota (Andhra Pradesh) on 5 May 2017.

– The announcement of this satellite was first made by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in July 2014 as a gift to India's neighbours and a positive diplomatic gesture. It was then conceived as SAARC satellite.

After Pakistan declined to participate, it includes the rest of South Asian neighbours: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, The Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

– Leaders of South Asian countries joined Prime Minister Modi via video conference to celebrate the success of the launch.

– GSAT-9 will be used for a plethora of tasks – drive telecommunication, disaster management, broadcasting and direct to home TV, Internet activities, tele-education and telemedicine across the South Asian region.

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2) Which city emerged as the cleanest city in India, as was disclosed in the Swachh Survekshan 2017 that was released on 4 May 2017? – Indore (Madhya Pradesh)

Explanation: Indore has been ranked as the cleanest city in India while Gonda in Uttar Pradesh has been ranked the dirtiest among 434 cities. This was disclosed in the Swachh Survekshan 2017 report that gave rankings to cities based on sanitation conditions.

– Bhopal, another city from MP has been ranked second while Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh and Surat in Gujarat have emerged as the third and fourth cleanest cities. Mysuru, which was listed as the cleanest city in last year's list, slipped to fifth place.

– Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh account for 31 of the top 50 clean cities with 12 in Gujarat, 11 in MP and 8 in AP. Telangana and Tamil Nadu account for 4 cities each in top 50, followed by Maharashtra with 3.

– While Gujarat, MP and Andhra Pradesh did well in sanitation rankings, Jharkhand and Chattisgarh emerge as the major success stories.

Top 10 Clean cities of India (2017)

Indore 2. Bhopal 3. Visakhapatnam 4. Surat 5. Mysuru 6. Tiruchirapally 7. New Delhi Municipal Corporation

(NDMC) 8. Navi Mumbai 9. Tirupati 10. Vadodara

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3) What is the primary objective of the ordinance that was approved by President Pranab Mukherjee on 5 May 2017 to amend the Banking Regulation Act? – It will give more powers to the RBI in dealing with NPAs in banking sector

Explanation: The Union Cabinet during May 2017 had cleared the proposed ordinance that seeks to amend the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 so as to vest more powers in the hand of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to deal with the problem of non-performing assets (NPAs) in the banking sector. The ordinance was approved by President Pranab Mukherjee on 5 May 2017.

– The proposed amendments will empower RBI to act against loan defaulters and defaulting companies under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016. They would empower RBI to speed up the NPA resolution process.

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4) China's commercial aerospace dreams took wing, as the first Chinese-built passenger jetliner completed its first public flight test on 5 May 2017. What is the name of this jetliner with which China is expected to take on passenger aviation behemoths Boeing and Airbus? – Comac C919

Explanation: 'Comac C919' is the name of the China's first indigenously built passenger jetliner. It has been manufactured by the Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China, better known as Comac.

– The first public test flight of this aircraft was conducted in Shanghai on 5 May 2017. The test flight lasted around an hour and was performed in the presence of a large crowd of government officials and aerospace executives.

– However, according to aviation experts, C919 is still years behind aircrafts made by

Airbus and Boeing that are cheaper to fly and easier to maintain. Safety regulators in Europe, the United States and elsewhere still have to certify the plane before it can be sold outside China.

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5) Indian football team achieved which noteworthy milestone as was announced by FIFA on 4 May 2017? –

The team made it into the top 100 of the FIFA world football rankings for the first time in 21 years

Explanation: As per the updated rankings released on 4 May 2017, India, with a total of 331 points, have climbed a spot and is now placed 100th alongside Nicaragua, Lithuania and Estonia.

– The last time India had been in the top 100 of the rankings was way back in 1996, with the 94th spot in February 1996 being the country's best ever FIFA ranking.

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7-8 May 2017

1) Centrist independent candidate Emmanuel Macron will be the new President of France as he won the historic French Presidential elections on 7 May 2017 defeating far-right candidate Marine Le Pen convincingly. What is an important fact associated with Macron's win? – **He will be the youngest French President ever**

Explanation: Emmanuel Macron (of En Marche!) won 66.06% of the popular votes to emerge as the winner in the runoff elections held for the French President on 7 May 2017. He defeated Marine Le Pen of National Front who secured the remaining 33.94% votes.

– 39-year old Macron will thus become the youngest French President ever. His win is expected to European Union (EU) and deal a blow to the populist wave that has roiled western democracies for the past year.

– It's a remarkable achievement for Macron, who built his En Marche! movement just last year. A former investment banker and one-

time economy minister in the outgoing government of Francois Hollande, he only resigned his post in August to run for the presidency, and becomes the first postwar head of state to be elected from outside the traditional party structure.

– Incumbent president François Hollande of the Socialist Party (PS) was eligible to run for a second term, but declared on 1 December 2016 that he would not seek reelection in light of low approval ratings.

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2) Which entity became India's first private sector small arms manufacturing entity after its plant was inaugurated during May 2017? – **Punj Lloyd Raksha Systems**

Explanation: Punj Lloyd Raksha Systems, the defence manufacturing unit of iron-steel major Punj Lloyd, became India's first private sector entity engaged in small arms manufacturing as its manufacturing plant was opened in Madhya Pradesh's Malanpur on 4 May 2017.

– The plant is a joint venture between Punj Lloyd and Israel Weapon Systems. It will produce four products

– X95 carbine and assault rifle, Galil sniper rifle, Tavor assault rifle and Negev Light Machine Gun (LMG).

– The plant will supply world class weapons to the armed forces in sync with the country's defence indigenisation programme.

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3) Justice Leila Seth, who was the first woman Chief Justice of a state High Court, passed away on 5 May 2017. She had achieved this distinction by becoming Chief Justice of which High Court? – **Himachal Pradesh High Court (Shimla)**

Explanation: Leila Seth became the first woman chief justice of a state high court as she took over as the Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh High Court in 1991. Prior to this in 1978, she was appointed as the first woman judge on the Delhi High Court.

– Leila Seth was part of the Justice J.S. Verma committee that was set up to re-look at rape laws in India after the 16 December 2012 Nirbhaya gang rape in Delhi that recommended several amendments to the criminal law. She was mother of Vikram Seth, the distinguished author known for his iconic work – ‘A Suitable Boy’.

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4) Which country overtook China to become the world’s largest two-wheeler market, as was disclosed in automobile data released during May 2017? – **India**

Explanation: According to the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), India sold 17.7 million two-wheelers in 2016, against China’s sales of 16.8 million two-wheelers. India thus overtook China to become the number one two-wheeler market in the world.

– In terms of pure volumes, China’s two-wheeler market is huge, but China’s domestic motorcycle market has seen a downturn in recent years due to a ban of motorcycles in many Chinese urban centres.

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5) What is the name of the senior IPS officer who was reinstated by the Kerala Government on 5 May 2017 after the Supreme Court dismissed the state’s clarification petition on his appointment? – **T.P. Senkumar**

Explanation: T P Senkumar was removed as Director General of Police (DGP) by Kerala’s LDF government on 25 May 2016, two days after it came to power. The matter was petitioned in the Supreme Court. On 24 April 2017, the apex court directed reinstatement of Senkumar, saying he was transferred by the LDF government ‘unfairly’ and ‘arbitrarily’.

– He was, however, not reinstated and the Kerala government filed a clarification petition in the Supreme Court. But the court on 5 May 2017 dismissed this petition and

also imposed a cost of Rs. 25,000 on the Kerala government.

– Kerala Government on the same reinstated T P Senkumar as the state DGP (Law and Order).

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6) Which team won the 26th Sultan Azlan Shah men’s Tournament by dethroning Australia on 6 May 2017? – **Great Britain**

Explanation: Great Britain won the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup title after a gap of 23 years with a rousing 4 -3 victory in the final against defending champions Australia on 6 May 2017.

– Entering the final for the first time since their lone title win in 1994, Great Britain led all the way after securing an early lead in the eighth minute.

– India won the bronze medal after defeating New Zealand 4-0 while Malaysia beat Japan 3-1 in the playoff for the fifth spot.

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7) Mumbai’s famous ‘ladies special’ suburban train completed 25 years on 5 May 2017. What is an important fact associated with this train? – **It was the world’s first women’s train**

Explanation: The Western Railway (WR) had started the maiden train exclusively for women commuters on 5 May 1992. It was first such train service in the world.

– The service, started between Churchgate and Borivali and later extended to Virar, was well received by the commuters, who were till then forced to travel in cramped regular ladies compartments. Since then, the train has been serving thousands of women commuters daily.

– It completed 25 glorious years of its service on 5 May 2017.

9-12 May 2017



1) What is the name of the doctrine to counter the Naxalite problem that was announced by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh in the Left Wing Extremism (LWE) situation review meeting held on 8 May 2017? – **“SAMADHAN”**

Explanation: Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh on 8 May 2017 launched a new security operations doctrine called ‘SAMADHAN’ to counter Naxalism menace in the country. ‘SAMADHAN’ stands for – Smart leadership, Aggressive strategy, Motivation and training, Actionable intelligence, Dashboard-based key performance indicators and key result areas, Harnessing technology, Action plan for each threat, No access to funding.

- The new strategy also focuses on using advanced technology including drones and smart guns that feature triggers that get activated by bio-metrics.
- ‘SAMADHAN’ doctrine was announced in the Left Wing Extremism (LWE) situation review meeting held on 8 May 2017 that was chaired by Rajnath Singh. The meeting was attended by several chief ministers including Yogi Adityanath (Uttar Pradesh), Naveen Patnaik (Odisha), Raman Singh (Chhattisgarh), Devendra Fadnavis (Maharashtra), Nitish Kumar (Bihar) and Raghubar Das (Jharkhand).
- Notably, Mamata Banerjee (West Bengal), Chandrababu Naidu (Andhra Pradesh) and K. Chandrashekar Rao (Telangana) were absent.
- The meeting came a fortnight after the Sukma attack, the deadliest Naxal strike on the CRPF in years, in which 25 jawans lost their lives.

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2) The CRPF on 8 May 2017 shifted its strategic anti-Maoist command headquarters to Raipur (Chhattisgarh). Till now command headquarters was in which place? – **Kolkata**

Explanation: The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) shifted its strategic anti-Maoist command headquarters to Raipur from Kolkata to bring focus on combing operations in Chhattisgarh. The move is in line with the Centre’s plan to redeploy its forces from almost peaceful West Bengal to Maoist hotbeds of Abujmad in Chhattisgarh.

- Seven years ago, the command headquarter was shifted to Kolkata due to logistical and connectivity issues.

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3) India was selected as the President of which UN body during May 2017? – **UN-Habitat**

Explanation: During May 2017, India was unanimously elected as the President of the UN-Habitat, an organ of the United Nations promoting sustainable human settlements across the globe.

- On behalf of India, Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation Minister M. Venkaiah Naidu will preside over the deliberations of the 58-member Governing Council (GC) of the UN-Habitat for the next two years.
- UN-Habitat reports to the United Nations General Assembly.

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4) Who took over as the new President of South Korea on 9 May 2017? – **Moon Jae-in**

Explanation: Former dissident leader Moon Jae-in was elected as the new President of South Korea on 9 May 2017. He won 41% of the vote in the snap elections in a field of 13 candidates. His 17 percentage-point lead over the runner-up is the biggest winning margin ever in a South Korean presidential election.

– Moon Jae-in was sworn in country's president as soon as counting of votes was completed.

– The snap elections were prompted after a constitutional court had removed Park Geun-hye from the post of President and had mandated for the elections.

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5) What is the name of the digital filing system that was launched in Supreme Court on 10 May 2017? – “Integrated Case Management Information System”

Explanation: ‘Integrated Case Management Information System’ (ICMIS) is the name of the state-of-the-art digital filing and case handling system that was launched on 10 May 2017. Prime Minister Narendra Modi uploaded the ICMIS on the Supreme Court website at the function held at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi.

– The ICMIS would ensure that the litigants come to know the exact cost of filing, besides the date of filing the appeals in the Supreme Court, and nobody would be able to ‘manipulate’ records initially filed and ‘nobody can lie’ that he has already filed them.

– Under this system, a litigant will file one case only in his lifetime, insofar as the paper book is concerned.

– The ICMIS is different from the present e-filing process as lawyers will be required to file only the grounds of appeal in the apex court and the remaining judicial files would be automatically transferred.

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6) Who was nominated as the new Defence Secretary on 10 May 2017? – Sanjay Mitra

Explanation: The Union Government on 9 May 2017 approved the appointment of West Bengal cadre and 1982 batch officer Sanjay Mitra as the next Defence Secretary of the country. He will get a fixed tenure of two years as the Defence Secretary.

– Mitra will assume charge from G. Mohan Kumar who retires on 24 May 2017. He was holding the charge of secretary in the

ministry of road transport and highways till now.

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7) State Bank of India (SBI) on 10 May 2017 levied how much charge on every cash withdrawal from ATMs for users of its Buddy application? – Rs. 25 per transaction

Explanation: The SBI had on 10 May 2017 announced that the customers will be charged Rs. 25 per transaction on every cash withdrawal from ATMs. The bank will also charge on issue of ATM cards except RuPay, henceforth.

– After apprehensions and numerous doubts raised by customers, the SBI on 11 May clarified that Rs. 25 per transaction is charged for withdrawing from State Bank Buddy through ATMs. All Normal Saving Bank accounts will continue to get eight free ATM transactions (5 SBI ATMs + 3 other bank ATMs) in Metros & 10 free transactions in Non Metro (SBI ATM + 5 Other Bank ATMs) free apart from the bank transaction.

– The new charges will be effective from 1 June 2017.

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8) State Bank of India (SBI) on 8 May 2017 cut rates on home loans of up to Rs. 30 lakh by how many basis points for new borrowers? – 25 basis points

Explanation: As it seeks to capitalize on demand generated by government efforts to spur affordable housing, country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) reduced rates on home loans of up to Rs. 30 lakh by 25 basis points for new borrowers – from 8.60% to 8.35%.

– For loans ranging from Rs. 30 lakh to Rs. 75 lakh, the bank has cut rates by 10 basis points.

– It is worth mentioning that country's banks are focusing on affordable housing to take advantage of incentives offered by the government to home buyers and to counter the absence of demand for credit from other sectors of the economy.

– The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government's Housing for All initiative envisages every Indian family owning a house by 2022, the 75th anniversary of independence.

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9) SS Rajamouli's magnum-opus 'Baahubali 2: The Conclusion' achieved which major landmark just after 10 days of its release? – It became the first Indian film to earn Rs. 1,000 crore

Explanation: According to a report in BoxofficeIndia.com, the collections of 'Baahubali 2: The Conclusion' crossed Rs. 1000 crore at the worldwide box-office within just ten days of its release.

– It also became the most successful Indian film overtaking Salman Khan starrer 'Dangal' that was released in 2016 and had grossed over Rs. 800 crore.

– The box-office figures for the Rajamouli film stood at Rs. 1,047 crore after ten days. The Hindi version of the film collected as much as Rs. 508 crore in ten days. This is the sequel of 'Baahubali : The Beginning' that was released in 2015.

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13-15 May 2017



1) The ambitious 2-day 'Belt and Road Forum' started in Beijing from 14 May 2017 as China positioned itself as the new global leader and chief advocate for free trade. India skipped the summit in keeping with its principle of taking local sentiments on board. Which neighbour of India also skipped the summit? – Bhutan

Explanation: India decided to boycott the 'Belt and Road Forum' as a mark of protest against the infringement of its sovereignty by the China- Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) that passes through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

– The summit was also skipped by Bhutan. But the summit was immensely successful with as many as 29 world leaders and representatives from countries across the continents. With the summit, China emerged as the new defender of globalisation, countering the resistance to open economic borders in the U.S. and parts of Europe, with a solid integrative plan.

– The summit was organized by China to showcase its plans to build a network of trade routes under the One Belt – One Road (OBOR). OBOR is an ambitious China's ambitious development strategy and framework that aims to boost its connectivity and trade that will that will connect Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Europe.

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2) Union Finance Ministry declared a new series of index of industrial production (IIP) and the wholesale price index (WPI) on 12 May 2017. The series has been revised after eight years. What is the base year for the indices in the new series? – 2011-12

Explanation: The base year for the indices in the new series of IIP and WPI has been shifted to 2011-12, against the earlier 2004-05.

– In the new series of the IIP, there are 809 items, against 620 in the old one. As many as 149 items such as steroids, cement clinkers, prefabricated concrete blocks, and refined palm oil have been added in the new series, while 124 items such as calculators, colour TV picture tubes, and gutka have been deleted.

– In the new series of the WPI, the number of items covered has increased from 676 to 697. In all, 199 new items have been added and 146 old items have been dropped.

– Calculated in accordance with the new series, while the IIP rose 2.7% in March 2017, against

1.9% in February 2017, the WPI inflation rate declined to a four-month low of 3.85% in April 2017, against 5.29% in the previous month.

– Gross domestic product (GDP) is also expected to undergo revision, based on the new WPI and IIP numbers.

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3) Scores of countries and several multinational companies including India were hit by a massive ransomware cyber-attack on 12 May 2017 that infected tens of thousands of computers in nearly 100 countries. What is the name of this cyber-attack that demanded ransom payments in bitcoin in 28 languages? – **“WannaCry”**

Explanation: ‘WannaCry’ is the name of the massive ongoing global ransomware cyber-attack that started on 12 May 2017 and which has been described as unprecedented in scale. It primarily targeted Microsoft Windows systems.

– The attack disrupted Britain’s health system and global shipper FedEx. The most disruptive attacks were reported in Britain, where hospitals and clinics were forced to turn away patients after losing access to computers. FedEx Corp said some of its Windows computers were also infected.

– Ransomware is a type of malicious software that infects a computer and restricts users’ access to it until a ransom is paid to unlock it. It spreads easily when it encounters unpatched or outdated software.

– It appeared that one leaked tool being used US National Security Agency (NSA), an exploit of Microsoft Windows called ‘EternalBlue’, was used in this attack.

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4) Which country during May 2017 declared an end to its public health emergency for the Zika virus? – **Brazil**

Explanation: On 11 May 2017 Brazil declared an end to its public health

emergency for the Zika virus on, 18 months after a surge in cases drew headlines around the world.

– Zika, carried by the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, wasn’t considered a major health threat until the 2015 outbreak revealed that it could lead to severe birth defects. One of those defects, microcephaly, causes babies to be born with skulls much smaller than expected.

– The health scare came just as Brazil was preparing to host the 2016 Olympics, fuelling concerns the Games could help spread the virus.

– In response to the outbreak, Brazil launched a mosquito- eradication campaign. The Health Ministry said those efforts have helped to dramatically reduce cases of Zika.

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5) Which team won the 2016-17 edition of English Premier League (EPL) after it topped the points table on 13 May 2017? – **Chelsea**

Explanation: Chelsea clinched the English Premier League (EPL) title for 2016-17 after its 1-0 win against West Bromwich in its 36th round match on 13 May 2017. This is the sixth EPL title for Chelsea. This edition of EPL concludes on 21 May 2017 but Chelsea is ensured to finish on top.

– EPL is the top English professional league for association football clubs. It was established in 1992.

16-17 May 2017

1) Which Indian topped the second edition of Forbes Annual Global Game Changers 25 list that was released on 16 May 2017? – **Mukesh Ambani**

Explanation: Mukesh Ambani, the Chairman of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), topped the second edition of Forbes annual Global Game Changers 25 list for his game

changing efforts to bring the internet to India's masses.

– 60-year old Ambani's telecom company Jio's offer of fast internet at dirt-cheap prices gained 100 million customers in just six months and set off a wave of consolidation in the Indian telecom market.

– The list included 25 'intrepid business leaders' who are 'unsatisfied with status quo' and are 'transforming their industries and changing the lives of billions of people around the globe.'

– It includes founder of home appliances company Dyson, James Dyson, American global investment management corporation BlackRock cofounder Larry Fink, Deputy Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia Mohammed bin Salman, social media company Snap cofounder Evan Spiegel, Chinese ride sharing giant Didi Chuxing founder Cheng Wei and African retail tycoon Christo Wiese.

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2) What is the name of the mission launched in Madhya Pradesh by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the conservation of Narmada River on culmination of the 'Narmada Seva Yatra' on 15 May 2017? – **"Narmada Seva Mission"**

Explanation: 'Narmada Seva Mission' is the name of the conservation mission launched in Amarkantak (Madhya Pradesh) for conservation of Narmada River, known as the lifeline of Madhya Pradesh. Amarkantak in Maikal Hills is the originating point of Narmada.

– The mission was launched on the occasion of the culmination of the 'Narmada Seva Yatra' that started on 11 December 2016 and ended on 15 May 2017 after covering distance of 2,344 km and passing through over 500 towns and villages.

– More than 700 Narmada seva committees have already been formed in the state and over 74000 Narmada sevaks have registered

under the initiative to clean and protect the river.

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3) Who was named as the new Prime Minister of France by President Emmanuel Macron? – **Edouard Philippe**

Explanation: Centre-right mayor Edouard Philippe was nominated as country's new Prime Minister by France's newly elected President Emmanuel Macron on 14 May 2017. The choice is seen as an attempt to draw in key figures from both the right and left of French politics.

– Already tipped as favourite for the job, Edouard Philippe was the mayor of the northern port city of Le Havre. He is the second youngest French Prime Minister.

– The nomination of Philippe was done on the first full day of President Macron after his inauguration to the post.

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4) The record for biggest opening stand in ODIs in women cricket was made by Indian women team on 15 May 2017 as India a mammoth 249-run victory over Ireland in the women's quadrangular series. Who are the Indian openers involved in this world record stand? – **Deepti Sharma and Poonam Raut**

Explanation: The 320-run opening stand between Deepti Sharma and Poonam Raut is the biggest opening stand in ODIs not just for women but even for men. India scored 358/2 and Ireland, in reply, were all out for 109 in 40 overs, handing India's women their biggest victory in terms of runs in ODIs.

– Deepti took just 160 balls to score 188 runs – the second highest individual score of all time in women's cricket, while Poonam scored 109 during their record stand, which lasted 45.3 overs.

– Deepti, who hit 27 fours and two sixes, is now India's highest scorer in women's cricket, second only to the all-time highest of 229 not out, scored by Australia's Belinda Clark against Denmark.

– The Indian women’s cricket team had not breached the 300-run mark in a one-dayer before this, with their previous highest being 298/2 against the West Indies in 2004.

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5) Which eminent lawyer is representing India to fight the case of Kulbhushan Jadhav against Pakistan in the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in Hague? – **Harish Salve**

Explanation: Senior lawyer Harish Salve is arguing the case of Kulbhushan Jadhav for India at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague, Netherlands. He is a former Solicitor General of India and is charging just Re. 1 for this prestigious case. He appeared in the Court on 15 May 2017.

- The Court has deferred its verdict in the case.
- India had approached the ICJ during May 2017 to challenge Jadhav’s death sentence. The move, a first in 45 years, was necessary to save the life of an Indian citizen.

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18-19 May 2017

1) The International Court of Justice (ICJ) on 18 May 2017 unanimously stayed Pakistan’s execution of Indian national Kulbhushan Jadhav until it rules on the merits of the case and delivers its final judgment. What is the name of the ICJ President who made this important ruling? – **Ronny Abraham**

Explanation: Judge Ronny Abraham gave the ruling that Pakistan cannot execute Indian national Jadhav until it makes a final decision in the proceedings of the case. It added that it indeed has jurisdiction in the case, superceding a 2008 agreement between India and Pakistan.

- The ruling reprimanded the Pakistani government for denying consular access to Jadhav.
- The ICJ granted these measures after a public hearing was conducted on 15 May 2017. A Pakistani military court had sentenced

Jadhav to death in April 2017. India approached the ICJ on 8 May 2017 asking for a stay on Jadhav’s death sentence, in addition to granting three other provisional measures it has sought against Pakistan.

- While Indian case was represented by senior lawyer Harish Salve, Pakistan was represented by Khawar Qureshi.

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2) Which station was adjudged the cleanest railway station out of 407 stations in India, as was disclosed on 17 May 2017 in a survey conducted by the Indian Railways? – **Beas (Punjab)**

Explanation: Beas railway station in Punjab was adjudged the cleanest railway station in India in overall category. It was followed by Vishakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh) and Khammam (Telangana). Among the 75 bigger and busy railway stations, Visakhapatnam is on top, followed by Secunderabad (Telangana) and Jammu (J&K).

- New Delhi station was ranked 39 among the most busy stations while Bangalore City is at 10th position, Hyderabad at 16th, Mumbai Central at 27th and Chennai Central at 49th rank.

- Stations at Jogbani, Madhubani and Sagauli — all in Bihar — are the dirtiest in the overall ranking. Among the most-busy stations, Darbhanga (Bihar) was the dirtiest, followed by Bhopal (MP) and Ambala (Haryana).

- The survey was carried out based on regular periodic third party audit by the Quality Council of India (QCI) and feedback from passengers. Clean toilets at platforms, clean tracks and dustbins at stations were some of the criteria for judging railway stations for cleanliness.

3) Union Minister Anil Madhav Dave, who passed away on 18 May 2017, was independent charge of which Ministry? – **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**

Explanation: Anil Madhav Dave was sworn in as a minister with independent charge of environment, forest and climate change last year (2016). He had replaced Prakash Javdekar, who was appointed HRD Minister.

– As environment minister, Dave had fastened approval of India's first river-linking project Ken-Betwa falling in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

– 60-year old Dave was a member of the Rajya Sabha since 2009.

4) Which global automaker on 18 May 2017 announced that it will not sell its products in India but keep producing products for international market? – **General Motors**

Explanation: General Motors (GM), which has been in the Indian automobile market through its Chevrolet brand, decided to exit India. The company will not further sell its products in India. This means that no new Chevrolet cars will make their way to India anymore.

– The company sold just 25823 units in the last fiscal and its market share has dropped below 1% in India and this after the company announced in 2015 that it targets to garner 3% of the market share in India by 2020. Spark, Beat, Cruze are some of the prominent products of the company in India.

– However, the company will still be using India as an export hub and we will see cars being made in India and shipped out to Mexico and Central and South American markets.

– GM will be using its Talegaon plant for this purpose and the Halol plant in Gujarat, which ceased operations recently, will be sold to its Chinese joint venture partner SAIC Motor Corp.

5) Which airline became the first private airline to get a licence to fly under UDAN, the government's regional connectivity scheme? – **Turbo Megha Airways**

Explanation: Turbo Megha Airways, the Hyderabad-based airline that flies as TruJet, became the first private airline to get a licence to fly under UDAN, the government scheme for subsidized regional flights. The Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on 17 May 2017 issued the first air operator certificate in the scheduled commuter category to Turbo Megha Airways.

– Prime Minister Narendra Modi had launched the first flight under UDAN (Uday Desh Kaa Aam Naagrik) on the Shimla-Delhi route on 27 April 2017. That flight will be operated by Alliance Air, the regional arm of Air India.

– The five airlines awarded the rights to fly UDAN flights are Air India, SpiceJet, Turbo Megha, Air Odisha and Deccan Air.

20 May 2017

1) The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council on 18 May 2017 agreed on the fitment of almost all commodities in the various tax slabs under the new indirect regime to be rolled out on 1 July. This crucial meeting GST Council was held at which place? – Srinagar

Explanation: On day one of its crucial meeting in Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir (J&K), the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council on 18 May 2017 approved all nine rules for the rollout of the new indirect tax regime. The nine rules finalised by the council pertain to composition, valuation, transition, input tax credit, invoice, payment, refund, registration and return.

– Later the Council agreed on the fitment of almost all commodities in the various tax slabs. Milk, cereals (unpackaged and unbranded), and jaggery will be exempt from any GST, while sugar, tea, coffee (except instant), and edible oil will be taxed at 5%. Common use items such as soap, toothpaste, and hair oil, which currently attract a tax rate of 22-24%, will be taxed at 18%. Coal, which is currently taxed at 11.7%, will attract a GST rate of 5%.

– Consumer durables will come under the 28% tax bracket, down from the current 30-32% rate. Capital goods and industrial intermediaries will be taxed at 18%.

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2) India's first uterus transplant was successfully done in which city on 18 May 2017? – **Pune**

Explanation: A team of doctors led by Dr. Shailesh Puntambekar successfully conducted India's first uterus (womb) transplant at Pune's Galaxy Care Hospital on 18 May 2017. The uterus was transplanted to a 21-year old woman who was born without it. The uterus was donated by her 41-year old mother.

– The doctors had to recreate the blood supply before fitting the uterus. Dr. Sanjeev Jadhav, who has done heart, lung and kidney transplants, assisted Dr. Puntambekar in this historic operation. Puntambekar, an oncosurgeon, has developed laparoscopic radical hysterectomy for cancer of the cervix – known as the Pune technique.

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3) In its biggest-ever fund-raising round, digital payments and e-commerce player Paytm raised about \$1.4 billion (Rs. 9,000 crore) from which global internet entity during May 2017? – **SoftBank**

Explanation: During May 2017 digital payments and e-commerce player Paytm raised about \$1.4 billion (Rs. 9,000 crore) from Japanese internet giant SoftBank. This is Paytm's biggest-ever fund-raising round ever. With this deal SoftBank gets a seat on

Paytm's board.

– Founded by Vijay Shekhar Sharma in 2010 as a digital bill payment and recharge platform, Paytm raised its first major round in 2015 when Chinese fintech player Ant Financial pumped \$500 million into the company. In 2017, Chinese e-commerce behemoth Alibaba also infused about \$177 million, with Saif Partners investing about \$23 million.

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4) What is India's position in the latest Global Burden of Disease (GBD) study published that was released during May 2017? – **154 out of 195 countries**

Explanation: According to the latest Global Burden of Disease (GBD) study published in the medical journal 'The Lancet', India has fallen 11 places, and now ranks 154 out of 195 countries. Further, India's healthcare index of 44.8 is the lowest among the sub-continental countries, as Sri Lanka (72.8), Bangladesh (51.7), Bhutan (52.7), and Nepal (50.8) all fared better.

– India's downward slide in the rankings indicates that it has failed to achieve health care targets, especially those concerning neonatal disorders, maternal health, tuberculosis, and rheumatic heart disease. Last year, India was ranked 143 among 188 countries.

– The report concludes that newborns in India have a lesser chance of survival than babies born in Afghanistan and Somalia.

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5) Google announced a new version of Android operating system to be used for all phones with 1GB or less of RAM. What is the name of this version? – **Android Go**

Explanation: Android Go sounds very much like the existing Android One platform, which targeted budget devices in China, as a cheap and cheerful lightweight OS that can run on phones with as little as 512MB of RAM.

– In Android Go users will be shown only apps that have been optimised to run on

less-powerful hardware. These apps won't be intensive or over 10MB in size, and they will happily work offline.

– YouTube Go is an example of the apps coming to Android Go, and unlike the full app available to other higher versions of Android, it lets users preview frames of a video and select the quality before starting streaming it.

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23-24 May 2017



1) Indian Railways on 22 May 2017 introduced the Tejas Express –

the new high speed, ultra-modern, air-conditioned express train series that is capable of running at the speed of 200 kmph. The first Tejas Express has been introduced between which stations? – **Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus Mumbai and Karmali (Goa)**

Explanation: The first Tejas Express (Train No. 22119/22120) was flagged-off by Rail Minister Suresh Prabhu from Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus on 22 May 2017. The train will cover the distance between Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (Mumbai) and Karmali (Goa) in 7 hours and 30 minutes.

– Indian Railways has pitched the Tejas Express as a train that offers airline-like features. Each seat has a personalised touch control-enabled TV screen that allows you to play pre-recorded movies, music and also displays passenger information.

– For the first time ever, Indian Railways has introduced 'automatic entrance plug-type doors' in the Tejas Express. The control of these doors lies with the guard – a good move to ensure safety of passengers

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2) On 23 May 2017 which entity became the third entity in India to launch a payments bank? – **Paytm**

Explanation: Digital payments

firm Paytm on 23 May 2017 became the third entity in the country to launch a payments bank after Airtel and India Post. It launched its payments bank with offers like 4 percent interest rate and cashbacks on deposits, zero fees on online transactions and no minimum balance requirement.

– Paytm is backed by Chinese firm Alibaba and Japanese conglomerate SoftBank and is targeting 500 million customers by 2020. It has earmarked initial investment of Rs. 400 crores to build its banking network over two years.

– The company at present has around 220 million customers who use its digital wallet. The wallets will be shifted to the payments banks and users will have to comply with 'Know Your Customer' (KYC) norms for opening accounts. It is setting up KYC centres across India to assist its customers in opening accounts.



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3) Which English city was hit by a suspected terror attack on a music concert in the late hours of 22 May 2017 resulting in the death of at-least

19 persons? – **Manchester**

Explanation: On 22 May 2017, an explosion occurred just outside the Manchester Arena in Manchester (United Kingdom), at the end of a concert by the American pop singer Ariana Grande. 22 persons died in this explosion while around 60 persons were injured.

– According to the preliminary investigations by the police, the lone male attacker, who died in the blast, was carrying an improvised explosive device which he detonated. The bombing appeared intended to inflict the maximum possible damage on young concertgoers.

– If confirmed as a terrorist attack, it would be the worst strike on British soil since 2005,

when Islamist extremists bombed the London subway and a bus, killing 54 people.

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4) Which executive of Aditya Birla group was appointed group Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of Tata Sons Ltd., as announced on 22 May 2017? – **Saurabh Agrawal**

Explanation: 48-year old Saurabh Agrawal, head of corporate strategy at the Aditya Birla group, has been named group chief financial officer (CFO) of Tata Sons Ltd. He will join the holding company of the salt-to-software conglomerate from July 2017.

– He will bring to the \$103-billion Tata Group the experience of having steered the biggest merger and acquisition transaction in the country – the merger of Idea Cellular Ltd with Vodafone Group Plc., a deal worth \$23 billion.

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5) What is the name of the iconic 146-year old American circus that was promoted as 'The Greatest Show on Earth' by its promoters and which presented its last show on 21 May 2017? – **Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus**

Explanation: Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, the iconic American circus gave the final performance of 'The Greatest Show on Earth' to a sold-out crowd at Nassau Coliseum in New York on 21 May 2017, before saying final goodbye to its fans.

– The circus that was established on 10 April 1871 went out of business responding to a prolonged slump in ticket sales that has rendered the business unsustainable.

– The circus started its operations as Ringling Bros. Circus and after acquiring the Barnum & Bailey Circus, came to be known

as Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus.

25 May 2017

Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB)

1) The Union Cabinet on 24 May 2017 gave its approval to wind up the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB), the entity to vet FDI proposals requiring government approval. When FIPB was established? – **1991**

Explanation: Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) was set up in the wake of the 1991 wave of economic reforms under the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). In 1996, this task was delegated to the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) and, in 2003, the FIPB was reconstituted and placed in the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) under the Ministry of Finance.

– But with successive liberalisations in the foreign direct investment (FDI) policy, the role of FIPB started diminishing. Currently, only 11 sectors, including defence and retail trading, require government approval for FDI.

– FIPB will be replaced by a new mechanism under which the proposals will be approved by the ministries concerned as per the standard operating procedure approved by the Cabinet.

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2) Who was elected as the new Director-General of the World Health Organisation (WHO) on 23 May 2017 and thus became the first-ever WHO Director-General from Africa? – **Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus**

Explanation: Former Ethiopian health minister Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus was chosen as WHO's first-ever Director-

General from Africa in a closely fought election on 23 May 2017. He will replace Margaret Chan (Hong Kong) who will retire from the post on 30 June 2017 after serving two terms. Chan's first term began on 9 November 2006.

– Dr. Tedros defeated the British candidate, Dr. David Nabarro, after three tense rounds of voting. Third was Pakistan's Dr. Sania Nishtar.

– The stakes for the post of WHO Director-General were particularly high in the wake of the scandal that engulfed the WHO during the Ebola epidemic in west Africa.

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3) The work of India's first underwater rail tunnel was completed ahead of its schedule during May 2017. This tunnel is in which state? – **West Bengal**

Explanation: India's first underwater rail tunnel is being established under the Hooghly River (West Bengal) for establishing metro link between Howrah and Kolkata. This portion of East-West Metro is being implemented by Afcons Transtonnelstroy and Kolkata Metro Railway Corporation Ltd.

– The construction work for this tunnel was completed during May 2017 while the original completion schedule was July 2017. The tunnel runs through 502 metres under the Hooghly River and for this a giant tunnel-boring machine (TBM) named 'Rachna' was employed.

– The entire project is 16.6 km long, out of which 10.8 km runs under the ground. Of this 10.8 km, 502 metres is under the water. The project connects Howrah to the west and Salt Lake to the east.

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4) World's first-ever robot police officer was unveiled in which city on 24 May 2017? – **Dubai**

Explanation: United Arab Emirates' city Dubai took yet another step toward being the most futuristic city in the world as it unveiled world's first-ever robot police officer on 24 May 2017.

– Dubai Police gave this robot the task of patrolling the city's malls and tourist attractions. People will be able to use it to report crimes, pay fines and get information by tapping a touchscreen on its chest. Data collected by the robot will also be shared with the transport and traffic authorities.

– The government said the aim was for 25% of the force to be robotic by 2030 but they would not replace humans.

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5) Which team won the 2017 Europa League title on 24 May 2017? – **Manchester United**

Explanation: Manchester United won the 2017 Europa League with a comfortable 2-0 win over Dutch club Ajax Amsterdam in the final played at Manchester on 24 May 2017.

– Manchester United's Paul Pogba and Henrikh Mkhitaryan scored a goal in each half. With this win the team also qualified for the group stages of the Champions League.

– The Europa League final was played in the light of the Manchester bombings of 22 May in which at least 22 persons died. A minute's silence was observed for the victims of this attack.

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26-27 May 2017



1) India's longest river bridge – the Dholasadiya bridge, was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 26 May 2017. This iconic bridge that has reduced travel time between Assam and Arunachal Pradesh from six hours to just one hour has been named after which famous personality? – **Dr. Bhupen Hazarika**

Explanation: The Dhola-Sadiya bridge has been named after legendary Assamese singer, lyricist, musician and filmmaker Dr. Bhupen Hazarika (1926-2011). This bridge has been constructed over Brahmaputra River at Sadiya in Assam's Tinsukia district.

– The construction of this 9.15-km long bridge began in 2011 under the public-private-partnership. It is 3.55 km longer than Mumbai's Bandra-Worli Sea Link, making it the longest bridge in India.

– The bridge has reduced the travel time between Assam and Arunachal Pradesh from six hours to just one hour as the distance will shrink by 165 km.



2) KPS Gill, the former Punjab top cop best known for crushing the Sikh militancy in the late 1980s, died at a hospital in Delhi on 26 May

2017. He commanded which operation associated with surrender of militants in Golden Temple? – **Operation Black Thunder II**

Explanation: KPS Gill (full name Kunwar Pal Singh Gill) served twice as the Director General of Police (DGP) of Punjab – first term (1988-90) and second term (1991-95). He was credited with having brought the Punjab insurgency under control. He was thus given the name 'supercop'.

– In May 1988, he commanded Operation Black Thunder – II to flush out militants hiding in the Golden Temple in Amritsar. Compared to Operation Blue Star of 1984 of June 1984, little damage was inflicted on the Golden Temple in this operation. Around 67 Sikhs surrendered and 43 were killed in the encounter.

– However, KPS Gill's era as Punjab DGP was also infamous for reports of human rights violations in the Punjab region. He and his force were accused of human rights violations 'in the name of stamping out terrorism.

– After his retirement as Punjab DGP in 1995 he was employed by governments of Gujarat and Chhattisgarh as advisor. He was 82.

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3) What is the name of the alleged successor of slain Hizbul commander Burhan Wani who was among 8 militants killed in two encounters in the Kashmir Valley on 27 May 2017? – **Sabzar Ahmad Bhat**

Explanation: Sabzar Ahmad Bhat, who succeeded Hizbul Mujahideen terrorist Burhan Wani, was among eight terrorists who have been killed in separate encounters in Jammu and Kashmir on 27 May 2017. Bhat, alias Abu Zarar, was killed after he was trapped inside a house in a cordon created by security forces.

– He was said to be former Hizb terrorist Burhan Wani's successor, after Zakir Musa, who took over when Wani was killed last year. Musa quit the terrorist outfit earlier this month (May 2017). Wani was killed by security forces last July.

– While two of the terrorists killed were holed up in a building in Pulwama district's Tral area, six others were killed by the Indian Army as it successfully foiled an infiltration attempt along the Line of Control or LoC in Rampur sector in Baramulla district.

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4) India's first electric mass transport project was inaugurated in which city on 26 May 2017? – **Nagpur**

Explanation: Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis inaugurated India's first multi-modal electric vehicle project and Ola electric charging station in Nagpur on 26 May 2017.

– The pilot project envisages a fleet of 200 electric-powered public transport vehicles which would be run on cab aggregator Ola’s app platform in Nagpur. Nagpur thus became the first Indian city with electric mass mobility facility.

– While 100 e2o electric taxis have been supplied by Mahindra & Mahindra group’s Mahindra Electric, Kinetic Green Energy and Power Solutions has supplied 100 e-rickshaws, Kinetic Safar.

– On this occasion an electric charging station built by Ola and located at the Nagpur airport was also unveiled. Ola has also built three other charging stations in Nagpur and these four stations together have 53 charging points that can power the entire fleet of 200 e-vehicles.



5) On 26 May 2017 who became only the second Indian-American judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals?
– **Amul Thapar**

Explanation: On 26 May 2017 47-year old Amul Thapar became only the second Indian-American judge of an appeals court with the United States senate confirming his appointment to the Cincinnati-based Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. His appointment was confirmed by a 52-44 vote.

– Shri Srinivasan, who was appointed to the DC circuit court of appeals by President Barak Obama and confirmed in 2013, is the first Indian American ever to be named as judge to the American counterpart of India’s High Courts.

– Thapar was born in Detroit to immigrants from India, Raj Thapar and Veena Bhalla. He went to college in Boston, and studied law at University of California, Berkeley.

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28-30 May 2017

1) Three cases of Zika virus were reported from which state during January 2017, as was confirmed by the Union Health Ministry on 27 May 2017? – **Gujarat**

Explanation: The Union Health Ministry on 27 May 2017 confirmed that three cases of Zika were reported from Ahmedabad (Gujarat) in January 2017. The cases were reported from Bapunagar area of the city.

– The WHO report said routine surveillance detected a laboratory-confirmed case of Zika at B.J. Medical College. The case was confirmed by the National Institute of Virology (NIV) in Pune on January 4 this year. Two additional cases were identified through surveillance.

– The information was made public five months after the cases were reported, as the World Health Organization (WHO) has now published a ‘member state report’ on its website. Public health experts were shocked that the government kept the disease outbreak under wraps for five months. However, the virus was contained and no further cases were reported.

– The Zika virus is transmitted through the bite of an infected Aedes aegypti mosquito, which also transmits dengue and chikungunya.

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2) During May 2017 who created history by becoming the first-ever Indian to win a gold medal in fencing in a major international tournament? – **C.A. Bhavani Devi**

Explanation: C.A. Bhavani Devi created history as she won the gold medal in the sabre event of the Turnoi Satellite Fencing Championship held at Reykjavik in Iceland. She thus became the first-ever Indian to win a gold medal in a major international tournament.

– In the final held on 27 May 2017, Bhavani Devi beat Sarah Jane Hampson of Great Britain 15-13 on points. Earlier she had beaten another British fencer Jessica Corby 15-11 in the semifinal.

– Her earlier best performance in fencing satellite tournament was a silver medal. She is from Chennai and now trains at the Sports Authority of India (SAI) centre at Thalassery (Kerala).

3) What is the name of the Android-based malware that has been claimed to have infected over 36.5 million users across the globe? – **“Judy”**

Explanation: ‘Judy’ is the name of an android-based malware that has infected over 36.5 million users across the world, as was claimed by ‘Checkpoint’, a leading security firm.

– This malware attacked most devices in the form of simple fashion and cooking games. The malware went unnoticed because the infected payload was downloaded externally from a non-Google server, after the applications were installed. Once installed, the software used the infected phone to click on certain Google Ads to increase the revenue of the attacker.

– According to ‘Checkpoint’, major reason why the malware could spread to such monstrous proportions is that it jumped Google’s own security feature called ‘bouncer’.

4) Which film won the Golden Palm at 2017 Cannes Film Festival that concluded on 28 May 2017? – **“The Square”**

Explanation: Swedish art satire ‘The Square’ directed by Ruben Ostlund, won the prestigious Palme d’Or (Golden Palm), the top prize at the Cannes Film Festival. This was the 70th edition of Cannes Festival.

– The best director award went to Sofia Coppola for ‘The Beguiled’, a drama about an injured soldier. Grand Prix award was won by ‘BPM (Beats per Minute)’ while Best actor

was won by Joaquin Phoenix for ‘You Were Never Really Here’. Diane Kruger won the Best Actress award for her role in ‘In the Fade’.



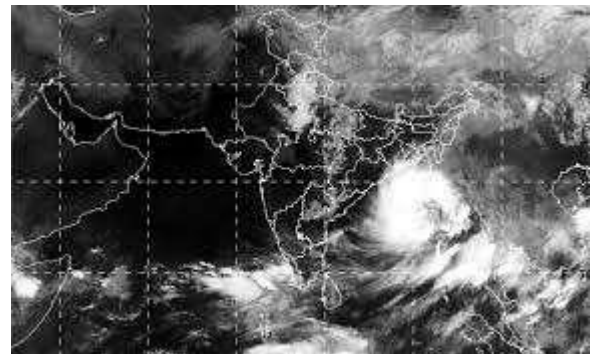
5) Who was appointed new Chancellor of Jamia Millia Islamia, as announced on 29 May 2017? – **Dr. Najma Heptulla**

Explanation: Dr. Najma Heptulla, the Manipur Governor and former Minority Affairs Minister, was appointed as the Chancellor of Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI). Her appointment was confirmed by JMI Vice-Chancellor Talat Ahmad on 29 May 2017.

– 77-year old Heptulla has been a five-time member of the Rajya Sabha, and its Deputy Chairman for sixteen years. She served as the Minister of Minority Affairs in Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s Cabinet before being appointed as the Governor of Manipur. She succeeds Lt. Gen. (Retd.) M.A. Zaki, who completes his five-year term this month.

– Jamia Millia Islamia is a public central university located in Delhi. It was established during British rule in 1920 and was accorded the status of central university in 1988.

31 May 2017 C



1) What is the name of the deadly cyclone that made heavy landfall in Bangladesh on 30 May 2017 resulting in the death of at-least 6 persons and evacuation of hundreds of thousands of persons? – **“Cyclone Mora”**

Explanation: A cyclone named 'Cyclone Mora' hit the southern coastal areas of Bangladesh on the morning of 30 May 2017. It made landfall near the southeastern tourist city of Cox's Bazar and the seaport city of Chittagong.

– It mainly battered refugee camps where hundreds of thousands of Rohingya Muslims from Myanmar have taken refuge from violence at home, as authorities moved at least 350,000 Bangladeshis out of harm's way. Mora is expected to dissipate, turn into a deep depression and affect Tripura, Mizoram, Nagaland, Assam, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh in India.

– The 'Cyclone Mora' is the name suggested by Thailand. Phailin, the cyclone that hit Andhra Pradesh and Odisha coast in 2013, was also named by Thailand. 'Mora' is a Thai word, which means 'star of the sea'. The practice of naming cyclones began years ago in order to help identify them as the technical terms are hard to remember.

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2) Manuel Noriega, who passed away on 29 May 2017, was a former dictator of which country? – **Panama**

Explanation: Manuel Antonio Noriega was a military dictator of Central American country Panama from 1983 to 1989. After years of power struggle, in 1983 he became General and the de facto ruler of Panama. His tenure as the head of intelligence was marked by intimidation and harassment of opposition parties and their leaders.

– He was a onetime ally of the United States but was deposed from power by the same country during the invasion of Panama in 1989. He was captured, detained as a prisoner of war, and flown to the United States.

– Noriega was tried on eight counts of drug trafficking, racketeering, and money laundering in April 1992. On 16 September 1992, he was sentenced to 40 years in prison, which was later reduced to 30 years. His sentence ended in September 2007. He

died on 29 May 2017 in Panama City. He was 83.

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3) Over 8 lakh chemists and drug stores across the country went on a strike on 30 May 2017 in protest against which issue? – **To protest against the government's e-platform plan to regulate the sale of drugs**

Explanation: The Union government is in the process of setting up an e-platform to ensure supply of quality drugs and curb anti-microbial resistance. Under it the chemists will have to upload details of all medicines purchased and sold on the e-platform and will have to pay a transaction fee to support cost of running the system.

– But chemists and drug store owners are opposed to the government proposal to make the e-portal mandatory for chemists. They are also against the plan to charge chemists one per cent of the cost of medicine for maintenance of portal. Hence they went on a day-long strike on 30 May 2017.

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4) Noted South Indian filmmaker Dasari Narayana Rao, who passed away on 30 May 2017, was mainly associated with filmmaking in which language? – **Telugu**

Explanation: Dasari Narayana Rao was one of the most prolific filmmakers of the Telugu film industry. While he also made films in Tamil and Hindi, he is best known for his cinematic works in Telugu language.

– He was best known for films like 'Premabhishekam', 'Megha Sandesham', 'Osey Ramulamma' and 'Tata Manavadu'.

He received two National Film Awards, nine state Nandi Awards (including the Raghupathi Venkaiah Award), and four Filmfare Awards South (including the life time Achievement award).

– He is mentioned in Guinness Book of Records for directing 125 films. He also produced around 50 films.

– Dasari Narayana Rao was elected to the Rajya Sabha in 2006. He was also a minister in the Council of Ministers headed by Manmohan Singh. He was 75.

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EDGE ACADEMY