

May – 15

NATIONAL

6th US-India Aviation Summit

- ❖ The 6th United States-India Aviation Summit was held in Mumbai, Maharashtra from 9 to 11 May, 2018.
- ❖ It was formally inaugurated by Union Minister for Civil Aviation Suresh Prabhu.
- ❖ The biennial Summit was jointly organised by Ministry of Civil Aviation and US Trade and Development Agency (USTDA).
- ❖ The summit is a technical, policy and commercial forum to promote the cooperation between the two countries in civil aviation sector.



INTERNATIONAL

Third edition of UNPCAP

- ❖ The third edition of the United Nations Peacekeeping Course for African Partners (UNPCAP) was inaugurated in New Delhi.

- ❖ The course is being conducted by the Centre for United Nations Peacekeeping in India (CUNPK) in partnership with the United States.
- ❖ The first and second editions of the course were held in New Delhi in 2016 and 2017 respectively.
- ❖ The main aim of the course is to build and enhance the capacity of the African Troop Contributing Countries to the UN peace keeping force and to further train the trainers from these countries.

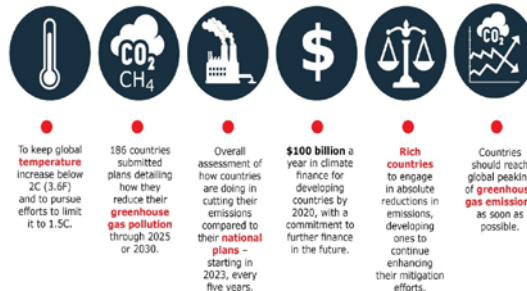


2019 Climate Summit

- ❖ UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has announced that climate summit will be held in September 2019 at New York to review the commitments of the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

SIX KEY POINTS OF THE PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT

The 31-page document that details a landmark agreement reached in Paris on 12 December 2015 could be a turning point in the struggle to contain global warming. The historic pact, approved by 195 countries, will take effect from 2020.



- ❖ The announcement was made at the opening ceremony of the 37th session of the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.
- ❖ In March 2018, Guterres appointed former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg as his Special Envoy for Climate Action who was tasked to support the United Nations (UN) in its climate strategy on preventing climate change and in organising the 2019 summit.

ENVIRONMENT

First organised census of Indus Dolphins

- ❖ Punjab government along World Wildlife Fund (WWF)- India are conducting first organised census of Indus Dolphins, one of the world's rarest mammals found only in India and Pakistan.



- ❖ The first organised census will be conducted over period of five days in 185 km stretch between Talwara and Harike Barrage in Beas River in Punjab where riverine fresh water Indus Dolphins are confined.
- ❖ Indus Dolphin is subspecies of freshwater river dolphin which also includes Ganges River dolphin. Indus Dolphin found in Indus river and its Beas and Sutlej tributaries flowing through India and Pakistan.
- ❖ It is national mammal of Pakistan. It is a key indicator species of river's health.
- ❖ It listed by the IUCN as endangered on its Red List of Threatened Species

Bhupathy's shield tail

- ❖ Zoological Scientists have discovered a new species of shield tail snake named Bhupathy's shield tail from the Western Ghats in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ It is presently only known to exist in Anaikatty hills of Tamil Nadu which is dominated by deciduous type of vegetation.

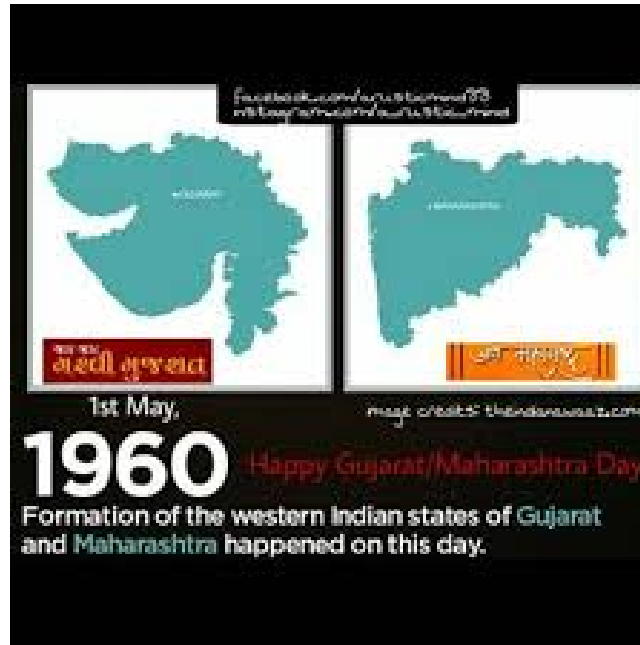


- ❖ Bhupathy's shield tail was named in honour of Dr Subramanian Bhupathy who was a noted Indian herpetologist.
- ❖ The zoological name of this newly identified snake is *Uropeltis bhupathyi*. It differs from other members of its group as it has a broader and longer head.
- ❖ It has been categorised it as 'data deficient' in IUCN Red list of threatened species as of now.
- ❖ At present, there are 45 known species of shield tail snakes around the world, of which 30 are endemic to India and 15 to Sri Lanka.
- ❖ Herpetology is the branch of zoology concerned with the study of amphibians and reptiles.

STATES

57th foundation day – Maharashtra & Gujarat

- ❖ Every year statehood day of Maharashtra and Gujarat is celebrated on May 01.



- ❖ On May 1, 1960, Maharashtra gained its statehood from the division of Bombay state. Another state which came into existence was Gujarat.
- ❖ This day is also known as Maharashtra Diwas, the day is marked with various cultural events and ceremonies showcasing the culture and traditions of Maharashtra.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Dadasaheb Phalke Excellence Awards 2018

- ❖ Dadasaheb Phalke Excellence Awards 2018, honouring individuals from the entertainment industry for their outstanding contribution towards the growth and development of cinema and television, were presented.
- ❖ This was the fourth edition of Dadasaheb Phalke Excellence Awards.
- ❖ These awards were given by a Mumbai-based organisation called Dadasaheb Phalke Foundation.



Category	Winner
Best actor (male)	Shahid Kapoor
Best actor people's choice award	Ranveer Singh
Path breaking producer of the year	Anushka Sharma and Karnesh Sharma
Best actress (critics)	Aditi Rao Hydari
Lifetime achievement award	Simi Garewal
Best director	Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari



Forbes World's Most Powerful People list 2018

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi was ranked 9th among the most powerful people in the world in the 2018 World's Most Powerful People list that is topped by Chinese President Xi Jinping.
- ❖ Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani is the only Indian businessman to feature in the list of 75 most powerful people.
- ❖ President Vladimir Putin slipped to 2nd place after being named as the most powerful person in the world for four consecutive years.
- ❖ US President Donald Trump was ranked third and British Prime Minister Theresa May fetched 14th place.



SPORTS

2018 World Snooker Championship

- ❖ Mark Williams won the World Snooker Championship by defeating John Higgins at Sheffield, England.
- ❖ It's the third time the Welshman Mark Williams has won the championship.
- ❖ He is the second oldest winner of the World Snooker Championship. He is now at 43.



IMPORTANT DAYS

National Technology Day - May 11

- ❖ The National Technology Day is celebrated every year across India on May 11.
- ❖ National Technology Day celebrated to mark India's technological advancements and to promote the development of technology in various fields.



- ❖ The official theme for this year is “Science and Technology for a Sustainable Future”.
 - ❖ The day is being commemorated to celebrate the anniversary of first of the five nuclear tests of Operation Shakti (Pokhran-II) nuclear test.
 - ❖ India also conducted successful test firing of Trishul missile on May 11, 1998.
 - ❖ Moreover, Hansa 3, India’s first indigenous aircraft was also first tested on May 11, 1998 in Bangalore.
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