

May – 31

NATIONAL

All-Women crew flies Mi-17

- ❖ An all-women crew of the Indian Air Force flew a medium-lift helicopter on May 27 for the first time in India.
- ❖ The crew comprised Flight Lieutenant Parul Bhardwaj, who was led the team, Flying Officer Aman Nidhi and Flight Lieutenant Hina Jaiswal.
- ❖ Bhardwaj is the first woman pilot to fly the Mi-17 V5 helicopter.
- ❖ Hina Jaiswal is the first woman flight engineer of the Indian Air Force.
- ❖ Aman Nidhi is the first woman Indian Air Force pilot from Jharkhand state.
- ❖ The helicopter was certified airworthy by Squadron Leader Richa Adhikari, who is the unit engineering officer.



Flt Lt Hina Jaiswal, Flt Lt Parul Bhardwaj, Fg Offr Aman Nidhi, Sqn Ldr Richa Adhikari

ECONOMY

IMD World Competitiveness Rankings 2019

- ❖ India has moved up one place to rank 43rd most competitive economy in world in annual competitiveness rankings releases recently.
- ❖ The rankings are released by IMD - International Institute for Management Development.



India's Rank	Year
2019	43
2018	44
2017	45
2016	41



IMD World Competitiveness ranking 2019
One Year Change

2019	Country	2018	Change
1	Singapore	3	+2 ↑
2	Hong Kong SAR	2	- -
3	USA	1	-2 ↓
4	Switzerland	5	+1 ↑
5	UAE	7	+2 ↑
6	Netherlands	4	-2 ↓
7	Ireland	12	+5 ↑
8	Denmark	6	-2 ↓
9	Sweden	9	- -
10	Qatar	14	+4 ↑

- ❖ The competitiveness chart was topped by Singapore
- ❖ It has pushed down Hong Kong and the United States to take the top spot among the world's most competitive economies.
- ❖ Venezuela has finished the list with the last rank.

FDI inflow – India

- ❖ Based on latest data of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India declined for the first time in the last six years in 2018-19.
- ❖ The overseas fund inflows subsided in telecom, pharma and power sectors.
- ❖ Singapore replaced Mauritius as the top source of foreign investment with FDI inflows twice that from Mauritius.
- ❖ The other major investors in the country includes Japan, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom (UK), the United States (US), Germany, Cyprus, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and France.

ENVIRONMENT

Binny – India’s Orangutan

- ❖ Binny is India’s only orangutan
- ❖ It passed away at the age of 41 in Odisha’s Nandankanan Zoological Park.
- ❖ The ape was brought to the Odisha zoo, when she was 25 years old, from the Rajiv Gandhi Zoological Park in Pune.



- ❖ Orangutans are one of the world’s three extant species of great apes.
- ❖ They are native to Indonesia and Malaysia and at present are found only in the rainforests of Borneo and Sumatra.
- ❖ Major great apes are,
 - Chimpanzees
 - Gorillas
 - Orangutans

Nandankanan Zoological Park

- ❖ Nandankanan Zoological Park is a zoo and botanical garden located in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- ❖ It was Established in 1960
- ❖ It became the first zoo in India to join World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) in 2009.
- ❖ Kanjia lake is a part of Nandankanan Zoological Park.

STATES

Aroma Mission – Meghalaya

- ❖ Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad.K.Sangma launched a new project called “Aroma Mission” to boost the cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants.
- ❖ A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between CIMAP and the MBDA (Meghalaya Basin Development Authority) for collaborative work on medicinal and aromatic plants.
- ❖ Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP) is a frontier plant research laboratory of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Global Asian of the year 2018-19

- ❖ Bengaluru-based medical doctor Hema Divakar was honoured with the 'Global Asian of the Year 2018-19' award.
- ❖ Hema received the award at the Asian Business & Social Forum 2019 under the 'In Service of the Society and the Nation' category.
- ❖ 'The Global Asian Of The Year' awards is the flagship annual awards initiative of Asia One magazine.

German Chemistry Prize - Ankur Patwardhan

- ❖ 'Elsevier Foundation-ISC3 Green and Sustainable Chemistry Challenge' is an international competition recently held in Germany.



- ❖ Ankur Patwardhan from Pune has bagged the second prize in the competition.
- ❖ His project named 'Butterfly attractant for pollination and ecosystem health' is about the relation between chemistry and ecosystem.

Anita Bhatia - UN Deputy Executive Director

- ❖ The United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has appointed Anita Bhatia as the Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) for Resource Management, Sustainability and Partnerships.
- ❖ Previously, Indian diplomat and a gender equality champion Lakshmi Puri had served as the Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Deputy Executive Director of UN Women.

SPORTS

Aravindh Chithambaram – Chess titles

- ❖ Aravindh Chithambaram became the first Indian player to hold national titles in all three formats of the game simultaneously.
- ❖ Aravindh hails from Madurai.



- ❖ He recently won rapid and blitz crowns at the National level events held in Jalandhar
- ❖ Aravindh became the National Open senior champion (in classical format) held at Jammu in December 2018.

criiio Campaign

- ❖ The International Cricket Council launched the criiio campaign on the eve of the men's World Cup.
- ❖ Criiio is a celebration of everyone playing cricket their way and world cricket wants to invite them into the criiio tribe.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World No Tobacco Day – May 31

- ❖ Every year, on 31 May, the World Health Organization (WHO) and global partners celebrate World No Tobacco Day (WNTD).



- ❖ The annual campaign is an opportunity to raise awareness on the harmful and deadly effects of tobacco use and second-hand smoke exposure.
- ❖ It discourages the use of tobacco in any form.
- ❖ Theme of 2019 – “Tobacco and lung health”

Veer Savarkar Jayanti – May 28

- ❖ Vinayak Damodar Savarkar's 136th birth anniversary was celebrated on May 28.
- ❖ Veer Savarkar was a freedom fighter, politician, lawyer, writer, social reformer and formulator of the Hindutva philosophy.



- ❖ Veer Savarkar was born on May 28, 1883 in Bhagpur village near Nasik in Maharashtra.
- ❖ Veer Savarkar founded the two-nation theory in his book 'Hindutva' calling Hindus and Muslims two separate nations.
 - In 1937, Hindu Mahasabha passed it as a resolution.
- ❖ The airport at Port Blair in Andaman and Nicobar's capital was renamed Veer Savarkar International Airport in 2002.

MISCELLANEOUS

SpiceJet – 100 planes

- ❖ SpiceJet announced the induction of a Boeing 737, taking its fleet size to 100 aircraft.
 - ❖ SpiceJet is the fourth domestic airline to achieve the feat after Air India, Jet Airways and IndiGo.
 - ❖ Eight domestic carriers of India are Air India, IndiGo, SpiceJet, GoAir, Air India Express, Vistara, AirAsia and Alliance.
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