

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 16, 2019

STATES

- ◆ **The Kerala Legislative Assembly - to go fully paperless and digital over the next 14 months**
 - ✓ Shifting completely into e-space is expected to save the Kerala Assembly printing costs to the tune of ₹35 crore to ₹40 crore annually
 - ✓ The project cost is estimated at ₹40 crore.
 - ✓ The work had been awarded to the cyberpark run by the Ooralungal Cooperative Society
- ◆ **Odisha government - presented a preliminary report to the visiting inter-ministerial Central team pegging the cyclone 'Fani' losses at ₹11,942 crore**
 - ✓ The cyclone affected 1.6 crore people in 18,388 villages and 51 towns in 14 districts of Odisha

NATIONAL

- ◆ **Japanese electronics giant, Panasonic - is planning to set up one lakh charging stations across top 25 Indian cities by 2024 to power over a million e-vehicles**
 - ✓ The company plans to set up mini charging facilities at parking areas, malls, petrol pumps, and specially-developed zones across cities such as Delhi, Pune, Bangalore, Chennai, Amravati, Hyderabad, Gurgaon, Noida, and Ghaziabad
 - ✓ Most of the expansion will be through the franchisee model, while Panasonic will control the core network and technologies
 - ✓ Panasonic is a key partner of American electric vehicles maker Tesla, supplying battery cell to the e-vehicle giant

◆ **India - became one among the 17 signatory countries to the 'Christchurch Call for Action' to remove extremist and violent online content**



- ✓ The global document, spearheaded by French president Emmanuel Macron and New Zealand PM Jacinda Ardern, was signed in Paris
- ✓ It aims to bring together governments and technology giants to commit to action that would weed out such content from online spaces like Facebook etc.
- ✓ India was represented by Ajay Prakash Sawhney, secretary in the ministry of electronics and information technology
- ✓ Facebook committed \$7.5 million to fund research for technology to remove such content.
- ✓ It is also looking to tighten access to its livestreaming feature, as a gunman used Facebook Live to stream his rampage at two mosques in the New Zealand city of Christchurch, which left 51 people dead in March

INTERNATIONAL

◆ **China - has blocked Wikipedia across all language versions**

- ✓ Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and other social media sites have long been blocked in China
- ✓ Since 2015, Wikipedia's Chinese-language site was blocked by China's "Great Firewall", which prevents Internet users from accessing certain foreign websites.

PERSONALITIES

◆ **Kami Rita Sherpa, a 49-year-old veteran Nepali sherpa - has scaled Mount Everest for the 23rd time, breaking his own record in reaching atop the world's highest peak from Nepal side**



- ✓ Rita has been climbing Mt Everest since 1994
- ✓ In 2017, Kami became the third person to climb Mt Everest for the 21st time, equalising the achievement of Apa Sherpa and Phurba Tashi Sherpa, both of whom have since retired.
- ✓ Kami broke the set record of most summits on Mt Everest during his 22nd visit to the 8850-metre peak in 2018

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

◆ Chandrayaan-2 – to carry 13 Indian payloads and one from US space agency Nasa

- ✓ On May 10, Isro had said India's second lunar mission will carry 14 Indian payloads
- ✓ Nasa would be sending a retroreflector, a sophisticated equipment using laser
- ✓ The retroreflector uses a mirror which reflects laser signals transmitted from Earth to show the exact location of the Lander (Vikram), and thereby be able to calculate the Moon's distance from Earth
- ✓ Isro is looking to launch Chandrayaan-2 between July 9 and July 16, with the Moon landing scheduled for September 6.
- ✓ Earlier, a similar instrument had been aboard Israel's Beresheet Spacecraft which had a failed Moon landing in April.

DEFENCE

◆ Indian Coast Guard ship, Vigraha - was decommissioned at Visakhapatnam on May 15 after serving the Coast Guard for 29 years



- ✓ ICGS Vigraha was commissioned on April 12, 1990
- ✓ It was the seventh Offshore Patrol Vessel built by Mazagaon Dock Ltd, Mumbai, and the first of its class among OPVs of third series
- ✓ The ship was also on dry lease to the Sri Lankan Navy from August 11, 2008 to January 22, 2011.
- ✓ It was re-inducted into the Indian Coast Guard on January 23, after which it was based at Visakhapatnam

◆ **The government - has named two-star officers from the three services to oversee the setting up of the country's specialised tri-service divisions — special operations, cyber and space**

- ✓ The Special Operations Division will be headed by the Army, the Defence Cyber Agency (DCA) by the Navy and the Defence Space Agency by the Air Force
- ✓ Major General A.K. Dhingra will head the Special Operations Division and Rear Admiral Mohit Gupta will lead the DCA.
- ✓ A two-star officer (Air Vice Marshal) will head the DSA to be located in Bengaluru

RANKINGS

◆ **Acclaimed sculptor, Anish Kapoor - has topped the first edition of the Hurun India Art List with an estimated sale of Rs. 168.25 crores**

- ✓ He is followed by artists Akbar Padamsee and Krishen Khanna, whose works were sold for ₹45.84 crore and ₹9.48 crore respectively.
- ✓ Hurun Report India in association with ArtPrice.com unveiled the first edition of its India Art List, in which 24% of artists listed were women



- ✓ U.K.-based Mr. Kapoor is known for using granite, marble, limestone and plaster to make geometric structures.
- ✓ He is the only artist to own the exclusive right to use the 'blackest black' pigment in the world developed by Vantablack.
- ✓ Mr. Kapoor, 65, received knighthood during the Queen's Birthday Honours in 2013 for his contribution to visual arts.
- ✓ Mr. Padamsee, 90, sold 38 works last year.
- ✓ Mr. Khanna, 93, has sold 44 of his works in the past year.
- ✓ One of his most valued pieces is his contribution to Tash ke Patte (Deck of Cards), a collaborative work by over 100 artists that collectively made \$365 million in 2017.
- ✓ Jogen Chowdhury, 80, comes fourth in the list, backed by sales of ₹7.78 crore for his works.
- ✓ New Delhi-based contemporary artist and sculptor Subodh Gupta, 54, takes the fifth place with a sales estimate of ₹6.55 crore.
- ✓ The Hurun Research Institute has ranked the top 50 Indian artists alive based on the sales of their works at public auction from April 2018 to March 2019.

