



# STATES

- ◆ **The Kerala Legislative Assembly - announced an initiative to digitize all its records and proceedings under its ambitious project called 'E-Vidhan'**

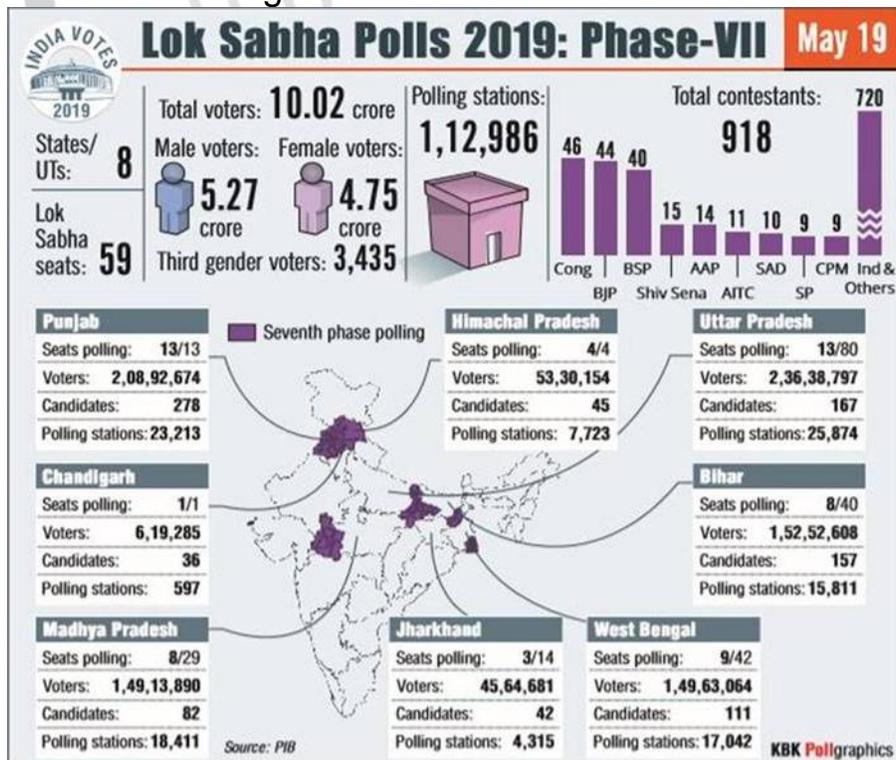


- ✓ The move enables state legislature to go fully digital and completely paperless
- ✓ The first phase of digitization project is expected to be completed in next 14 months and the entire project will take atleast two years to complete
- ✓ The e-Vidhan in State Legislatures and e-Sansad in Parliament are mission mode projects under Digital India to enable paperless management in offices

# NATIONAL

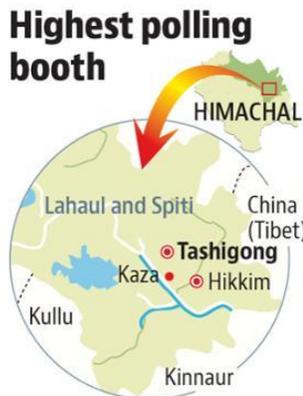
- ◆ **The voting for the seventh and final phase of Lok Sabha Elections 2019 - begins on May 19, 2019 in 59 constituencies across 7 States and a Union Territory.**

- ✓ Apart from these constituencies, repolling is being done at a booth in the Chandni Chowk parliamentary constituency of Delhi as during its actual polling day on May 12, the presiding officer had forgotten to the test votes during a mock poll before the voting.



- ✓ The polling for assembly elections is also underway for 4 Assembly seats each in Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, 2 Assembly seats in Karnataka and 1 Assembly seat in Goa
- ✓ In Tamil Nadu, by-poll is being held in Sular, Ottapidaram, Thirupparankundram and Aravakurichi.

◆ **The world's highest polling station in Tashigang village of Himachal Pradesh's tribal Lahaul and Spiti district - is set to witness polling on May 19 for its 49 registered voters**



- ✓ The polling station is situated at 15,256 feet above sea level
- ✓ The nearby Hikkim polling station was the highest booth earlier but it was replaced by Tashigang during the 2017 Assembly elections for technical reasons
- ✓ The polling station with the lowest number of voters — just 16 — was located in another tribal district of Kinnaur
- ✓ Both booths fall in the Mandi Lok Sabha constituency

◆ **Government of India - has now implemented Project 'SPARROW-CBIC' for online writing of Annual Performance Appraisal Report (APAR) for IRS (C&CE) Officers**

- ✓ The term SPARROW stands for 'Smart Performance Appraisal Report Recording Online Window'
- ✓ It is applicable to over 46,000 Group 'B' and Group 'C' Officers of Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC) working in its various formations all across India
- ✓ The project has already been implemented in year 2016-17
- ✓ The Indian Revenue Service C&CE handles set of indirect taxes namely Service Tax, Central Excise, Customs etc

◆ **The Geological Survey of India (GSI) - has revealed that about 35 % of India's total Graphite reserves is found in Arunachal Pradesh, the highest in the country**

- ✓ At present India imports majority of Graphite from other countries
- ✓ China is undertaking huge graphite mining activities across the border in Tibet Autonomous Region

# INTERNATIONAL

## ◆ The Saudi government - has approved for the first time 'Privileged IQAMA' scheme



- ✓ It is a scheme for entrepreneurs, investors and skilled expatriates to stimulate the national economy
- ✓ The approval is aimed at attracting long-term investments to diversify the country's economy
- ✓ The Privileged IQAMA system will offer a permanent residence scheme
- ✓ The permits will also include a family status so that a holder can issue visit visas for relatives.
- ✓ It can be renewed annually to highly skilled expatriates and owners of capital funds

## ◆ Over 2.7 lakh Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh - have been registered by the United Nations and given identity cards as their first-ever proof of documentation.



- ✓ The Rohingya Muslims living in Myanmar have not been able to acquire formal citizenship, leaving them stateless and deprived of basic rights.
- ✓ Rohingya community is a Muslim ethnic minority group, who reside in Rakhine State, Myanmar
- ✓ According to the Myanmar government, they are illegal immigrants migrated to Rakhine following Burmese independence and the Bangladesh liberation war.

# SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

## ◆ **Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay - have fabricated a wearable super capacitor that can store and deliver large amount of electrical energy, exceeding other similar devices**

- ✓ The wearable energy storage device can be stitched on to any fabric and can deliver power ranging from microwatt to milliwatt.



- ✓ The energy stored in the device can power GPS location-based transmitters or a 1.8 volt LED lamp or even charge small electronic devices
- ✓ The idea is when the super capacitor is integrated with a piezoelectric energy generator then it will become completely self-sustaining
- ✓ The electrode of the super capacitor was fabricated by uniformly coating cotton yarn with carbon nanotubes (CNTs)
- ✓ The coating converts the electrical insulating yarn into a metallic conductor thereby behaving like an electrode
- ✓ As the super capacitor is targeting wearable and portable electronics, the researchers prepared a solid electrolyte film just 150 micro metre thick by mixing poly vinyl alcohol and potassium hydroxide in appropriate proportions.
- ✓ A 1 x 1 sqcm electrolyte will have at least a few hundred capacitors.
- ✓ Energy stored in just nine capacitors can power a LED of 1.8 volts

## ◆ **Researchers at the Medical Research Council's Laboratory of Molecular Biology in Cambridge – has created the world's first living organism of the bacterium Escherichia coli (E coli) with fully redesigned DNA**



- ✓ Printed in full on A4 sheets, it runs to 970 pages, making the genome the largest that scientists have ever built by far.
- ✓ In 2010, US scientists announced the creation of the world's first organism, a bug namely Mycoplasma mycoides, with a synthetic genome

## DEFENCE

### ◆ Indian Navy - successfully conducted test firing of Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM) on the Western Seaboard



- ✓ These Surface to Air Missiles are for now fitted onboard Kolkata Class Destroyers (comprised of INS Kolkata, INS Kochi and INS Chennai)
- ✓ Indian Naval Ships, INS Kochi and INS Chennai has undertaken the firing in which the missiles of both ships were controlled by one ship to obstruct different aerial targets
- ✓ MRSAM is Medium Range Surface to Air Missile which is capable of engaging multiple aerial targets at range of more than 50 km
- ✓ It is manufactured by Bharat Dynamics Limited, India
- ✓ It is jointly developed by DRDL Hyderabad (a DRDO Lab), in collaboration with Israel Aerospace Industries

## AWARDS

### ◆ An Indian filmmaker, Achyutanand Dwivedi - won the third prize in the international section of Nespresso Talents 2019 in Cannes for his three-minute film, Seed Mother

- ✓ Nespresso Talents, now in its fourth year, is held annually as part of the Cannes Critics' Week to encourage new perspectives in filmmaking
- ✓ It is a contest limited to films shot in a vertical 9/16 video format.



- ✓ This year's theme was 'We Are What We Eat', aimed at exploring the world, experiencing diversity, and sharing experiences and knowledge through food.
- ✓ It received 371 videos from 47 countries in three broad categories: Farming and Biodiversity, Food Heritage and the Value Chain and Food in Popular Cultures.
- ✓ Seed Mother celebrates the exceptional spirit of Rahibai Soma Popere, a woman who champions the use of local seeds and traditional methods of farming in villages of Maharashtra.

- ✓ The Nespresso 2019 first prize was won by New Zealand's Josh Morrice for Subak, about rice cultivation in Bali, while the second prize went to Mexican filmmaker Marco Aurelio Celis' Ruffo.

## SPORTS

### ◆ **China - will now be hosting 2023 AFC Asian Cup, after the withdrawal of South Korea's bid to host it**

- ✓ This is the second time China will be hosting the event.
- ✓ It was in 2004 when China staged the tournament and lost with 3-1 to Japan in Beijing final
- ✓ South Korea hosted AFC for the first time in 1960
- ✓ It pulled out as it wanted to concentrate on a joint bid with North Korea to host Women's World Cup which will also be held in 2023
- ✓ The AFC 2019 tournament was the 17th edition of AFC Cup
- ✓ It was held from 5 January to 1 February 2019 in United Arab Emirates (UAE)
- ✓ The number of participant team was expanded to 24 nations for the first time from the earlier 16-team format.
- ✓ Qatar won the final with 3-1 against Japan

### ◆ **For the first time in world cup history, each participating team at upcoming ICC World Cup 2019 - will have a dedicated anti-corruption officer attached with the team**

- ✓ The move is aimed to deliver a corruption-free tournament
- ✓ Now, an anti-corruption official will be with each team starting from warm-up matches till the end of World cup tournament
- ✓ They will be staying in same hotel as that of players and also travelling with them to training and matches
- ✓ Earlier, the International Cricket Council's (ICC) Anti-Corruption Unit had its personnel deployed at each venue, which means there will be different personnel at different venues

### ◆ **The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) - announced that for the first time in history an all-female Japanese referee team will take charge of a Men's Continental cup match**



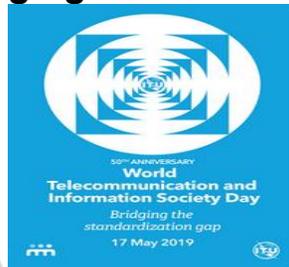
- ✓ The trio will also be among 12 officials from the AFC to officiate the FIFA Women's World Cup in June 2019
- ✓ Naomi Teshirogi, Mokoto Bozono and Yoshimi Yamashita will officiate in a Men's AFC match between Naga World (Cambodia's team) and Yangon United (Myanmar's team) at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon, Myanmar (Burma)

- ✓ It was in 2014 when Australians Alysson Flynn and Sarah Ho became first female assistant referees in AFC Cup matches
- ✓ The AFC cup is a second-string Asian club competition, next to AFC Champions League

## INTERNATIONAL DAY

### ◆ **World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) – May 17**

- ✓ The World Telecommunication and Information Society Day was first observed on 17 May since 1969
- ✓ The year 2019 marks the 50th anniversary of WTISD
- ✓ This year's theme was: '**Bridging the standardization gap**'



- ✓ It seeks to raise awareness to societies and economies with the use of Internet and other information and communication technologies (ICT)
- ✓ International Telecommunication Union (ITU) was established in 1865 with its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland
- ✓ It is the specialized agency of United Nations (UN) for issues concerning information and communication technologies (ICTs)
- ✓ 193 countries and about 800 sector members including academic institutions and private sector entities has membership of ITU
- ✓ Since 1869 India is an active member of ITU.
- ✓ It became a regular member of ITU Council in 1952
- ✓ In November 2018, India was reelected as a ITU Council's Member for another 4-year term beginning 2019 to 2022

### ◆ **International Day of Light (IDL) – May 16**



- ✓ It is an annual, global initiative of **UNESCO**, which provides a focal point for continued appreciation of light
- ✓ The day marks the anniversary of first successful operation of laser by engineer and physicist Theodore Maiman on 16 May 1960

- ✓ Following a highly successful International Year of Light and Light-based Technologies in 2015, the Executive Board of UNESCO, at its 200th session (200 EX/Decision 27), established 16 May of every year to be observed as International Day of Light
- ✓ Thus the first IDL was celebrated at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on 16 May, 2018

### ◆ **International Day of Families - 15 May**



- ✓ The UN General Assembly (UNGA) with resolution A/RES/47/237 proclaimed 15 May as The International Day of Families in 1992
- ✓ The day seeks to promote awareness of issues relating to families and also aims to increase knowledge of demographic, economic and social processes affecting them
- ✓ The Theme for IFD 2019: is “Families and Climate Action: Focus on (Sustainable Development Goals) SDG 13”

## **OBITUARY**

### ◆ **Ieoh Ming Pei, eminent Chinese-US Modern architect (102 years)**

- ✓ I.M.Pei is the mastermind behind the iconic Louvre pyramid in Paris, the landmark 72-story Bank of China tower in Hong Kong and Athens’ Museum of Modern Art
- ✓ He was born on 26 April 1917, in Canton, China and in 1935 he came to United States with plans to study architecture
- ✓ He studied architecture at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Harvard University and stayed back in US due to World War II and Chinese revolutions



- ✓ Some of his notable works include –
  - ✓ The Louvre with a Giant Glass (about 22-metre) pyramid in Paris
  - ✓ The trapezoidal addition to National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C

- ✓ The chiseled towers of National Center of Atmospheric Research in Colorado, US
- ✓ The multi-shaped Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, that is on shore of Lake Erie in downtown Cleveland, Ohio
- ✓ He even designed the Museum of Islamic Art in Doha, Qatar, which was opened in 2008
- ✓ The awards conferred on him includes --
  - ✓ He was one of 12 naturalized US citizens then-president Ronald Reagan awarded the Medal of Liberty in 1986
  - ✓ In 1983 Pei was given the prestigious Pritzker Architecture Prize.
  - ✓ He was also awarded Presidential Medal of Freedom (one of highest civilian awards of the United States) in 1992 by President George H.W. Bush

