

**EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAY 21, 2019**

**TAMIL NADU**

- ◆ **In a first for Tamil Nadu, a marriage between a man and a transwoman - is set to be made official, following the upholding of their marriage by the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court on April 22**



- ✓ The couple — A. Srija, 20 and B. Arun Kumar, 23 — got married last October at Sri Sankara Rameswarar temple in accordance with Hindu customs
- ✓ Their marriage certificate was refused by the Sub-Registrar, citing lack of provisions in existing norms to formalise a cistransgender marriage
- ✓ The High court observed that the expression ‘bride’ under the Hindu Marriage Act would also include transwomen.

**NATIONAL**

- ◆ **Vice President of India, M. Venkaiah Naidu - has called for protecting Ongole cattle breed in the country**



- ✓ He had released a compendium on Ongole breed of cattle at Vijayawada recently
- ✓ He also highlighted that Brazil has imported these cattle breeds and produced hybrid Ongoles to earn huge revenue through export
- ✓ The 1200-page Compendium traces the history of the Ongole Cattle from 1885 to 2016 by providing information from 13 books and 80 research findings.
- ✓ India has 37 pure cattle breeds with 5 of these — Sahiwal, Gir, Red Sindhi, Tharparkar and Rathi — are known for their milking prowess.
- ✓ A few others, such as Kankrej, Ongole and Hariana, belong to dual breeds that have both milch and draught qualities, means, they are good plough animals
- ✓ Ongole cattle is an indigenous cattle breed that originates from Prakasam District in the state of Andhra Pradesh
- ✓ They derives their name from the place of origin, Ongole
- ✓ As they possess resistance to both foot and mouth disease and mad cow disease, they are in great demand
- ✓ They also participate in traditional bull fights in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ These cattle are also used in bull fights in Mexico and some parts of East Africa due to their strength and aggressiveness
- ✓ The Ongole is one of the heaviest breeds, weighing approximately half a ton

◆ **The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI) – proposed to increase third-party motor insurance rates on average by 10%-20% for bikes, cars and taxis**

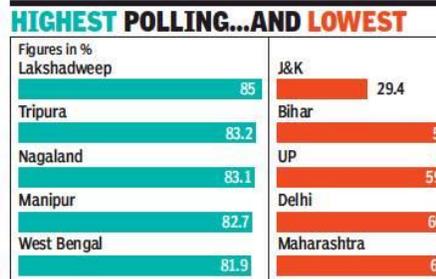
HOW MUCH YOU MAY HAVE TO PAY		
Vehicle Type	Existing Rates	Proposed Rates
<b>Private Cars</b> (NUMBERS IN ₹)		
Not exceeding 1,000cc	1,850	2,120
Exceeding 1,000cc but not 1,500cc	2,863	3,300
Exceeding 1,500cc	7,890	7,890
<b>Two Wheelers</b>		
Not exceeding 75cc	427	482
Exceeding 75cc but not 150cc	720	752
Exceeding 150cc but not 350cc	985	1,193
Exceeding 350cc	2,323	2,323

- ✓ The rates generally had been cut by 10%-20% last year.
- ✓ IRDAI's latest proposal is to raise premiums for small mopeds, scooties and two-wheelers with engine capacity below 75cc by 13% to ₹482.
- ✓ For scooters and motorbikes with engine capacity of 75-150cc — the most popular segment on Indian roads — the rate will be increased by 4.4% to ₹752.
- ✓ For high-powered bikes with engine capacity 150-350cc, there will be a steep increase of 21% to ₹1,193.
- ✓ For luxury bikes with engine capacity above 350cc, rates have been held steady at ₹2,323.

- ✓ For small car owners (below 1,000cc), the proposal is to raise rates by 15% to ₹2,120, and for sedans (1,000-1,500cc) by 15.2% to ₹3,300.
- ✓ For SUVs (above 1,500cc), there's no change.
- ✓ Autorickshaw rates are proposed to be raised by 24% to ₹3,914, and private cab rates — for all categories of cars — by 6.1%.
- ✓ Third-party insurance rates for trucks too are proposed to be raised by 10-20%

◆ **The voter turnout for the just-concluded Lok Sabha poll - was the highest ever at a tentative 67.11% across 542 constituencies**

- ✓ The figure is subject to revision after re-polling is completed



- ✓ The final overall turnout for all 543 Lok Sabha seats in 2014 was 66.44%
- ✓ Before 2019, the highest ever poll percentage recorded in a parliamentary election was in 2014.
- ✓ Voter turnouts have fluctuated over the past 16 Lok Sabha elections, the lowest being in first election held in 1951 with 45.67% voter participation
- ✓ Women voters overtook men in as many as 13 states and Union territories in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls

State/UT	Voters (Lakh)		Difference
	Male	Female	'000s
Kerala	97	106.1	911
Tamil Nadu	207.6	213.2	565
Andhra Pradesh	153.9	157.2	327
Bihar (up to phase 6)	163.8	165.1	128
Manipur	7.7	8.4	71
Meghalaya	6.5	7.1	58
Puducherry	3.7	4.2	48
Goa	4.1	4.4	32
Arunachal Pradesh	3	3.2	25
Uttarakhand	23.8	23.9	10
Mizoram	2.4	2.5	10
Daman & Diu	0.4	0.5	4
Lakshadweep*	0.2	0.2	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>550.5</b>	<b>571.6</b>	<b>2,112</b>

\* The difference in Lakshadweep was just 165 votes

- ✓ Kerala leads the pack with over 9 lakh more women voters than men.
- ✓ At the other end, Lakshadweep had just 165 more women voting than men
- ✓ In 2014, 10 states and UTs had seen more women than men voting, with an undivided Andhra Pradesh in the list

◆ **The Defence ministry - has decided to allow private firms to self-certify the quality of their products**

- ✓ The policy, which will also cover defence public sector units (DPSUs), was notified on May 13
- ✓ The objective of the policy is to promote ease of doing business and achieve the vision of 'Make in India'
- ✓ As per the policy, a mechanism will be instituted for awarding self-certification status to private industry and DPSUs.
- ✓ At present, supplies by DPSUs and private vendors are subjected to clearance by the Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA).

◆ **India – has rejected categorically the reports of Geneva-based Human Rights Council (HRC) on the alleged violations in Jammu and Kashmir**

## Spat over reports

**June 2018:** OHCHR publishes report on 'Human Rights Situation in Jammu and Kashmir' and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir

- India slams report, says it shows individual bias of Commissioner of Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein

**January 2018-March 2019:** UN says Special Rapporteurs sent 34 communications (27 in 2018 and 7 in 2019 to date), 20 pending requests for Special Rapporteur visits, including to Jammu and Kashmir

- India doesn't reply, declines to clear visits by Special Rapporteurs

**March 2019:**

Three UN Special Rapporteurs send submission to India, ask for action taken on human rights violations

- India rejects submissions, says it will no longer engage with them on the issue

- ✓ The current Special Rapporteurs on Extrajudicial Executions, Torture, and Right to Health — Agnes Callamard, Dainius Puras and Nils Melzer — had referred to a June 2018 report of the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights (OHCHR) and written to the Government in March 2019 about the steps taken to address alleged human right violations in the report

## INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

### ◆ India - delivered the first pair of Mi-24 attack helicopters to the Afghan Air Force on May 16, 2019



- ✓ The attack helicopters were handed over by Vinay Kumar, Indian Ambassador to Afghanistan, to Acting Defence Minister Asadullah Khalid at the Kabul Air Force base.
- ✓ These Mi-24 helicopters were delivered as replacement against four attack helicopters previously gifted by India to Afghanistan in 2015
- ✓ These helicopters were purchased by India from Belarus.
- ✓ India needs to supply two more such helicopters to Afghanistan.
- ✓ India has been one of the largest donors to Afghanistan, delivering \$3 billion aid to it since 2001.
- ✓ It first handed over the Mi-24 helicopters to Afghanistan in December 2015 from the inventory of the Indian Air Force.
- ✓ It had also gifted three Cheetal utility helicopters, manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), to Afghanistan
- ✓ The Mi-24 helicopter is a large gunship that is used for carrying out assault and transport missions
- ✓ It is produced by the Mil Moscow Helicopter Plant, a Russian supplier
- ✓ It has been in operations since 1972 in Soviet Air Force and over 30 other nations.

## CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

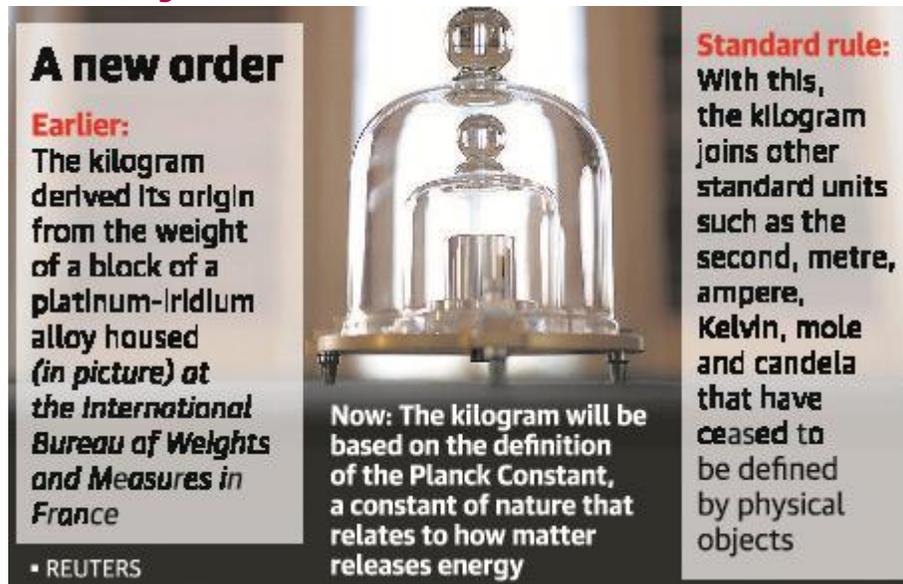
### ◆ Indian and Pakistani Foreign Ministers - will together attend a ministerial meeting under the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, on May 21-22.



- ✓ The meeting will be attended by External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj, along with the Foreign Ministers of SCO member states, including Pakistan
- ✓ This is also the first meeting since India successfully ensured a global blacklisting of Jaish-e-Mohammed head Masood Azhar
- ✓ This meeting would review preparation for the forthcoming SCO summit in Bishkek on June 13-14.

# SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- ◆ **The redefined International System of Units (SI Units) – was introduced on May 20 on the occasion of World Metrology Day**



- ✓ India's National Physical Laboratory (NPL) — the country's national measurement body — also adopted the new system to measure kilogram and three other base units on May 20
- ✓ The institute is also in the process of making its own 'Kibble Balance', a device that was used to measure the Planck Constant and thereby reboot the kilogram
- ✓ The new kilogram and three other new base units — ampere (electric current), Kelvin (temperature) and mole (amount of substance such as atoms) — will now not be based on 'physical artefacts' but on 'constants of nature' (quantum standards).
- ✓ It means their values will never change with scientists using the same mass of old kg while scientifically redefining the new kg.
- ✓ There are seven base SI units.
- ✓ While second (time), metre (length) and candela (unit of luminous intensity) have long been based on 'constants of nature', the redefined units of the remaining four were introduced globally now
- ✓ Metrologists from over 60 countries, including India, had agreed for the change at the General Conference on Weights and Measures in Versailles, France, in November last year.
- ✓ Currently, kg is defined as equal to the weight of a human-made small, polished platinum-iridium cylinder, (known as Le Grand K) cast in 1879.
- ✓ Called as 'international prototype kg' (IPK), it has been kept at the International Bureau of Weights and Measures in Sevres near Paris since 1889
- ✓ This IPK has, however, lost around 50 micrograms (about the mass of an eyelash) since it was created due to contamination or cleaning.

- ✓ Under the new system, one kg will always remain one kg as it is not based on 'physical artefact'
- ✓ The kilogram will now be defined in terms of the Planck constant — the ratio of a frequency of light, on the one hand, to the quantum energy of that frequency, on the other.
- ✓ In another way, it is equivalent to  $6.626 \times 10^{-34}$  joule seconds
- ✓ The same principle applies to other units, ensuring constant value and universality.

## DEFENCE

- ◆ **The 2019 Indo-Myanmar coordinated patrol (IMCOR) - is taking place from 20 May to 28 May 2019.**



- ✓ This is the 8th edition of coordinated patrol (CORPAT) between India and Myanmar
- ✓ It focusses on activities such as terrorism, human trafficking, poaching, illegal fishing and drug trafficking, which are harmful to both the nations
- ✓ The CORPAT series was first started in Mar 2013
- ✓ Indian Naval Ship, INS Saryu will be participating in the opening ceremony in Port Blair at Andaman and Nicobar Command.
- ✓ The ships deployed would patrol along the 725 km-International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) between the two countries
- ◆ **The Army - to set up a “young leaders’ training wing” at the Officers’ Training Academy (OTA) at Chennai**
- ✓ It will annually train 400 soldiers in OLQs (officer-like qualities), in two batches of five months each, from September this year onwards.
- ✓ The Army will give special training to bright and passionate soldiers or jawans in leadership qualities, personality development and communication skills to develop them as junior leaders in the 12.5 lakh strong force.
- ✓ The focus of this young leaders’ course (YLC), apart from physical fitness and mental robustness, will be on developing leadership traits and character-building, improving communication skills in English and public speaking, learning conflict management and resolution, decision-making and problem-solving, and soft skills in basic mannerism and military etiquettes.

# ECONOMY

- ◆ **Google - has suspended all business with Huawei that requires the transfer of hardware, software and technical services and cancelled its Android license to Huawei**



- ✓ However, it clarified that Google Play and the security protections from Google Play Protect will continue to function on existing Huawei devices.
- ✓ The move comes after the US Commerce Department banned Huawei from buying parts and components from US companies without the US government approval
- ✓ The move implies that Huawei and its sub-brand Honor can no longer license Google's proprietary Android operating system and other services that it offers
- ✓ It can only use a public version of Google's operating system through the Android Open Source Project.
- ✓ With the move, Google apps such as Chrome, Gmail, YouTube and Google Play will not be available on the upcoming Huawei phones
- ✓ Huawei was the second-largest smartphone maker by global market share in the first quarter of 2019
- ✓ It exports around 49% of its products outside china to international markets
- ◆ **The benchmark index, Sensex gained 1,422 points — its highest single-day gain in over a decade — to settle at 39,353, its highest ever close on May 20**
- ✓ This was the second-highest single day gain for the Sensex after May 18, 2009, when the benchmark rose 2,111 points.
- ✓ The 3.77% rise in the index was also its highest single day percentage gain since September 2013 when the NDA Government took charge
- ✓ Of the 30 Sensex stocks, 28 closed higher, with only Infosys and Bajaj Auto losing ground.
- ✓ The broader Nifty gained 421.10 points, or 3.69%, to close at 11,828.25

## SPORTS

- ◆ **Brooks Koepka (Florida, US) - won the 2019 PGA Championship for the second year in a row**



- ✓ This is Koepka's fourth major championship, as he won the 2017 and 2018 U.S. Open and the 2018 PGA Championship.
- ✓ Koepka became the first player since Tiger Woods in 2006 and 2007 to win the PGA Championship in back-to-back years

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