

## Top Current Affairs of the week (19 - 25 May 2019)

### 1. Rafael Nadal clinches Italian Open 2019 Tennis title

- Spain's Rafael Nadal (defending Champion) has clinched the Italian Open 2019 Tennis title after beating Serbian Novak Djokovic 6-0, 4-6, 6-1 in the final in Rome.
- This is Nadal's ninth Italian Open title and 81st title in his career.
- Nadal also broke a tie with Djokovic by claiming a record 34th ATP Masters 1000 crown.
- In Women's single, Czech's Karolina Pliskova registered two straight-set victories against Britain's Johanna Konta 6-3, 6-4 to claim the Italian Open title.

#### Related Information:

- The 2019 Italian Open (76th edition) was a professional tennis tournament played on outdoor clay courts at the Foro Italico in Rome, Italy from 15 May–21 May 2019.
- It was classified as an ATP World Tour Masters 1000 event on the 2019 ATP World Tour and a Premier 5 event on the 2019 WTA Tour.

### 2. India-Singapore Naval drill begins in the South China Sea

- The Navies of India and Singapore are participating in the annual maritime bilateral exercise 'SIMBEX-19' in the South China Sea.
- According to the Indian Navy, Various maritime combat exercises such as firing on aerial or surface targets, advanced aerial tracking, coordinated targeting exercises and tactical exercises on the surface or air scenarios is being conducted during the exercise.
- Naval ships INS Kolkata and INS Shakti taking part in the bilateral naval exercise, along with long-range maritime patrol aircraft Poseidon-8I.
- The Singapore side is being represented by RSN ships Steadfast and Valiant, maritime patrol aircraft Fokker-50 and F-16 fighter aircraft.

### 3. Indian Navy conducts successful fire trial of MRSAM

- The Indian Navy achieved a significant milestone in enhancing its Anti-Air Warfare Capability with the maiden cooperative engagement firing of the Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM).
- The firing was undertaken on the Western Seaboard by Indian Naval Ships Kochi and Chennai.
- In the test, the missiles of both ships were controlled by one ship to intercept different aerial targets at extended ranges.
- The firing trial was carried out by the Indian Navy, DRDO and Israel Aerospace Industries.
- The MRSAM has been manufactured by Bharat Dynamics Limited.

### 4. Dr. P.K. Mishra conferred with prestigious Sasakawa Award 2019

- United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) conferred Sasakawa Award 2019 for Disaster Risk Reduction to Dr Pramod Kumar Mishra (Additional Principal Secretary to Prime Minister of India).



- The award was announced at the Award Ceremony during the ongoing 6th Session of Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR) 2019 at Geneva.
- A total grant of USD 50,000 is distributed among the winners which can be either organizations or individuals.
- The theme of the 2019 Sasakawa award was “Building Inclusive and Resilient Societies”.

#### **Related Information:**

- The United Nations Sasakawa Award is the most prestigious international award in the area of Disaster Risk Management.

#### **5. Oman author Jokha Alharthi wins Booker International Prize**

- Oman author Jokha Alharthi (first Arabic-language writer) has won the prestigious Man Booker International Prize for "Celestial Bodies", the story of three sisters of a desert country confronting its slave-owning past and a complex modern world.
- Jokha Alharthi will split the 50,000 pounds or 64,000 US dollar purse with her UK-based translator, Marilyn Booth.
- The winning novel was a book to win over the head and the heart in equal measure.
- "Celestial Bodies" beat five other finalists from Europe and South America, including last year's winner, Poland's Olga Tokarczuk.
- The prize is a counterpart to the Man Booker Prize for English-language novels and is open to books in any language that has been translated into English.

#### **Related Information:**

- The Man Booker International Prize is the world’s most prestigious English-language literary award launched in 1969 and presented by the Man Group.
- The award aims at promoting the finest literary work in fiction by rewarding the best novel of the year written in English and published in the United Kingdom (UK).

#### **6. ISRO launches earth observation satellite RISAT-2B**

- Today, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully launched its earth observation satellite RISAT-2B (latest radar imaging satellite) from Satish Dhawan Space Centre Sriharikota (90 km north of Chennai).
- It will replace the RISAT-2, which was launched in 2009.
- The 615 kg satellite was released into the orbit 15 minutes after the lift-off.
- RISAT-2B meant for application in fields such as surveillance, agriculture, forestry and disaster management support.
- RISAT-2B expanded Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) making it an advanced earth observation satellite, operating in spotlight mode, mode and mosaic mode.

#### **7. 8th Indo- Myanmar Coordinated Patrol begins at Port Blair**

- The 8th edition of the Indo-Myanmar Coordinated Patrol (IMCOR) is being held at Port Blair in Andaman & Nicobar Command (from 20-28 May 2019).



- Under the program, Myanmar ships UMS King TabinShweHtee (773) and UMS Inlay (OPV-54) are participating in the coordinated patrol (CORPAT) along with Indian Naval Ship Saryu.
- The ships will patrol along the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) between the two countries covering distance of roughly 725 kilometres in four days, augmented by patrol aircraft from both navies.

## 8. 22 May: International Day for Biological Diversity

- The United Nations (UN) has proclaimed 22nd May 'The International Day for Biological Diversity' (IDB) to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues.
- The theme of 2019 is 'Our Biodiversity, Our Food, Our Health'.

### Related Information:

- The International Day for Biological Diversity falls within the scope of the UN Post-2015 Development Agenda's Sustainable Development Goals.

## 9. Bhawana Kanth becomes a 1st fighter pilot to qualify to undertake combat missions

- Indian Air Force officer Flight Lieutenant Bhawana Kanth has become the first day-time Indian woman fighter pilot, officials said.
- Flight Lieutenant Bhawana Kanth adds another feather to her cap by completing day operational syllabus on MiG-21 Bison aircraft.
- She is the first women fighter pilot to qualify to undertake missions by day on a fighter aircraft.
- Bhawana joined the fighter squadron in 2017 and flew the first solo on MiG-21 Bison in 2018.

### Related Information:

- Bhawana Kanth belongs to Darbhanga, Bihar, was brought up in Begusarai.
- She had completed her B.E. (medical electronics) from BMS College of Engineering, Bangalore before joining the IAF.

## 10. BJP led NDA set to form new govt at Centre

- The BJP has surpassed its previous record of 282 Lok Sabha seats in 2014, winning 302 constituencies and leading in one in the 543 member house.
- Elections were held in 542 constituencies. All the results have come in except Arunachal West.
- The election to Vellore parliamentary constituency was canceled by the Election Commission on allegations of money power.
- The Congress failed to make a mark and the party could hardly improve its tally of 44 in the previous Lok Sabha and secured 52 seats in 2019 elections.
- The Congress even could not get the number of seats required for Leader of Opposition status in the Lok Sabha.



- The BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi scripted history by becoming the second political party in Indian history to come back to power, even stronger this time.
- BJP is able to retain power at the Centre for a second term with full majority
- The BJP and its allies in the National Democratic Alliance are poised to clinch 350 seats as against their previous tally of 336. The UPA gets 90 seats.
- The DMK gets third positions winning 23 seats followed by Trinamool Congress and YSR Congress 22 each.
- The Shiv Sena bagged 18 seats and Janata Dal(United) 16.
- Left parties CPI and CPI-M have been decimated and are left with only five seats -- three for the CPI-M and two for CPI. This is half of their tally of 10 in 2014 elections.
- BJP wave continues in the state
- While retaining its vote share in the Hindi Belt, the BJP successfully made inroads in West Bengal, Odisha, and Telangana.

### Uttar Pradesh

- In Uttar Pradesh, the BJP wave continues in the state.
- The party has won 62 seats with a vote share of 49.56 percent.
- The Congress with only one seat could get only 6.31 percent of the votes in the state - a drop from 7.53 percent last general elections.
- BSP which was no seat in the last Lok Sabha has got 10 seats this time, with its vote share of 19.26 percent.
- Its ally, Samajwadi Party repeated its performance winning 5 seats but its vote share has dropped to 17.96 percent from 22.35 percent in 2014.
- Less than one percent voters opted for NOTA in UP this election.

### Gujarat

- In Gujarat, the BJP has made a clean sweep and won all the 26 Lok Sabha seats repeating its performance of 2014.
- The BJP got a vote share of over 62 percent and the minimum margin of its victory was 1.27 lakh votes.
- Congress failed to open its account in the state.

### Madhya Pradesh

- BJP has swept Madhya Pradesh also winning 28 seats while Congress could get only one in Chhindwada.

### Uttarakhand

- In Uttarakhand, the BJP retained all 5 seats.
- The BJP's vote share improved from 55.93 percent votes in 2014 to 61.01 percent in 2019.
- Congress came in the second position with 31.40 percent.

### Himachal Pradesh



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- The BJP has won all the 5 seats.
- In Himachal Pradesh, all contestants other than winning and defeated rivals lost their security deposits from all the four constituencies of Hamirpur, Kangra, Mandi and Shimla.

### Maharashtra

- In Maharashtra, Out of 48 Lok Sabha seats in the state, BJP gets 23 and its ally Shiv Sena 18.
- NCP has bagged 4 seats while Congress and All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen get one seat each.

### Rajasthan

- In Rajasthan, the BJP retained 24 seats and ally RLTP won from Nagaur.
- The BJP's vote share improved from 55.61 percent votes in 2014 to 58.47 percent in 2019.
- The Congress polled only 34.24 percent of the votes in the state.

### Karnataka

- In Karnataka, BJP secured a landmark victory winning 25 seats out of 28 seats.
- The Congress, JDS and independent one each.

### Odisha

- BJD has bagged 12 seats followed by BJP 8 and Congress one.

### West Bengal

- In West Bengal, all the 42 results have come in.
- Out of this Trinamool Congress has bagged 22, BJP 18, and Congress 2.

### Bihar

- In Bihar, Out of 40 seats, BJP has bagged 17 seats while its ally Janta Dal (United) gets 16 and Lok Janshakti Party got six.
- Congress could manage only one.

### Telangana

- In Telangana, the result has been declared for all the 17 seats. TRS has won 9 seats. BJP has won 4 seats. Congress has won 3 seats.

## 11. DRDO test fires guided bomb from Sukhoi combat jet

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully test-fired an indigenously developed 500 kg class guided bomb from a Sukhoi combat jet at Pokhran in Rajasthan.



- The test firing of the guided bomb came two days after the Indian Air Force successfully test fired the aerial version of the supersonic BrahMos cruise missile from a Sukhoi jet at the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

## 12. ISRO chairman flags off shipment of India's largest liquid hydrogen storage tank

- ISRO Chairman K Sivan on 22 May flagged off the shipment of India's largest liquid hydrogen storage tank at the VRV Asia Pacific's manufacturing plant at Sri City in Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh.
- The storage capacity of the tank is 120-kilolitres. Liquid hydrogen is used as fuel for satellite launch vehicles.
- VRV Asia Pacific manufactured the storage tank with a Liquid Nitrogen (LIN) shield, in a collaborative effort with Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, under the Make in India initiative.
- VRV's unit at Sri City is one of the most technologically sophisticated manufacturing facilities of cryogenic equipment in the world.

## 13. ISRO's new commercial arm NewSpace India officially inaugurated

- NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), the commercial arm of Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro), was officially inaugurated in Bengaluru on 23 May 2019.
- It was inaugurated by Isro's honorary adviser, Dr. K Kasturirangan in the presence of chairman Dr. K Sivan.
- Capital - NISL is provided with an authorized share capital of Rs 100 crore and initially paid-up capital of Rs 10 crore.

Objective –

- NSIL's main objective is to scale up industry participation in Indian space programmes.
- It will be responsible for manufacturing the and production of Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) and Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) through technology transfer mechanisms.

### Related Information:

- NSIL was incorporated on March 6, 2019, for commercially utilizing research and development activities carried out by ISRO in the area of space
- NSIL will act as an aggregator for all space-related activities in industry and develop private entrepreneurship in space-related technologies.

## 14. WHO declares Algeria, Argentina malaria-free

- The World Health Organization (WHO) declared Algeria and Argentina as malaria-free, with no recorded cases of indigenous transmission of the disease since 2013 and 2010 respectively.
- Contracted through the bite of an infected mosquito, malaria remains one of the world's leading killers. It accounted for an estimated 219 million cases from 87 countries and over 400,000 related deaths in 2017.



- Over 60 percent of fatalities were among children under five years, and caused 266,000 of all malaria deaths worldwide, according to WHO's World malaria report 2018.
- Malaria parasite was first discovered in Algeria by French physician Charles Louis Alphonse Laveran in 1880.
- With 92 percent of malaria cases and 93 percent of malaria deaths recorded from Africa, the region had a high share of the global malaria burden in 2017.

### **15. Naveen Patnaik set for the fifth term as Odisha CM**

- Odisha's ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) headed by incumbent Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik is all set to form a government for a fifth consecutive term.
- A meeting of the newly elected BJD legislators is scheduled to be held on Saturday, and the new Cabinet is likely to be sworn-in on Monday, May 27, party officials said.
- The final Election Commission (EC) tally shows that the BJD won 112 of the 146 Assembly seats for which elections were held.
- The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) bagged 23, the Congress nine, the CPI(M) one and a solitary Independent were also elected.
- Patnaik, who will take oath as Chief Minister for the fifth consecutive term, won from two Assembly segments — his old constituency Hinjili under the Aska Lok Sabha seat in southern Odisha and Bijapur under the Bargarh Lok Sabha seat in western Odisha.

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