TAMIL NADU

The Greater Chennai Corporation – to set up low-cost water ATMs in 800 locations across the 200 wards after the model code of conduct ends

- The ATMs will be installed under public-private partnership and offer water at Rs 7 per 20 litres
- They will be similar to those in other corporations, municipalities and panchayats under the Commissionerate of Municipal Administration (CMA)
- The corporation will provide 250sqft in these locations, besides raw water and electricity to the unit
- The private party will invest, operate and maintain these facilities by providing UV-treated water purified by reverse osmosis
- Four such units will be set up in each and every ward with two women from the locality will oversee water dispensing operations
- Residents will be issued prepaid cards that can be recharged and reused
- Under the CMA, water ATMs have been set up at 400 of 4,350 locations since the project was rolled out last year
- In the suburbs, such units have been installed in Tambaram, Chengalpet and Poonamallee.
- The civic body has 50 Amma Kudineer units in the city that offer 20 litres of drinking water free to smart card holders
The sixth phase of polling – to take place in 59 Lok Sabha seats across six States and the Union Territory of Delhi on May 12, 2019

- Voting will be held for 14 seats in Uttar Pradesh, eight seats each in Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal, four seats in Jharkhand, all seven seats in Delhi and all 10 seats in Haryana.

- For the first time, the Islamic State said it has established a “province” in India
  - It has announced the province as “Wilayah of Hind”

SUPREME COURT VERDICT

- The Supreme Court - has ruled that the right to be represented by a lawyer does not extend to in-house proceedings
  - The SC ruling came in a case about an individual facing in-house proceeding of a bank to declare him a wilful defaulter

ORDER CAME IN BANK DEFAULT CASE

- A person declared wilful defaulter by the first committee can appeal before a review committee.
✓ A bench of Justices R F Nariman and Vineet Saran ruled that in both these committees, a person has no right to be represented by a lawyer.
✓ The judgement virtually closes the arguments of activist-lawyers who have protested against the absence of legal assistance to the sacked SC employee who has levelled sexual harassment charge against Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi

INTERNATIONAL

◆ The Pakistan government - has banned 11 Lahore-based organisations for having links with banned groups JeM, JuD, and the FIF

✓ Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Muhammed (JeM) chief Azhar was designated as a global terrorist by the United Nations on May 1.
✓ JeM claimed responsibility for the Pulwama suicide attack that killed 40 Central Reserve Police Force soldiers
✓ In February, Pakistan banned Jamat-ud-Dawa (JuD) and its charity wing Falah-e-Insaniat Foundation (FIF)

DEFENCE

◆ The Indian Air Force (IAF) – was handed over the first of the 22 Apache AH-64E Guardian attack helicopters at the Boeing production facility in Arizona, US.

✓ The first batch of these heavy-duty helicopters will be shipped to India by July, with all the 24 slated for induction by March 2020
✓ The pact for the deal was signed in September 2015 at a budget of Rs 13,952 crore
✓ IAF has recently began the induction of another iconic US helicopter Chinook, in March
✓ The IAF had ordered 15 Chinooks under another Rs 8,048 crore deal inked in September 2015.
✓ The Chinooks will be based in Chandigarh and Dinjan (Assam), while the Apaches will be at the Pathankot and Jorhat airbases.
✓ The Army is also going to get six Apache attack helicopters at a cost of Rs 4,168 crore
✓ At present, the IAF has just two aging squadrons of Russian-origin Mi-25/35 attack helicopters
✓ The Apaches, referred as ‘tanks in the air’ armed with Stinger air-to-air missiles, Hellfire Longbow air-to-ground missiles, guns and rockets, have been customised to suit IAF’s requirements.

APPOINTMENTS

✓ Simon Armitage - has been named the U.K.’s new Poet Laureate

He replaces Carol Ann Duffy in the 10-year post
✓ Queen Elizabeth II has approved the appointment, Britain’s highest literary honour.
✓ Previous laureates have included John Dryden and William Wordsworth

SPORTS

✓ Defending champion Aabhishek Mishra – wins the Desert Storm for the fourth time in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan

Aabhishek thus became only the third driver to defend the Storm, an FMSCI-approved event, along with Sunny Sidhu and Suresh Rana
✓ With co-driver Srikanth Gowda, he conquered one of the strongest fields ever in 9 hours 21 minutes and 45 seconds for a commendable victory.
✓ In the Moto Category, Adrian Metge of Team TVS Racing won the country’s longest motorbike rally with a cumulative time of 6 hours, 13 minutes and 25 seconds.
Supernovas - became the winners of the Women’s T20 challenge in Jaipur

- They defeated Velocity in a thrilling final off the last ball of the match
- The captain of Supernovas, Harmanpreet Kaur smashed 51 off 35 balls to set the victory for the team
- Mithali Raj was the captain of the Velocity team

Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) performance analyst, Sanath Jayasundara -was provisionally suspended with immediate effect for two breaches of the International Cricket Council’s (ICC) anti-corruption code

- Jayasundara was charged under Article 2.1.3 with “offering a bribe or other reward to the sports minister to contrive in any way or otherwise influence improperly the result, progress, conduct or any other aspect of an international match.”