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## Important Facts For Prelims (25th May 2019)

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### DRDO Test Fired the Guided Bomb

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- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test fired **an indigenously developed 500Kg class Inertial Guided Bomb** from a Su-30 MKI Aircraft at Pokhran test range in Rajasthan.
- The weapon system is capable of carrying different warheads.
- The guided bomb achieved the desired range and hit the target with high precision.
- This test firing of the guided bomb came two days after the Indian Air Force (IAF) successfully test fired the aerial version of the supersonic BrahMos cruise missile from a Sukhoi jet at the Andaman and Nicobar islands.

### Deathly Traffic at Mt Everest

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- Recently, three more Indian climbers have died on Mount Everest, taking the toll of Indian mountaineers who have perished while hiking the world's highest mountain to eight this season.
  - **Mount Everest lies on the border between Nepal and the Tibet Autonomous Region of China.** Reaching an elevation of **8,850 metres**, it is the **highest mountain** in the world.
  - **More than 200 mountaineers have died on the peak since 1922**, when the first climbers' deaths on Everest were recorded.
  - At the last ridge from the southern Nepali side, **there is only one fixed rope, everyone hangs onto this one rope.** When it is crowded, there are two lines of people - one going up, and one going down the summit.
  - At present, **one of the reasons cited for deaths is heavy traffic** - massive long lines due to a few days of good weather - on the mountain.
- **'Traffic jam'** occurs when **many climbers vie for the summit at the same time**, and can be especially **dangerous above 8,000 metres, known as the 'death zone'**.

- In a traffic jam, exhausted climbers are often forced to wait for several hours for their turn to ascend or descend on a single rope, increasing chances of **exhaustion, frostbite or altitude sickness**. The climbers could also **run out of oxygen** during the final phase of the ascent.