

**05 May 2018 Current Affairs**

**California surpasses UK to become World's 5th largest economy**

US state California's economy has surpassed that of the UK to become the world's fifth largest, according to new federal data released. With a GDP of \$2.7 trillion, California is now only behind the US, China, Japan and Germany. The UK and India are next on the list, followed by France, Brazil and Italy respectively.

**Ashok Lahiri appointed full-time member**

Former Chief Economic Adviser Ashok Lahiri has been appointed as full-time member of the 15th Finance Commission. He is at present the part-time member of the commission, headed by N.K. Singh.

**Oscars Academy expels Bill Cosby and Roman Polanski**

Bill Cosby and Roman Polanski have been expelled from the US Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. In Polanski's case, the expulsion comes more than 40 years after he was accused of raping a 13-year-old girl.

**No Nobel Prize in Literature this year**

The Swedish Academy has decided to postpone the 2018 Nobel Prize in Literature, with the intention of awarding it in 2019. For the first time since 1949, the secretive jury will not unveil a winner this autumn.

**Justice A K Mittal appointed acting chief justice of Punjab and Haryana HC**

Justice Ajay Kumar Mittal has been appointed as the acting chief justice of the Punjab and Haryana High Court. The appointment comes soon after incumbent chief justice Shivax Jal Vazifdar demitted office at midnight upon his retirement.

## **Freedom fighter Keyur Bhushan passed away**

Well-known Gandhian, freedom fighter & writer Keyur Bhushan passed away. Bhushan took part in the 1942 Quit India movement as a student in Raipur and was incarcerated. He penned novels, collections of short stories and poems. He also edited 'Sapthahik Chhattisgarh' and 'Antyoday'.

## **Indian-American woman appointed Interim Civil court judge in US**

Indian-American Deepa Ambekar has been appointed as interim judge to the civil court of New York City, becoming the second Indian-American woman judge in the city after Chennai-born Raja Rajeswari.