

International Trade

1. Trade tensions between the US and China seem to have cooled after a meeting led by Donald Trump and Xi Jinping at the G20 resulted in the two countries agreeing to a truce and to restart trade talks which had stalled. Additionally, China has lifted barriers to foreign investment in several sectors.
2. PM Narendra Modi also met with Donald Trump at the G20, and the two of them agreed to resume talks, with two US trade representatives expected to arrive in Delhi next week.

Foreign Investment

1. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman unveiled the annual budget 2019-2020 on Friday. Key highlights of the budget include-
 - a. 100% foreign direct investment (FDI) for insurance intermediaries.
 - b. The government will also explore increasing FDI limits in aviation, media, insurance and the animation, video graphics and comics industry (AVGC).
 - c. The government has proposed making minimum public shareholding in listed companies 35%, which would result in promoters in large companies like TCS and Wipro having to reduce their stake shares.



Geopolitical Insights

1. The leaders of the European Union chose the nominees for the EU's top jobs after three days of negotiations and for the first time in more than 60 years two women will be occupying the top posts in the block. However, the nominations still need to be debated in the European parliament, with extremely stormy sessions to be expected with the rise of Eurosceptic parties.
2. A special investigation by Reuters brings to light the role played by the UAE in the fall of dictator Omar Bashir, reinforcing the growing influence of the



UAE and Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed. Meanwhile the African Union led by Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed are trying to broker talks between the Transitional Military Council and the democratic protesters, but the army is unlikely to give up its power.

