

# CURRENT AFFAIRS



APRIL 2019

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## Current Affairs — April 2019

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This is a guide to provide you a precise summary and a huge collection of Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) covering national and international current affairs for the month of **April 2019**.

This guide will help you in preparing for Indian competitive examinations like Bank PO, Banking, Railway, IAS, PCS, UPSC, CAT, GATE, CDS, NDA, MCA, MBA, Engineering, IBPS, Clerical Grade and Officer Grade, etc.

### Audience

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Aspirants who are preparing for different competitive exams like Bank PO, Banking, Railway, IAS, PCS, UPSC, CAT, GATE, CDS, NDA, MCA, MBA, Engineering, IBPS, Clerical Grade, Officer Grade, etc.

Even though you are not preparing for any exams but are willing to have news encapsulated in a roll, which you can walk through within 30 minutes, then we have put all the major points for the whole month in a precise and interesting way.

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# Appointments

## 1. Zuzana Caputova becomes Slovakia's first female president

Liberal lawyer Zuzana Čaputová won Slovakia's Presidential election, becoming the country's first female head of state.

A member of the Progressive Slovakia party, Čaputová won 58.3% votes after results from 98.1% of the voting districts were counted.

Čaputová defeated European Commission Vice President, Maroš Šefčovič, who was backed by the ruling party, SMER-SD.

She is due to be sworn in on 15 of June.



Caputova will now become Slovakia's fifth president since its independence in the 1993 split of Czechoslovakia.

Slovakia becomes the eighth country in the European Union to currently have a woman in power.

### About Slovakia

Capital: Bratislava

Currency: Euro

Official language: Slovak

## 2. Mahesh Singh is appointed the Flag Officer Commanding Karnataka Naval Area

National Defence Academy, Rear Admiral Mahesh Singh takes charge as the Flag Officer Commanding Karnataka Naval Area.

Mahesh Singh is a post graduate from Defence Services Staff College and he headed Navigation and Direction School at Kochi and the Maritime Warfare Centre at Vishakhapatnam.

He was commissioned into the Indian Navy in January 1987.



### 3. ECI appoints Viswajeet as Intelligence Chief for AP

The Election Commission of India appointed Additional Director-General of Police Kumar Viswajeet as Intelligence Chief for Andhra Pradesh. A 1994 batch IPS officer, Mr. Viswajeet, is presently Chairman of the Andhra Pradesh State Level Police Recruitment Board (APSLPRB). He will take charge immediately.



The top post fell vacant with the Election Commission transferring former Intelligence DG, A.B. Venkateswara Rao.

The Intelligence wing plays a key role in guiding the police and the election authorities on mobilisation of forces in critical and cut-off villages.

#### Election Commission of India (ECI)

- ECI is responsible for administering election processes in India
- Formed: 25 January 1950
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Chief Election Commissioner: Sunil Arora
- Election Commissioner: Ashok Lavasa

### 4. Manu Sawhney took over as ICC Chief Executive with immediate effect

India-born Manu Sawhney, the ex-CEO of Singapore Sports Hub and ex-Managing Director of ESPN Star Sports, has been working alongside the outgoing Chief Executive David Richardson for last six weeks to ensure a smooth transition.

Richardson will remain with the International Cricket Council (ICC) until July to oversee the delivery of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2019.



### 5. Eicher Motors Ltd. Vinod K. Dasari as the CEO of Royal Enfield

Eicher Motors Ltd. has appointed Vinod K. Dasari as the Chief Executive Officer of Royal Enfield. He will also join the board of Eicher Motors as executive director with immediate effect.

Mr. Dasari stepped down as MD and CEO of Ashok Leyland on March 31. He takes over from Siddhartha Lal, who will continue as the MD of Eicher Motors.

The company also plans to invest Rs.700 crore in capital expenditure for 2019-20. The planned expenditure will include completion of construction work of the Technology Centre, Phase-2 of the Vallam Vadagal plant in Tamil Nadu and towards the development of new platforms and products.



## 6. Rakesh Malhotra next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Cameroon

Shri Rakesh Malhotra, Who was a Consul General, Consulate General of India, Melbourne appointed as the High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Cameroon.



### About Cameroon

- Capital : Yaounde
- Currency : Central African CFA franc (XAF)
- President: Paul Biya
- Prime Minister: Joseph Ngute

## 7. Vipin Anand assumed charge as new Managing Director of LIC

Vipin Anand was appointed as the Managing Director of the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), by the government last month.

He was instrumental in setting up LIC's operations in Singapore and Bangladesh.

He served more than 35 years in LIC.

Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) executive board comprises of one chairman and four managing directors (MDs).



The government appointed MR Kumar as the Chairman of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) and TC Suseel Kumar as the managing director (MD) on March 13.

### About LIC

- LIC - Life Insurance Corporation of India
- It is the largest insurance company in India.
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Founded: 1 September 1956
- Owner: Government of India

### 8. Former Bollywood Actress, Mayoori Kango appointed as the Industry Head of Google India

She will lead Google engagement with Publicis (Parent Company of Performics) and DAN.

Before joining Google India, Mayoori has worked as a Managing Director in Performics, which is part of Publicis Groupe.

She has been instrumental in engaging and retaining accounts of firms like Uber, Airtel and Nestle.



### 9. American David Malpass selected as the new President of the World Bank

David Malpass is currently US Treasury Department's Under Secretary for International Affairs.

He was a senior economic adviser to US President Donald Trump during his 2016 election campaign.

The 63-year-old, nominated by Trump, was the only candidate for the job.

Malpass succeeds Jim Yong-kim, who stepped down on February 1 to join an investment firm.



Kristalina Georgieva, chief executive officer of the bank, has been acting as the interim President.

## 10. Nasscom appoints Keshav Murugesh as CEO

IT industry body Nasscom has appointed WNS Global Services Group CEO Keshav Murugesh as its chairman for 2019-20. He takes over from his previous role as vice-chairman of Nasscom. He succeeds Rishad Premji (Wipro chief strategy officer and board member).



Nasscom has appointed Infosys COO U.B. Pravin Rao as its vice-chairman for 2019-20.

## 11. Vikram Kirloskar appointed as CII's president

Vikram Kirloskar, CMD of Kirloskar Systems Ltd., and vice-chairman of Toyota Kirloskar Motor has assumed office as President of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for 2019-20. He takes over from Rakesh Bharti Mittal, vice-chairman, Bharti Enterprises.



Uday Kotak, founder and MD & CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank, is the president-designate of CII for 2019-20. T.V. Narendran, CEO & MD of Tata Steel Limited, takes over as CII vice-president for 2019-20.

## 12. Praful Patel becomes 1st Indian to be elected as member of FIFA Executive Council

Praful Patel is the current president of All India Football Federation (AIFF).

He got 38 out of 46 votes.

His membership in the council will be for four years, from 2019 to 2023. Patel was accompanied by AIFF general secretary Kushal Das and senior vice-president Subrata Datta.



FIFA Council member election was held during the 29th Asian Football Confederations (AFC) Congress in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

### About FIFA Council

- FIFA - Fédération Internationale de Football Association



- It is the governing body of association football.
- Headquarters: Zurich, Switzerland
- President: Gianni Infantino
- Senior Vice President: Salman Bin Ibrahim Al-Khalifa

### 13. Graham Reid appointed as chief coach of India men's hockey team

Reid was part of the silver-medal winning Australian team at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics.

Reid's appointment till the end of 2020 was ratified after Hockey India received necessary clearance from the Sports Authority of India (SAI).

India had been without a chief coach since Harendra Singh was sacked after last year's World Cup.

Reid will be in charge of the team during their next international assignment -- tour to Australia in May 2019.



#### About Hockey India

- Founded: 2009
- Affiliation: International Hockey Federation (FIH)
- Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- President: Mohammad Mushtaq Ahmed
- India men's hockey team Captain: Manpreet Singh
- Manager: Arjun Halappa
- FIH ranking: 5 (16 December 2018)

### 14. SUN Group chairman Vikramjit Sahney elected as president of ICC India

SUN Group Chairman Vikramjit Singh Sahney elected as the new president of International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) - India.

He will succeed Jawahar Vadivelu.

#### About ICC

The International Chamber of Commerce is the largest, most representative business organization in the world. Its 6 million



members in over 100 countries have interests spanning every sector of private enterprise.

- ICC has three main activities: rule setting, dispute resolution, and policy advocacy.
- Founded: 1919
- Headquarters: Paris, France
- Motto: We make business work for everyone, everyday, everywhere.

## 15. Benjamin Netanyahu elected for 5th term as Israel's Prime Minister

Netanyahu defeated centrist ex-military chief Benny Gantz, whose nascent Blue and White party emerged as a viable alternative to Netanyahu's decade in power.

With over 97% votes counted, Netanyahu's Likud party tied with the Blue and White party, winning 35 seats each in the 120-member Knesset.

Netanyahu's victory came amid allegations of corruption against him and his wife.



His campaign has focused heavily on his friendship with President Donald Trump and his success in cultivating new allies, such as China, India and Brazil.

### About Benjamin Netanyahu

He is the first Israeli Prime Minister born in Israel after the establishment of the state.

He is the Chairman of the Likud party.

He became the leader of Likud in 1993 and won the 1996 elections, becoming Israel's youngest-ever Prime Minister, serving his first term from June 1996 to July 1999. About Israel;

- Capital: Jerusalem
- Currency: Israeli new shekel
- Population: 87.1 lakhs (2017) World Bank
- President: Reuven Rivlin
- Parliament called: Knesset

## 16. Algeria MPs elect Abdelkader Bensalah as first new president in 20 years

Abdelkader Bensalah was appointed president for a three-month transitional period after weeks of mass protests led to the resignation of long-serving former President Abdelaziz Bouteflika on April 2.

Algeria's newly appointed interim President Abdelkader Bensalah announced the election would be held on July 4 to vote for a new president.

However, the 77-year-old Bensalah is barred under the constitution from running in the upcoming election.



### About Algeria

- Capital: Algiers
- Currency: Algerian dinar
- Continent: Africa
- Prime Minister: Noureddine Bedoui

### 17. Nitin Chugh likely to be appointed as MD & CEO of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank

Nitin Chugh, digital banking head of private sector lender HDFC Bank, is likely to succeed Samit Ghosh, the Managing Director and Chief Executive of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank. Mr. Ghosh, who is also the founder of Ujjivan SFB, will retire in November 2019.

The Bengaluru-based small finance bank has already applied to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for approval to appoint Mr. Chugh as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer. Mr. Chugh has over 23 years of experience.



### Ujjivan Small Finance Bank

- **Type:** Small finance bank
- **Industry:** Banking, Financial services
- **Founded 1:** February 2017
- **Founder:** Samit Ghosh
- **Headquarters:** Bangalore, Karnataka
- **Non-Exe Chairman:** Sunil Patel

- **MD & CEO:** Samit Ghosh

## 18. Jean Michel Lapin elected as Haiti's new prime minister

Haiti's President Jovenel Moise announced that Jean Michel Lapin, who once served as a courier in the public administration, to be the new prime minister of the French-speaking Caribbean Community (CARICOM) country.

He succeeds Prime Minister Jean-Henry Ceant.

The former culture and communications minister, Lapin was named acting prime minister on March 21.



Lapin is the third head of government under President Moise, since he came to office in February 2017.

The formation of a new government in Haiti is an International Monetary Fund (IMF) prerequisite for the disbursement of the first tranche of a US\$229 million loan to Haiti.

In 2018, Haiti, the poorest country in the Americas, had a record US\$290 million deficit, while its national budget was estimated at US\$1.8 billion.

### About Haiti

- Capital: Port-au-Prince
- Currency: Haitian gourde
- Continent: North America

## 19. Murali Kartik named as the new brand ambassador of Fantasy 11

Fantasy11, a fantasy sports platform, has roped in former Indian cricketer Murali Kartik as its brand ambassador.

Fantasy Gaming Space is rapidly growing and is expected to reach 100 million users by 2020.

Karthik was the 'Official Fan Management Partner' for the recently conducted Premier Badminton league.

Before Karthik, appointment of brand ambassadors made by famous online gaming industries are listed below:



- Dream 11 - MS Dhoni
- CricPlay - Gautam Gambhir

- HalaPlay - Hardik Pandya and his brother Krunal
- Fantain - Suresh Raina
- Fanmojo - Prithvi Shaw

## 20. Jamia Millia Islamia gets its First Woman Vice-Chancellor

The Ministry of Human Resources and Development issued a statement about appointing Professor Najma Akhtar as vice-chancellor of Jamia Millia Islam about

Professor Najma Akhtar as vice-chancellor of Jamia Millia Islamia University (JMI) by the President of India.

She is appointed for a period of five years.

Professor Najma Akhtar will be the first woman to hold the post.

Professor Najma Akhtar is a gold medallist from Aligarh Muslim University.

She has a PhD in Education from Kurukshetra University.

Professor Najma Akhtar a Commonwealth Fellow for University.



## 21. Gargi Kaul appointed as Secretary of Defence Finance

The Central government appointed Gargi Kaul as Secretary, Defence Finance. She is a 1984-batch officer of the Indian Audit and Accounts Service (IA&AS).



### About Defence Ministry

- **Formed:** 1776 (as Military Department), 1947(as Ministry of Defence)
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **Minister:** Nirmala Sitharaman
- **Deputy Minister:** Dr.Subhash Ramrao Bhamre
- It is responsible for coordinating and **supervising all agencies and functions** of the government relating directly to national security and the Indian armed forces

## 22. New Palestinian government sworn in a second time after botched oath

Palestine's New Prime Minister Mohammed Ishtayeh, a veteran peace negotiator and harsh critic of Gaza's Hamas rulers, and his 22-member cabinet took the oath of office a second time, on April 14, 2019.

The ministers neglected to include a clause pledging faithfulness “to the people and its national heritage” during ceremony on April 13.

The 18th Palestinian government since the establishment of the Palestinian Authority in 1995 was sworn in according to a presidential decree issued by Mahmoud Abbas.

The new Cabinet replaces a technocratic government formed by Rami Hamdallah in 2014 after an agreement between Fatah and Hamas, the Islamic militant group that has run the Gaza Strip after ousting Fatah and evicting the Palestinian Authority in 2007.

Ishtayeh faces challenges, with the Palestinian Authority in a deep financial crisis after U.S. sanctions and Israel's decision to withhold \$138 million in tax revenue it collects on behalf of the Palestinians.



### 23. Ajay Kumar Dixit appointed as CEO of Cairn Oil

Cairn Oil & Gas, a division of Vedanta Ltd, has announced the appointment of Ajay Kumar Dixit as its Chief Executive Officer. Dixit succeeds Sudhir Mathur, who after seven successful years with the company, moves on to pursue personal endeavors.

Dixit had joined Vedanta in 2015 from Siemens where he was CEO-Energy for South Asia. He is an alumni of Delhi College of Engineering and had served as the acting CEO of Vedanta's Aluminium and Power business before being elevated to this new role.



The company expects that his leadership will support Cairn's vision to realize the full potential of Barmer block, grow the offshore business and appraisal of new blocks under OALP I and discovered small fields (DSF-II).

### 24. redBus appoints Mahendra Singh Dhoni as brand ambassador

Bus ticketing platform redBus has appointed cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni as its brand ambassador.

The cricketer will appear in a hockey player avatar in his first cameo for the brand, slated to be launched soon.

Dhoni's brand endorsement deals can be in the range of ₹ 3-10 crore.

At present, Dhoni is the brand ambassador of sports firm Dream11, Colgate, MasterCard, Orient Fans, BharatMatrimony, Indigo Paints, SRMB Steel, and health supplement brand Revital H.

Recently, Fantasy sports platform HalaPlay Technologies has appointed cricketers Krunal and Hardik Pandya as its brand ambassadors.



### **About Redbus**

redBus, which started in 2006, works with over 2500 bus operators' and claims to have sold more than 180 million bus tickets till date.

redBus is a part of the MakeMyTrip group and the platform claims to have a customer base of around 20 million users.

CEO: Prakash Sangam

Headquarters: Bengaluru

### **25. PwC India names Padmaja Alaganandan as chief people officer, Jagjit Singh steps down**

PwC India announced the appointment of Padmaja Alaganandan as the firm's new Chief People Officer (CPO).

She takes over the role from Jagjit Singh.

Padmaja associated with PwC for the last eight years.

She was the Technology sector lead for PwC's Advisory Line of Service.

The leader of the firm's People and Organisation Consulting practice.



Before joining PwC in 2011, Padmaja worked in leadership roles in different organisations such as Mercer Consulting and AF Ferguson.

She is a member of CII's National HR Committee and the Committee on Skill Development.

Padmaja was inducted into the firm's leadership team.

## 26. Shri N. Kashinath designated as Member (Signal & Telecom) of Railway Board

Shri N. Kashinath took over as Member (Signal & Telecom) of Railway Board.

He was associated with Train Describer Project, Survey for the Mobile Train Radio Communication in Northeast Frontier Railway,

Shri N. Kashinath belongs to the 1980 Batch of the Indian Railway Service of Signal Engineers (IRSSE).

- Industry: Rail transport
- Founded: 8 May 1845 (173 years ago)[1]
- Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- Key people: Piyush Goyal (Minister of Railways)
- Vinod Kumar Yadav (Chairman, Railway Board)



## 27. Ravinder Kumar Passi appointed as a new Chairman of Export Promotion Council for Handicraft (EPCH)

Export Promotion Council for Handicraft (EPCH) board appointed Ravinder Kumar Passi (previously a vice chairman of EPCH), to the post of Chairman of EPCH.

He will take charge for the post of Chairman shortly from his predecessor O P Prahladka.

Ravinder Kumar Passi served EPCH in various important position including the post of chairman during 2001-2002.

### About Export Promotion Council for Handicraft (EPCH)

EPCH is a non-profit organisation, established under Companies Act of 1956 in the year 1986-97.



## 28. Twitter appoints Manish Maheshwari as new India MD



Manish Maheshwari, who previously served as the CEO of Network18 Digital, takes over the new role from April 29.

Prior to Network18, Maheshwari has worked with Flipkart, txtWeb, Intuit, McKinsey and P&G.

Manish will be responsible for driving an integrated business strategy to accelerate Twitter's audience and revenue growth in the country, overseeing Twitter India's teams in Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru.



He will be based in Delhi.

Manish will report to Maya Hari, Twitter's vice president and managing director of Asia Pacific.

The appointment comes amid growing concerns over spread of misinformation on social media platforms across the world, including India.

India is among one of the biggest markets for internet companies like Facebook, Google and Twitter, given the large base of young population.

Twitter, which has over 30 million users in India (according to statista.com), had appointed Krish as an interim country head.

## 29. Dalbir Singh appointed as India's High Commissioner to Seychelles

Former Indian Army Chief General (Retired) Dalbir Singh Suhag was appointed as India's High Commissioner to the island nation Seychelles on April 25, 2019. He is expected to take up the assignment shortly.

### Dalbir Singh

He was the Army Chief from August 1, 2014 to December 31, 2016. He was also part of the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) in Sri Lanka in 1987.



### India-Seychelles relations

The diplomatic ties were established with Seychelles, after its independence, with India in 1976. In 2015, Seychelles agreed to allocate land on Assumption Island for India to build its first naval base in the Indian Ocean region.

India has also extended a USD 100 million line of credit and decided to gift a Dornier aircraft to Seychelles. There has also been a high-level exchange of visits between both nations.

According to the estimates of the Ministry of External Affairs, India exported goods worth USD 101.16 million and imported goods worth USD 0.548 million from Seychelles during

January to October 2017. In 2017, India stood at 8th position by way of exports to Seychelles.

### About Seychelles

- Capital: Victoria
- Official languages: English
- President: Danny Faure
- Vice President: Vincent Meriton
- Currency: Seychellois Rupee (SCR)

### 30. President Sirisena appointed General S.H.S Kottegoda as the Defence Secretary

President Maithripala Sirisena on 29th April appointed General S.H.S Kottegoda, a former Army commander, to the post of Defence Secretary. He replaces Hemasiri Fernando who resigned from the post after the Easter blasts that killed over 250 people.



President Sirisena also named Deputy Inspector-General Chandana Wickramaratne as the acting police chief as the incumbent Pujith Jayasundara is currently on compulsory leave. President Sirisena squarely blamed the Defence Secretary and the IGP for failing to pass on the information to him.

As per Sri Lankan law, the Inspector General of Police (IGP) can be removed from the post only with a parliamentary resolution backed by a majority and based on a subsequent inquiry by a committee.

# Awards

## 1. Dr Rajendra Joshi Conferred With Pravasi Bharatiya Samman

NRI scientist Dr Rajendra Joshi conferred with the Pravasi Bhartiya Samman Award by the President of India Ram Nath Kovind.

The Indian Ambassador to Switzerland Sibi George handed over the award citation signed by the President of India to Dr Joshi at his residence in Switzerland.



## 2. Lewis Hamilton won Bahrain Grand Prix 2019

Lewis Hamilton won Bahrain Grand Prix 2019 title

He defeated Valtteri Bottas of Finland who secured the second position.

Charles Leclerc was finished with the third position and becoming Ferrari's youngest ever race winner at the age of 21.



### About Bahrain Grand Prix 2019

- First race took place at the Bahrain International Circuit on 4 April 2004.
- Number of times held: 15
- First held: 2004
- Most wins (drivers): Germany Sebastian Vettel
- Most wins (constructors): Italy Ferrari

### 3. Vikram Patel receives John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Award

Vikram Patel, a psychiatrist and professor of global health at Harvard Medical School, has won the prestigious John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Award.



Mr. Patel has led research generating knowledge on the burden and determinants of mental health problems in low and middle-income countries and pioneered approaches which utilise community resources for the prevention and treatment of mental health problems in India with global impact. Laureates received a \$100,000 cash honorarium and will be formally presented with their awards on October 24, 2019, at the annual Canada Gairdner Awards Gala in Toronto.

### Canada Gairdner Global Health Award

The John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Award recognizes the world's top scientists who have made outstanding achievements in Global Health Research. Since its inception, the Global Health Award has grown significantly to become one of the world's most prestigious awards recognizing excellence in global health research.

### 4. PM Modi awarded UAE's highest civilian honor Zayed medal

President of the UAE Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan honoured Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the prestigious Zayed Medal for boosting relations between the Emirates and India.



The 'Order of Zayed' is the highest civil decoration instituted by the UAE. It consists of a collar centered by a medallion bearing the name 'Zayed' - the founding father of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

In the past, this award has been conferred to Russian President Vladimir Putin, then US President George W Bush, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Chinese President Xi Jinping and the UK's Queen Elizabeth II.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has visited UAE twice in three years.

The Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi also visited India in 2017.

## 5. Shah Rukh Khan conferred with Honorary Doctorate from University of Law, London

Eminent Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan conferred with an honorary doctorate in Philanthropy by the University of Law, London.

He was awarded this for his efforts to give back to society.

He has received the merit during a graduation ceremony which had more than 350 students in attendance.



## 6. Dr. Sohini Sastri honoured with D. Litt by National American University

Indian Astrologer Dr Sohini Sastri has been honoured with 'D. Litt in Astrology' by National American University, USA.

Dr Sohini Sastri is one of the most trusted names in Astrology and is known for her services over the years.

She is also a receipt of 'Champions of Change Award' which was given to her by Honourable Vice-President of India, M. Venkaiah Naidu at Vigyan Bhawan, Delhi recently.



Other prominent personalities who were also awarded Doctorates at the same event includes Bollywood singer Mohit Chauhan and choreographer Terence Lewis.

## 7. Tata Steel won 'Global Slag Company of the Year' award

The award has been presented to Tata Steel for its innovative practices in development of new applications for Steel by-products (Slag).

The award was given at the 14th Global Slag Conference and Exhibition 2019, held recently in Aachen, Germany.

The conference is one of the largest global annual slag event, attended by major steelmakers, steel mill service providers & associated companies.



### About Tata Steel

- Formerly called: Tata Iron and Steel Company Limited

- It is a subsidiary of the Tata Group and is an Indian multinational steel-making company.
- Founded: 25 August 1907, Jamshedpur
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Founder: Jamsetji Tata

## 8. Presidents Certificate of Honour and Maharshi Badrayan Vyas Samman Awards Conferred

Vice President Venkaiah Naidu conferred President's Certificate of Honour and Maharshi Badrayan Vyas Samman Awards at New Delhi.

The award of the Certificate of Honour was introduced in the year 1958 to honour the scholars of Sanskrit, Arabic and Persian Languages.

Maharshi Badrayan Vyas Samman Distinction is conferred on persons in recognition of their substantial contribution in the field of Sanskrit, Persian, Arabic, Pali, Prakrit, Classical Odiya, Classical Kannada, Classical Telugu and Classical Malayalam.



## 9. AIMA Managing India Awards 2019 to Azim Premji, Mahendra Mohan Gupta and 9 others

The All India Management Association (AIMA) Managing India Awards 2019 was held on April 08, 2019 at Hotel Taj Palace, New Delhi.

Mahendra Mohan Gupta, Chairman & Managing Director, Jagran Prakashan Ltd and Editorial Director, Dainik Jagran, was awarded under Lifetime Contribution to Media category.



### Complete Winners List

- Lifetime Contribution Award: Azim H Premji (Chairman, Wipro Ltd)
- Outstanding Institution Builder: Prathap C Reddy (Founder-Chairman, Apollo Hospitals Group)
- Corporate Citizen Award: Devi Prasad Shetty (Founder & Chairman Narayana Hrudalaya)
- Entrepreneur of the year: Sanjiv Bajaj (Managing Director, Bajaj Finserv Ltd)

- Business Leader of the Year: Sanjiv Mehta (Chairman & Managing Director, Hindustan Unilever Ltd)
- Lifetime Contribution to Media: Mahendra Mohan Gupta (Chairman & Managing Director, Jagran Prakashan Ltd and Editorial Director, Dainik Jagran)
- Outstanding Contribution to Media: Uday Shankar (President, 21st Century Fox, Asia and Chairman and CEO, Star India)
- Indian MNC of the Year: Pawan Goenka (Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd, Managing Director and Member of the Group Executive Board)
- MNC in India of the Year: T Krishnakumar (Coca-Cola India, President & CEO, India & Southwest Asia)
- Outstanding PSU of the Year: Sanjiv Singh (Chairman, Indian Oil Corporation Ltd)
- Director of the Year: Rajkumar Hirani (Director, Producer, Writer & Editor - Sanju Movie)

## 10. Dost Education won the Next Billion Edtech Prize

India's education technology startup 'Dost Education' has bagged a \$25,000 Next Billion Edtech Prize 2019. Two other startups, Ubongo (Tanzania) and PraxiLabs (Egypt), also won the award.

Dost Education was awarded for its ability to empower parents to take charge of their child's early education by creating short, friendly audio content that is sent to them via their mobile phones. Because of this app low-income families need no longer send their children to primary school behind and without a chance to catch up.

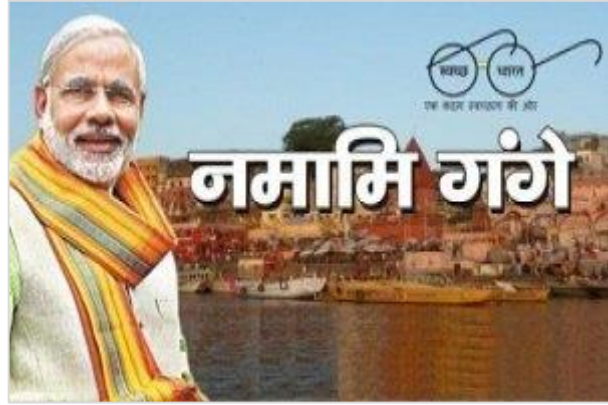


## Next Billion Edtech Prize 2019

- Next Billion Edtech Prize 2019 is awarded by the **UK-based Varkey Foundation**
- The award recognises the most innovative technology destined to have a radical impact on **education in low income and emerging world countries**
- The award also highlights technologies **potential to tackle the problems** that have proven too difficult for successive generations of politicians to solve

## 11. Namami Gange got Public Water Agency of the Year award at Global Water Summit

India's flagship programme, National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) or Namami Gange was felicitated with 'Public Water Agency of the Year' award by Global Water Intelligence at the Global Water Summit in London.



### Namami Gange Mission

- The Namami Gange programme is an integrated mission for **Ganga rejuvenation**, and approved by the Union Government in June **2014** with budget outlay of **Rs.20,000 Crore**.
- Kanpur has been the hotspot of major pollution on the Ganga stem.
- In Namami Gange programme, a total of 289 projects have so far been sanctioned at a cost of Rs 28,377 crore out of which 87 projects have been completed.

### Global Water Summit

- Global Water Summit is the major business conference for the water industry worldwide.
- Global Water Awards recognise excellence across the entire international water industry and reward those initiatives in the water, wastewater, and desalination sectors which bring remarkable improvements in the lives of people.

## 12. Russia honours PM Narendra Modi with its highest civilian award

Prime Minister Narendra Modi honoured with Russia's highest state decoration, the Order of St Andrew the Apostle.

The award has been given to PM Modi for "exceptional services in promoting a special and privileged strategic partnership between the Russian Federation and the Republic of India and friendly relations between the Russian and Indian peoples.

This is the seventh award conferred on PM Modi by a foreign country.



The award was established at the end of the 17th century by Tsar Peter I in honour of Apostle Andrew the First-Called.

The award has been given to only 18 people, including weapons designer Mikhail Kalashnikov; writers Alexander Solzhenitsyn, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia Alexy II; doctors Valery Shumakov and Boris Petrovsky; singers Lyudmila Zykina and Irina Arkhipova; choreographer Yuri Grigorovich; and former Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev.



### 13. Alice G. Vaidyan awarded the Freedom of the City of London

Alice G. Vaidyan, Chairman and Managing Director of the General Insurance Corporation (GIC) of India, India's reinsurance major awarded the Freedom of the City of London in recognition of her work to promote insurance ties between India and the UK.



Alice G. Vaidyan holds post graduate degree in English literature trained at Harvard Business School, Boston, USA.

She is a Fellow of the Insurance Institute of India.

Alice G. Vaidyan was the first lady officer to assume the post of Chairman-cum-Managing Director of General Insurance Corporation of India.

She was also the first lady chairman cum managing director of General Insurance Corporation of India.

Freedom of the City is an honour bestowed by a City of London Corporation upon a valued member of the community, or upon a visiting celebrity or dignitary.

### 14. Two schemes of West Bengal won WSIS awards

Two schemes, Utkarsh Bangla and Sabooj Sathi, of the West Bengal government for skill development and distribution of bicycles to students have won the prestigious World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) awards of the United Nations.



The announcement was made by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

#### Utkarsh Bangla Scheme

The scheme is to give vocational training to school dropouts by providing training ranging from 400 to 1200 hours free of charge.

Under this scheme, beneficiaries will be trained in driving, tailoring, repairing television and other electronic equipment's, beautician courses, etc.

#### Sabooj Sathi scheme

The objective of the scheme is to empower the students, especially the girls and reduce drop-outs in higher education.

Under the scheme, 34.94 lakh bicycles are already procured and distributed to target group students of class 9 to 12.

#### About West Bengal

- Capital: Kolkata
- Chief Minister: Mamata Banerjee
- Governor: Keshari Nath Tripathi

### 15. UNESCO/Guillermo Cano Press Freedom Prize 2019 announced

The UNESCO/Guillermo Cano Press Freedom Prize 2019 has been awarded to Reuters reporters Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo. The prize carries a reward of \$25,000 Prize. It is funded by the Guillermo Cano Isaza Foundation (Colombia), the Helsingin Sanomat Foundation (Finland), and The Namibia Media Trust.



The award recognises their exceptional courage in reporting on alleged human rights violations in Myanmar's state of Rakhine. Both Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo's documentary on the taboo topic regarding crimes committed against Rohingyas landed them behind the bars. The award paid a tribute to their courage, resistance and commitment to freedom of expression.

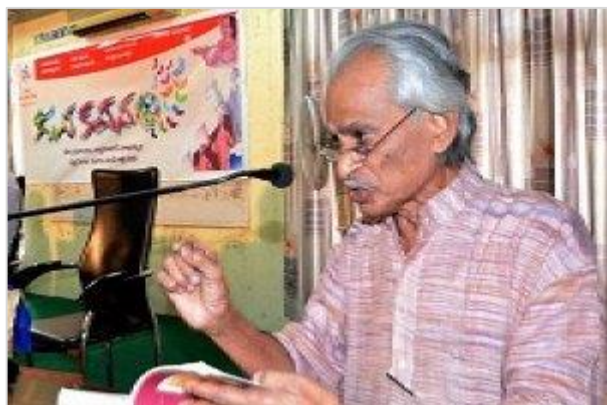
### UNESCO/Guillermo Cano Press Freedom Prize

The award was established in 1997. The Prize is named after Guillermo Cano Isaza, the Colombian journalist who was assassinated in front of the offices of his newspaper El Espectador in Bogota, Colombia, on 17 December 1986.

It is an initiative of UNESCO's Executive Board. It honours a person, organization that has made an outstanding contribution to the defence and, or promotion of press freedom anywhere in the world in the face of danger.

### 16. Telugu Poet K Siva Reddy Selected For Prestigious Saraswati Samman 2018

Telugu poet K Siva Reddy selected for the prestigious Saraswati Samman 2018 for his collection of poetry titled Pakkaki Ottigilite.



The award carries a cash prize of 15 lakh rupees, a citation and a plaque.

### About Saraswati Samman 2018 Awards

The Saraswati Samman is an annual award for outstanding prose or poetry literary works in any 22 Indian languages listed in Schedule VIII of the Constitution of India.

It is named after an Indian goddess of learning and is considered to be among the highest literary awards in India.

Currently held by Sitanshu Yashaschandra.

### **17. Dr. A K Singh honoured with 2019 Lifetime Achievement Award**

Dr. A K Singh, director at Life Sciences, DRDO has been honoured with Lifetime Achievement Award 2019 during 4th APJ Abdul Kalam Innovation Conclave at Chandigarh University, Mohali.

He has made notable contributions in Internal Decorporation of Fission Produced Radionuclides and Infection Imaging. He also discovered a Diagnobact Kit to detect the infectious lesion. He also introduced Pharmacosyntigraphy, i.e. application of nuclear medicine imaging in drug research.



### **4th Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Innovation Conclave**

For Best Innovative Project Awards 2019, 965 innovative projects competed against each other. Pankaj Sharma bagged the first position and Best Innovation of the Year Award 2019, for Smart Trolley Bag project.

Pratul and Abhishek shared second place. Pratul acquired award for Automatic Toilet Cleaner project. Abhishek won for prototype model for Accident Management System respectively.

Third prize was jointly won by Vaibhav and Daniyal for treatment of textile affluent and plastic with bio-mass to help in controlling water and air pollution.

### **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**

- Formed on: 1958
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Chairman: Dr.G.Satheesh Reddy
- Minister responsible: Nirmala Sitharaman
- Parent: Ministry of Defence
- It is charged with the military's research and development

### **18. Digital Sukoon founder, Sudhanshu Kumar received Best Digital Agency award**

International Human Rights Council at Hotel Sea Princess Juhu Mumbai honoured digital Sukoon founder, Sudhanshu Kumar with the Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Nobel Award.

Among the awardee, Digital Sukoon was the Best Digital Agency of the Year 2019 to receive the award.

Yogesh Lakhani of Bright Outdoor Media, Actor Johnny Lever, Jasleen Matharu also received awards in various other categories.

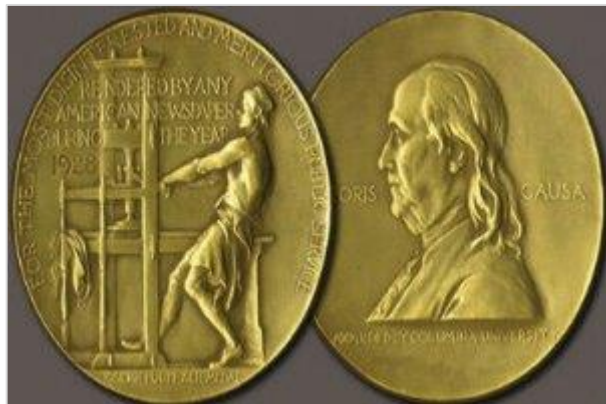


### 19. Pulitzer Prize for New York Times and Wall Street Journal

The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal were awarded Pulitzer Prizes for their separate investigations of President Donald Trump and his family.

The Times won the prestigious journalism award for a probe of the Trump family's finances that debunked his claims of self-made wealth and revealed a business empire riddled with tax dodges.

The Associated Press won a Pulitzer for international reporting for its coverage of the war in Yemen. Reuters was honoured for international reporting for its coverage of atrocities committed against Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar.



### 20. Crying Girl photo by John Moore won the World Press Photo of the Year Award

Veteran Getty Images photographer John Moore's photograph of a young girl Yanela Sanchez crying as she and her mother are taken into custody by US border officials in McAllen, Texas, USA, after crossing into the US from Mexico won the World Press Photo of the Year and the first prize in the Spot News, Singles, category.

He received €10,000 (£8,600) as prize amount.

Dutch-Swedish photographer Pieter Ten Hoopen won the "World Press Photo Story of the Year Award" for the image of 2018 mass-migrant caravan to the US border.



For 62 years, the World Press Photo Foundation has recognized the best contributions to visual journalism by professional photographers through its international World Press Photo Contest.

This year's winners were selected from 78,801 images entered by 4,738 photographers world-wide.

## 21. Three teams from India awarded in NASAs Human Exploration Rover Challenge

NASA has awarded three teams from India as part its annual Human Exploration Rover Challenge, which invites high school and college students to build and test roving vehicles for future missions to the Moon, Mars and beyond. Nearly 100 teams took part in the competition.



The team from KIET Group of Institutions in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, won the "AIAA Neil Armstrong Best Design Award".

The Mukesh Patel School of Technology Management and Engineering from Mumbai, Maharashtra, won the "Frank Joe Sexton Memorial Pit Crew Award".

A team from Lovely Professional University in Phagwara, Punjab, won the "STEM Engagement Award".

## NASA Human Exploration Rover Challenge

The NASA Human Exploration Rover Challenge is to encourage research and development of new technology for future mission planning and crewed space missions to other worlds. The NASA Human Exploration Rover Challenge prior to 2014 referred to as the Great Moonbuggy Race. It is an annual competition for high school and college students to design, build, and race human-powered, collapsible vehicles over simulated lunar/Martian terrain. The competition was first held in 1994. NASA sponsors the competition since 1996, the U.S. Space & Rocket Center, hosts.

## 22. Cipla chairman Hamied receives UK Royal Society honour

Prominent scientist and businessman Yusuf Hamied is among a host of Indian-origin experts honoured in the 2019 list of new fellows of the UK's Royal Society.

He is known for his effort to produce low-cost drugs to treat diabetes, cancer and other diseases.

The Royal Society is an independent scientific academy of the UK and the Commonwealth, dedicated to promoting excellence in science.



His honorary fellowship of the world's oldest scientific academy came alongside 51 new fellows and 10 new foreign members as part of the 2019 cohort.

Other Indian scientists elected fellows were Gurdial Besra, Manjul Bhargava, Anant Parekh, Akshay Venkatesh, Gagandeep Kang who has become the first Indian woman scientist to be selected as a fellow of the UK's Royal Society.

### 23. Malayalam film Bhayanakam won best cinematography at 2019 Beijing International Film Festival

Malayalam film Bhayanakam (Fear) directed by Jayaraj won the best cinematography award at the Beijing International Film Festival.

The cinematography was done by Nihil S Praveen.

The film had also won the best cinematography award at the 65th National Film Awards.

The film portrays the visits of first World War veteran to a small village in the backwaters of Kerala's Kuttanad as a postman during the World War-II. He shares with the families the good and bad news of the soldiers who took part in the war.



Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan-starrer Zero was screened at the end of the festival.

The festival also screened five Indian films, including Satyajit Ray's "Pather Panchali", "Aparajito", the romantic comedy "Love Per Square Foot", the 2018 Indian romantic comedy and the thriller "Ittefaq".

### 24. KAU IPR Cell Won The National IP Award 2019

Intellectual Property Rights Cell (IPR Cell) of Kerala Agricultural University (KAU)

The award comprises of INR 1 lakh, citation and memento.

#### About World IP Day

World IP Day is observed on April 26.

The award constituted by the Indian Intellectual Property Office under the Union Ministry of Industry and Commerce

It is conferred on persons and organisations working in the field of patents, trademarks, and Geographical Indications.



### 25. Swacchta Pakhwada Awards 2019 awarded to All India Radio

All India Radio, Publication Division and Children's Film Society of India were given Swachhta Pakhwada Awards-2019 in New Delhi.

Secretary in the Information and Broadcasting Ministry Amit Khare gave away the awards.

Director General of All India Radio F. Sheheryar and Director General (News) Ms. Ira Joshi received the Award for All India Radio.



Press Council of India, Press Information Bureau and BECIL were also mentioned during the award ceremony for their efforts during the Swachhta Pakhwada.

## Swachhata Pakhwada

Swachhata Pakhwada started in April 2016 with the objective of bringing a fortnight of intense focus on the issues and practices of Swachhata by engaging GOI Ministries/Departments in their jurisdictions.

## 26. Benny Antony won National Intellectual Property Award

Benny Antony, Joint Managing Director, the Kochi-based Arjuna Natural Ltd, has been conferred with the National Intellectual Property Award for 2019 in the category of Top Individual for Patents and Commercialization.

He is the inventor of BCM-95, the world's leading patented turmeric extract formulation, with over 80 international patents to his credit.

Antony was also conferred with the 'WIPO Medal for Inventors' jointly by Intellectual Property Office India and the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO).

## National Intellectual Property (IP) awards

The Indian Intellectual Property Office bestows National Intellectual Property (IP) awards to outstanding innovators, organisations and companies in the field of patents, designs, trademarks and geographical indications on the occasion of World IP Day every year. Both the awards will be given away on April 26 at a function jointly organised by the Indian Intellectual Property Office and the Confederation of Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (CII) in New Delhi.

## 27. Rana Dasgupta received the 2019 Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize

Author Rana Dasgupta was awarded the Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize 2019 for his 2010 novel Solo that is a tale of estrangement and the ultimate failure of material existence. It is the second edition of the Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize. The Prize aims to revive poetry and books that can change lives. The prize consists of an amount of \$10,000, a Tagore statue and a certificate for contribution to literature will be given to the awardee.



### **Other Awardees**

Yohei Sasakawa, the World Health Organization Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination was awarded for the category of social achievement. He was recognized for his incredible efforts to uproot leprosy and great contribution to world peace. Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen was awarded as a beacon of democracy.

### **About the Tagore Awards**

Tagore Prize is founded and launched with a strong vision to be a platform and a vehicle for improving and inspiring World Peace, Literature, Art and Education. The prizes promote the culture and beauty of literature just as Rabindranath Tagore had taught us to, but also, the culture and society of tolerance, harmony and non - discrimination.

### **Rabindranath Tagore**

Rabindranath Tagore was a Bengali polymath, poet, musician, and artist from the Indian subcontinent. He reshaped Bengali literature and music, as well as Indian art with Contextual Modernism in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Author of the profoundly sensitive, fresh and beautiful verse of Gitanjali, he became the first non-European to win the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1913.

Tagore's poetic songs were viewed as spiritual and mercurial. He is sometimes referred to as the Bard of Bengal. His compositions were chosen by two nations as national anthems: India's Jana Gana Mana and Bangladesh's Amar Shonar Bangla. The Sri Lankan national anthem was inspired by his work.

### **28. Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Award 2019 was announced**



The prestigious Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Award 2019 was awarded to National Award-winning filmmaker Madhur Bhandarkar, popular scriptwriter Salim Khan and dancing diva Helen. The award aims to encourage legends from the fields of music, drama, art and social work.



### Complete list of Awardees

Lifetime Award – **Salim Khan**

Special Award for the contribution to Indian cinema – **Madhur Bhandarkar**

Special Award – **Helen**

Vagvilasini Award – **VasantAbaji Dahake**

Mohan Wagh Award (Best Drama of the Year 2019) – **SoyareSakal**

Anandmayee Puraskar – **Pandit Suresh Talwalkar**

Award for music and art – **Classical dancer Sucheta Bhide-Chapekar**

### Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Award 2019

Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Smruti Pratishthan, Pune, a charitable trust established and nurtured over the last 30 years by the Mangeshkar family, felicitated legends from the fields of music, drama, art and social work with the Deenanath Award and other awards.

### 29. Gagandeep Kang: The 1st Indian to be receive Fellowship of the Royal Society (FRS)

Gagandeep Kang becomes first Indian woman scientist to be awarded Fellowship of the Royal Society (FRS), United Kingdom. Gagandeep Kang is a clinician-scientist. She is well known for her key role in the development of Rotavac. She is currently appointed as executive director of Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI), Faridabad.



### Rotavac

Rotavac is India's first indigenously developed vaccine for rotavirus infections, which is responsible for childhood diarrhea. It was developed by Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech Limited and Pune-based Serum International. Rotavac was licensed for use in India in 2014 and is manufactured by Bharat Biotech International Limited.

Rotavirus vaccine is a vaccine used to protect against rotavirus infections. Rotavirus is the leading cause of severe diarrhea among young children. Rotavac is a live attenuated,

monovalent vaccine containing a G9P[11] human strain isolated from an Indian child. It is given by mouth in a three-dose series, 4 weeks apart, beginning at 6 weeks of age up until 8 months of age.

The vaccines prevent 15–34% of severe diarrhea in the developing world and 37–96% of severe diarrhea in the developed world. Vaccines decrease the risk of death among young children due to diarrhea. Immunizing babies decreases rates of disease among older people and those who have not been immunized. The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends that rotavirus vaccine be included in national routine vaccinations programs.

### **Fellowship of the Royal Society (FRS)**

It is the oldest scientific academy since 1663. The award is sponsored by Royal Society of London. The award recognizes the individuals who made a substantial contribution to the improvement of natural knowledge in fields of natural knowledge, including mathematics, engineering science, and medical science.

### **30. Jacques Kallis has been honoured with the Order of Ikhamanga in the Silver Division**

Ex-South Africa all-rounder Jacques Kallis has been honoured with the Order of Ikhamanga in the Silver Division. Kallis has been rewarded for his successful cricketing career. He played 166 Tests, 328 ODIs and 25 T20Is, returning 62 hundred and 577 wickets.

The national honour is bestowed by the President of South Africa. The honour recognizes the citizens who have made significant contributions to arts, literature, music, journalism, culture, and sports.

### **Order of Ikhamanga Grades**

Gold (OIG) - For exceptional achievement

Silver (OIS) - For excellent achievement

Bronze (OIB) - For outstanding achievement

Eligibility: **South African citizens**

### **South Africa**

President: **Cyril Ramaphosa**

Deputy President: **David Mabuza**

Currency: **South African Rand (ZAR)**

### 31. Alfred Brownell was awarded the Goldman Environmental Prize

Alfred Brownell, an environmental lawyer, and activist was awarded the Goldman Environmental Prize. He was awarded for exposing alleged abuse by the palm oil company Golden Veroleum Liberia and helping to prevent it from converting about 50 km<sup>2</sup> of forest that is home to elephants, pygmy hippopotamuses, and chimpanzees. The company had been given a green light in 2010 by the government to expand in the country and was poised to turn more than 2,000 km<sup>2</sup> of the lush forest into palm oil plantations. He won the Goldman prize along with five others for grassroots environmental activism.



#### Other Awardees

- Linda Garcia of Vancouver, Washington, who rallied local communities to successfully prevent the construction of North America's largest oil terminal.
- Ana Colovic Lesoska of North Macedonia, whose seven-year campaign helped stop hydroelectric projects from being built in the country's largest national park.
- Bayarjargal Agvaantseren of Mongolia, who led the fight to create the Tost Tosonbumba Nature Reserve.
- Jacqueline Evans of the Cook Islands, whose work led to the conservation and sustainable management of all of the Cook Islands' ocean territory and creation of 15 marine protected areas.
- Alberto Curamil of Chile, a jailed indigenous activist who had protested several hydroelectric projects in the country.

#### About Goldman Environmental Prize

The prize was created in 1989 by philanthropists Richard and Rhoda Goldman. Winners are selected from nominations made by environmental organisations and others. The prize carries a \$200,000 award.

### 32. AIFF recommends names of Gurpreet Singh Sandhu and Jeje Lalpekhluva for Arjuna award 2019

All India Football Federation (AIFF) recommended the names of Gurpreet Singh Sandhu and Jeje Lalpekhlua for the prestigious Arjuna award this year.

The federation had been pushing the cases of the two footballers since 2017 but the Arjuna award committee continued to ignore their claims.

In 2017, the AIFF recommended the two footballers along with then Indian women's team captain Bembem Devi but only the last named was conferred with the award. Sandhu and Jeje's names were sent again last year but they did not receive the approval.



# Bills and Acts

## 1. RTI Act supersedes Official Secrets Law

Delivering a separate judgment in the Rafale case, Justice K.M. Joseph has made the following observations:

The Right to Information Act confers on ordinary citizens the 'priceless right' to demand information even in matters affecting national security and relations with a foreign state.

Justice Joseph's judgment countered the claim made by the government for privilege over Rafale purchase documents under the Official Secrets Act (OSA), saying it affected national security and relations with France.

Justice Joseph said the Right to Information (RTI) Act overawes the OSA.

Under Section 8(2) of the RTI Act, the government cannot refuse information if disclosure in public interest overshadows certain 'protected interests.'

Justice Joseph in his judgment has stated that through Section 8(2) of the RTI Act, Parliament has appreciated that it may be necessary to pit one interest against another and to compare the relative harm and then decide either to disclose or to decline information. If higher public interest is established, it is the will of Parliament that the greater good should prevail though at the cost of lesser harm being still occasioned.



## 2. PMLA prevails over Bankruptcy Act and Insolvency Code: Delhi HC

The Delhi High Court has ruled that Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) prevails over the Bankruptcy Act and insolvency code when it comes to attachment of properties obtained as 'proceeds of crime'.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) had challenged the orders of PMLA appellate tribunal on the pleas of various banks. PMLA Tribunal had held that third parties, banks in this case, which have legitimately created rights such as a charge, lien or other encumbrances, have a superior claim over such properties.



### Observations made by Delhi High Court

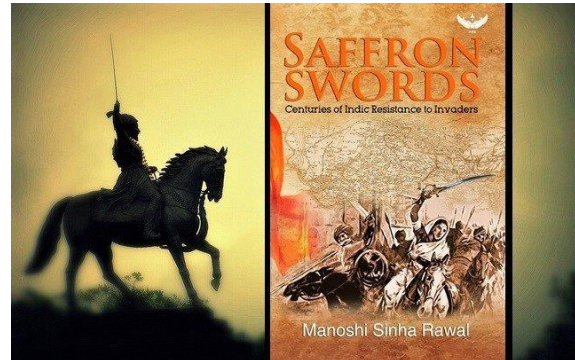
- PMLA, Recovery of Debt and Bankruptcy Act (RDBA), Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securities Interest (SARFAESI) Act and Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) must co-exist and be enforced in harmony.
- The Delhi High Court has set aside the verdict of the PMLA tribunal and held that the objective of PMLA being distinct from the purpose of RDBA, SARFAESI Act and IBC.
- RDBA, SARFAESI Act and IBC doesn't not prevail over PMLA.
- The attachment order under the PMLA will not be illegal only because a secured creditor has a prior secured interest [charge] in the property, within the meaning of the expressions used in RDBA and SARFAESI Act.
- Also mere issuance of an order of attachment under the PMLA does not ipso facto render illegal a prior charge or encumbrance of a secured creditor, the claim of the latter for release [or restoration] from PMLA attachment being dependent on its bonafides. Delhi High Court has stated that by the virtue of Section 71, PMLA has the overriding effect over other existing laws in the matter of dealing with "money-laundering" and "proceeds of crime".

# Books and Authors

## 1. Garuda Prakashan Launches 'Saffron Swords'

The Indian Publishing company, **Garuda Prakashan** Private Limited, launched its book '**Saffron Swords- Centuries of Indic Resistance to Invaders**'.

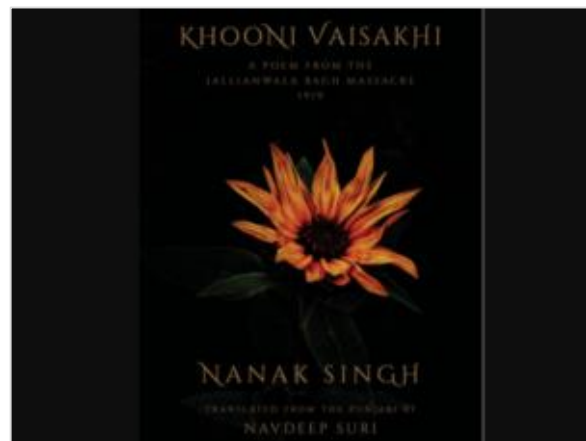
Written by **Manoshi Sinha Rawal**, it is a book on 52 unsung warriors of India from the last 1300 years.



## 2. Book On Jallianwala Bagh Poem 'Khooni Vaisakhi' Released In UAE

A book containing English translation of the 100-year-old classic Punjabi poem about Jallianwala Bagh massacre, 'Khooni Vaisakhi' has been released in Abu Dhabi. India's Ambassador to the UAE Navdeep Singh Suri commended the launch of the book.

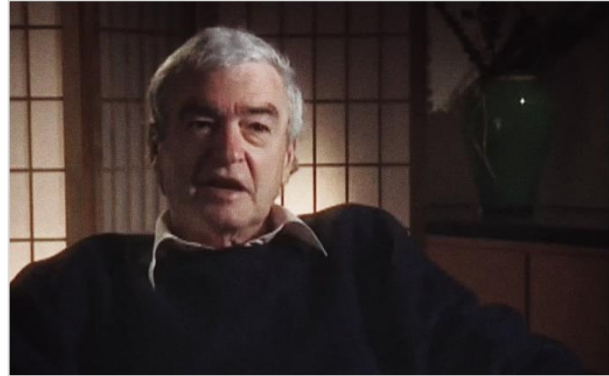
The poem was translated by Mr. Suri whose grandfather, revolutionary poet and novelist Nanak Singh, a Jallianwala Bagh survivor, wrote it after witnessing first-hand the events of April 13, 1919.



# Deaths

## 1. Terry Rawlings, the British film and sound editor passed away

Terry Rawlings, a British film and sound editor passed away. He was an Oscar nominee for his work on Best Picture winner "Chariots of Fire,". He was born in 1933. The 5-time BAFTA nominee also received a career achievement award from the American Cinema Editors society in 2006.



## 2. Former Indian footballer Pungam Kannan passed away

Former Indian footballer Pungam Kannan passed away due to prolonged illness. He was 80 years old. Kannan is survived by his wife Antoinette and two daughters.

Kannan played 14 matches for India & was the former Mohun Bagan & East Bengal forward. He won Santosh Trophy for Bengal twice in a row (1971-73) and was the top-scorer. He was known as the 'Pele of Asia'.



## 3. Former president of Ethiopia, Negasso Gidada passed away

Former president of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Negasso Gidada passed away in Germany where he was undergoing medical treatment. He was 75 years of age. He was the president of Ethiopia between 1995 and 2001.

He served as president for six years until he fell out with the late Prime Minister Meles Zenawi's administration. Apart from serving in the role of heads of state, he was a member of the Constitution draft Committee.





# Defence

## 1. Air Marshal NS Dhillon to be designated as new Strategic Forces Command (SFC) Chief

Fighter pilot **Air Marshal Navkaranjit Singh Dhillon** has been appointed as the new Strategic Forces Command Chief.

He will succeed in Jasbir Walia.

He was commissioned as a fighter pilot in the Indian Air Force on December 1981. He has experience as a Commanding officer in MiG-21 Sqn and as a Chief Operating Officer of a premier flying base.



## 2. Defence ministry inducted LCU L56, its 6th transport ship

The defence ministry has inducted an indigenously designed and built transport ship into the Indian Navy. Landing Craft Utility (LCU) L56 is the sixth ship of LCU Mk-IV class to be inducted into the Indian Navy.

Amphibious operations capability including transport of troops, tanks, and equipment will get enhanced with the addition of this LCU which will be based at Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The ship is commanded by Lt Cdr Gopinath Narayan and has a complement of five officers and 50 sailors.



## Indian Navy

**Part of:** Indian Armed Forces

**Indian Navy Day:** 4th December

**Chief of the Naval Staff:** Admiral Sunil Lanba

**Vice Chief of the Naval Staff:** Vice Admiral Ajit Kumar

**Supreme Commander:** President of India

**Aim:** To safeguard the nation's maritime borders, and in conjunction with other Armed Forces of the union

### 3. GRSE becomes 'first' Indian shipyard to deliver 100 warships

Garden Reach Ship Builders and Engineers Ltd (GRSE) became the "first Indian shipyard" to build and deliver 100 warships.

GRSE Chairman and Managing Director, Rear Admiral (Retd) V K Saxena, formally handed over the 100th warship -- 'IN LCU L-56' -- to the Indian Navy.

In the last 59 years, the company has built around 780 platforms, including 100 warships to the Indian Navy, the Coast Guard, and the Mauritius Coast Guard.



#### About GRSE

**GRSE** - **G**arden **R**each **S**hip Builders and **E**ngineers Ltd.

It is one of India's leading shipyards.

Located in: Kolkata, West Bengal.

Founded: 1884

### 4. US approved to sell 24 'Romeo' Seahawk helicopters to India for USD 2.4 billion

The US has approved the sale of 24 multi-role MH-60 'Romeo' Seahawk helicopters to India at an estimated cost of \$2.6 billion.

The Lockheed Martin-built helicopters are designed for hunting submarines, targeting ships, and conducting search-and-rescue operations at sea.

It is considered the world's most advanced maritime helicopter.

The helicopters are currently deployed with the US Navy.



These helicopters would replenish India's aging fleet of British-made **Sea King** helicopters.

### 5. Indian Navy to acquire 6 lethal submarines under Project-75 India at Rs 50,000 crore

Under Project 75-India, the Navy wants to build six conventional diesel-electric submarines which would be almost 50 per cent bigger than the under-construction Scorpene class submarines being built at the Mazagon Dockyards Limited in Mumbai.

The submarines should have the ability to carry and launch 18 heavyweight torpedoes in the sea.

For the Indian Navy, the Project 75I-class submarine is a follow-on of the Project 75 Kalvari-class submarines.



The submarines will be equipped with heavy-duty firepower as it wants the boats to have at least 12 Land Attack Cruise Missiles (LACM) along with Anti-Ship cruise missiles (ASCM).

## 6. Indo US military exercise concluded in New Delhi on 5th March

The military training exercise of the United States military forces from the 1st Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne) with the Indian National Security Guard in New Delhi concluded on 5th March.

The month-long exercise provided soldiers hands-on experience in real urban settings, such as hotels and transportation hubs, in preparation for the possibility of terror attacks on vulnerable soft targets. These training events are part of



US Indo-Pacific Command's Theater Security Cooperation Programme, conducted by the US military with a select group of nations in the Indo-Pacific region to enhance coordination and capabilities.

Military collaboration between the two countries is a result of growing high-level trust and consistent efforts by both sides to broaden the ways in which the US and India can work together. Consul General of US Consulate at Hyderabad, Katherine Hadda addressed the soldiers at the closing ceremony.

## 7. DRDO says that all low earth satellites are in reach of ASAT missile

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) said that the anti-satellite (ASAT) test, Mission Shakti, conducted in the month of March is a "deterrence capability" and the missile can cover all satellites in Low Earth Orbit (LEO).



LEO was chosen based on simulations with the primary objective being to minimise debris. It was intentionally done at 280 km altitude so that debris decay fast. It also said that the guidance and control algorithm has been developed to do interception at 1,000 km above the earth. The test covered all LEO satellites, including those for military use.

DRDO also reported that NASA is continuing its cooperation with India, including in the manned mission to space.

## 8. Biannual Army Commanders Conference began in New Delhi

The biannual Army Commanders' Conference began in New Delhi for the planning and execution process of the Indian Army.



Some issues like the management of the extant security dynamics, mitigation of future security threats were discussed in this conference.

Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman delivered her opening address at the conference and the Chief of the Army Staff chaired the conference.

## About Defence Ministry

Formed: 1776; 243 years ago

Headquarters: Cabinet Secretariat, Raisina Hill, New Delhi

## 9. INS Shakti, INS Kolkata to take part in Chinese Navys 70th anniversary celebrations

The two ships are scheduled to visit Chinese port of Qingdao from 21 to 26 April to participate in an International Fleet Review to celebrate the 70th anniversary of People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy.

INS Kolkata is the lead ship of the Kolkata-class stealth guided-missile destroyers of the Indian Navy.

INS Shakti is tanker and supply ship.

Over 60 countries would join the commemorative event for the PLA Navy's 70th founding anniversary on April 23.



## 10. India-Singapore Joint Military Exercise Bold Kurukshetra2019

Military forces of India and Singapore to participate in a joint exercise in Babina Cantonment in Jhansi.

The three-day exercise, 'Bold Kurukshetra-2019', conducted to develop military technology, boost maritime security and bolster the nations' fight against terrorism.

The two countries signed a cooperation agreement to strengthen the defence ties between Indian Military and Singapore Armed Forces in November.

### About Singapore

President: Halimah Yacob

Prime Minister: Lee Hsien Loong

Deputy Prime Ministers: Teo Chee Hean Tharman

Capital: Singapore

## 11. Government clears procurement of 464 T-90 tanks from Russia

Amid increased tensions with Pakistan, the Central government has cleared the procurement of 464 T-90 tanks from Russia in a deal worth over Rs 13,500 crore. Under the new deal, the tanks would be provided to the Armoured Corps of the force which will use them for deployment along the border with Pakistan.

The deal would increase the number of T-90s in the Army to close to 2,000 along with the remaining T-72 and T-55s. The Indian Army had first purchased T-90 tanks in 2001 when 310 units were ordered. The Indian Army is projected to have a force of over 1,600 T-90 tanks by 2020.



The army is also looking to develop new tanks under the Futuristic Main Battle Tank project. The Army also operates two regiments of the Arjun Mark 1 tanks, which are mainly used in the desert terrain due to their weight.

## 12. INS Kozhikode was decommissioned after three decades of service

Indian Naval Ship Kozhikode was decommissioned in a ceremony held at Naval Jetty, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh on 13th April. Vice Admiral S.N. Ghormade, Chief of Staff, Eastern Naval Command, was the chief guest on the occasion. INS Kozhikode gracefully retired as an operational ship after three decades of service in the Indian Navy.



Capt. P. Sasidharan (Retd.), Commissioning Executive Officer, Cdr. Afzal Khan, Commissioning Navigating Officer, Cdr. V.K. Sharma (Retd.) Commissioning Engineering Officer and Ms. Madhavi Sani, wife of late Cdr. Nadeem Sani, Commissioning Gunnery Officer of the ship, also graced the occasion. As part of the decommissioning ceremony, a 'Barakhana' for retired and serving sailors and their families was held.

### INS Kozhikode

- INS Kozhikode was commissioned on December 19, 1988, at Riga (erstwhile USSR).
- It was named after the historic port of Calicut, the ship was an integral part of the 21 Mine Counter Measures Squadron, based in ENC at Visakhapatnam.
- INS Kozhikode (M71) was a minesweeper of the Karwar class, of similar design to the Pondicherry-class ships that were in service with the Indian Navy till 2012.
- It was built by the Sredne-Nevskiy Shipyard at Saint Petersburg, Russia, except for the addition of surface-to-air missiles.
- Kozhikode was the sixth and the last of the modified 'Natya' class of minesweepers.
- The ship took part in the International Fleet Review 2016 that was held off the coast of Visakhapatnam.

## 13. Indias 1st indigenously made long-range missile Nirbhay successfully test fired

Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test fired the India's first indigenously designed and developed long-range sub-sonic cruise missile 'Nirbhay' from a test range in Odisha's Chandipur.

'Nirbhay' is designed to carry conventional and 300-kilogram nuclear warheads.

The missile weighs 1,500 kg, width of 0.52 meters and has a wingspan of 2.7 metre.

It is all-weather missile and can be launched from multiple platforms.

It also has the capability to strike land targets at a distance of up to 1,000 kilometers.

It has the ability to fly at low altitudes in order to avoid detection by enemy radar.

The missile is armed with a Ring Laser Gyroscope (RLG) based guidance, control and navigation system. It is also equipped with a MEMS-based Inertial Navigation System (INS) and the GPS system.

The organisation had conducted five trials since 2013 before this.

The last successful trial of 'Nirbhay' cruise missile was conducted on November 7, 2017.



### **About Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**

- Headquarter: New Delhi
- Chairman : Dr. G. Satheesh Reddy

### **14. China developed the worlds first armed amphibious drone attack boat named Marine Lizard**

Marine Lizard was built by Wuchang Shipbuilding Industry Group under China Shipbuilding Industry Corporation (CSIC).

It could be used in land and sea assault operations.

The amphibious Marine Lizard can possibly form an unmanned sea-land-air integrated combat system with aerial armed reconnaissance drones and other drone ships.

It has a maximum operation range of 1,200 kms and can be remotely controlled via satellites.

In ship form, the 12-metre-long Marine Lizard is a trimaran propelled by a diesel-powered hydrojet and can reach a maximum speed of 50 knots while maintaining stealth.



About China

- Currency: Renminbi
- Capital: Beijing
- Population: 138.64 crores
- President: Xi Jinping

## 15. Indian Navy-Vietnam People's Navy Bilateral Exercise Concludes

The Indian Navy undertook the second edition of the bilateral maritime exercise between the Indian Navy and Vietnam Peoples' Navy, (IN – VPN BILAT EX) at/ off Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam.

The exercise was undertaken as a part of the ongoing Overseas Deployment of Eastern Fleet ships to South East Asian countries.



### About Indian Navy

Founded: 1612

Country: India

Type: Navy

Colours: Navy blue, white

## 16. Indian Coast Guard offshore patrol vessel Veera commissioned by General Bipin Rawat

Indian Coast Guard vessel Veera commissioned by General Bipin Rawat, Chief of Army Staff in the presence of Director General of Indian Coast Guard Rajendra Singh, Chief of Eastern Naval Command Vice Admiral Karambir Singh and other senior dignitaries of the central and state government in a ceremony organised at Eastern Naval Command in Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.



Veera, the third in the series of the new generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) is under the administrative and operational command of the coast guard regional headquarters.

This is indigenously designed and built by Larsen & Toubro Ltd. at its shipbuilding facility at Kattupali in Chennai.

The 98 meters long, 15-metre wide patrol vessel has a 3.6-metre draft and a range of 5,000 nautical miles.



The vessel is equipped with advanced technology navigation and communication equipment, sensor and machinery.

It is also equipped with an Integrated Bridge System (IBS), Integrated Platform Management System (IPMS), Automated Power Management System (APMS) and High Power External Fire Fighting System (HPEFS).

The ship displaces approx 2200 tons (GRT) and is propelled by two 9100 KW diesel engines to attain a maximum speed of 26 knots.

### **About Andhra Pradesh**

Capital: Amaravati

Chief Minister: N. Chandrababu Naidu

Governor: E.S.L. Narasimhan

Important National Parks/Wildlife Sanctuaries – Mrugavani National Park, Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary.

### **17. INS Shakti, INS Kolkata to take part in Chinese Navys 70th anniversary celebrations**

The two Indian Navy Ships (INS) are scheduled to visit Chinese port of Qingdao from 21 to 26 April to participate in an International Fleet Review to celebrate the 70th anniversary of People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy.

INS Kolkata is the lead ship of the Kolkata-class stealth guided-missile destroyers of the Indian Navy.

INS Shakti is tanker and supply ship.

Over 60 countries would join the commemorative event for the PLA Navy's 70th founding anniversary on April 23.



### **About Indian Navy**

Founded : 1612

Anniversaries: Navy Day (4 December)

Chief of the Naval staff : Admiral Sunil Lanba

### **18. India and France to hold their largest Naval Exercise VARUNA**

India and France are all set to hold their largest-ever naval exercise with aircraft carriers, destroyers, submarines and fighters early May as part of their expanding strategic partnership.

The exercise has been christened 'Varuna' and will take place off Goa and Karwar from 1 May 2019.

The conduct of Varuna exercise was reiterated in the Joint Statement made by the Prime Minister of India and the President of France, on the 10th of March 2018.

The two countries will be deploying their aircraft carriers INS Vikramaditya and FNS Charles de Gaulle with their Mig-29K and Rafale-M naval fighter jets.



The Indian participation will also include the destroyer INS Mumbai, frigate INS Trikanth with their integral helicopters, IN submarine Kalvari, P8-I aircrafts and Dornier Maritime Patrol aircraft.

This comes after the successful operationalisation of the logistics support agreement between India and France under which Indian warships can access the French bases like Reunion Islands and in Djibouti.

Under the same pact, French anti-aircraft destroyer FNS Cassard had docked at the Mumbai naval port in January 2019. This was second such logistics support agreement signed by India after the one signed by it with United States (US) in 2016.

## About France

Capital: Paris

Currency: CFP Franc, Euro

President: Emmanuel Macron

Prime Minister: Edouard Philippe

## 19. Navy launched guided missile destroyer INS Imphal under project 15B

Indian Navy chief Admiral Sunil Lanba launched the third ship of Project 15B, a guided missile destroyer Imphal, at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders, Mumbai.

The launch weighs 3,037 tonnes.

Project 15B ships have been designed indigenously by the Indian Navy's Directorate of Naval Design. Each ship spans 163 metres in length and 17.4 metres at beam and displaces 7,300 tonnes. These ships will be propelled by four gas turbines to achieve speed in excess of 30 knots.



P15B ships will be equipped to carry and operate two multiple role helicopters.

The contract for the construction of four Project 15B destroyers was signed in 2011. The first ship was named INS Visakhapatnam (launched in April 2015) and the second was named INS Mormugao (launched in September 2016).

## 20. Indian Army to induct women as Jawans

The Indian Army has started the process of inducting women as jawans by starting their online registration for recruitment in the corps of military police. Until now women were being inducted only as officers and this is the first time they would be taken in as soldiers. Women will be inducted in a graded manner to eventually comprise 20% of the total Corps of Military Police and their role will range from probing crime cases to assisting the army in field operations wherever required.



Accordingly, the Army chalked out induction of approximately 800 women in military police with a yearly intake of 52 personnel per year. Currently, women were allowed in selected areas such as medical, legal, educational, signals and engineering wings of the Army.

### Role of the military police

The role of military police includes:

- Policing cantonments and Army establishments
- Preventing the breach of rules and regulations by soldiers
- Maintaining movement of soldiers as well as logistics during peace and war
- Handling prisoners of war
- Extending aid to civil police

## 21. Indian Army signed with NHPC to build underground tunnels

Indian Army signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) Limited. The agreement is to build four underground tunnels along China and Pakistan borders for storage of ammunition and other war-related equipment.

Three tunnels will be built along the Chinese border and one tunnel will be built along the Pakistan border. The tunnel can store 175-200 metric tonnes of ammunition and the cost of this pilot project is around Rs 15 crore.



## National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited

- Type: Public company
- Industry: Electric utility
- Founded: 1975
- Headquarters: Faridabad, India
- chairman & MD: Balraj joshi
- Products: Electricity generation, energy trading

It is an Indian Hydropower generation company

It has an objective to plan, promote and organise an integrated and efficient development of hydroelectric power in all aspects.

## 22. Indian Army to procure missiles under emergency procurements

The Indian Army is in the process of procuring Spike-LR Anti-Tank Missiles from Israel and Igla-S Very Short Range Air Defence Systems (VSHORAD) from Russia through a set of new financial powers for emergency procurements sanctioned by the Defence Ministry.



The Request For Proposal (RFP) for the two deals have been issued and negotiations are ongoing. Under the latest emergency financial powers, armed forces have been given a free hand to procure equipment worth upto Rs.300 crore on a priority basis.

Under the emergency route, the Army is looking to procure about 12 launchers and around 250 missiles for each system. Deliveries have to be completed in three months, but extendable to six months.

## Ministry of Defence (MoD)

**Formed on:** 1776 (as Military Department), 15 August 1947 (as Ministry of Defence)

**Headquarters:** Raisina Hill, New Delhi

**Minister responsible:** Nirmala Sitharaman

**Deputy Minister responsible:** Dr. Subhash Ramrao Bhamre

It coordinates and supervises national security and the Indian armed forces.

# Banking and Finance

## 1. Government Raises Allahabad Bank Rs 8,000 Crore as Authorised Capital

State-owned **Allahabad Bank** stated that the government has increased its authorised capital by **Rs 5,000 crore** to **Rs 8,000 crore**. The central government after consultation with the **Reserve Bank of India** increased the authorised capital of the bank.



The increase in authorised capital will help enable the bank to raise further fund up to a maximum ceiling of **Rs 8,000 crore**.

Allahabad Bank has its headquarters in Kolkata and its Managing Director and CEO is Mr. S.S. Mallikarjuna Rao.

## 2. Deposits In Jan Dhan Accounts Are Set To Cross Rs 1 Lakh Crore Mark

The total deposits in **Jan Dhan Account** are set to cross **Rs 1 lakh crore** soon. The scheme was launched on 28th August 2014 by the Modi-government with an aim to provide universal access to banking facilities to all households.



On **3rd April**, the total balance in the Jan Dhan accounts was at Rs 97,665.66 crore and the total number of Jan Dhan accounts crossed **35.39 crores**. Besides, more than **27.89 crores** account holders have been issued the Rupay debit cards.

## 3. Exim Bank Funds Projects Worth USD 267 mn In Rwanda

**Exim Bank** has provided soft loans of **USD 266.60 million** to **Rwanda** for various projects.

The funding, done in three separate tranches to Rwanda, is to support agricultural projects, development of special economic zones (SEZs) and for financing a road project in the African nation.



The capital city of Rwanda is Kigali and its currency is Rwandan Franc.

## 4. IDRBT Sets Up 5G Lab For Banking, Financial Sector

The **Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT)**, an arm of Reserve Bank of India, has launched a **5G Use Cases Lab** for banking and financial sector.



The 5G technology, along with blockchain, will be progressively adopted by banks. Department Of Telecommunications had already launched test beds for 5G use in the academia in Hyderabad, Chennai and Bangalore to develop 5G for Indian use.

### 5. Banks' Credit Growth Up 13.24% in FY2019: RBI Data

The **financial year 2019** has ended on a relatively robust note for banks. They clocked a **13.23%** year-on-year credit growth against **9.85% in FY2018**.

According to the Reserve Bank of India's scheduled banks' statement of position in India, deposit growth, at 9.99% year-on-year in FY2019, was also better than the 6.15% in FY2018.



### 6. TCS and Google Join Hands To Develop Industry-Specific Cloud Solutions

**Tata Consultancy Services** partnered with **Google Cloud** to build industry-specific cloud solutions.

TCS' solutions on **Google Cloud Platform (GCP)** will help enterprises build secure, cloud-native analytics platforms that enable high levels of personalization, and are cost-effective, easy to maintain, and future ready.



The Chairman of Tata Sons is Mr. Natarajan Chandrasekharan, while the Head of Google is Mr. Sunder Pichai.

### 7. RBL Bank Collaborates With CreditVidya For Improving Customer Experience

**RBL Bank** has partnered with **credit profiler CreditVidya** to improve the lender's customer experience.

Through this partnership, the private sector lender will be able to gain significant insights into its customer base.

RBL/Ratnakar Bank Limited is a scheduled commercial bank, with its headquarters in Mumbai.



## 8. Emirates Islamic Becomes World's 1st Islamic Bank To Launch Banking Via WhatsApp

**Emirates Islamic** has announced the launch of Chat Banking services for customers via WhatsApp, **marking a global first in the Islamic banking sector.**

The bank's customers will now able to conduct daily banking activities via WhatsApp in a seamless and hassle-free manner.

Established in 2004, Emirates Islamic, part of Emirates NBD Group, is one of the fastest growing banks in the UAE.



## 9. BSE, HDFC Bank Tie Up To Strengthen Startup Platform

The **BSE** has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with **HDFC Bank** with an objective to strengthen the **BSE Startups platform.**

The MoU has been signed to spread more awareness on the benefits of the listing of startups on this BSE startup platform.



The current MD and CEO of BSE is Mr. Ashishkumar Chauhan.

## 10. RBI Issues Norms For Banks To Set Up Currency Chests

The **Reserve Bank of India** came out with **guidelines for banks to set up new currency chests**, which include a minimum area of 1,500 square feet for strong room.

The new chests should have a processing a **capacity of 6.6 lakh pieces of banknotes** per day. The currency chests should have CBL of **Rs 1,000 crore**, subject to ground realities and reasonable restrictions, at the discretion of the Reserve Bank.



Though the current headquarters of RBI is Mumbai, it was first founded on 1 April 1935 in Kolkata. The current Governor Shaktikant Das, is the 25<sup>th</sup> since its formation.

### 11. Lakshmi Vilas Bank To Merge With Indiabulls Housing Finance

The board of Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB) approved the merger of the private sector lender with Indiabulls Housing Finance (IBH) through a share swap deal.

The merger will also enable **Tamil Nadu-based LVB** to obtain a larger geographical presence. The merged entity will have a net worth Rs19,472 crore and a loan book Rs1,23,393 crore for the nine months of FY19.



### 12. BOB Becomes 3rd Largest Bank With Dena, Vijaya Merger

The amalgamation of **Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank into the Bank of Baroda (BoB)** has come into effect and all branches of the former two will function as branches of BoB.

Post the merger, Bank of Baroda has become the third largest bank in the country. The merged entity **would also receive Rs 5,042 crore fund infusion from the government.**



Headquartered in Vadodara, Gujarat, the current MD and CEO of Bank of Baroda is P. S. Jayakumar.

### 13. RBI Sets NBFC-MFIs' Average Base Rate At 9.21% For April-June

The Reserve Bank set the average base rate to be charged from borrowers by **non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and micro-finance institutions (MFIs) at 9.21%** for the first quarter of the next fiscal (April-June).

RBI, on the last working day of every quarter, comes out with the average of the base rates of the five largest commercial banks for the purpose of arriving at the interest rates to be charged by NBFC-MFIs to its borrowers in the ensuing quarter.





#### 14. HCL Completes Acquisition Of Strong-Bridge Envision

IT major **HCL Technologies** stated that its acquisition of US-based **Strong-Bridge Envision** has been completed. HCL had recently agreed to acquire the Seattle-based company to enhance its **digital transformation consulting capabilities**.



According to reports, the deal was worth **45 million dollars**. Strong-Bridge Envision is now part of its global digital and analytics business called **HCL Mode 2 services**.

#### 15. Reliance Mutual Fund Launches Voice-Based Financial Transactions

Reliance Nippon Life Asset Management (RNAM) has joined hands with Google to enable the customers of Reliance Mutual Fund to carry out voice-based financial transactions.



With this, **RNAM** becomes the **first company in India**, to provide a conversational interface that would help customers regarding funds transactions.

#### 16. Kotak Mahindra Bank Becomes First Lender To Charge For UPI Use

**Kotak Mahindra Bank (Kotak)** stated that it will charge customers for UPI transactions starting **1st of May 2019**. For each Kotak Bank account, the first **30 UPI** fund transfers will be free, after which a charge will be levied on all fund transfers from the bank account.



This will be applicable across all platforms, including Paytm, PhonePe, Google Pay or Truecaller Pay among others. The bank will charge **Rs 2.50** per transaction for an amount value below or equal to **Rs 1,000**, and **Rs 5 per** transaction will be levied for a payment value above Rs 1,000.

#### 17. Canara Bank, Canara HSBC OBC Life launch 'Webassurance'

**Canara Bank** and its life insurance partner **Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance** launched **'Webassurance'** to enable its customers to purchase life insurance in a convenient and hassle-free way.



This Life Insurance is jointly owned by **Canara Bank (51%)** and Oriental Bank of Commerce (**23%**) and HSBC Insurance Holdings (**26%**), the Asian insurance arm of HSBC.

### 18. RBI Introduces ₹ 20 Banknote In Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series

The **Reserve Bank of India** will shortly issue ₹ **20** denomination banknotes in the Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series, bearing the signature of Shri Shaktikanta Das, Governor, Reserve Bank of India.

The new denomination has the **motif of Ellora Caves** on the reverse, depicting the country's cultural heritage. The base colour of the note is **Greenish Yellow**. The dimension of the banknote will be **63 mm x 129 mm**.



### 19. Microsoft Becomes World's Third Company To Be Worth \$1 Trillion

Microsoft has reached a valuation of **one trillion** dollars for the first time after posting an increase in profits. It makes the software giant only the third publicly-traded company in history to reach the threshold after Apple and Amazon passed it in 2018.



Microsoft's current valuation also means that it has again taken over **Apple** as the world's most valuable company.

### 20. State Bank of India Launched India's First 'Green Car Loan'

**State Bank of India (SBI)** has launched India's first '**Green Car Loan**' (Electric Vehicle) to encourage customers to buy electric vehicles. The new scheme '**Green Car Loan**' will offer the loan at **20 basis points** lower than the interest rate on the existing car loan schemes.



SBI has already notified 100% migration to EVs (Electric Vehicles) by **2030** in order to decrease carbon footprints, thus being in line with the government's pledge of ensuring **30%EVs** on road by 2030.

# Environment

## 1. Two new birds spotted in North Kerala's Aralam sanctuary during a recent bird survey

The **Woolly-necked Stork** and **White-bellied Drongo**, both dry-land species of birds have been spotted in North Kerala's Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary during The 19th bird survey.

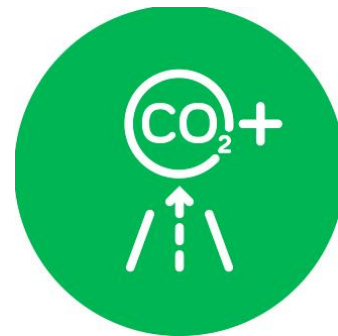
The survey was conducted jointly by the forest and wildlife department and the Malabar Natural History Society (MNHS).



## 2. Phayeng Village of Manipur tagged as India's first carbon-positive settlement

Phayeng, a scheduled caste village of the Chakpa community in Imphal West district of Manipur has been tagged as India's first carbon-positive settlement.

Also, it has been revived from the funding under National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC), which is a central scheme launched in 2015-16 to support adaptation for climate change impact in various states.



## 3. India's "Hump-backed mahseer", freshwater fish added in "Critically Endangered" list

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species added hump-backed mahseer, also known as 'Tor remadevii' or 'tiger of water' in critically endangered species list.

It is freshwater fish endemic to the Western Ghats of South India and only found in Kaveri River basins.



#### 4. Meteorological Department issues 'Yellow' weather warning for Himachal Pradesh

The Meteorological Department issued a yellow weather warning for rain in Himachal Pradesh by forecasting thunderstorm with hail in isolated places over the state.

Code color yellow is the least dangerous weather warning which indicates the possibility of severe weather over the next few days that could affect people.



#### 5. A group of jumping spiders spotted for the first time in Ernakulam's Illithodu forests, Kerala

A new species of jumping spiders named "Habrocestum longispinum" has been spotted in Ernakulam's Illithodu forests, Kerala by the arachnologists from Kochi's Sacred Heart College, Thevara. This new species belong to the genus Habrocestum, is being found in Eurasia and Africa.



#### 6. Periyar river in Kerala turns black

Kerala's Periyar River has turned black near the Pathalam Regulator cum Bridge. This discolouration of Periyar and fish kills have been a serious issue for last couple of years.

About hundred Indian anchovies (Kozhuva) fishes were found dead along the banks of the Muttar river, a tributary of the Periyar.



#### 7. Rs 100-crore penalty imposed on Andhra Pradesh Govt. by National Green Tribunal (NGT)

National Green Tribunal (NGT) has imposed a penalty of Rs 100 crore on the Andhra Pradesh government for illegal sand mining in the state.

Penalty has been imposed on the lines of plea filed by Andhra Pradesh resident Anumolu Gandhi, alleging illegal sand mining was causing damage to Krishna, Godavari rivers and their tributaries in the state.



**National Green Tribunal**

#### 8. The death toll from destructive Cyclone Idai rises above 1,000

The death toll from the cyclone idai that crashed southeast Africa last month has risen above 1000, while more than 4000 cholera cases and seven deaths from the illness reported.



The Cyclone hit Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi on March 14.

It is the second-deadliest tropical cyclone recorded in the South-West Indian Ocean basin, after 1892 Mauritius cyclone.

### 9. Last known female of Yangtze giant softshell turtle dies in China zoo

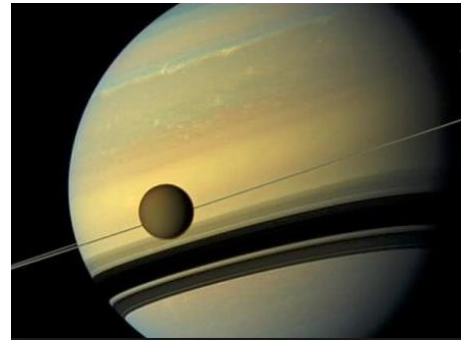
The last known female member of Yangtze giant softshell turtle, 90 years old, died in Suzhou Zoo, China.



Now, there are only three left in the world. The Wildlife Conservations Society (WCS) declares the Yangtze giant softshell turtle the world's most critically endangered turtle species.

### 10. NASA spotted lakes filled with Methane on Saturn's moon Titan

NASA's (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) Cassini spacecraft has made an incredible observation about the extraordinary deep lakes filled with methane in the Saturn's moon, Titan.



This new study has been published in the scientific journal Astronomy.

### 11. Scientists unearth 220-million-year-old dinosaurs' fossils in San Juan province

In San Juan province, western Argentina, scientists from University of San Juan have discovered a site containing fossils of nearly a dozen dinosaurs.

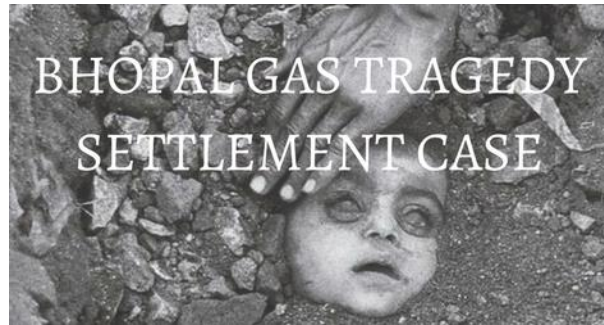


It is 220 million year old and belonging to an unknown era. They were found at the Ischigualasto National Park.

### 12. UN List Bhopal Gas Tragedy as one of the world's 'Major Industrial Accident' in 20th century

UN labour agency International Labour Organisation (ILO) in its recent report titled "The Safety and the Health at the Heart of the Future of Work- Building on 100 years of Experience" termed Bhopal Gas

Tragedy as one of the world's 'major industrial accident' which killed more than 15,000 people due to the result of at least 30 tons of highly toxic Methyl Isocyanate (MIC) gas leak in Union Carbide pesticide plant in Bhopal in 1984.



# Business and Economy

## 1. RBI Becomes The First APAC Central Bank To Begin Interest Rate Easing Cycle

The **Reserve Bank of India** has become the **first central bank** in the **Asia-Pacific** (APAC) region to begin an explicit **interest rate easing cycle**. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), headed by RBI Governor **Shaktikanta Das**, cut rates in February and April.



In the four months of 2019, the RBI has cut policy interest rates twice by 0.25% each to a one-year low of **6%**. This is the first back-to-back rate cut since the MPC was formed in late **2016**.

## 2: Kotak Bank Launches Debit Card-Based e-mandate On NPCI's API Platform

**Kotak Mahindra Bank (Kotak)** has launched the first **debit card-based authentication** solution on **NPCI's** (National Payments Corporation of India) **e-Mandate** (electronic mandate) **API** (Application Program Interface) platform.



With this, it has become the **first ever** Destination Bank to go live with both Net Banking and Debit Card-based e-mandate authentication.

The headquarters of Kotak Mahindra Bank is Mumbai and its current MD and CEO is Mr. Uday Kotak.

## 3: IndusInd Bank Receives NCLT Approval For Merger With Bharat Financial Inclusion

National Company Law Tribunal (**NCLT**) approved the merger of private sector lender **IndusInd Bank** with **Bharat Financial Inclusion** (BFIL), a microfinance company.

**IndusInd  
Bank**

Earlier, IndusInd Bank had received '**No Objection**' from Reserve Bank of India, National Stock Exchange and Bombay Stock Exchange. Bharat Financial will become a **subsidiary** of the private lender.

The headquarters of IndusInd bank is Mumbai and its present CEO is Mr. Ramesh Sobti.

#### 4. SEBI Reduces Minimum Subscription Requirement For REITs, InvITs

Markets regulator **SEBI** (Securities and Exchange Board of India) has reduced the **minimum subscription requirement** as well as **defined trading lots** for Real Estate Investment Trusts (**REITs**) and Infrastructure Investment Trusts (**InvITs**). SEBI has also increased the leverage limit for InvITs from 49% to **70%**.



While making an initial public offer and follow-on offer, the minimum subscription shall **not be less than Rs 1 lakh** for InvITs and **Rs 50,000** for REITs. Currently, in the case of a REIT issue, the minimum subscription from any investor in an initial offer and follow-on public offer is **not less than Rs 2 lakh**, while the same is **Rs 10 lakh** in case of InvIT.

The headquarters of SEBI is Mumbai and its current Chairperson is Ajay Tyagi.

#### 5. BuyUcoin Introduces First Indian Platform for Wholesale Cryptocurrency Trading

**BuyUcoin**, the second oldest Cryptocurrency Exchange in India, has introduced a new and unique platform for **wholesale cryptocurrency trading**.



It is also known as **OTC (Over-the-counter) Desk** that allows users to trade on a large scale with low price fluctuations.

#### 6. RBI Sells Entire Stake In NHB, Nabard To Government For INR 1,470 crore

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has divested its entire stake held in National Housing Bank (**NHB**), and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (**Nabard**) to the government, which now holds **100%** in these entities.



The transactions were completed in February (Nabard) and March (NHB). RBI had 100% shareholding in NHB, which was divested for INR **1,450 crore**. RBI had 72.5% stake in Nabard, out of which 71.5%, worth **INR1,430 crore** was divested in October **2010** and the residual shareholding was divested in February 2019 for **INR 20 crore**.

NHB is the regulator for **housing finance companies** while NABARD is responsible for regulating and supervising the functions of **Co-operative banks and RRBs**.



## 7. SBI General Insurance Launches Cyber Defence Insurance For Businesses

**SBI General Insurance** has launched a product - **cyber defence insurance** to protect businesses from financial and reputational losses due to cyber-attacks.

It is designed to protect against major insurable cyber exposures like hacking attacks, identity theft, disclosure of sensitive information and business interruption.



The current MD & CEO of SBI General Insurance is Mr. Pushan Mahapatra.

## 6. Bajaj Allianz Launches Total Health Secure Goal Plan

Bajaj Allianz General Insurance and Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance in collaboration launched their first product 'Total Health Secure Goal'.



The new insurance product is a combination of two existing plans - **Health Guard policy** by Bajaj Allianz General Insurance, and **iSecure** from Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance.

## 7. Reliance Retail Became India's First Retail Company To Cross The Rs.1 Lakh Crore Annual Revenue

**Reliance retail** has become the **first Indian retail** company to clock more than **Rs 1 lakh crore** in annual revenues.

The retail venture of Reliance Industries reported an income of **Rs 1,30,556 crore** for 2018-19, **89%** more than the previous year's **Rs 69,198 crore**.



## 8. Fincare Small Finance Bank Awarded the Celent Model Bank 2019 Award

Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) has partnered with M1Xchange Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) platform for MSME bill discounting.

TReDS is a digital platform to support micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to get their bills financed at a competitive rate through an auction where multiple registered financiers can participate.

The main purpose of TReDS platform is to facilitate smooth flow of liquidity in the system and make finance available at a competitive rate.



## 9. CRISIL Board Gives Nod For Transfer Of Ratings Business To New Subsidiary

**CRISIL Ltd**, a diversified global analytics company, formerly known as Credit Rating Information Services of India Limited, **will transfer its rating business to its proposed new wholly-owned subsidiary**. The board of CRISIL gave the nod for the transfer, which is being done to comply with SEBI norms of 2018.



Earlier, SEBI had modified its regulations for credit rating agencies and mandated the segregation of rating and non-ratings businesses of credit-rating agencies.

## 10. ETMONEY Becomes India's First Comprehensive Financial Services App To Integrate With UPI

With the doubling of its user base, **ETMONEY** India's largest app for **financial services** has integrated with Unified Payment Interface (**UPI**) as a payment method.

This integration will simplify the mutual fund payment for millions of ETMONEY users. ETMONEY is owned by Times Internet which is a part of the **Times Group**.



UPI is an instant real-time payment system developed by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) which facilitates inter-bank transactions.

## 11. Bandhan Bank Gets CCI Nod For Merger With Gruh Finance

Bandhan Bank has received approval from the Competition Commission of India (CCI) for the proposed scheme of amalgamation of Gruh Finance with the bank.

Bandhan Bank had, in January 2019, announced the merger of Gruh Finance with it. The move was taken to bring down promoter holding in the bank to 61% from 82.3%.



## 12. IDBI Bank Launches 'NRI-Insta-Online' Paperless Account Facility

**IDBI Bank** has launched '**NRI-Insta-Online**' account opening process for NRIs residing in the **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** member countries.



As per this, an individual will not be required to furnish physical documents as well as **KYC proofs** for opening an account with the bank.

### 13. India Becomes Net Steel Importer In 2018-19

**India** was a **net importer** of steel during the 2018-19 fiscal year, the first time in **three years**, as the country lost market share among its traditional steel buyers and imports jumped on demand for higher-quality steel domestically.



The country's finished steel exports fell by **34%** in the fiscal year that ended in March to **6.36** million tonnes, according to preliminary government data given to Reuters on Friday. During the same period, finished steel imports rose **4.7%** to **7.84** million tonnes.

### 14. ADB Committed Highest-ever \$3 bn In Sovereign Loans To India In 2018

**ADB** committed to provide **USD 3 billion** in sovereign loans to India in 2018, the **highest level** of assistance since sovereign operations began in the country in **1986**, stated the annual report of the multilateral lending agency.



In all, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), owned by **68** member countries, committed a total of **USD 3.88 billion**, including sovereign loans and co-financing during the year ended December 2018.

The headquarters of Asian Development Bank is Manila, Philippines and its present President is Takehiko Nakao.

### 15. Canara Bank Becomes The First Public Sector Bank In India To Meet RBI's EMV Mandate

**ACI Worldwide**, a global provider of real-time electronic payment and banking solutions, announced that **Canara Bank** has successfully rolled out major new functionality to support EMV card acquiring across its ATM network and Aadhaar Authentication, leveraging ACI's UP Retail Payments solution to achieve market firsts.



The headquarters of Canara Bank is Bengaluru, India.

## 16. DoT Approves Merger of Tata Tele Unit & Airtel With Riders

**The Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** has approved the merger of Tata Teleservices with Bharti Airtel Ltd., subject to the condition that it furnishes a Rs 7200 crore bank guarantee.

**Telecom Minister Manoj Sinha** gave his conditional nod for the merger. The guarantees are mostly related to **one-time spectrum charges (OTSC)** and some deferred airwave charges, according to people aware of the development.



## 17. Government Retains Interest Rate For General Provident Fund at 8%

The government has retained the **interest rate for General Provident Fund (GPF), Contributory Provident Fund** and other related schemes at 8 per cent for the first quarter of the current financial year.



The interest rate on these funds was at **8% in January-March quarter of 2018-19** and government kept it unchanged for April to June for 2019-20. The interest rate will be applicable on provident funds of central government employees, railways and defence forces.

## 18. IMF Cuts India's GDP Growth Forecast To 7.3% For FY20

The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** cut its economic growth forecasts for **India** by 20 basis points (bps) each from its January predictions to **7.3%** for **FY20** and 7.5% for the next fiscal.



Citing persistent risks from the trade war, it lowered 2019 global growth forecast by 20 basis points to **3.3%**, the weakest since 2009 when the subprime crisis had flared up.

The IMF's FY20 growth forecast for India is lower than the World Bank's (7.5%) and the Asian Development Bank's (7.2%).

The present **MD of IMF** is Christine Lagarde, **and its headquarters** is in Washington DC, USA.

### 19. India's GDP To Accelerate Moderately To 7.5% In 2019-20: World Bank

**As per the World Bank, India's GDP growth** is expected to **accelerate moderately to 7.5%** in Fiscal Year 19-20, driven by continued investment strengthening, particularly private-improved export performance and resilient consumption.



The World Bank was established in 1944 and its current President is David Malpass. Its headquarters is in Washington DC, USA.

### 20. Paytm Money Receives SEBI Approval To Start Stock Broking Services

The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has given approval to **Paytm Money** the investment and wealth management platform of the mobile payments company to start offering broking services.



It had applied for the licence in October 2018. Paytm Money has also received membership of NSE and BSE.

## 21. Karnataka Bank Signs Pact With Bharti AXA For Insurance Products

Karnataka Bank has entered into an MoU with Bharti AXA Life Insurance Company to distribute the latter's life insurance products.

The bank will be able to provide a wide choice of life insurance products to its customers across 836 branches, supported by the products of Bharti AXA Life Insurance Company. This is the third such tie-up by the bank after PNB MetLife Life Insurance Company and LIC of India.



The current MD and CEO of Karnataka Bank is Mr. Mahabaleshwara. Its headquarters is in Mangalore.

## 22. RBI Tweaks LCR Norms To Boost Liquidity

In a bid to further improve the cash position of banks, **RBI has tweaked Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR) norms** to provide an additional **2% window to lenders.**

As per **RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das**, this move will harmonise the liquidity requirements of banks and release additional money for lending.

LCR indicates the proportion of highly liquid assets held by banks to ensure their ability to meet short-term obligations.



## 23. Fitch keeps India's rating unchanged at BBB

**Rating agency Fitch** retained India's sovereign rating at '**BBB-**', the **lowest investment grade**, with a stable outlook for the 13th straight year.

Fitch expects growth of 6.8% in current fiscal 19-20 and 7.1% in the next fiscal 20-21.



Founded in 1914, the headquarters of Fitch is New York and its current CEO is Paul Taylor.

## 24. ADB Cuts India's Growth Rate To 7.2%

The **Asian Development Bank** downgraded economic growth forecasts for India and Southeast Asia for 2019 as global risks from trade tensions to Brexit mount.



According to the ADB's latest **Asian Development Outlook report**, gross domestic product in India will probably increase by **7.2%** in 2019, down from a December forecast of **7.6%**. Southeast Asia's growth estimate was lowered by 0.2 percentage point to **4.9%**.

## 25. 1st Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement Released: Repo Rate Reduced to 6%

On the basis of an assessment of the current and evolving macroeconomic situation, the **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** at its meeting today decided to:



**1. Reduce the policy repo rate** under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) by **25 basis points to 6.0% from 6.25% with immediate effect.**

**2. Consequently, the reverse repo rate under the LAF stands adjusted to 5.75%,** and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate to 6.25%.

**3. GDP growth for 2019-20 is projected at 7.2%.**

## 26. RBI Sets Limits For Ways and Means Advances

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** in consultation with the government of India has set the limits for **Ways and Means Advances (WMA)** for the first half of the financial year 2019-20 (April 2019 to September 2019) **at Rs 75000 crore.**



The Reserve Bank may trigger fresh floatation of market loans when the Government of India utilizes 75% of the WMA limit.

WMA is the temporary loan facility provided by the RBI to the center and state governments. The WMA scheme was introduced in 1997 to meet any temporary mismatches in the receipts and payments of the government.

# Important Days

## 1. International Dance Day celebrated on 29th April

International Dance Day is observed globally on 29th of April.

In 1982, the Dance Committee of ITI founded International Dance Day to be celebrated the birthday of **Jean-Georges Noverre**, the creator of modern ballet.



## 2. World Intellectual Property Day celebrated on April 26

**World Intellectual Property Day (WIPD)** is celebrated every year on **26 April** around the world to promote the importance of intellectual property rights (patents, trademarks, industrial designs, copyright) in encouraging innovation and creativity.

The theme of WIPD-2019 is "Reach Gold-Intellectual Property (IP) And Sports".



## 3. World Immunization Week 2019 Observed In April

The last week of **April** every year is observed as **World Immunisation Week (WIW)** in order to promote the use of **vaccines** for the protection of people of all age-groups against disease.

The WIW 2019 observed from 24-30th April, carrying the theme "**Protected Together: Vaccines Work**". It was observed for the very first time in **2012**.





#### 4. World Malaria Day observed on 25 April

Every year on **25 April**, people around the globe observe **World Malaria Day (WMD)** to raise awareness and funds for the treatment and prevention of the disease.



This year, the theme for the day is **"Zero malaria starts with me"** and it is being hosted by the **World Health Organisation (WHO)**.

#### 8. National Panchayati Raj Day celebrated on 24 April

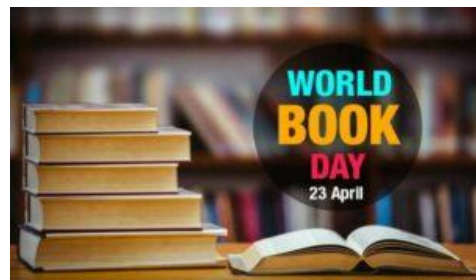
**National Panchayati Raj Day** is celebrated every year on **24th April** by the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj**. Then Prime Minister of India Manmohan Singh declared the first National Panchayati Raj Day on **24th April 2010**. This day marks the passing of Constitution (**73rd Amendment**) Act, **1992** that came into force with effect from **24 April 1993**.



The Constitution of India recognizes Panchayats as **'Institutions of self-government'**. It permits states to take steps to organize village panchayats and provide them with necessary powers and authority to help them to function as units of self-government.

#### 9. World Book Day celebrated on 23 April

**World Book Day** is celebrated every year on **23 April**. It is also known as World Book and Copyright Day, or International Day of the Book. It is organized by **UNESCO** to promote reading, publishing, and copyright.



It was first celebrated on **23 April 1995**. For the year 2019, **Sharjah**, UAE has been declared as the **World Book Capital**. It will be preceded by **Kuala Lumpur**, Malaysia in the year 2020.

#### 11. World Creativity And Innovation Day observed on 21st April

The **World Creativity and Innovation Day (WCID)** is celebrated every year on **21st April** to encourage people to use creativity in problem-solving for all issues related to achieving the 2015 **Sustainable Development Goals**.



## 12. Earth Day observed on April 22

**Earth Day** is an annual event celebrated on **April 22** Worldwide. It was first celebrated in **1970**. The theme for Earth Day 2019 is to '**Protect Our Species.**'

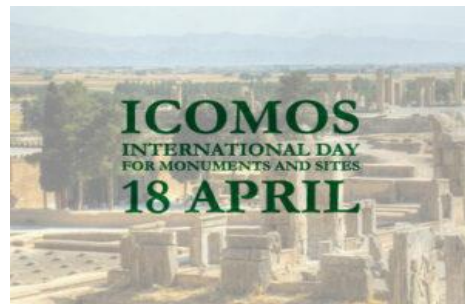
This theme is created to focus on the destruction caused to **plants and wildlife populations** mainly due to human activity.



## 13. International Day for Monuments and Sites: 18th April

In 1982, **ICOMOS** (International Council on Monuments and Sites) established 18 April as the International Day for Monuments and Sites.

The theme for International Day for Monuments and Sites 2019 is '**Rural Landscapes**'.



## 14. World Allergy Week 2019 observed from 7-13 April

The **World Allergy Organization** has organized the **World Allergy Week 2019** globally from 7-13 April 2019.

The theme for World Allergy Week 2019 is "**The Global Problem of Food Allergy**".



## 15. International Day of Human Space Flight celebrated on 12 April

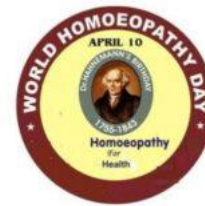
The General Assembly declared **12 April as the International Day of Human Space Flight** to celebrate each year at the international level the beginning of the space era for mankind.

12 April 1961 was the date of the first human space flight, carried out by Yuri Gagarin, a Soviet citizen.



### 16. World Homoeopathy Day observed on 10 April

The **World Homoeopathy Day 2019** will be observed across the world on April 10 to commemorate the birth anniversary of the founder of Homoeopathy, **Dr Christian Fredrich Samuel Hahnemann**.

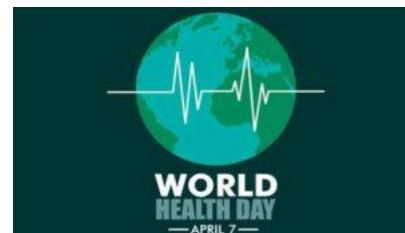


On the occasion of the World Homoeopathy Day 2019, the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH), an autonomous research organisation under the Union Ministry of AYUSH organised **a two-day convention (on 9th and 10th April)** at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi.

### 17. World Health Day celebrated on 7 April

**April 7** of each year marks the celebration of **World Health Day**.

The theme of World Health Day 2019 is **'Universal health coverage (UHC): Everyone, Everywhere'**, according to WHO.



### 18. National Maritime Day observed on 5 April

**In India, the National Maritime Day** is celebrated every year on **April 5**. The day was first celebrated on **April 5, 1964**.

The theme of the 56th edition of the National Maritime Day is **"Indian Ocean-An Ocean of opportunity"**.



### 19. World Autism Awareness Day celebrated on 2 April

The **United Nations General Assembly** unanimously declared **2 April as World Autism Awareness Day** to highlight the need to help improve the quality of life of those with autism so they can lead full and meaningful lives as an integral part of society.

The theme for this year is 'Assistive Technologies, Active Participation'.



## 20. International Mine Awareness Day: 4 April

**International Mine Awareness Day (IMAD)** is organized across the world on 4th of April to foster the establishment and development of national mine-action capacities in countries.

The Theme for IMAD 2019 is "**United Nations Promotes SDGs – Safe Ground – Safe Home**".



# International

## 1. Vladimir Putin, Kim Jong Un Hold 1st-Ever talks

Russia's Vladimir Putin and North Korea's Kim Jong Un met face-to-face for the first time and vowed to seek closer ties.

The meeting was **held at Russia's Pacific port city of Vladivostok**. Efforts to ease tensions on the Korean peninsula and ways to boost economic ties were discussed.



Six-party talks on North Korean de-nuclearization started back in 2003. The talks involve China, Japan, Russia, the US along with North Korea and South Korea.

## 2. UN, EU Sign Agreement To Strengthen Partnership in Counter-Terrorism Efforts

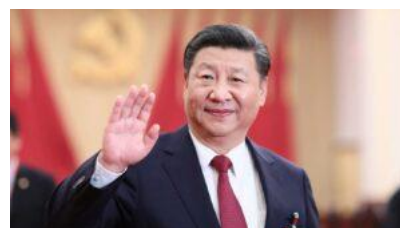
**The United Nations and the European Union (EU)** have signed a joint framework aimed at strengthening partnership in counter-terrorism efforts.



The UN Office of Counter-Terrorism announced that the framework was enacted on the occasion of the second EU-UN high-level political dialogue on Counter-Terrorism that was held in New York.

## 3. China Hosted 2nd Belt And Road Forum In Beijing

The second edition of **Belt and Road Forum (BRF)** was held in **Beijing, China** in which 37 heads-of-state and 159 countries had participated along with **United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres** and **International Monetary Chief (IMF) Christine Lagarde**.



The theme of this event was **"Belt and Road Cooperation: Shaping a Brighter Shared Future"**. The Belt and Road Forum is a part of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

## 4. 5th ABU Media Summit Held In Kathmandu

The 5th Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) Media Summit on Climate Action & Disaster Preparedness was held at Kathmandu, Nepal.

The theme of the two-day summit was "Media Solutions for Sustainable Future: Saving Lives, Building Resilient Communities".



## 5. US Withdraws From UN Arms Trade Treaty

**US President Donald Trump** stated that his administration is withdrawing the U.S. signature from the **U.N. Arms Trade Treaty**, in response to concerns from gun rights activists that it could impinge on Americans' right to bear arms.



The treaty seeks to regulate international trade in conventional arms, including everything from tanks to small arms, specifically looking to "**prevent and eradicate the illicit trade in conventional arms and prevent their diversion.**"

## 6. Two New Bird Species Found In Indonesia

Zoologists at **Trinity College Dublin** have discovered two new bird species named as the **Wakatobi white-eye** and the **Wangi-Wangi white-eye** in the Wakatobi Archipelago of Sulawesi, **Indonesia**.



Details of discovery were published in the **Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society**.

## 7. World's 1st Malaria Vaccine Launched In Africa

The **world's first-ever malaria vaccine** was launched in a pilot project in Africa's **Malawi**. The country is the first of three in Africa in which the vaccine, known as **RTS,S**, will be made available to children up to **2 years** of age.

**Ghana** and **Kenya** will introduce the vaccine soon. About 93% of the world's malaria-related deaths in 2017 occurred in Africa.



## 8. Kazakhstan Sets Up Coordinating Council To Attract Indian Investments

**Kazakhstan** has set up **Coordinating Council** for attracting foreign investments including from **India**. A decision was taken to lay down the functions of **Investment Ombudsman** in order to venture for new approaches to improve the investment scenario in Kazakhstan.



The meeting identified the **Astana International Financial Centre (AIFC)** as a Unified Center for the coordination of work on investment and promotion of the investment image of Kazakhstan.

## 9. Russia Successfully Tests World's First Floating Nuclear Power Plant

**Russia** has successfully tested the world's **first** floating nuclear power plant (**NPP**), **Akademik Lomonosov**, a subsidiary of Rosatom nuclear corporation stated.



Reactors of the floating atomic block were launched in November 2018.

## 10. Israel To Name Town In Golan Heights After Donald Trump

Israeli Prime Minister **Benjamin Netanyahu** has announced that he would name a new community in the **Golan Heights** after US President **Donald Trump**, who officially recognised the disputed area as Israeli territory.



Israel has also stated that in appreciation of the U.S. president, it intends to name a proposed **train station** near Jerusalem's Western Wall after him.

Israel captured the **Golan** from **Syria** in a **1967** war and annexed it, in a move not recognized internationally.

## 11. Indonesia Releases Special Stamp On Theme of Ramayana

**Indonesia** has released a special commemorative stamp on the theme of **Ramayana** to mark the **70th** anniversary of the establishment of its diplomatic ties with India.



The stamp is designed by renowned Indonesian sculptor **Padmashri Bapak Nyoman Nuarta**, featured a scene from Ramayana in which Jatayu valiantly fought to save Sita.

## 12. LSE Names A Professorship After Economist Amartya Sen

The **London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)** has announced the creation of the **Amartya Sen Chair** in Inequality Studies, named in honour of the India-born economist, philosopher, and Nobel laureate, who was Professor of Economics at LSE from 1971-82.



Called the “**Amartya Sen Chair in Inequality Studies,**” its holder will also serve as Director of the LSE International Inequalities Institute, which facilitates interdisciplinary work on subjects related to inequality.

Amartya Sen won the **Nobel Prize in Economics** in **1998**, **Bharat Ratna** in **1999** and National Humanities Medal in **2012**.

## 13. Asian Tea Alliance Launched In China

To boost tea trade, cultural and technical exchanges as well as the global promotion of tea, the **Asian Tea Alliance (ATA)**, a union of five tea-growing and consuming countries, was launched in Guizhou, **China**.



The members of the alliance are the **Indian** Tea Association, **China** Tea Marketing Association, **Indonesian** Tea Marketing Association, **Sri Lanka** Tea Board and **Japan** Tea Association.

## 14. Volodymyr Zelenskiy Wins Landslide Victory In Ukrainian Presidential Election

**Volodymyr Zelenskiy**, an actor and comedian has won a landslide victory in **Ukraine’s** presidential election. The incumbent, **Petro Poroshenko** conceded defeat.



He is best known for his role in the long-running Ukrainian television series **Servant of the People**, where he played the role of president.

## 15. Sri Lanka’s 1st Satellite ‘Raavana-1’ Launched Into Space



Sri Lanka's first satellite '**Raavana-1**' was launched into space from NASA's Flight Facility on **Virginia's** east shore. '**Raavana 1**' weights around **1.05 kg** and the lifespan of the satellite is around **one and a half** years.



The satellite was designed and built at the **Kyushu Institute of Technology** in **Japan** by two Sri Lankan research engineers. Its camera mission is to capture images of Sri Lanka and its neighbouring countries.

## 16. Nepal and Sri Lanka Launches Its First Satellite From USA

**Nepal** successfully launched its first satellite **NepaliSat-1** into space. The satellite developed by the Nepalese scientists was launched from **Virginia** in the United States. It is a low orbit satellite which will be in the **400-km** distance from the Earth's surface.



Sri Lanka's first satellite 'Raavana-1' was also launched into space, marking Sri Lanka's entry into the global space age.

## 17. Saudi Arabia To Host G20 Summit In 2020

Saudi Arabia announced that it will be hosting the G20 summit in November 2020 in its capital Riyadh. This would be the first G20 summit in the Arab world.



Last year's G20 meeting was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman had represented the Kingdom.

## 18. Google Opens Its First African AI Lab in Ghana

**Google** has opened its **first African artificial intelligence (AI) centre** in **Ghana's** capital **Accra**, one year after announcing the project.



The research laboratory will host software engineers and research scientists to work on projects dedicated to next-generation technology.

## 19. IMF & World Bank Launched 'Learning Coin' For In-House Purposes

The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** and the **World Bank** have together launched a private blockchain with a pseudo-token. The new token, called "**Learning Coin**" and only accessible within the IMF and World Bank, has a purpose to teach relevant individuals within the organizations about blockchain.



Though the coin has no real value – **hence the description pseudo-token** – staff members who pass educational milestones will receive the tokens which can then be redeemed for certain rewards.

## 20. China Develops World's First Armed Amphibious Drone Boat

The world's first armed amphibious drone boat named '**Marine Lizard**' and guided by China's **BeiDou** Navigation Satellite System, has been successfully tested by **China**.



The drone ship has been built by **Wuchang Shipbuilding** Industry Group under China Shipbuilding Industry Corporation (**CSIC**).

The drone ship has a maximum operation range of **1,200 km** and can be remotely controlled with the help of satellites.

## 21. UAE To Host World's Foremost Artificial Intelligence Summit

**UAE** is set to **host the world's foremost Artificial Intelligence (AI) Summit** to empower global dialogue on the future of government, business and society. The inaugural '**AI Everything**', AIE will take place at the **Dubai World Trade Centre**.



It will be hosted by the UAE National Programme for Artificial Intelligence, with the support of International Telecommunication Union, ITU, and the World Intellectual Property Organisation, WIPO, and in strategic partnership with Smart Dubai.

## 22. Hong Kong's Stock Market Overtakes Japan To Be World's 3rd Largest

Hong Kong's equity market has overtaken Japan to be the world's third largest in value, behind only the U.S. and mainland China.



Hong Kong's market cap was \$5.78 trillion, compared with \$5.76 trillion for Japan, **according to data compiled by Bloomberg** based on where primary securities are listed.

**Hong Kong** is an autonomous territory, and former British colony, in southeastern China.

### 23. Benjamin Netanyahu Re-Elected as Israel's Prime Minister

**Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu** has won a **fifth** term in office. His closest opponent's party the Blue and White party conceded defeat, clearing the path for Netanyahu to set up a coalition government.



Netanyahu is now set to be the longest-serving prime minister in Israeli history even longer than **David Ben-Gurion**, the country's first prime minister, who's often described as **"Israel's George Washington."**

### 24. India To Be Guest of Honour Country At ADIBF 2019

The UAE has announced that India will be the Guest of Honour country at the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair, ADIBF 2019, to be held at the end of April 2019.



The fair aims to highlight the UAE's rich heritage, showcasing its authenticity and modernity, as well as its cultural and literary output.

### 25. 17th MENA World Economic Forum Held In Jordan

The **World Economic Forum** in the **Middle East and North Africa (MENA)** took place at Jordan's Dead Sea. The forum assembled more than 1,000 government, business and civil society leaders from more than 50 countries.



The forum was themed on three major visions: generating job opportunities, empowering Arab women and promoting the most intriguing startups that have joined the region's industry over the past years.

### 26. London Becomes 1st City To Use Pollution Charge Zone

**London (capital city of the UK) is the first city** in the world to implement a **24-hour, seven day a week Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ)**, inside which vehicles will have to meet tough emissions standards or face a charge. Introduction of the ULEZ aims to reduce toxic air pollution and protect public health, according to a press release from the office of Sadiq Khan, mayor of London.



Theresa May is the PM of the United Kingdom.

## 27. Google Launches Its 1st Drone Delivery Service In Australia

Google parent Alphabet has beaten Amazon to launch one of the first commercial drone delivery businesses.

Alphabet made its first delivery in Canberra after getting approval from the country's civil aviation authority.



## 28. US Declares Iran Force As Foreign Terrorist Organisation

The US designated Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) a foreign terrorist organisation.

It is the first time that the US has designated an entity of another government as a terrorist organization, placing a group with vast economic resources that answer only to Iran's supreme leader in the same category as al-Qaida and the Islamic State.



## 29. Morocco-US Joint Military Exercise 'African Lion 2019' Starts In Morocco

The joint military exercise between **Morocco and the US, "African Lion 2019,"** kicked off in southern Morocco. The exercise marks the participation of thousands of military officers.

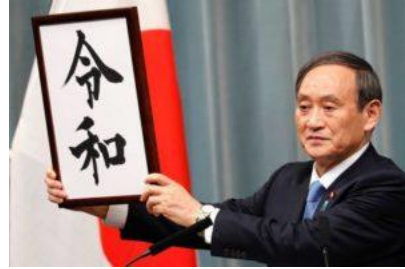
The exercise will include various types of training including command post, manoeuvring, peacekeeping, operations, and aerial refuelling.



## 30. Japan Unveils Name of Its New Imperial Era 'Reiwa'

**Japan** has announced that the name of its new imperial era, set to begin on **1 May**, will be '**Reiwa**', signifying order and harmony. The country's current era, **Heisei**, will end in April.

The name '**Reiwa**' which consists two Chinese characters, the first meaning '**good**' or 'beautiful' as well as 'order' or 'command' and the second meaning '**peace**' or 'harmony'.



### 31. Algeria's President Bouteflika Resigns

**Algeria's President Abdelaziz Bouteflika** has resigned from the post with immediate effect, ceding power in the face of massive street protests against his 20-year rule.

Bouteflika has come under mounting pressure to step down since his decision to seek a fifth term despite rarely being seen in public after suffering a stroke in 2013.



### 32. Tesla Builds Its 'Largest Energy Storage System In Asia'

**Tesla** has developed its '**largest power storage system in Asia**' at **Osaka** train station in Japan to reduce energy demand and provide emergency backup power to trains in Japan.

It was Launched in partnership with **Kintetsu**, a railway operator in Japan's Osaka. **7 megawatt-hours (MWh)** system is its largest energy storage project in Asia and the fourth largest in the greater Asia-Pacific (**APAC**) region.



### 33. China Launches Its 2nd Generational Data Relay Satellite, Tianlian II-01

**China** has successfully launched the first of its **new-generation data relay satellite, Tianlian II-01** into orbit that will provide data relay, measurement, and control services for its manned spacecraft.

It was launched by a Long **March-3B** carrier rocket from the **Xichang Satellite Launch Centre** in southwest China's Sichuan Province.



# Miscellaneous

- Department of Revenue imposed anti-dumping duty up to USD 1559 per tonne on import of certain solar cell components (Ethylene Vinyl Acetate Sheet for Solar Module) from China, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia and Thailand for 5 years, to safeguard domestic players against cheap shipments.
- Batman will become first Inductee of Comic-Con Museum's Character Hall of Fame, at 50th Annual Comic-Con International in San Diego (USA) in July 2019.
- China launched its first second generational data relay satellite named Tianlian II-01, from Long March-3B Carrier rocket. It will provide, data relay, transmission services, measurement and control for China's manned spacecraft, satellites and carrier rockets.
- Government extended deadline for linking PAN with biometric ID Aadhaar by 6 months till September 30, as 6th extension for the same.
- Apr 1 - Foundation Day of Reserve Bank of India (RBI). RBI was formed on 1 April 1935. Apr 1 is also observed as Utkal Divas, Foundation Day of Odisha (Formed in 1936).
- AIFF President Praful Patel become first Indian to be elected a member of FIFA Executive Council for a four-year period.
- US Senate confirmed David Bernhardt as secretary of Interior Department.
- Cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni has been appointed as brand ambassador of Bus ticketing platform redBus.
- Gursimran Singh appointed as Vice President of Delhi Hockey Association (DHA).
- India Electronics and Semiconductor Association (IESA) appointed Jitendra Chaddah as its Chairman.
- N. Kashinath appointed as Member (Signal & Telecom) in Railway Board while V.P. Pathak appointed as Member (Materials Management) in Railway Board.
- A K Singh, director at Life Sciences, DRDO has been honoured with Lifetime Achievement Award 2019 during 4th APJ Abdul Kalam Innovation Conclave at Chandigarh University, Mohali.
- Digital Sukoon founder, Sudhanshu Kumar honoured with Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Nobel Award by International Human Rights Council.
- Mint's Teena Thacker won Citi Journalistic Excellence Award. for her long story in Mint on Johnson and Johnson (J&J's) faulty hip implants in India.
- India signed an agreement with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Consultancy Service (NABCONS) for setting up India-Africa Institute

of Agriculture and Rural Development (IAIARD) in Malawi (East Africa) to enhance capacity in areas of agro-financing and entrepreneurship development for African countries.

- A 40 million-year-old fossil of a whale-with-four-legs, webbed feet and hooves has been excavated by palaeontologists from marine sediments inland from Peru's Pacific coast at Playa Media Luna. The whale belongs to a biological group of ancient sea mammals, termed as Archaeocetes. The 13 feet long mammal has been named as "Peregocetus pacificus".
- Book Kundan: Saigal's Life & Music", authored by Sharad Dutt has been released.
- April 5 - National Maritime day in India. 2019 theme is "Indian Ocean- An Ocean of Opportunity". It was first celebrated on 5th April, 1964.
- Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) approved loans worth \$280 million for its first two projects in Sri Lanka. A \$200 million loan will improve housing conditions for low-income communities in Colombo while another loan of \$80 million will be used to reduce risk and damage from landslides in Sri Lanka.
- Pradeep Nandrajog will be appointed as new Chief Justice of Bombay High Court (Maharashtra). He is currently Chief Justice at Rajasthan High Court.
- IT industry's apex body Nasscom appointed Keshav Murugesh as its chairman for fiscal 2019-20. U.B. Pravin Rao is appointed as Vice Chairman for same term.
- Chennai Central railway station has been renamed by Tamil Nadu Government as Puratchi Thalaivar Dr MG Ramachandran Central Railway Station, after its late Chief Minister and founder of All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK).
- Germany scientists at Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research stated that there is more Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) in our atmosphere than in past 3 million years. As per report, CO<sub>2</sub> levels should not be higher than 280 ppm without human activity, but currently it's 410 ppm and rising.
- April 6 - United Nations' (UN) International day of Sport for Development and Peace (IDSDP).
- Thottathil B. Radhakrishnan is appointed as Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court. He was first Chief Justice of Telangana High Court.
- Apr 7 is also observed as International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Rwanda Genocide. It was against Tutsi community directed by members of Hutu majority government. About 85% of Rwandans were Hutus and Tutsi minority has long dominated the country. In 1959, Hutus overthrew the Tutsi monarchy.
- Indian Navy and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) inked an MoU to undertake joint research and development of advanced technologies for Indian Navy.
- Power Producer National Thermal Power Corporation signed term-loan agreement with Canara Bank to raise Rs 2,000 crores. Loan has a door to door tenure of 15 years.

- Hockey India named Graham Reid (Australia) as the new chief coach of the India men's hockey team.
- London (UK) is first city in world to implement an always on Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ), inside which vehicles will have to meet tough emissions standards or face a charge. It aims to reduce toxic air pollution and protect public health.
- World Economic Forum in Middle East and North Africa (MENA) held in Jordan (Dead Sea).
- Google parent Alphabet launched its commercial drone delivery businesses, making its first delivery in Canberra (Australia).
- General Electric (US) in association with IIT Madras has established India's first 'Cold Spray' SMART (Surface Modification and Additive Research Technologies) Laboratory, making IIT-M only academic institution with High-Pressure Cold Spray (HPCS) facility in India.
- Telugu poet K Siva Reddy will be conferred Saraswati Samman, 2018, for his collection of poems titled Pakkaki Ottigilite (Turning Aside While Lying Down).
- The award, instituted by KK Birla Foundation, is given annually for an outstanding literary work written in any official Indian language and published during the preceding 10 years. It is the highest recognition in the field of Indian literature and carries a cash purse of Rs 15 lakh, apart from a citation and a plaque.
- National Green Tribunal Monday formed a committee to look into the alleged erosion of Yamuna floodplain due to movement of heavy vehicles in Haryana's Sonapat district.
- Guwahati Railway Station became first ever Indian railway station to get an ISO certification from National Green Tribunal (NGT) for providing passenger amenities in a clean and green environment. ISO Certificate received by Guwahati Railway Station is ISO-14001, which is for Environment Management System as per international norms which were upgraded in 2015.
- Apr 10- World Homeopathy Day. It marks birth anniversary of Dr Samuel Hahnemann who discovered Homeopathy in 1796. 2019 theme is Linking Education and Clinical Practice with Research: Advancing Scientific Collaborations.
- Payments Platform Google Pay partnered with Bullion refiner MMTC-PAMP India to initiate buying and selling of gold. Through this, Google Pay users will be able to buy 99.99 percent 24-karat gold for any value, which will be stored on behalf of the user in secure vaults by MMTC-PAMP.
- An image of a little girl crying, as she and her mother have been taken into custody by US border officials in Texas won World Press Photo of the Year 2018. It has been taken by photographer John Moore in June 2018. Dutch-Swedish photographer Pieter Ten Hoopen won "World Press Photo Story of the Year Award" for image of 2018 mass-migrant caravan to the US border.
- Apr 12 - International Day of Human Space Flight. It marks first human space flight by Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin in 1961. It was proclaimed by UN General



Assembly in 2011. The day is also observed as 'Cosmonautics Day' in Russia and some other countries.

- Digital payments security and payment facilitator PayU acquired Wibmo, a US-based financial technology firm for USD 70 million (about Rs 484 crores). Wibmo will continue to operate and serve all of its clients as a wholly-owned subsidiary of PayU.
- India and Sweden launched a joint programme that will work towards addressing a range of challenges around smart cities and clean technologies, co-funded by Indian Department of Science and Technology (DST) and Swedish agency Vinnova.
- PAISALO Digital Limited signed first co-origination loan agreement with State Bank of India, as first such agreement by SBI. Loans between 10,000 to 2 lakh are available under this arrangement.
- April 14th is Birth Anniversary of Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar. He campaigned against social discrimination towards the untouchables (Dalits). He was independent India's first law and justice minister, architect of the Constitution of India. His Birth anniversary is observed as Social Justice Day, announced in 2018. Note that UN World Day of Social Justice is observed on Feb 20.
- RailWire Wi-Fi by RailTel is now live at 1600 railway stations across country, with Santacruz railway station in Mumbai becoming the 1600th. RailWire It envisages extending broadband and application services to the public. RailTel.
- Hong Kong's equity market overtook Japan to be world's third largest in value, behind U.S. and mainland China. Hong Kong Equity market cap was \$5.78 trillion, ahead of Japan's market cap of \$5.76 trillion.
- My Circle App was launched by Bharti Airtel in collaboration with FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO). It enables women to send SOS alerts to any five of their family or friends in 13 languages, as they face any problem or panic situation. SOS alert will send user's location over SMS to five contacts.
- World's first privately funded lunar Mission Beresheet crash landed on Moon. It had problems with main engine during its descent that left it unable to slow down in time before it smashed into lunar surface. Beresheet was an Israeli mission launched by a partnership between nonprofit SpaceIL and government-owned aerospace company Israel Aerospace Industries.
- India's first exotic Bird Park 'EsselWorld Bird Park' launched by EsselWorld Leisure Pvt. Ltd. in Mumbai. It is home to over 500 exotic birds from more than 60 species of flying, terrestrial and aquatic birds and has 200 species of special plants and trees for the birds.

# National

## 1. ICMR Launches Malaria Elimination Research Alliance

The Indian Council of Medical Research has launched the '**Malaria Elimination Research Alliance (MERA)** India which is a conglomeration of partners working on malaria control in order to eliminate the disease from India by 2030.



The **National Vector Borne Diseases Control Program (NVBDCP)** of India has also developed a comprehensive framework to achieve the target of "Malaria free India by 2030".

The headquarters of ICMR is in New Delhi.

## 2. Army Starts Process To Induct Women As Jawans In Military Police

The **Indian Army** has started the process of **inducting women as jawans** by starting their online registration for recruitment in the corps of **military police**.



They were being inducted only as **officers** and this is the first time they would be taken in as soldiers.

## 3. Ministry Of Ayush Inked MoU With CSIR

The **Ministry of AYUSH** inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** for cooperation in research and education in areas of traditional systems of medicine and its integration with modern science.



Earlier, CSIR and Ayush Ministry jointly developed the **Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL)** which prevents bio-piracy and misappropriation of traditional knowledge.

## 4. Navy Chief Launches New Guided Missile Destroyer 'INS Imphal'

Indigenously designed '**INS Imphal**' a guided **missile destroyer** was launched by Navy Chief **Sunil Lanba** at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) in **Mumbai**.



It is the **third** ship under **Project 15B**. The first ship of this project, a guided missile destroyer **INS Visakhapatnam**, was launched on in April **2015**.

## 5. India And France To Hold Largest Ever 'Varuna' Naval Exercise Off Goa Coast

**India and France** will conduct their largest ever naval exercise '**Varuna**' in May 2019. It will witness the participation of aircraft carriers, destroyers, submarines, and fighters.

India will deploy its aircraft carrier, **INS Vikramaditya** with its MiG-29K fighters. Similarly, the French Navy will send its aircraft carrier FNS Charles de Gaulle with its Rafale-M naval jets, and other warships for the "Varuna" exercise.



## 6. INS Kolkata, Shakti To Participate In IFR In China

The Indian Navy will participate in **International Fleet Review (IFR)** that is scheduled to take place in **Qingdao**, China as part of 70th Anniversary celebrations of People's Liberation Army Navy (**PLA Navy**).



The Indian Navy would be represented in the IFR by indigenously built stealth guided missile destroyer **INS Kolkata** and fleet support ship **INS Shakti**.

## 7. Gagandeep Kang Becomes First Indian Female FRS

Professor **Gagandeep Kang** has become the **first Indian female scientist** to be elected as a **Fellow of the Royal Society (FRS)** in the **UK** fellowship's 358-year-history.



The 56-year-old is the Executive Director of Translational Health Science and Technology Institute at Faridabad. Other notable FRS

inducted in 2019 include Fields Medal-winning mathematicians **Akshay Venkatesh** and **Manjul Bhargava**.

## 8. Resilient Cities Asia-Pacific 2019 Congress Held in New Delhi

The Resilient Cities Asia-Pacific (RCAP) 2019 Congress is being organised by **ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability** and hosted by South Delhi Municipal Corporation in New Delhi, India.



The event offered a combination of high-level plenaries and technical sessions on the implementation and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, the **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)**, and the New Urban Agenda of 2016.

## 9. Indian Navy-Vietnam Peoples' Navy Bilateral Exercise Concludes

The Indian Navy undertook the second edition of the bilateral maritime exercise between the Indian Navy and Vietnam Peoples' Navy, (**IN – VPN BILAT EX**) at/ off Cam Ranh Bay, **Vietnam**.



The exercise was undertaken as a part of the ongoing Overseas Deployment of Eastern Fleet ships to South East Asian countries.

## 10. Coast Guard Patrol Ship Veera Commissioned

Chief of Army Staff General **Bipin Rawat** commissioned the Indian Coast Guard Ship **Veera** at a ceremony held at Naval Jetty at the dockyard at Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.



Veera, third in the series of **offshore patrol vessels** of the Coast Guard, was built by **L&T** at its shipbuilding facility at Kattupalli in **Chennai**.

## 11. India's First Foreign Interactive Bird Park Launched In Mumbai

**India's first exotic Bird Park 'Essel World Bird Park'** was launched by EsselWorld Leisure Pvt. Ltd, the entertainment arm of the **\$6-billion** Essel Group in **Mumbai**.

The Park is spread over **1.4 acres** of land and surrounded by flora and fauna. It is home to over **500** exotic birds from more than 60 species of flying, terrestrial and aquatic birds and has **200** species of special plants and trees for the birds.



## 12. Rongali Bihu Festival Celebrated In Assam

**Assam's most awaited festival – the Rongali Bihu**, also known as '**Bohaag Bihu**' which marks the beginning of the new Assamese calendar year started.

In Assam, three Bihu festivals are celebrated in a year called as Rongali Bihu or Bohag Bihu, Bhugali (**Magh Bihu**) and Kangali (**Kati Bihu**) for marking the distinctive phase in the farming calendar.



## 13. Home Expo India 2019 Begins in Greater Noida

The **8th edition of Home Expo India 2019** opened at India Expo Centre and Mart, Greater Noida. The three-day exhibition has been organized by the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH).

Home Expo India covers sectors with maximum thrust and growth potential in home décor, furnishing, furniture, flooring, and textiles.



## 12. India Successfully Test Fires Sub-Sonic Cruise Missile 'Nirbhay'

**India has successfully test-fired** first indigenously designed and developed long-range sub-sonic cruise missile '**Nirbhay**' from a test range in Odisha. The all-weather missile, has a 1,000-kilometre strike range.

The missile has been developed by Bengaluru-based Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), a lab under DRDO and can be launched from multiple platforms.



### 13. Airtel, FICCI Ladies Organisation Launch Women's Safety App

**Bharti Airtel and the FICCI Ladies Organisation** (FLO, the women business wing of apex trade body FICCI) launched a carrier agnostic safety app named '**My Circle**' which has been designed to empower women in the event of any distress or panic situation.



My Circle app enables women to send SOS alerts to any five of their family or friends **in 13 languages** including English, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, Marathi, Punjabi, Bangla, Urdu, Assamese, Oriya, and Gujarati.

### 14. President Launches 'CRPF Veer Parivar' App For Families of Martyred CRPF Troops

**President Ram Nath Kovind** launched '**CRPF Veer Parivar**' app, a mobile application for families of **CRPF** personnel killed in the line of duty.



The app was launched after the President paid his tributes to the fallen troops at the National Police Memorial in **Delhi** on the occasion of the **CRPF's 'Valour Day'**.

### 15. Guwahati Railway Station 1st To Get ISO Certification In India

The **Guwahati Railway Station** has become the **first ever railway station in the Indian Railways** to get an ISO certification from the **National Green Tribunal (NGT)** for "providing passenger amenities in a clean and green environment."



Many types of ISO certification exist and the one received by Guwahati Railway Station is **ISO-14001**, which is for Environment Management System as per international norms which were upgraded in 2015. Thus, the station's certificate reads **ISO 14001: 2015**.

### 16. India's 1st Indigenously Built Dhanush Howitzer Inducted In Army

**India's first indigenously designed and developed Dhanush artillery gun** was inducted in the Indian Army during a ceremony held at **Ordnance Factory in Jabalpur, MP**. The Army had placed an order for more than 110 of these guns with the Ordnance Factory.



**Dhanush 155mm/45 calibre towed gun** system can be deployed in all types of terrains. The Dhanush gun system is **based on the designs of the Bofors howitzer** which was inducted in the Army in the 1980s and would be the third type of artillery gun to be inducted into the force after the K-9 Vajra and the M-777 ultra-light howitzers.

### 17. Phayeng Village Becomes India's 1st Carbon-Positive Settlement

**Phayeng Village** in Imphal West district of Manipur has become India's first carbon-positive settlement.



A village is given carbon-positive tag if it sequesters more carbon than it emits, slowing accumulation of **greenhouse gases (GHGs)** and mitigating effects of climate change. Phayeng Village is scheduled caste village of the Chakpa community.

### 18. 7th Foreign Office Consultations Between India and Italy Held In Delhi

The **7th Foreign Office consultations between India and Italy** were held in **New Delhi**. The Indian side was led by Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs, A. Gitesh Sarma.



These consultations were aimed to provide an opportunity to review the follow-up actions taken after the visit of Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte in October 2018 as well as the entire range of bilateral relations.

### 19. BSNL Gets Licence For WiFi On Flights

State-owned telecom service provider **Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)** has received a license from the Department of Telecommunications to provide Internet and mobile services on flights.

BSNL and its satellite partner, **Inmarsat**, will be able to offer in-flight connectivity to airlines.



## 20. Indian Army Builds Longest Suspension Bridge Over River Indus In Leh-Ladakh

The Indian Army has successfully built the longest suspension bridge '**Matiri Bridge**' over the **Indus River** in the **Leh-Ladakh** region. Built in a record time of **40 days** 'Maitri Bridge' is longest Suspension Bridge over Indus River.

The **260-foot** long suspension bridge was built by the combat engineers belonging to the **Sahas aur Yogyata regiment** of Indian Army's **Fire & Fury Corps**.



## 21. Kandhamal Haldi Gets Geographical Indications Tag

'**Kandhamal Haldi**', a variety of turmeric indigenous to **southern Odisha**, has earned the Geographical indication (GI) tag from **Intellectual Property India**, an organization functioning under the auspices of the **Union ministry of commerce & industry**.

The recognition coincided with the state's **Foundation Day (Utkal Divas)**. Kandhamal in Odisha's southern hinterland is famed for its **turmeric**.



## 22. Government Sets Up Tribunal To Review Ban Imposed On Jamaat-e-Islami, JKLF



The Centre has set up a tribunal, headed by **Justice Chander Shekhar** of the Delhi High Court, to adjudicate if there exists sufficient cause to ban the **Jamaat-e-Islami Jammu and Kashmir (JeI)** and the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front-Yasin Malik (**JKLF-Y**) faction.



The decision has been taken by the **Home Ministry** exercising the powers conferred under the **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act**.

### 23. NuGen Mobility Summit To Be Held in November 2019

The International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT) is organizing a **NuGen Mobility Summit, 2019**, at Manesar, NCR, from 27th to 29th November 2019.



The objective of the Summit is to share new ideas, learnings, global experiences, innovations and future technology trends for faster adoption, assimilation and development of advanced automotive technologies for a smarter and greener future.

### 24. Telangana Tops In eLearning Training For Field Staff

For the **second year** in succession, **Telangana** ranks number **1** in the **e-Learning training program** of the Department of Personnel and Training (**DoPT**), Government India.



During the financial year **2018-19**, Dr. MCR HRD Institute enrolled over **20,000** field staff in different districts of the State to impart training on **12** soft skills modules and **3** domain-specific modules.

### 25. ISRO Launches PSLV C-45 Carrying EMISAT And 28 Nano Satellites

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has launched a Defence Intelligence Satellite, EMISAT in its **47th Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)** mission, along with 28 other customer satellites, onboard the advanced PSLV-C45 Rocket.



The **PSLV C45** was launched from ISRO's Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota. It is the first time ISRO is launching satellites in three different orbits. Along with that, the PSLV-C45 launch vehicle is also the first PSLV rocket to use four strap-on motors.

## 26. GRSE Becomes 'First' Indian Shipyard To Deliver 100 Warships

Garden Reach Ship Builders and Engineers Ltd (GRSE) became the '**first Indian shipyard**' to build and deliver 100 warships.

GRSE Chairman and Managing Director, Rear Admiral (Retd) V K Saxena, formally handed over the 100th warship '**IN LCU L-56**' to the Indian Navy.



## 27. Cyclone 'Fani' Intensifies Over Bay of Bengal

**Cyclonic storm 'Fani'** is likely to hit **Coastal Andhra Pradesh** by April 30 as it intensified into a severe storm and trigger thunderstorms, gusty winds and moderate rains in coastal districts and some parts of Rayalaseema.

Cyclone Fani currently lays over east **Equatorial Indian Ocean (EIO)** and adjoining the southeast Bay of Bengal.



## 28. Government Hikes Customs Duty On Wheat To 40%

The government has hiked the customs duty on wheat to **40%** from **30%** to curb imports and protect the domestic industry.

The government wants to restrict overseas purchase so that domestic prices of wheat do not come under pressure as the country's wheat output is expected to scale a record high.



## 29. IRDAI Forms Panel to Review Microinsurance Framework

**Insurance Regulatory & Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has set up a 13 member committee under **IRDAI Executive Director Suresh Mathur** to review the regulatory framework on microinsurance & recommend measures to increase the demand for such products.

The committee has been formed in the backdrop of a less-than-desired offtake of microinsurance products despite their inherent benefits.



# Persons in News

## 1. Three Indians included in Time's 100 Most Influential People List 2019

Three Indians Menaka Guruswamy, Arundhati Katju and Mukesh Ambani have featured into TIME 100 Most Influential People list of 2019. Global prominent names that have featured in this list included US President Donald Trump, China President Xi Jinping, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, Pope Francis, golfer Tiger Woods and Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg. Mukesh Ambani: He is Chairman and largest shareholder of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), a Fortune Global 500 company. It is most valuable Indian company in terms of its market value. Menaka Guruswamy and



Arundhati Katju: They are Indian women lawyers who lead the legal battle to strike down colonial era's Section 377 of Indian Penal Code (IPC), which criminalized gay sex. In September 2018, Supreme Court in unanimous decision partly struck down IPC Section 377, thus removing ban imposed on consensual gay sex and affirming human rights of LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer) community.

# Regional

## 1. Himachal Pradesh Celebrates 72<sup>nd</sup> State Day

Himachal Pradesh celebrated 72<sup>nd</sup> Himachal Day on 15<sup>th</sup> April with gaiety and fervor. Himachal Day is celebrated to commemorate its creation.

### Genesis of the Himachal Day

Before independence, most of the areas of Himachal Pradesh were part of Punjab state, and during that time this region was divided into four different regions such as Chamba, Mandi, Shimla, etc.

After the independence, in 1948 the state was declared as a union territory

On the 15<sup>th</sup> April Chief Commission inaugurated this territory and after that this day was celebrated as 'Himachal Day' every year.



## 2. Project Kannamma

Project Kannamma is the initiative of the Rotary Club of Madras North to provide sanitary napkins to the students.

It was started in August of 2018 by providing free, biodegradable sanitary napkins to 82 students at the Government High School in Uthandi of Tamil Nadu.

Today under the Project Kannamma, sanitary napkins are provided to over 300 students from across Government Schools in and around Chennai. The sanitary napkins are provided by the Irula Tribal Women's Welfare Society (ITWWS). Women from the ITWWS make 1000 pads per day, using Arunachalam Muruganatham machines.



### 3. Bamboo rice shows up in Odisha

Nearly after four decades, Bamboo rice has shown up in Odisha. The state of Odisha had last witnessed Bamboo rice in 1979.

#### Harvesting Bamboo Rice

The Forest Authorities of Chandaka-Dampara Wildlife Sanctuary in Cuttack district have opened up the gates for the forest dwellers to collect the Bamboo rice. Whenever the bamboo rice shows up, it would be accompanied by increase in rat population which starts running over the bamboo rice. Hence to avoid the menace, the forest authorities have allowed forest dwellers to harvest Bamboo rice. Further, the authorities are also planning to purchase bamboo rice from the forest dwellers to germinate bamboo trees in other areas of the state.



### 4. Utkarsh Bangla and Sabooj Sathi Schemes of West Bengal gets Global Recognition

The schemes of the West Bengal government 'Utkarsh Bangla' (skill training of youth) and 'Sabooj Sathi' (cycles for students) won the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) awards of UN.

Utkarsh Bangla got the topmost award and emerged as a winner in the Capacity Building category and the Sabooj Sathi was ranked in the first five as a champion project under ICT application: E-Government category.

#### Utkarsh Bangla

Utkarsh Bangla Scheme is aimed at providing vocational training to school dropouts. The beneficiaries of the scheme will be trained in driving, tailoring, repairing television and other electronic equipment's, beautician courses, etc.

#### Sabooj Sathi

Sabooj Sathi is a scheme of West Bengal government for distribution of bicycles to the students of class IX to XII studying in Govt. run and Govt. aided Schools and Madrashas. The scheme was launched in September 2015.



### 5. 'Disturbed Area' tag extended for 3 Arunachal districts;

The Centre on Monday extended the "disturbed area" tag under AFSPA for three districts of Arunachal Pradesh for six months more while withdrawing it partly from the state's three other districts bordering Assam.

According to a Union Home Ministry notification, the decision was taken after considering the present law and order situation in the six districts of the state.

As per the notification, the three districts of Arunachal Pradesh, which will continue to be designated as disturbed areas under AFSPA are Tirap, Changlang and Longding.

The designation, which allows imposition of AFSPA, will also continue for the four police stations areas of the state's three other districts bordering Assam.

They include Namsai and Mahadevpur police stations in Namsai district, Roing in Lower Dibang Valley district and Sunpura in Lohit district.



## 6. West Bengal treats only 49% waste water before dumping it in Ganga: NGT

West Bengal treats only 49 per cent of the waste water before dumping it in the Ganga, says a recent assessment report on the pollution in the river, prepared by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

The study raises concern about the inefficiency of sewage treatment plants (STPs) in West Bengal, which generates 1,311 million litres a day (mld) of waste water. While the 34 STPs in state have a total installed capacity of 457 mld, their actual utilisation is only 214 mld, which is only 49 per cent. Of 1,311 mld of waste water, 47 per cent is generated by Kolkata alone.



CPCB has identified 64 STPs in the Ganga river catchment (in Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal), and inspected 51 of them.

## 12 NCR districts, Agra switch to Euro-VI fuels

Supply of ultra-clean Euro-VI grade petrol and diesel has begun in cities adjoining the national capital from Monday, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) said.

While Delhi in April 2018 became the first city in the country to leapfrog from Euro-IV grade petrol and diesel to Euro-VI fuels, cities in the national capital region like Noida and Ghaziabad switched over to the cleaner fuel from Monday.

Rest of the country will follow suit from April 2020.

"Oil companies keep up BS-VI (Euro-VI) promise! 12 NCR districts and city of Agra converted to BS-VI green fuels from today," IOC said in a series of tweets.



## 7. Discovery of 'death switch' mechanism in plants may yield stronger crops: Scientists

Chinese scientists have discovered a possible "death switch" mechanism in plant's immune system that triggers infected cells to self-destruct, thus limiting the spread of the disease and keeping other parts of the plant healthy, official media here reported on Friday.

Scientists said the discovery provides clues to cell death control and immunity for plants, and they hope further research can lead to a new generation of disease-resistant crops that use significantly less pesticide and are more environmentally friendly.



The research was done by scientists from Tsinghua University and the Chinese Academy of Sciences' Institute of Genetics and Development Biology.

Their findings were published in the journal Science on Friday.

# Reports

## 1. IIT-Madras Tops HRD's National Ranking of Institutes

President Ram Nath Kovind has released the national ranking of higher institutes by the Ministry of Human Resources Development (HRD) in New Delhi.

Indian Institute of Technology Madras topped the rankings while the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore bagged the second rank followed by IIT Delhi.



Delhi University's Miranda House was ranked the best among colleges across the country, while the varsity's St Stephen's College was ranked fourth.

## 2. India Highest Recipient of Remittances At \$79 billion in 2018: World Bank

**As per the World Bank Report, India** retained its position as the **world's top recipient of remittances** with its diaspora sending a whopping **USD 79 billion back home in 2018**. India was followed by China (USD 67 billion).

The Report was titled as '**World Bank's Migration and Development Brief**'. Over the last three years, India has registered a significant flow of remittances from USD 62.7 billion in 2016 to USD 65.3 billion 2017.



## 3. HDFC AMC Ranks 1<sup>st</sup> In Terms Of Assets: AMFI Report

**India's asset management companies (AMCs)** own assets under management (AUM) worth Rs. 24.46 trillion, according to data released by the **Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi)**.

**HDFC Asset Management Co. Ltd** has claimed the top spot with an average AUM of Rs. 3.42 trillion, overtaking ICICI Prudential Asset Management Co. Ltd with an average AUM of at Rs. 3.20 trillion.





**4. India Ranks 140<sup>th</sup> In World Press Freedom Index 2019, Norway Topped**

**India** ranked **140<sup>th</sup>** out of **180** countries in the **World Press Freedom Index 2019**, released by Reporters Without Borders. The index is topped by Norway.

**Paris**-based Reporters Sans Frontieres (RSF), or **Reporters Without Borders**, is a non-profit organisation that works to document and combat attacks on journalists around the world.



**5. India Ranks 17<sup>th</sup> In Global Startup Ecosystem**

India was ranked **17<sup>th</sup>** position among **100** countries in **Startup Ecosystem Ranking for 2019** released by **StartupBlink**. It was ranked **37<sup>th</sup>** spot last year.

It takes into consideration startup ecosystems of **1,000** cities and **100** countries for the ranking. **China** was ranked **27<sup>th</sup>**. **Bangalore, New Delhi, and Mumbai** were the top cities in the Indian startup ecosystem.



**6. HDFC Bank Named India's No. 1 Bank: Forbes Magazine**

**HDFC Bank** has been identified as **number 1 bank** by customers in India, **as per Forbes World's Best Bank survey**. In the first edition of this survey, Forbes partnered with market research firm Statista to measure the best banks in 23 countries.

**HDFC Bank emerged as India's No 1 bank**. ICICI Bank was at number 2 and **SBI was surprisingly ranked 11<sup>th</sup>** in the list.



**7. India's Population Grew At 1.2% Average Annual Rate Between 2010 And 2019: UN Report**

**India's population grew** at an average annual rate of **1.2%** between **2010** and **2019** to **1.36 billion**, more than **double** the annual growth rate of **China**, according to a report by the **United Nations Population Fund (UNPFA)**.

India's population in 2019 stood at 1.36 billion, growing from **942.2 million** in **1994**. In comparison, China's population stood at **1.42 billion** in **2019**, growing from **1.23 billion** in 1994.



# Resignations

## 1. Mali's PM Soumeylou Boubeye Maiga Resigns

Mali's Prime Minister **Soumeylou Boubeye Maiga** has resigned along with his whole government, following a motion of no confidence over its failure to handle violence in the West African country.

President **Ibrahim Boubacar Keita's** office stated that the President accepts the resignation of the prime minister and that of the members of the government.



## 2. Pakistan's Finance Minister Asad Umar Resigns

Pakistan's Finance Minister Asad Umar resigned from the cabinet before securing a multi-billion dollar International Monetary Fund bailout package for the cash-strapped country. Umar recently returned after visiting the US in which the details of Pakistan's next IMF bailout were discussed.

Pakistan is seeking USD 8 billion funding from the IMF to bail itself out from a severe balance-of-payments crisis that threatens to cripple the country's economy.



## 3. PwC India Names Padmaja Alaganandan As Chief People Officer, Jagjit Singh Steps Down

PwC India announced the appointment of Padmaja Alaganandan as the firm's new **Chief People Officer (CPO)**.

She takes over the role from Jagjit Singh. Padmaja associated with PwC for the last eight years. She was the Technology sector lead for PwC's Advisory Line of Service.

The leader of the firm's People and Organisation Consulting practice. Before joining PwC in 2011, Padmaja worked in leadership roles in different organisations such



as Mercer Consulting and AF Ferguson. She is a member of CII's National HR Committee and the Committee on Skill Development. Padmaja was inducted into the firm's leadership team.

#### 4. Cairn India's CEO and CFO Resigns

Cairn India CEO **Sudhir Mathur** and CFO **Pankaj Kalra** have resigned from the firm. **Ajay Dixit**, who was CEO of the Aluminum and Power divisions of Vedanta, will take over from Mr. Mathur in the interim, after his exit. Mr. Mathur is the fourth CEO to quit the firm after it was acquired by Vedanta in 2011.



#### 5. Kirstjen Nielsen resigns as Homeland Security Secretary

**Kirstjen Nielsen**, Homeland Security Secretary, resigned her position on 7th April. Ms. Nielsen will, however, stay on until April 10. **Kevin McAleenan**, the current U.S. Customs, and Border Protection Commissioner will take charge as **Acting Homeland Security Secretary**.

Ms. Nielsen, who has had a rocky working relationship with **President Donald Trump**, handed in her resignation at a time when there were growing signs of division within the administration over how to handle the swelling numbers at the U.S.-Mexico border.



#### 6. Algeria's president Abdelaziz Bouteflika resigns after 20 years in power

Algeria's long-serving president **Abdelaziz Bouteflika** announced his resignation, after mass protests demanding an end to his rule, and after a call from the army for him to be declared unfit to hold office.

Bouteflika came to the presidency after its darkest period, the 1990s Islamic insurgency. After taking power in **1999**, he managed to bring back stability to a country devastated by killings and distrust.

Mr Bouteflika has not publicly spoken and has been wheelchair-bound since a stroke in 2013. Bouteflika is accused of **failing** to create an economy that could **offer** enough **jobs**, despite the nation's vast oil and gas wealth.



**Abdelkader Bensalah** took charge as **interim leader** for a maximum of 90 days as elections are organised.

## 7. Google India Head Rajan Anandan Resigns After 8 Years

Rajan Anandan, vice president for Google India and South East Asia, is leaving the company after an eight-year stint and will be joining Silicon Valley's marquee venture fund **Sequoia Capital**.

He will stay until the end of this month. **Rajan Anandan** had joined Google in **2011**. His responsibility will be taken over by Country Director Sales **Vikas Agnihotri** in the interim.



## 8. Sri Lankan IGP Resigns After The Deadly Easter Bomb Attacks

Sri Lanka's top police official, **Inspector General of Police Pujith Jayasundara**, has resigned over failures that led to the deadly Easter bomb attacks. Mr. Jayasundara has sent his resignation to the **acting defence secretary**. The resignation comes after the country's top defence ministry official, defence secretary **Hemasiri Fernando** resigned on 25th April. The new IGP will be nominated soon. The **President's nominee** will be confirmed by a **constitutional council**.



## 9. Sri Lankan Defence Secretary Resigned After The Easter Attacks

Sri Lanka's Defence Secretary **Hemasiri Fernando** resigned on 25th April **after the Easter attacks**. He took the responsibility for the deadly serial bombings. The new Secretary is yet to be named. Mr. Fernando is the first official to step down after both President Maithripala Sirisena and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said they were unaware of the imminent threat, though the security establishment had received prior intelligence.



## 10. Uday Kumar Varma Resigns From Assocham Secretary General Post

**Uday Kumar Varma**, a former bureaucrat retired from the post of Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, resigned from the post of The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Assocham) Secretary-General. Currently, Assocham's Deputy Secretary-General Saurabh Sanyal is discharging the duties of secretary general.



# Sports

## 1. Lewis Hamilton Wins Bahrain Grand Prix 2019

Five times world champion **Lewis Hamilton** won **Bahrain Grand Prix 2019** title by beating **Valtteri Bottas** of Finland who secured the second position.

**Charles Leclerc** was finished at the third position and became Ferrari's youngest ever race winner at the age of 21.



## 2. 12<sup>th</sup> Asian Airgun Championships Concludes: India Clinches 25 Medals

Indian shooters continued their dominance claiming five gold medals on the final day of the Asian Airgun Championships to sign off with a total of 25 medals in Taoyuan, Taipei.

India finished with 16 gold, 5 silver, and 4 bronze medals. Yash Vardhan and Shreya Agrawal bagged three gold medals each on the last day.



## 3. Saurav Ghosal Becomes 1<sup>st</sup> Indian Man To Enter Top-10 In Squash

Saurav Ghosal became the first Indian male squash player to enter the top 10 in latest Professional Squash Association (PSA) world rankings.

Egypt's world champion Ali Farag, meanwhile, maintains his position at the top of the ladder. Indian women squash players Joshna Chinappa and Dipika Pallikal had earlier reached top 10 in the world rankings.



#### 4. Praful Patel Becomes 1st Indian In FIFA Executive Council

Praful Patel, president of All India Football Federation (AIFF), has become the first Indian to be elected as a member of FIFA Executive Council. Patel, who serves as a Senior Vice President at the Asian Football Confederation (AFC), was one of the eight candidates vying for the spot in the election, which was held during the 29<sup>th</sup> AFC Congress in Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia.



#### 5. Malaysia Open 2019 Concludes: Complete List of Winners

The **2019 Malaysia Open**, officially the **CELCOM AXIATA Malaysia Open 2019**, is a badminton tournament which takes place at Axiata Arena in Malaysia.

**Lin Dan of China** won in **Men's Singles** category after defeating Chen Long of China. **Tai Tzu-ying of Chinese Taipei** won in **Women's singles** after defeating Japan's Akane Yamaguchi.



Sl. No.	Event	Winner	Runner Up
1.	<b>Men's Singles</b>	Lin Dan (China)	Chen Long (China)
2.	<b>Women's Singles</b>	Tai Tzu-ying (Chinese Taipei)	Akane Yamaguchi (Japan)
3.	<b>Men's Doubles</b>	Li Junhui and Liu Yuchen (China)	Takeshi Kamura and Keigo Sonoda (Japan)
4.	<b>Women's Doubles</b>	Chen Qingchen and Jia Yifan (China)	Du Yue and Li Yinhui (China)
5.	<b>Mixed Doubles</b>	Zheng Siwei and Huang Yaqiong (China)	Wang Yilü and Huang Dongping (China)



## 6. Graham Reid Named As Chief Coach of India Men's Hockey Team

**Hockey India** named **Graham Reid** as the new **chief coach of the India men's hockey team**.

The 54-year-old will join the team in Bengaluru shortly for the on-going National Camp at Sports Authority of India.



## 7. Bajrang Regains Top Spot In World Wrestling Rankings

India's **Bajrang Punia** has regained the world number **one** spot in the men's **65-kilogram** freestyle category rankings. The rankings were released by **United World Wrestling**. Punia, who won Gold in the Asian Games and Commonwealth Games as well as a silver in the World Championships in 2018, secured 58 points ahead of **Akhmed Chakaev** of Russia.



## 8. Singapore Open 2019 Concludes: Complete List of Winners

The **2019 Singapore Open**, was a badminton tournament which took place at Singapore Indoor Stadium in Singapore and had a total purse of \$355,000.

**Below is the complete list of Winners of Singapore Open 2019**



Sl. No.	Event	Winner	Runner Up
1.	<b>Men's Singles</b>	Kento Momota (Japan)	Anthony Sinisuka Ginting (Indonesia)
2.	<b>Women's Singles</b>	Tai Tzu-ying (Chinese Taipei)	Nozomi Okuhara (Japan)

<b>3.</b>	<b>Men's Doubles</b>	Takeshi Kamura and Keigo Sonoda (Japan)	Mohammad Ahsan and Hendra Setiawan (Indonesia)
<b>4.</b>	<b>Women's Doubles</b>	Mayu Matsumoto and Wakana Nagahara (Japan)	Kim Hye-jeong and Kong Hee-yong (South Korea)
<b>5.</b>	<b>Mixed Doubles</b>	Dechapol Puavaranukroh and Sapsiree Taerattanachai (Thailand)	Tan Kian Meng and Lai Pei Jing (Malaysia)

**9. Shuttler Harsheel Dani Clinched Dutch International Badminton Title**

Former junior national champion Harsheel Dani rallied from a game down against Mads Christophersen of Denmark to clinch the Dutch International badminton title in The Hague, Netherlands.



**10. Gelete Burka and Abrha Milaw Win Paris Marathon**

Ethiopian athletes Gelete Burka (women's race) and Abrha Milaw (men's race) won the 43<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Paris Marathon.

They led a record 60,000 participants to the finish line through the French capital. Milaw won the men's race with a time of 2 hours: 07 minutes and: 50 seconds. Burka was the fastest woman with 2 hours: 22 minutes and: 48 seconds.



### 11. Tiger Woods Wins 2019 Masters To Claim 15<sup>th</sup> Major in Golf

Famous Golfer Tiger Woods completed one of the sport's great all-time comebacks to end an 11-year major title drought at the Masters by claiming a fifth Green Jacket.

A gritty two-under 70 clinched a one-shot victory over Dustin Johnson, Brooks Keopka and Xander Schauffele. It is Wood's 15<sup>th</sup> major title.



### 12. Lewis Hamilton Wins Formula One's 1,000<sup>th</sup> Race

In motor racing, Lewis Hamilton won the Chinese Grand Prix for a record sixth time. He seized the overall lead from his Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas in Formula One's 1,000<sup>th</sup> world championship race. The comfortable win was the 75<sup>th</sup> of Hamilton's career, and second in a row.



### 13. Meena Kumari Maisnam Clinches Gold In Boxing World Cup 2019

India bagged a Gold and two Silver medals at the Boxing World Cup at Cologne in Germany. Meena Kumari Maisnam (from Manipur) claimed the Gold medal in the 54 kg category.

The 2014 Asian Championships bronze medallist defeated Thailand's Machai Bunyanut in the final. Sakshi in 57 kgs and Pwilao Basumatary in 64 kgs had to settle for Silver medals after they lost their final bouts. India finished the tournament with five medals.



#### 14. AITA Signs MoU With Serbian Tennis Federation To Train Junior Players

The All India Tennis Association (AITA) has signed an MoU with Serbian Tennis Federation (STF) to train Indian junior players under world-renowned Serbian coaches.

Both the federations have also agreed to work on the education of officials, coaches and physical trainers and their exchange for tournaments.



#### 15. Fabio Fognini became the first Italian to win an ATP Masters 1000 title

Fabio Fognini achieved this feat at the Monte Carlo Masters by defeating Dusan Lajovic 6-3, 6-4 in one hour and 38 minutes. Fognini will rise to a career-high ranking of 12. Fognini had beaten Rafael Nadal in the semi-final. Fognini earns 1000 ATP Rankings points and receives €958,055 in prize money.



Lajovic gains 600 points and €484,950 for his run to the championship match. Last time an Italian player Nicola Pietrangeli won the trophy in 1968. This event held every year at Monte Carlo Country Club. Fognini is the eighth player to win his first Masters 1000 title over the past 17 events at the elite level. In the 92 ATP Masters 1000 events prior to 2017 Rome, only eight players won their first Masters 1000 crown.

#### 16. Services lifted Santosh Trophy Football; beat Punjab in final

Services won their sixth Santosh Trophy title with a 1-0 victory over Punjab, at Ludhiana. In the semi-finals earlier, eight-time champions Punjab had defeated five-time winners Goa 2-1 to enter their 15<sup>th</sup> final. Services beat Karnataka 4-3 in the semis via a penalty shootout to book a place in the title clash for the 11<sup>th</sup> time. The 2018-19 Santosh Trophy was the 73<sup>rd</sup> edition. About Santosh Trophy: It is an Indian football tournament in which the states of the country along with some government institutions participate. This is held annually since 1941.



#### 17. Former Judo Federation Of India Chief Mukesh Kumar Elected As Judo Union Of Asia General Secretary

Mukesh Kumar, chief of former Judo Federation of India was re-elected as general secretary of Judo Union, the Asian governing body, at its ordinary congress at Fujairah, UAE. He is also the Chairman of the Technical Conduct Committee of the 36<sup>th</sup> National Games that is allotted to Goa. The present President of Judo Federation of India, Partap Singh Bajwa was elected as Vice President of Judo Union of Asia and as president of South Asia Judo Federation.



### 18. Rathi lifts Maharashtra junior boys golf title in Pune

Gurgaon boy Saurav Rathi hit an impressive 5 under 66 on Day 4 of the IGU Maharashtra junior boys golf championship 2019 held at the Poona Golf Course in Yerwada to lift the category A (16 to 18 years) and category B (13 to 15 years) titles with a four-day score of 3 under 281. The leader Aryan Roopa Anand, a phenomenal return on the front 9 saw him close the deficit before carrying his momentum on the back 9 to ensure he had his hands on the title at the end. The unions highlighted that a section of employees. A total of 97 students played in the event with 21 kids participating from 11 Salwan Schools in Delhi NCR.



### 19. Mithali Raj named goodwill ambassador of Team India at the Street Child Cricket World Cup

Indian women's cricket team captain Mithali Raj has been named the goodwill ambassador of Team India at the Street Child Cricket World Cup (SCCWC). She, alongside Saurav Ganguly and Rajasthan Royals, joins in supporting the team as they gear up for the final match at Lords, just ahead of the ICC Cricket World Cup in May this year.

India has over 20 lakh street connected children.



#### About Street Child Cricket World Cup 2019

The Street Child Cricket World Cup 2019 is the first cricket world cup for street-connected children. The tournament is being organised by Street Child United (SCU), a UK based organisation, which has a legacy of holding street child tournaments around major sporting festivals like FIFA World Cup in South Africa, Olympics in Brazil, FIFA World Cup Russia and more.

## 20. ICC partners with UNICEF to deliver One Day for Children at Mens Cricket World Cup 2019

International Cricket Council (ICC) Cricket for Good in partnership with UNICEF announced #OneDay4Children, a tournament-wide campaign focused on bringing the world of cricket together as one team to help build a better world for every child, at the 2019 World Cup. The campaign was launched by Former England batsman and #OneDay4Children ambassador Nasser Hussain along with all-rounder Chris Woakes. There will be #OneDay4Children (#OD4C) activity throughout all 48 matches of the event. England and India will sport special one-off #OD4C branded kit on June 30 at Edgbaston. The money raised will support UNICEF's work in cricket playing nations to help children learn to play and be healthy.



## 21. India's squad for 2019 Cricket World Cup announced

Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced India's 15-member squad for 2019 Cricket World Cup, which will take place in England and Wales from May 30 to July 14. Virat Kohli, who led India to Under-19 World Cup victory in 2008, will lead the senior team in World Cup for the first time. Rohit Sharma has been appointed as Vice-Captain. The team included Dinesh Karthik as the second wicket-keeper besides MS Dhoni. MS Dhoni will feature in his fourth World Cup. Vijay Shankar was included in the squad as an all-rounder along with Hardik Pandya, Ravindra Jadeja and Kedar Jadhav.



## 22. Mumbai Shuttler Dani Mumbai Shuttler Dani clinches Dutch International badminton title 2019

India's Harsheel Dani, a former junior national champion, defeated Mads Christophersen of Denmark, world no 149, to clinch the 20th Victor Dutch International Badminton title in Wateringen, The Netherlands with a 15-21, 21-12, 21-13 victory in a 47-minute clash. It was the second win for Dani opposite Christophersen. The 22-year-old won the Ghana international crown in 2018 second Karvy All India junior-ranking badminton tournament in 2012. About Victor Dutch International: The Victor Dutch International is the

Netherlands' second biggest badminton event Prize money of \$ 10.000. It is a part of the Badminton Europe Elite Circuit. This tournament has been an International Series level, another tournament for Grand Prix level named as Dutch Open.



**23. Viswanathan Anand secured 5<sup>th</sup> place in the Shamkir Chess 2019 tournament**

Viswanathan Anand secured 5<sup>th</sup> place in the Shamkir Chess 2019 tournament, Shamkir, Azerbaijan. He drew with Veselin Topalov in the ninth round to finish fourth with 4.5 points, the same as Alexander Grischuk and Teimour Radjabov. However, Anand was placed fifth in the rankings behind Magnus Carlsen, Ding Liren, Sergey Karjakin, and Grischuk.



The results (ninth round) are as follows:

- ◆ Anand (4.5) drew with Veselin Topalov (4)
- ◆ David Navara (4) drew with Teimour Radjabov (4.5)
- ◆ Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (3.5) drew with Sergey Karjakin (5)
- ◆ Ding Liren (5) drew with Anish Giri (3)
- ◆ Magnus Carlsen (7) bt Alexander Grischuk (4.5)

**24. Deepa Malik honoured with New Zealand Prime Ministers Sir Edmund Hillary Fellowship for 2019**

Rio Paralympics silver medallist Deepa Malik was named as the recipient of the New Zealand Prime Minister's Sir Edmund Hillary Fellowship for 2019 in recognition of her "inspiring achievements". She became the first Indian woman to win a medal at the Paralympic Games when she bagged a silver in shot put F 53 at the Rio Paralympics in 2016, scoring her personal best of 4.61m. She will work to promote sporting, cultural as well people-to-people relationship between India and New Zealand.



The fellowship, awarded by Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, aims to strengthen the ties between India and New Zealand. Deepa Malik is the only Indian woman to have won medals in three consecutive Asian Para Games in 2010, 2014 and 2018. Her tally of laurels stands at 58 national and 23 international medals. She is also the recipient of India's civilian honour Padma Shri and the prestigious Arjuna Award for excellence in sports. Deepa has entered the Limca Book of World Records four times.

## 25. ISSF World Cup: Abhishek Verma Wins Gold In 10m Air Pistol

**Abhishek Verma** won the **10m** air pistol gold medal at the **ISSF World Cup** at **Beijing, China**. He clinched the top spot with a total score of 242.7. Russia's **Artem Chernousov** took silver. His brilliant performance in the Shooting World Cup Final also secured a **fifth** Olympic quota for India.



## 26. Asian Boxing Championships: India Wins 13 Medals

**India** won **13 medals**, including **2 gold, 4 silver, and 7 bronze** at the Asian Boxing Championships in **Bangkok**. Boxers **Pooja Rani** and **Amit Panghal** gave India 2 gold medals.

While the men won 1 gold, 3 silver, and 3 bronze, the women bagged 1 gold, 1 silver, and 4 bronze medals.



## 27. Pankaj Advani Wins Asian Snooker Tour Title

Pankaj Advani, the 21-time India's cueist defeated Ehsan Heydari Nezhad of Iran 6-4 to clinch the Asian Snooker Tour title.

He had previously bagged the 2nd leg of the Tour in China and was leading the ranking before the final leg of the Tour in Bengaluru.





## 28. Asian Athletics Championships: India Finishes Fourth

**Asian Athletics Championships 2019** held at **Doha** in **Qatar**. It was the **23<sup>rd</sup>** edition of the Championships. India ended at the **fourth** spot in the medals tally with **3 Gold, 7 Silver and 7 Bronze**. **Bahrain topped** the table with 11 Gold, 7 Silver and 4 Bronze. **China** was second while **Japan** was third.

**Tejinder Pal Singh Toor** (Shot put), **Gomathi Marimuthu** (800 metres) and **P. U. Chitra** (1500 metres) won **gold** for India. India had won 29 medals - 12 Gold, 5 Silver and 12 Bronze in the last edition in **Bhubaneswar** in **2017**, topping the medal tally for the first time.



# Science and Technology

## 1. South Korea Launches World's First National 5G Networks

**South Korea** launches the world's first fully-fledged **5G mobile networks**. The system will bring smartphones near-instantaneous connectivity **20 times** faster than the existing 4G allowing users to download entire movies in less than a second.

It is crucial for the future development of devices ranging from self-driving vehicles that send data traffic to one another in **real time**, industrial robots, drones and other elements of the Internet of Things.



## 2. ISRO launches EMISAT & 28 satellites; Merger of Bank of Baroda, Vijaya Bank, Dena Bank

Indian space agency, Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) on April 1, 2019 launched the electronic intelligence satellite EMISAT along with 28 other satellites of global customers.

These 28 satellites, together weighing about 220 kg, belong to Spain (1), Lithuania (2), Switzerland (1) and the United States (24). These include 20 Flock-4A satellites and 4 Lemur satellites.



Emisat was launched into an altitude of 749 km orbit, while the 28 satellites were launched at an altitude of 504 km orbit.

The satellites were launched aboard the PSLV-C45 from Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. This was the 47th mission for ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) Programme and was the 71st launch vehicle mission from Sriharikota.

For the first time, ISRO invited common people to view the launch.

## 3. Joint Statements between India and Chile

India and Chile released a Joint Statement on April 1, 2019 after extensive talks between Indian President Ram Nath Kovind and the President of Chile, Sebastian Pinera Echenique, during the former's official state visit to Chile from March 30 to April 1, 2019. This is the third leg of the President's three-nation tour which included Croatia and Bolivia.

The Indian President paid an official visit to the South American nation at the invitation of

the Chilean President. The visit highlights the commemoration of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Chile and India.

During the visit, President Kovind participated in India-Chile Business Forum and interacted with young scientists at the University of Chile. Then he held detailed discussions with the Chilean President, which led to the signing of three MoUs for cooperation in the fields of mining, culture and empowerment of persons with disabilities. The agreements aim to further enhance engagement in economic, social and cultural fields between the two countries.



The two leaders also released a joint statement reaffirming their commitment to enhance cooperation and ties in various key areas. Chile is the sixth largest trading partner of India in the Latin American region.

#### 4. **SpaceX's Falcon Heavy, World's Most Powerful Rocket, Launches 1st Commercial Mission**

The most powerful operational rocket in the world, **SpaceX's Falcon Heavy**, launched its first commercial mission from Florida in a key demonstration for billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk's space company in the race to grasp lucrative military launch contracts.



The 23-story-tall Heavy, which previously launched Musk's cherry red Tesla roadster to space in a 2018 debut test flight, blasted off from Florida's Kennedy Space Center carrying its first customer payload.

#### 5. **Google Launches New Cloud Platform Anthos**

Google launched **Anthos**, a new open platform from **Google Cloud**, that lets users run applications from anywhere.

Anthos allows users to run applications, unmodified, on existing on-premise hardware or on the public cloud and is based on the Cloud Services Platform that Google announced in **2018**.



## 6. Astronomers Capture First-ever Image of A Black Hole

Astronomers have taken the first-ever image of a black hole, which is located in a distant galaxy known as '**Messier 87**' (**M87**).

The image which has been captured by a network of **eight** telescopes across the world shows an intensely bright 'ring of fire' surrounding a perfectly circular dark hole.

The '**Event Horizon Telescope**' captured the image from the galaxy that is **50 million lightyears** away.



## 7. GSLV phase-4 programme got Cabinet nod

The Union Cabinet approved continuation of the ongoing Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) programme phase-4 consisting of five rocket flights during 2021-2024.



### GSLV programme phase-4:

The phase four will enable the launch of **two-tonne** class of satellites for geo-imaging, navigation, data relay communication and space sciences. The total fund required for GSLV phase four completion has been pegged at **Rs 2729.13 crore**.

This fund includes the cost of five Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicles (GSLVs), essential facility augmentation, programme management, and launch campaign, along with the additional funds required for meeting the scope of the ongoing programme. The GSLV continuation programme was **initially** sanctioned in **2003**, and two phases have been completed and the **third phase** is in progress and expected to be completed by the fourth quarter of **2020-21**.

## 8. Helium hydride ion, Universes first molecule detected in space

**Helium hydride ion (HeH<sup>+</sup>)**, the first **molecule** that formed almost 14 billion years ago, was detected by NASA's flying observatory SOFIA towards a planetary **nebula**.

It is the first type of molecule (first molecular bond) that formed in the universe **after the Big Bang**.

At that time, ionised hydrogen and neutral helium atoms reacted to form HeH<sup>+</sup>. Once the universe cooled down, hydrogen atoms started to interact with helium hydride, creating



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molecular hydrogen, which set the stage for star formation. From that point on, stars created the other elements of the cosmos. Despite its importance in the history of the early Universe,  $\text{HeH}^+$  has so far escaped detection in astrophysical nebulae — cloud of gas and dust in outer space.

## 9. Antares Rocket takes off for International Space Station with essential NASA supply

The **Antares** - a **US rocket** has been launched from NASA's Wallops Flight Facility on Virginia's Eastern Shore, carrying cargo with the space agency's **re-supply mission** for the International Space Station (ISS). The rocket was built by Northrop Grumman. It carried about **7,600 pounds** (3,450 kg) of supplies and scientific experiments to the station.

Some instruments it transports will examine astronauts' health in microgravity.



A Canada-made instrument will perform on-orbit detection and quantification of cell surface molecules on a per cell and assess soluble molecule concentration in a liquid sample such as blood, saliva, or urine, thus sparing sample freezing and storing, according to NASA. Another two new experiments will scrutinize aging-like changes in many astronauts on the space station, including changes to their arteries, and examine effects of spaceflight on the function of antibody production and immune memory. NASA announced it is necessary to take actions to prevent any damage to astronauts in a planned three-year space travel to **Mars** in **2030s**.

## 10. Nepal launched its first satellite NepaliSat-1 from US

Developed by the Nepalese scientists, **NepaliSat-1** satellite was launched from **Virginia** in United States. Two Nepali scientists, **Aabhas Maskey** and **Hariram Shrestha** who are currently studying at Japanese Kyushu Institute of Technology, developed the satellite under the **BIRDS** project of their institute.

The BIRDS project has been designed in association with the **United Nations** and aims at helping countries launch their first satellite. NepaliSat-1 is a **low orbit** satellite which will be in the **400-km** distance from the Earth's surface. It will be stationed at the International Space Station (ISS) for a month and then it will be sent to orbit the earth.

The satellite will take photographs on a regular basis to **gather geographical information** of the country. Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) has invested nearly Rs 20 million for the satellite that weighs 1.3 kilograms, a small satellite with limited capability. A group of four engineering graduates were also working to launch another Nepali satellite 'Nepal PQ-1' in 2020.

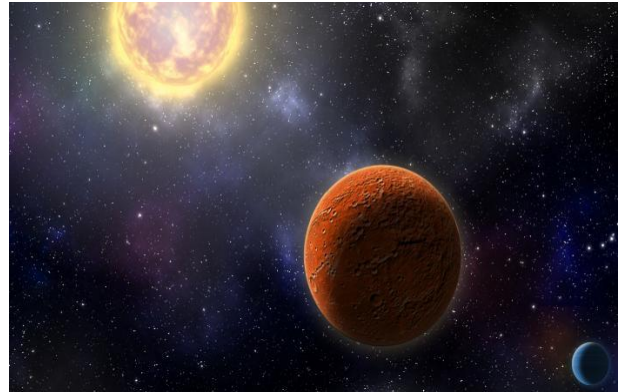


## 11. NASA's TESS found first Earth sized world

The **Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) Mission** of NASA has discovered HD 21749c, first Earth-sized world.

### About HD 21749c:

The planet, HD 21749c, is about 89% of Earth's diameter. The planet orbits HD 21749, a K-type star with about 70% of the Sun's mass located 53 light years away in the southern constellation Reticulum. HD 21749c is the second planet TESS has identified in the system. HD 21749c is the 10<sup>th</sup> confirmed planet discovered by TESS, and hundreds of additional candidates are now being studied.



HD 21749c doesn't seem to have good life-hosting potential as it circles its host star very tightly, completing one orbit every 7.8 Earth days, and is therefore probably quite hot. TESS which was launched just about a year ago is already a game-changer in the planet-hunting business. TESS total tally is likely to end up topping that of Kepler has found about 70% of the 4,000 exoplanets discovered to date.

## 12. Sri Lanka launched its first Satellite

Sri Lanka's first satellite Raavana I was launched into space from NASA's Flight Facility on Virginia's east shore. The satellite was designed and developed by two Sri Lankan engineers at the Kyushu Institute of Technology in Japan. It will be shuttled to the International Space Station. The "Raavana 1"



was launched into space with the assistance of the US rocket "Antares". About Raavana I: Raavana 1 weights around 1.05 kg and is 1000 cubic centimetres in size. The minimum lifespan of the satellite is around one and a half years and it is expected to be active for five years. Raavana 1 satellite's camera mission is to capture images of Sri Lanka and its neighbouring countries. The Raavana-I is expected to orbit 400 kilometres away from the earth. The satellite will achieve an active attitude stabilization which ensures that the satellite's attitude is stable under the influence of external talks. The launch of Raavana-I marks Sri Lanka's entry into the global space age.

### 13. World's largest airplane weighing 2,26,800 kg took its first ever flight

The world's largest airplane called '**Roc**' weighing nearly **2,26,800 kilograms** with a 385-foot wingspan took its first ever flight in Mojave, **California**. Built by **Stratolaunch**, it's designed to **launch rockets** into orbit from the air.

The plane is powered by six engines on a twin fuselage and is designed to fly to an altitude of 35,000 feet.



The aircraft is so big its wing span is longer than a football field, or about 1.5 times that of an Airbus A380. It hit a top speed of 304 kilometers per hour (189 mph) and reached an altitude of 17,000 feet, or 5,182 meters.

### 14. Google partners with MMTC-PAMP India

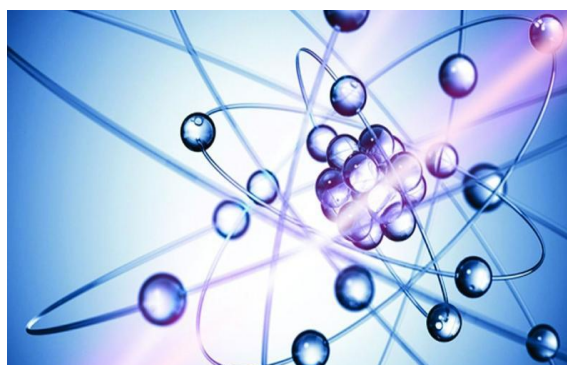
**Google** has partnered with bullion refiner **MMTC-PAMP India** to allow **Google Pay** users to buy and sell gold through the app. Through this partnership with India's only LBMA-accredited gold refinery, Google Pay users will be able to buy **99.99% 24-karat gold**. This type of service is already offered by the likes of Paytm, Mobikwik, and PhonePe.



### 15. Scientists discovered chain melted state of matter

Scientists from the University of Edinburgh of Scotland while **examining potassium** have discovered a **new state of physical matter** where **atoms can exist as both solid and liquid at the same time** known as the **chain melted state**. The discovery was made using powerful computer simulations.

At the chain-melted state, atoms are both **solid and liquid at the same time**. Scientists have discovered that when extreme pressure and temperature are applied to **potassium**, it can form a state in which most of the atoms form a lattice structure but a second set is in a **fluid arrangement**.



Scientists say that it would be like holding a sponge filled with water that starts dripping out, except the sponge is also made of water. Over half a dozen elements including sodium and bismuth are thought to be capable of existing in the newly discovered state.

Researchers hope it can be further examined to find more uses for the unexpected discovery.

### 16. PFS in a joint venture with USICEF finances solar projects in India

PTC India Financial Services (PFS) an Infrastructure finance company partnered with (USICEF) the US-India Clean Energy Finance to leverage funds for solar projects in India. PFS Managing Director and CEO Pawan Singh stated that this innovative venture can contribute to achieve India's distributed energy target of 40 GW (gigawatt) by 2022.



Climate Policy Initiative (CPI) manages USICEF that was founded in partnership with the Indian Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, OPIC (Overseas Private Investment Corporation), IREDA (Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd.) and leading U.S. Foundations in 2017.

### 17. ICMR Ethical Guidelines is mandatory for all biomedical researches in India

The **Indian Council of Medical Research's (ICMR) National Ethical Guidelines for Biomedical Research** has now been made **mandatory** for biomedical research. The rule has been passed as per the **New Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules 2019**. All biomedical research in India now needs to be adhered by the ICMR's National Ethical Guidelines for Biomedical Research.



### 18. Scientists warn of amphibian pandemic that already killed 90 species

A deadly disease affecting amphibians has descended into a global pandemic and it has already wiped out 90 species.

This was disclosed by a prominent US biologist Jonathan Kolby, at the World Organisation for Animal Health Aquatic Conference in Santiago, Chile yesterday. The disease attacks the skin of frogs, toads and other amphibians.



As the creatures use their skin to breathe and regulate their bodies' water levels, the damage caused by the disease eventually leads to heart failure and death. Over the past five years, the highly contagious disease has already caused nearly 90 species to disappear, with over 500 impacted.