

## Monthly Current Affairs PDF - April 2019

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### MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS PDF – APRIL 2019

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### BANKING CURRENT AFFAIRS

#### First Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy Statement 2019-20:

- The three-day policy review meeting by the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) headed by **RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das** in **Mumbai**.
- The Reserve Bank of India in its first Bi-Monthly statement 2019-20 has made the following announcements -
- The RBI reduced the policy **repo rate** under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) by **25 basis points** to 6.0 per cent from 6.25 per cent with immediate effect.
- The reverse repo rate under the LAF stands adjusted to **5.75** per cent.
- The marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate to **6.25** per cent
- The MPC also decided to maintain the neutral monetary policy stance

#### Second Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement for 2019-20: **6th June 2019**

#### Current Policy Rates:

Policy Repo Rate	6.0%
Reverse Repo Rate	5.75 %
Marginal Standing Facility Rate	6.25%
Bank Rate	6.25%
CRR	4%
SLR	19.25%

#### RBI sells entire stake in NHB, Nabard to government for Rs 1,470 cr:

- The Reserve Bank has exited the **National Housing Bank (NHB)** and the **National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (Nabard)**, by selling its entire stakes to government for Rs **1,450 crore** and **Rs 20 crore**, respectively, making them fully government-owned
- The central bank has sold its stake in NHB on March 19, while it sold the stake in Nabard

#### RBI extends ombudsman scheme to non-deposit taking NBFCs:

- Also Provides a cost-free and expeditious complaint redressal mechanism relating to deficiency in the services by **NBFCs** covered under the Scheme
- All Non-Deposit Taking Non-Banking Financial Companies having customer interface, with assets **size of Rupees 100 crore** or above will come within the ambit, and shall comply with the provisions of the Ombudsman Scheme for Non- Banking Financial Companies.

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### **RBI may have ₹3 lakh cr. excess capital : BofAML:**

- As the Bimal Jalan Committee prepares to submit its report on RBI's economic capital framework, a report by **Bank of America Merrill Lynch (BofAML)** has said the excess reserves that the central bank holds could be **up to ₹3 lakh crore or 1.5% of the GDP**.
- Capping overall reserves at 20% from 25.5% will release Rs. 1.96 lakh crore.
- There's no restriction which prevents RBI from transferring the money to government

### **RBI issues norms for banks to set up currency chests:**

- Area of the strong room/ vault of at least 1,500 sq ft. For those situated in hilly/ inaccessible places, the strong room/ **vault area of at least 600 sq ft,**" the RBI said while specifying minimum standards for setting up new currency chests.
- the new chests should have a processing **capacity of 6.6 lakh pieces** of banknotes per day. For those situated in the hilly/ inaccessible places, capacity of 2.1 lakh pieces of banknotes per day.

### **RBI Places NBFC-MFIs' Average Base Rate At 9.21% For Current Quarter:**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has communicated that the applicable average base rate to be charged by Non-Banking Financial Company - Micro Finance Institutions (NBFC-MFIs) to their borrowers for the quarter beginning April 01, 2019 will be **9.21%**

### **RBI first APAC central bank to begin interest rate easing cycle: Fitch:**

- The Reserve Bank of India is the first central bank in the **Asia-Pacific region** to begin an explicit interest rate easing cycle buoyed by benign food inflation and easier global financial condition, Fitch Ratings
- The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), headed by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, cut rates in February and April citing prospects of benign inflation. In the four months of 2019, the RBI has cut policy interest rates twice by **0.25** per cent each to one-year low of 6 per cent.
- This is the first back-to-back rate cut since the MPC was formed in late 2016.

### **Fitch has a 'BBB-', the lowest investment grade, rating on India, with a stable outlook:**

- Fitch estimates India to grow at **6.8** per cent in current fiscal 2019 and **7.1** per cent in 2020.

### **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

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### RBI to soon release new Rs 20 bank note:

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced that it will shortly issue **Rs 20 denomination** banknotes, in the Mahatma Gandhi (New) series, bearing the signature of the central bank's governor **Shaktikanta Das**. These are different in size and design compared to the notes issued earlier.
- The Rs 20 note will be **greenish-yellow** in colour. The new banknote has a motif of **Ellora Caves** on the reverse, depicting the country's cultural heritage,"

### A few features of the new Rs 20 (Back)

- Motif of **Ellora Caves**
- Dimension of the banknote will be **63 mm x 129 mm**

Obverse (Front)



Reverse (Back)



### RBI extends deadline for legal entity identification:

- The RBI extended the deadline for Legal **Entity Identifier (LEI) codes** for participation in non-derivative markets.
- Now, the deadline for entities with net worth of over **₹1,000 crore** to get the code is December 31, 2019, against the earlier deadline of April 30 this year
- This is also the deadline for those with net worth between ₹200 crore and ₹1,000 crore, while for entities with net worth of less than ₹200 crore, the deadline has been extended to March 31, 2020.

### RBI to inject USD 5 bn more liquidity through 2nd dollar-rupee swap auction:

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- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said it will inject long-term liquidity worth **USD 5 billion** into the banking system through dollar-rupee buy-sell swap for a tenure of three years on April 23, the second such auction within a month.

### **The RBI has signed a Statement of Commitment (SoC) to the FX Global Code.:**

- The code, launched a compilation of best market practices, formulated by central banks and market participants, developed under the auspices of the **Bank for International Settlements (BIS)**, Basel.
- The RBI said the code is applicable to the wholesale **FX market** participants covering sell-side, buy-side and financial intermediaries, and is voluntary in nature.
- It does not impose any legal or regulatory obligations, and is intended to be a supplement to the local laws, rules and regulations.
- It is currently being implemented globally by the Global FX Committee (GFXC) in co-ordination with the Local FX Committee (LFXC) in each jurisdiction.

### **RBI sets WMA Limit for Government at Rs 75000 crore for H1 of 2019-20:**

- The Reserve Bank of India, in consultation with the Government of India, has decided that the limits for **Ways and Means Advances (WMA)** for the first half of the financial year 2019-20 (April 2019 to September 2019) will be Rs 75000 crore.
- The Reserve Bank may trigger fresh floatation of market loans when the Government of India utilises 75% of the WMA limit.

### **ADB committed highest-ever USD 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, said the annual report of 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.

### **State Bank of India cuts MCLR by 5 bps, home loans cheaper by 10 bps:**

- State Bank of India (SBI) reduced its MCLR by **5 bps** across all tenors and slashed interest rate on home loans **up to Rs 30 lakh** by **10** basis points.
- One-year MCLR will be 8.50% per annum (pa). The interest rates on all loans linked to MCLR stand reduced by 5 bps from April 10, 2019, India's largest lender said in statement.

### **SBI Launches first Green Car Loan**



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- State Bank of India announced the country's **first \_Green Car Loan\_** (Electric Vehicle) to encourage customers to buy electric vehicles. The new scheme will offer loan at 20 basis points lesser than the interest rate on the existing car loan schemes.
- The EMI per Rs. 1 lakh will be lower at Rs. 1,468 for 96 months against Rs. 1,622 for 84 months, based on the maximum tenor, in line with the existing scheme.

### **SBI General launches cyber defence insurance for businesses:**

- SBI General Insurance Monday said it has launched a product to protect businesses from financial and **reputational losses due to cyber attacks**.
- In the initial phase, the focus will be on SMEs and mid-market businesses, but later the product can cater to larger business conglomerates as well, the insurer said in a statement.

### **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.

### **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 objective of this initiative is to enable Kotak customers to create electronic mandates, similar to the former e-NACH with Aadhaar + OTP via both debit card and net banking provision.

### **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.
- The purpose is to get employees to understand the applications of **blockchain technology** in the real world.

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

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

### **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.

### **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.
- Canara Bank, with nearly 6,300 branches and a network of more than 10,000 ATMs, is the first public sector bank to shift to EMV chip and PIN for card present transactions across the country's vast ATM network.

### **Vijaya Bank, Dena Bank merger with BoB to be effective from April:**

- State-owned **Bank of Baroda's** proposed merger with **Dena and Vijaya Bank** will be affected from April 1. The government's amalgamation plan for these state-owned banks has already got all the necessary approvals from the regulators concerned. The Bank of Baroda board in a recent meeting also decided to issue and allot equity shares to Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank on March 11.

### **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.

### **Government Raises Authorised Capital of Allahabad Bank To Rs 8,000 Crore:**

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- 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.

### **Priority Sector Lending Certificates volume crosses Rs 3-trillion mark:**

- The priority sector lending certificates (PSLCs) volume rocketed to Rs 3.3 trillion in FY19, up from Rs 1.9 trillion in the last financial year and **Rs 50,000 crore** in FY17.
- PSLCs relating to the small and marginal farmers segment continued to be in **most demand**, according to rating agency CRISIL.

### **Bank of India to sell 25% stake in life insurance JV SUD Life Insurance for Rs. 1,106 crore:**

- Public sector lender Bank of India offered to sell a 25 per cent stake in its joint venture company **Star Union Dai-ichi Life Insurance Co Ltd** for approximately **Rs. 1,106 crore** (\$159.87 million).
- Star Union Dai-ichi Life Insurance Co. Ltd. (SUD Life) is a joint venture (JV) of Bank of India, Union Bank of India and Dai-ichi Life, a leading life insurance company of Japan
- Bank of India to sell 6.49 crore shares, or 25.02 per cent stake, in Star Union Dai-ichi Life Insurance Co at a floor price of 170.50 per share.

### **Bank of Maharashtra gets Rs 205 crore capital from govt:**

- State-owned Bank of Maharashtra said that **government has infused Rs 205 crore** into the bank in lieu of preferential allotment of shares.
- The capital infusion was done on March 30, 2019.
- The issue committee of the bank in its meeting held on March 30, 2019 issued and allotted **15,47,16,981** equity shares of the bank for cash at an issue price of Rs 13.25 per share aggregating to Rs 205 crore on preferential basis to the government, Bank of Maharashtra said in a regulatory filing. ..

### **Bank of Baroda, Srei Equipment Finance tie up for infra equipment loans:**

- Srei Equipment Finance Ltd (SEFL) and India's second largest state-run lender Bank of Baroda have entered into a co-lending arrangement for infrastructure equipment. The offerings would include both **business to business (B2B)** and **business to customer (B2C)** propositions
- The partnership will allow Kolkata-based Srei Infrastructure Finance Ltd's equipment finance arm and Bank of Baroda to collaborate and widen their respective customer base.



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- As part of the arrangement, the companies will use iQuippo, a digital marketplace for origination of loans, collection of loan dues, and auction and valuation of equipment

### **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, both of which continue to provide insurance solutions to the customers of Karnataka Bank.

### **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. The person will not be required to furnish physical documents as well as KYC proofs for opening an account with the bank.

### **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.

## **FINANCE AND ECONOMY**

### **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.

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### **GST mop up hits a record ₹1.06-lakh crore in March:**

- The GST collection for the month of March reached Rs 1.06 lakh crore, marking the highest ever mop-up recorded under the unified tax regime since its introduction.
- The record high came on the back of higher compliance and increase in GST returns filed.
- The total number of GSTR-3B filed till March 31 for the month of February stood at 75.95 lakh.

### **CRISIL Board Gives Nod For Transfer Of Ratings Business To New Subsidiary:**

- CRISIL Ltd, a diversified global analytics company, 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.
- CRISIL proposes to undertake the transfer of its ratings business through a scheme of arrangement in terms of Section 230 to 232 of the Companies Act, 2013, to be approved by the stock exchanges and the National Company Law Tribunal.

### **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 and the total number of Jan Dhan accounts crossed 35.39 crores. Also, more than 27.89 crores account holders have been issued the Rupay debit cards.

### **Reliance Jio acquires chatbot making startup Haptik for Rs. 700 crore**

- Reliance Industries (RIL) subsidiary Reliance Jio Digital has acquired a majority stake in Mumbai based Artificial Intelligence-based conversational platform Haptik for Rs. 700 crore.
- In the Rs. 700-crore deal, Rs. 230 crore will go for business transfer and Rs. 470 crore will go towards expansion.
- Reliance will hold about 87% of Haptik while the company's founders and employees will own the rest of the shares through stock option grants.
- All of Haptik's business and holdings will be transferred to Reliance Jio Digital Services.

### **Eight core industries show 2.1% growth in February 2019:**

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- The combined index of eight core industries stood at 125.8 in February 2019, which indicates a marginal increase of 2.1 per cent during the month.
- The eight core industries, including coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity, are responsible for almost 41 per cent of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).
- The dismal show in February was on account of fall in output registered in the crude oil and refinery products.
- Coal production: It grew by 7.3% in February 2019 against 1.3% growth in the same period a year ago.
- Steel production: It recorded 17.92% growth as against 5% growth in the same period a year ago.
- Natural gas production: It grew by 3.8%.
- Fertilizers Sector: It grew by 2.5%.
- Cement production: It grew by 8%.
- Electricity production: It grew by 0.7%, falling from 4.6% growth in February 2018.
- Production of crude oil: It recorded -6.1% growth.
- Refinery products: It recorded -0.8% growth

### **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. The approval has been made under sub-section (1) of Section 31 of the Competition Act, 2002.
- 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%.

### **Sebi fixes minimum net worth for clearing corporations at IFSC:**

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has prescribed that all recognised clearing corporations in International Financial Services Centre (IFSC), need to maintain Rs 50 crore net worth in the form of liquid assets on commencement of operations.
- Also, every such clearing corporation will raise over a period of three years from commencement of operations, its net worth, to be maintained in the form of liquid assets, to a minimum of Rs 100 crore or capital as determined in accordance with the aforementioned Sebi circular.

### **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.

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

### **BuyUcoin Introduces First Indian Platform for Wholesale Cryptocurrency Trading:**

- BuyUcoin, second oldest Cryptocurrency Exchange in India, has introduced a new and unique platform for wholesale cryptocurrency trading.
- This platform works on 'free trading model' which means it charges zero fee on any trade. It is also known as OTC (Over-the-counter) Desk that allows users to trade on a large scale with low price fluctuations.

### **ETMONEY Becomes India's First Comprehensive Financial Services App to Integrate with UPI:**

- ETMONEY India's largest app for financial services has integrated with Unified Payment Interface (UPI) as a payment method. The reason for this is to double its monthly user base by the end of 2019.
- 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.

### **Sebi extends phase 1 deadline of UPI for retail IPO investors till June 30:**

- Markets regulator Sebi Wednesday extended the timeline for the implementation of phase 1 of Unified Payments Interface (UPI) as an alternative payment mechanism for retail investors buying shares in a public issue.
- To ensure smooth transition to UPI in ASBA (Application Supported by Block Amount) and in the back drop of the representation received from various stakeholders, Sebi said, "it has been decided to extend the timeline for implementation of Phase I... by 3 months i.e. till June 30, 2019"

### **IMF cuts India GDP growth forecast to 7.3% for 2019-20:**

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) cut India's GDP growth forecast for 2019-20, following similar action by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- In India, growth is projected to pick up to 7.3% in 2019 (2019-20) and 7.5% in 2020 IMF said in its World Economic Outlook report.
- Both ADB and RBI last week cut their 2019-20 growth projection for India to 7.2% from 7.4% earlier.
- The Central Statistics Office (CSO) to trim its 2018-19 forecast to 7% in February from 7.2% estimated in the previous month.

### **HDFC Bank and Max Bupa launch AnyTimeHealth machines to distribute health insurance products**

- HDFC Bank and Max Bupa (insurance company) have launched a 'AnyTimeHealth (ATH)' machines.
- ATH machine is completely automated, technology-based model which allows customers to avail health assessment and buy a policy instantly, without any manual intervention.

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- In the phase-1, 15-20 ATH machines will be installed at HDFC Bank branches across multiple cities.

### **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 help Indiabulls get access to low-cost stable funds and entry into banking.
- 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. IBH's board has constituted a reorganisation committee headed by independent director and former RBI Deputy Governor SS Mundra.

### **BSNL gets license for in-flight connectivity**

- Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has received the In-Flight Connectivity license from the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) for enabling in-flight and maritime connectivity (IFMC) within Indian airspace.
- BSNL and Inmarsat, which is the satellite partner of BSNL, also operates the GX Aviation service will be able to offer in-flight connectivity to airlines. With this facility users can send messages, surf the internet and/or tweet, when a flight is at a minimum height of 3,000m in Indian airspace.
- Presently any form of internet connectivity for both domestic and international flights is not available on Indian flights. After, this facility enabled, users will still have restricted amounts of data available for their uses, applicable for all airlines.

### **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.

### **Infosys arm to buy 75% stake in Dutch bank subsidiary:**

- Global software major Infosys stated that its consulting arm would buy 75 per cent equity stake in Starter N.V., a subsidiary of the Dutch-based ANN AMRO Bank for Rs. 999 crore (\$144 million) for strategic partnership in The Netherlands.

### **WTO trims global trade growth forecast for 2019 to 2.6% from 3.7% :**



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- Global trade growth is expected to be lower in 2019 than it was last year, the World Trade Organization forecast on Tuesday. This could have a major impact on the outbound shipment from India.
- The WTO revised growth to 2.6 per cent from its earlier estimates of 3.7 per cent. This is lower than the 3 per cent growth recorded in 2018. It attributed its dismal outlook to widespread “tensions” and economic uncertainty.

### **PayU acquires digital financial security firm Wibmo for USD 70 mn:**

- Digital payments facilitator PayU has acquired US-based financial technology firm Wibmo for USD 70 million (about Rs. 484 crore), that will help the company scale-up its business. Under the agreement, PayU and Wibmo businesses will continue to run separately.
- Wibmo, a digital payment security and mobile payment technologies firm, will continue to operate and serve all of its clients as a wholly-owned subsidiary of PayU.

### **ADB cuts India's growth rate to 7.2% in 2019-20:**

- Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Wednesday lowered India's growth by 40 basis points to 7.2 per cent in fiscal year 2019-20. Still, it will be the fastest growing economy in the world. The growth rate in FY 2020-21 is likely to be 7.3 per cent.

### **Govt manages to meet revised fiscal deficit target of 3.4% of GDP:**

- The government has managed to meet the revised fiscal deficit target of 3.4 per cent of the GDP after it cut last minute expenditure and rolled over fuel subsidies to make up for the shortfall in tax collection.
- The interim Budget presented in February revised upward the fiscal deficit target to 3.4 per cent from 3.3 per cent of GDP estimated earlier for 2018-19.

### **World Bank Projects India's GDP to Expand 7.5% in FY20:**

- India's GDP growth is expected to accelerate moderately to 7.5 percent in fiscal year 2019-20.
- The Economy driven by continued investment strengthening, particularly private-improved export performance and resilient consumption.
- The real GDP growth is estimated at 7.2 percent in financial year 2018-19. Meanwhile, agriculture growth was robust at 4 per cent.

### **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.

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### **Wipro acquires Philippines largest personal care company Splash Corporation:**

- Wipro Consumer Care signed an agreement to acquire Splash Corporation, a Philippines-based personal care company.
- Wipro stated that this is the company's 11th acquisition in the consumer line business, and the 9<sup>th</sup> acquisition in the personal care segment overall.
- Splash is the largest Philippine personal care player and among the top five in the Philippines market. It recorded revenue of \$80 million last year.

### **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.

### **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.

### **HDFC AMC ranked 1st in terms of Assets:**

- India's asset management companies (AMCs) own assets under management (AUM) worth Rs24.46 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 Rs3.42 trillion, overtaking ICICI Prudential Asset Management Co. Ltd with an average AUM of at Rs3.20 trillion.
- Out of the total industry assets, a huge 82.7% is owned by the top 10 AMCs, who have owned around 80% of the industry assets over at least three years now.

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### NATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

#### **Union Ministry of Home Affairs distributed special kits ' SAECKs ' to states and union territories to collect evidence on sexual assault cases:**

- Over 3,100 special kits for collecting blood and semen samples, besides other evidence, to carry out immediate investigations into sexual assault cases have been distributed among States and Union Territories by the Ministry of Home Affairs, officials said Sunday.
- The Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kits (SAECK) or 'rape investigation kits' are designed to carry out immediate medico-legal investigation and aid in furnishing evidence in sexual assault and rape cases.

#### **Around 5000 Konyak women dance to set a Guinness World Record at Mon, Nagaland:**

- The programme organized at Mon (Nagaland) during the Aoleang Monyu festival (usually held between 1st April to 3rd April every year) around 5000 Konyak Naga women in their traditional attire attempted to set a Guinness World Record for the 'Largest Traditional Konyak Dance'.
- The festival is celebrated for the arrival of Spring and for a good upcoming harvest.
- The theme of the Aoleang Monyu festival aka Mini Hornbill festival was 'Empowering women for cultural heritage'.
- Konyak Union in coordination with other organisations of the tribe, namely, Konyak Nyupuh Sheko Khong (KNSK) and Konyak Students' Union (KSU) organized the event. The objective of the event was to preserve the cultural heritage of the region and the people and to promote tourism.

#### **India and the Netherlands agreed to improve the bilateral cooperation in various fields:**

- India was agreed to improve the bilateral cooperation with the Netherlands in various fields, including political, economic scientific and cultural cooperation during the Foreign Office Consultations in New Delhi.

#### **20 states join pan-India single emergency helpline number '112':**

- Twenty states and Union territories have so far joined a pan-India network of single emergency helpline number '112' on which immediate assistance can be sought by anyone in distress.
- The '112' helpline is an integration of police (100), fire (101) and women (1090) helpline numbers and the project is being implemented under the central government's Nirbhaya Fund.
- The single number for emergency services is similar to '911' in the United States.

#### **Terror funding, drug trade, fake currencies forced India to suspend LoC trade with Pak:**

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- Infiltration of third-party goods, channeling funds and arms for terrorists, clandestine trade of drugs and pumping fake currencies were among some compelling reasons, which left India with no other option but to suspend the Line of Control (LoC) trade with Pakistan, said sources in Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- "LoC trade across Chakkan-Da-Bagh and Salamabad was intended to be a confidence-building measure for the population living in remote areas of Jammu and Kashmir and living across LoC in PoJK and J-K. However, third parties manipulated the trade and misused the facility for trading goods being produced from outside Jammu and Kashmir," said sources.

### **Cabinet approved the funds for implementing 10% EWS Quota:**

- Recently, Rs. 4315.15 crores budget has been approved by Union Cabinet headed by PM Narendra Modi, to create over 2 lakhs additional seats in 158 central education institutions.
- The additional seats were created over next two years to implement 10 per cent Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) reservation.

### **Ministry of External Affairs sets up Indo-Pacific Wing:**

- The Indo-Pacific Wing is currently headed by joint secretary Vikram Doraiswami.
- The Indo-Pacific Wing is a big step by the government and it is expected to give thrust to the Indo-Pacific centred policymaking.
- The Indo-Pacific Wing integrates the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), ASEAN region and the Quad.
- The Indo-Pacific diplomacy of India India has repeatedly placed ASEAN at the centre of its policy.
- Even the US has recently renamed its Pacific Command to the Indo-Pacific Command as it seeks to give teeth to its Indo-Pacific policy.

### **NITI Aayog & Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) ensures success of the FAME II Scheme:**

- Under the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles II (FAME II) scheme, the NITI Aayog and Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) have released a report titled 'India's Electric Mobility Transformation'
- 'Progress to Date and Future Opportunities'. The report is based on opportunities for the automobile sector and government.

### **India join hands with Japan and UAE to set up two projects in Africa:**

- India joined hands with Japan and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to implement two projects in Africa as it seeks to extend its footprint on the continent as a counter to China's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

### **First-of-its-kind 'Voter Park' inaugurated in Gurugram:**

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- India's first-of-its-kind 'Voter Park' was inaugurated in Gurugram on Thursday, aimed at increasing voter awareness and educating people about the electoral process.
- Haryana Chief Electoral Officer Rajeev Ranjan inaugurated the park in Vikas Sadan building complex

### **Election Commission invokes Article 324 to defer PM Modi biopic:**

- India's Electoral Commission has issued an order to ban display of any biopic or publicity material during Manual Code of Conduct, which could subvert the purposes of any political entity or any individual entity connected to it.

### **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.

### **India and Sweden launches joint programme on solution for smart cities, clean tech:**

- India and Sweden inked a pact that will deal a range of challenges around smart cities and clean technologies among others. The programme is co-sponsored by Indian Department of Science and Technologies (DST) and Swedish agency Vinnova.
- Vinnova donate to Swedish participants upto 2,500,000 Swedish Krona (around Rs. 1.87 crore). From Indian side, provide upto 50% per project to the Indian partners.
- Triple helix model of innovation that include participation of industry, academia and government is implemented in this project.

### **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".

### **Bimal Verma again moves military court challenging appointment of Karambir Singh as Navy Chief:**

- Vice Admiral Bimal Verma on Tuesday once again moved a military tribunal challenging appointment of Vice Admiral Karambir Singh as the next chief of naval staff after the defence ministry did not respond to his statutory complaint.



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### **Ladakhi war veteran dedicates 'Maitri' bridge to locals:**

- Naik Phunchok Angdus (Retd) on Monday dedicated a Cable Suspension Bridge named as 'Maitri', constructed by Fire and Fury Corps, to locals here on the 20th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas.
- This comes after civil administration directed the Army to build a bridge to help the locals of Choglamsar, Stok and Chuchot villages (largest villages of Ladakh Region) in their commute. The bridge was inaugurated by senior Ladakhi war veterans in the presence of Lt Gen YK Joshi, AVSM, VrC, SM, General Officer Commanding 'Fire and Fury Corps'.

### **COMCASA: First secure link between India, US navies set up:**

- India and the US have structured the first reliable communication link between the Indian Navy & US Central as well as Pacific Naval Commands under the COMCASA pact at New Delhi, India.
- The Indo-US military-information sharing pact, COMCASA was signed at the 2+2 bilateral summit on 6th September, 2018.
- By implementing the path-breaking agreement, COMCASA the US has initiated the Selective Availability Anti-Spoofing Module GPS System in some of C-130 and C-17 transport aircraft.
- US has given assurance of not disclosing India's data with another country and without prior permission US couldn't access it.

## **STATE CURRENT AFFAIRS**

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### **"Sahulat", a mobile app launched to facilitate elderly voters in Jammu:**

- 'Sahulat', a mobile app aimed to facilitate voting by elders was launched in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, in Jammu
- District Election Officer Mohammad Aijaz Asad launched the Android-based application to reach out to the voters who are 90 years old or above

### **Vikram Nath appointed as first Chief Justice of new Andhra Pradesh High Court:**

- Justice Vikram Nath, the senior most judge of Allahabad High Court, was appointed on Wednesday as the first Chief Justice of the newly-constituted Andhra Pradesh High Court.
- The collegium of Supreme Court comprising of Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi besides Judges S A Bobde and N V Ramana recommended the name of Justice Vikram Nath.
- The new Andhra Pradesh High court was established on January 1 this year following the division of a combined high court of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

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### **Miss India runner up Sana Dua to be election dept's brand ambassador in J-K:**

- Femina Miss India 2017 runner up Sana Dua will be the brand ambassador of Jammu and Kashmir election department for general polls, Chief Electoral Officer of the state Shailendra Kumar

### **MHA (the Union Ministry of Home Affairs) gives approval for renaming 'Durjanpur' in MP as 'Shivdham'**

- The Central Government has given its approval for the proposal of the Madhya Pradesh State Government, to change the name of a village in Madhya Pradesh from 'Durjanpur' to 'Shivdham'.
- Durjanpur is situated in Katni District of Madhya Pradesh.
- The Home Ministry's approval came after a no objection notice from the Geographical Survey of India (GSI), the Department of Post, the Ministry of Railways and the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

### **Ace paddler Sharath Kamal wins sportsperson of year award 2019**

- Sharath Kamal, Ace table tennis player was titled Sportsperson of the Year Award 2019 at the annual awards and scholarships function organised by the Tamil Nadu Sports Journalists' Association (TNSJA) and the India Cements in Chennai.
- Stephen Fleming, CSK (Chennai Super Kings) coach, Mike Hussey, and CSK CEO K S Viswanathan were present in the function.
- Ten up-and-coming sportspersons were also given scholarships to the tune of Rs 3 lakh.
- TNSJA Lifetime Achievement awardees: Vijay Amritraj (Indian tennis player), V V Kumar ( former India leg-spinner), R Gnanasekaran(Asian Games gold medallist (200m).
- Coach of the year: R B RAMESH (chess coach) iv. India Cements -TNSJA Team of the year 2018-19: Tamil Nadu Women's Football team. v. India Cements -TNSJA Young Achiever of the year 2018-19 : P M Tabitha( athlete) vi. India Cements -TNSJA Young Achiever of the year 2018-19: D.Gukesh (world's second youngest Grand Master).

### **Autobiography of social worker Sankurathri Chandrasekhar released:**

- 'Ashakiranam,' an autobiography of noted social worker Sankurathri Chandrasekhar, was released at a function held in Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh. Religious scholar Chaganti Koteswara Rao released the book while writer and literary critic Vadrevu Veeralakshmi Devi reviewed the work.
- Penned by Dr. Chandrasekhar in English with title 'A Ray of Hope' the autobiography was translated into Telugu by Godavarthi Satyamurthy.

### **New Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court sworn-in:**

- Justice T B N Radhakrishnan was Thursday sworn-in as the new Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court.

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- West Bengal Governor K N Tripathi administered the oath of office to Justice Radhakrishnan in a solemn ceremony at the high court.

### **Assam celebrates Kati Bihu festival:**

- Assam's third Bihu festival, known as Kati Bihu or Kongali Bihu, was being celebrated across the state.
- Assam Governor Jagadish Mukhi and Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal extended their prayers and best wishes to the people of the state on the occasion of Kati Bihu hoping that the festival will bring in peace and prosperity in the state.

### **Chennai Central has been renamed as Puratchi Thalaivar Dr M G Ramachandran Chennai Central after Dr. MG Ramachandran:**

- Chennai Central railway station renamed by the Tamil Nadu State Government as Puratchi Thalaivar Dr MG Ramachandran Central Railway Station after late Chief Minister Dr. MG Ramachandran.
- Neeraj Sharma, Railway Executive Board Director notified that the change of name would be possible provided there should not be any inaugural event as a result of the election code of conduct.

### **Justice Nandrajog sworn in as Chief Justice of Bombay HC:**

- Justice Pradeep Nandrajog was on Sunday sworn in as Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court.
- He was earlier Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court.
- He now succeeds Justice Naresh Patil, who retired as Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court.

### **ECI appointed Bihar Ex CEO Ajay V Nayak as Special Observer for West Bengal**

- Ajay V Nayak, The Election Commission has appointed Ajay V Nayak, ex-Bihar chief electoral officer, as the Special Observer for West Bengal. The first phase polls held in April 11 in Cooch Behar and Alipurpur constituencies.
- Polls in the remaining 40 constituencies will be held in six phases. i. Earlier, The Election Commission of India has named Vivek Dubey, 1981 batch IPS officer, as the Special Police Observer of West Bengal.

### **To ensure good menstrual health, Project Kannamma initiated by Rotary Club of Madras North:**

- Project Kannamma is an initiative by Rotary Club of Madras North to provide biodegradable sanitary napkins under the brand name, "Aavaram" to the girl students in government schools of Tamil Nadu.

### **The M3 version of EVMs to be used in Nizamabad Lok Sabha and Likely To Enter Guinness Book with Record EVMs**

- The Nizamabad Lok Sabha constituency in Telangana may enter in the Guinness World Records for the maximum number of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) of M3 version used in the polling booth.

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### **Nagaland observes 75th anniversary of Battle of Kohima:**

- The 75th anniversary of the Battle of Kohima was observed by the Nagaland government on Thursday with representatives from the UK and Japan speaking on the theme of 'Remembrance, Reconciliation and Rebirth'.
- The dignitaries from the UK and Japan assembled at the programme to seek "reconciliation and forgiveness" for the "sufferings and pain" caused against each other at the Battle of Kohima, that was fought in three stages during the Second World War in 1944.

### **Meghalaya Cabinet approved for the creation of Directorate of Dairy Development**

- The Meghalaya Cabinet approved the proposal for the creation of a new Directorate of Dairy Development to boost the milk production.

### **Himachal Pradesh celebrates 72nd state day:**

- Governor Acharya Devvrat unfurled the national flag at an event on the historic Ridge maidan in Shimla to mark the day.
- He inspected an impressive parade led by Parade Commander Deputy Superintendent of Police Shakti Singh.

### **Odisha celebrated 84th foundation day on April 1, 2019:**

- The day is also known as 'Utkal Divas'.
- Odisha was the first State to be formed on linguistic basis in 1936. Earlier, Odisha was part of Bihar.

### **West Bengal celebrated Bengali New Year on 15th April:**

- On 15th April 2019, Bengali New Year also known as Pahela Baishakh was celebrated in West Bengal and among Bengali communities in Assam, Tripura and also in Bangladesh.

### **Telangana secured top spot in eLearning Training for Field Staff :**

- Telangana has secured the first rank for the second year in a row in the e-Learning training programme of Department of Personal and Training (DoPT), Government of India.
- The training is being imparted to achieve the goal of "training for all".
- Over 20, 000 field staff in different districts of Telangana was imparted training on 12 soft skills modules and 3 domain-specific modules on RTI, Office Procedures, and Finance & Accounts.
- The institute is also mentoring other states to spread the Comprehensive Online Modified Modules on Induction Training (COMMIT) Programme as a national mission.

### **Calcutta Sports Journalists' club annual awards 2019:**

- Jhulan Goswami, former captain of India national women's cricket team, awarded the "Sportsperson of the Year" honor at the Calcutta Sports Journalists' club (CSJC) annual awards function 2019 held at Kolkata,

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West Bengal while Sukumar Samajpati, former India winger and Sambaran Banerjee, former national selector and Bengal's Ranji Trophy winning captain honoured 'Lifetime Achievement' awards.

### **INTERNATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS**

#### **S Korea to launch world's first national 5G networks:**

- South Korea launches the world's first fully-fledged 5G mobile networks Friday, a transformational leap that already has superpowers sparring for control of an innovation that could potentially change the day-to-day lives of billions of people.
- The superfast communications heralded by fifth-generation wireless technology will ultimately underpin everything from toasters to telephones; from electric cars to power grids.

#### **UK accepts EU's offer to extend Brexit deadline to Oct 31:**

- The decision was taken at an emergency meeting in Brussels where the EU leaders agreed to offer British Prime Minister Theresa May a six-month extension. In March, British Prime Minister Theresa May had requested the European Union to grant the United Kingdom a short term extension till June 30 to prevent the U.K. leaving the bloc without a deal, because the British Parliament has repeatedly failed to decide on the terms of the exit.
- If United Kingdom stays beyond May 22, it will have to take part in European Parliament elections in May 2019 or else leave the bloc on June 1 without deal. If the extension had not been agreed to, Britain would have left the block without a deal on April 12.

#### **Tummy timetables: WHO has lifestyle advice for kids:**

- The United Nations on Wednesday released its first-ever recommendations on physical activity for children under five, with disputed advice on subjects ranging from screen time to "tummy time".
- The guidelines from the World Health Organization may read to some parents like common-sense practices, including not exposing babies under one-year-old to screens.

#### **Hong Kong's stock market overtakes Japan to be world's third largest:**

- The city's equity market has overtaken Japan to be the world's third largest in value, behind only the U.S. and mainland China, courtesy of a rebound in Hong Kong stocks after their worst year since 2011.
- Hong Kong's market cap was \$5.78 trillion as of Tuesday, compared with \$5.76 trillion for Japan, according to data compiled by Bloomberg based on where primary securities are listed.



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- The Asian city's Hang Seng Index climbed 17 per cent this year through Tuesday, when it closed at its highest since June 15.
- Internet giant Tencent Holdings Ltd. has been the main driver with a 22 per cent gain. Japan's Topix Index advanced 8.3 percent in that period.

### **Over 113 mn people across 53 countries experienced acute hunger last year:**

- More than 113 million people across 53 countries experienced acute hunger last year, with conflict, climate-related disasters and economic turbulence mainly driving the food insecurity crisis, according to a new joint UN and European Union (EU) report.
- The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Food Programme (WFP) and EU Global Report on Food Crises 2019', shows that the number going chronically-hungry has remained well over 100 million over the past three years, with the number of countries affected, rising.

### **Google opens first Africa Artificial Intelligence lab in Ghana:**

- Tech giant Google is all set to exhibit itself as AI first company in front of the world by opening new research centers across the globe such as in Tokyo, Zurich, New York, and Paris. Following this idea, the company has opened its first center in Africa in Ghana capital city, Accra.
- Using Google's AI machine app 'TensorFlow', farmers analyze the issue with their plants and boost their production. TensorFlow was outsourced by the company to help developers generate solutions to real-world problems.

### **Karan Johar's wax statue unveiled at Madam Tussauds Singapore:**

- Karan Johar, one of the most prominent personalities in Bollywood industry, has become India's first filmmaker to have a wax statue at Madame Tussauds in Singapore.
- Karan unveiled his wax statue on Thursday and was accompanied by his mother Hiroo Johar.

### **London becomes first city to implement 24x7 pollution charge zone:**

- London on Monday (local time) became the first city in the world to implement a special Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) that would charge an entry fee for older vehicles if they do not meet the emission standards.
- In an attempt to reduce air pollution and protect public health, the ULEZ will be operational for 24 hours and seven days a week, according to a statement by London mayor Sadiq Khan's office.

### **Iran, Pakistan to set up border 'reaction force' after militant attacks:**

- Iran and Pakistan have agreed to set up a joint border "reaction force" following a number of deadly attacks by militant groups on their frontier, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani announced Monday after talks with visiting Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan.

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### **UAE adopts new national AI strategy aimed at becoming global leader:**

- The UAE's Cabinet has adopted a new 'National Artificial Intelligence Strategy 2031' aimed at positioning the UAE as a global leader in AI. The strategy will also seek to develop an —integrated system that employs artificial intelligence in vital areas in the UAE.
- The strategy includes eight objectives, including establishing an incubator for AI innovations, the employment of AI in customer service, attracting and training AI talent and research capabilities and providing a data-driven infrastructure to support AI experiments.

### **Etihad becomes 1st major airline to operate plastic-free flight:**

- The UAE's flag carrier Etihad Airways has become the first airline in the Gulf region to operate a flight without any single-use plastics on board, in a bid to raise awareness about pollution on Earth Day.
- According to the Abu Dhabi-based national airline of the UAE, the flight EY484 landed in Brisbane on April 22, Earth Day.

### **Singapore's Changi Airport touts the world's tallest indoor waterfall.**

- Singapore's Changi Airport has long been touted as the —best airport in the world, when it will officially open a dazzling pre-security attraction known as Jewel. The Jewel Changi Airport is about \$1.3 billion dollar project, connecting three of the four terminals at Changi Airport with the aim to increase the number of passengers coming to Singapore for visits and stopovers.
- Inside is a lush four-story tiered garden, more than 280 retail and dining outlets, a hotel, a multi-screen IMAX theater and its centerpiece: a 130-foot-tall Rain Vortex, which is the world's tallest indoor waterfall.

### **Emirates Islamic became world's first Islamic bank to launch banking via WhatsApp:**

- Dubai based Emirates Islamic has announced the launch of Chat Banking services for customers via WhatsApp, marking a global first in the Islamic banking sector.
- The Chat Banking solution allows customers to use features such as checking account balances and temporarily blocking or unblocking of an existing card.
- All messages on Emirates Islamic's verified WhatsApp Business account are encrypted, ensuring confidentiality and security.

### **Israeli PM intends to name Golan Heights settlement after Donald Trump**

- Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu intends to name a new settlement in the Golden heights after US President Donald Trump. This decision has been taken as an expression of gratitude towards Mr Trump for his historic decision to recognise Israel's sovereignty over the Golan Heights.

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- Israel captured the Golan from Syria in a 1967 war and annexed the territory in 1981, however, the move was not recognized internationally, until Trump signed a decree recognizing Israeli sovereignty over the strategic plateau.

### **Japan reveals new 'era' name ahead of emperor's abdication:**

- Japan on Monday announced its new imperial era, which will begin next month after Emperor Akihito abdicates, will be known as "Reiwa", a word that includes the character for "harmony".
- The name consists of two characters: "Rei", which can have meanings related to "order" but also "auspicious" and "Wa", usually translated as "peace" or "harmony".

### **Foundation stone laying ceremony of 1st Hindu temple in UAE**

- The Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony (Shilanyas Vidhi) of the first traditional Hindu Mandir in Abu Dhabi.
- Mahant Swami Maharaj, the sixth spiritual successor of Bhagwan Swaminarayan and the spiritual head of BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha, will also preside over the foundation stone laying ceremony of the BAPS Hindu Mandir in Abu Dhabi.
- The first traditional temple in Abu Dhabi will act as a catalyst for the flourishing of humanitarian values and harmony between the two countries. The temple will become a medium to represent India's identity.

### **In a first, Google drone will start deliveries of takeaways in Australia:**

- A Google-linked firm will start delivering takeaways and other small items to Canberra residents after the company received approval from aviation watchdogs in Australia.
- Drone Company "Wing" -- an offshoot of Google's parent company Alphabet -- has been trialling deliveries for the last 18 months, but will now be able to go ahead full time.

### **Saudi government raises India's Haj quota to 2 lakh:**

- Saudi Arabia has issued a formal order increasing the Haj quota of India to two lakhs from one lakh seventy five-thousand. In February this year, the Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman at a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced that Indian Haj quota would be increased by 25 thousand to two lakhs. This is the third hike in three consecutive years.
- As many as 2,340 Indian Muslim women will go for the pilgrimage without male companion or Mehram. This is the third hike in three consecutive years. In 2017, the quota was increased by 35,000 while last year, it was raised by 5,000 to take the number to 1,75,000

### **UK introduces world's first online safety regulations:**

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- The UK government has introduced the world's first framework designed to hold internet companies accountable for the safety of those using their services, as well to tackle potential harm to users.
- Under the Online Harms whitepaper, which is a joint proposal from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and the Home Office, social media and technology companies will need to take reasonable steps to protect their customers from threats stemming from their offerings.

### **World's first malaria vaccine launched in Africa :**

- The world's first malaria vaccine has been launched in Malawi after concerted efforts of over 30 years to protect children from the deadly disease that claims over 435,000 lives globally every year.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) welcomed the Government of Malawi's landmark pilot programme.

### **Russia's floating nuclear power plant ready for operations:**

- Russia's Rosatom State Atomic Energy Corporation (Rosatom) on Monday said its floating nuclear power unit is ready for commercial operations.
- In a statement, Rosatom said the two reactors of the floating power unit (FPU) were successfully brought up to 100 per cent capacity on March 31, and these confirmed operational stability of its main and auxiliary equipment, as well as the automatic process control systems.

### **India builds maternity hospital in Nepal's Siraha:**

- The Chandra Narayan Yadav Memorial Maternity Hospital, made on an Indian grant of Nepalese Rupees 26.90 million, was inaugurated by Ambassador of India to Nepal, Manjeev Singh Puri.
- The 25-bedded maternity hospital is built to provide access to maternity and health care services to the people of 50 village development committees (VDC) in and around the district of Siraha.

### **Beijing Hosts Second Belt and Road Forum:**

- The second edition of Belt and Road Forum (BRF) was held in Beijing, China from April 25th to April 27th, 2019 in which 37 heads-of-state and 159 countries had participated along with United Nations Secretary-General AntonioGuterres and International Monetary Chief (IMF) Christine Lagarde. The theme of this event was "Belt and Road Cooperation: Shaping a Brighter Shared Future".

### **Indonesia releases Ramayana stamp:**

- Indonesia on Tuesday released a special commemorative stamp on the theme of Ramayana to mark the 70th anniversary of diplomatic ties with India.
- The stamp, designed by renowned Indonesian sculptor Padmashri Bapak Nyoman Nuart, features a scene from Hindu epic Ramayana in which Jatayu valiantly fought to save Sita.

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### SUMMITS & CONFERENCES

Name of summits and conference	Held in
4th Session of India-Ukraine working group on Trade and Economic Cooperation	New Delhi
First edition of Naval Commanders' Conference of 2019	New Delhi
Global Water Summit	London
High-level discussions on "Fiscal Relations across levels of Government" by 15th Finance Commission	New Delhi
Saudi Arabia is going to host G20 summit	Riyadh.
2 <sup>nd</sup> Belt and Road Forum	Beijing, China
Biannual Army Commanders' Conference	New Delhi
First Global Conference on Synergies between the 2030 Agenda and Paris Agreement	Copenhagen, Denmark
3-day National Cardiology Conference	Lucknow
17th MENA World Economic Forum	Jordan
A two-day meeting of 21st ASEAN-India Senior Officials	New Delhi
G-20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' meet	Washington, DC USA
The 4th Resilient Cities Asia-Pacific Congress 2019	New Delhi
ABU Media Summit on Climate Action and Disaster Preparedness	Kathmandu, Nepal

### Ranks and Indexes:

Report released by	India's rank	Top position
World Press Freedom Index 2019	140	Norway
Startup Ecosystem Ranking for 2019	17	USA
Index of Cancer Preparedness (ICP)	19	Australia
Most targeted nation by hackers	2	USA
Top recipient of remittances	--	India
Biggest military spender	4	USA



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### President Ramnath Kovind Released NIRF, ARIIA 2019 Rankings:

Category	Winner
Overall	IIT-Madras
Engineering	IIT-Madras
Medical	All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi
University	Indian Institute of Science Bengaluru
Management	Indian Institute of Management Bangalore
College	Miranda House, Delhi
Pharmacy	Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi
Architecture	IIT-Kharagpur
Law	National Law School of India University, Bengaluru

### As per Air Quality in India 2014-2019" report, Kanpur ranked 1st as the most polluted city:

- The quality of air in Varanasi, Prime Minister Modi's 2014 Lok Sabha constituency, is positioned 3rd on the WHO's (World Health Organisation) list of 15 most polluted cities in the world, by the Political Leaders Position and Action on Air Quality in India 2014-2019' report, released by Climate Trends. Kanpur (in Uttar Pradesh) is the most polluted city in the world and is positioned 1 on the list.
- 14 of the 15 most polluted cities in the world (mentioned by World Health Organisation (WHO) are in India. Out of them, 4 are in Uttar Pradesh. WHO's report states that Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh is witnessing a rise in the number of people suffering from allergies and respiratory problems due to huge amount of construction in the city. Faridabad in Haryana is in 2nd position after Kanpur.

### Over 1.2 M early deaths in India due to air pollution: a report released by State of Global Air-2019:

- On 3rd April 2019, as per the State of Global Air 2019 report, over 1.2 million people died in India due to air pollution in 2017.

### Time's 100 most influential people:

- 3 Indians have placed in the list: Mukesh Ambani, Arundhati Katju, Menaka Guruswamy.

### Jharkhan's Dhanbad tops 4G availability list in India:

- According to report 'OpenSignal's Hottest city for 4G Availability' released by OpenSignal, Dhanbad, which is also known as the coal capital of India has the highest 4G availability of 95.3%, followed by Ranchi which has 95% of 4G Availability. The report revealed 4G Availability across the top 50 Indian cities

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- Both Ranchi and Dhanbad are two cities in Jharkhand and they are the only two cities to have over 95% of 4G coverage. Srinagar is one of the remote areas in the country stood third on the list with 4G Availability score of 94.9%.

### **According to SIPRI report, India's military expenditure rises by 3.1% to reach \$66.5 billion and Pakistan's by 11% to reach \$11.4 billion in 2018:**

- According to the report from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), a think-tank, the world's military expenditure has risen by 2.6% to reach 1.82 \$ trillion in 2018. This shows that military expenditure has increased for the 2nd consecutive year to the highest level since 1988 and is 76% higher than it was in 1998. In this total share, India, United States, China, Saudi Arabia and France altogether contributed to 60% per cent of the amount, with US and China being the 2 biggest spenders.

### **Guwahati Railway Station first in India to get ISO certification:**

- 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. The station also has amenities such as High-class reserve (VIP) lounge, waiting rooms, AC and non-AC retiring rooms, food courts and sanitation facilities.
- ISO stands for —International Organisation for Standardisation that is responsible for establishing the standard in different areas of activities.

### **113 mn people of 53 countries faced severe hunger in 2018, as per Global Report on Food Crises 2019:**

- In accordance with the annual 2019 Global Report on Food Crises, around 113 million people across 53 countries faced severe hunger in 2018. In comparison to the figures of 2017, the number is reduced from 124 million but it requires urgent humanitarian assistance.

### **HDFC Bank ranked No. 1 in India by Forbes:**

- HDFC Bank has been at the forefront in leveraging technology to give its 43 million customers a superior banking experience. Apart from HDFC Bank, it was another private-owned lender ICICI Bank which took the second spot in Forbes list for India. At third rank was DBS, followed by Kotak Mahindra Bank and IDFC Bank taking fourth and fifth spot.
- Banks like Syndicate Bank, PNB, Allahabad Bank, Vijaya Bank and Axis Bank were also in top 10.

### **Arunachalam Muruganatham, the maker of low-cost sanitary napkins, in Fortune's list of world's greatest leaders:**

- Arunachalam Muruganatham known as the maker of low-cost sanitary napkins in India with his invention of cellulose-based pads, has made it to Fortune magazine's 2019 list of the world's greatest leaders.

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- He ranks 45<sup>th</sup> in the list released by the American publication. Bill and Melinda Gates top the list for the work of their charitable organisation Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, who earned much acclaim for her response to Christchurch mosque shootings in February, ranked second while the US special counsel Robert Mueller, who recently submitted his findings of the Donald Trump campaign's collusion with Russia, rounded off the top three.

### **AGREEMENT AND MOU SIGNED**

#### **NTPC signs Rs. 2,000 cr term loan pact with Canara Bank:**

- State-run power giant NTPC has inked a term-loan agreement with Canara Bank to raise Rs. 2,000 crore, which would be used to part finance its capital expenditure. The loan facility is extended at an interest rate linked to 3- Month MCLR of the Bank.
- NTPC had signed a term loan agreement for Rs. 5,000 crore with State Bank of India. The loan facility from SBI was also aimed at part financing the company's capital expenditure.

#### **UNICEF, NITI Aayog tie up for children empowerment:**

- NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and UNICEF India signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) to provide an open platform to promote participation, skilling and empowerment among young children across different communities.
- Through this collaboration, AIM and UNICEF seek to promote participation, skilling and empowerment of adolescent girls and boys in and out-of-school, via Atal Innovation Mission's programs. This strategic partnership will also help effectively build capacities of adolescents, young entrepreneurs, mentors and teachers.

#### **For setting up India-Africa Institute of Agriculture and Rural Development (IAIARD) in Malawi, India signed an agreement with a development bank:**

- India has 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 to enhance capacity in the areas of agro-financing and entrepreneurship development for African countries.

#### **Indian Army signs MoU with NHPC for construction of tunnels on China, Pakistan borders:**

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- Indian Army signed an MoU with National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited (NHPC) on Thursday to construct tunnels on borders with China and Pakistan for storage of ammunition and other war-related equipment.
- Under the pilot project, three tunnels will be built on China border while one will be built along the Line of Control with Pakistan.
- The project is meant to bolster the Indian Army's capabilities along the Chinese border where India's infrastructural development is far outpaced by that of China.

### **Cabinet approves MoU between India and Cambodia in the field of Communications:**

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given ex post-facto approval to the MoU between India and Cambodia on collaboration in the field of Communications. The main motive behind this pact is to strengthen bilateral cooperation and mutual understanding between India and Cambodia in the field of communications.

### **Tata Power, Indraprastha Gas ink pact for rooftop solar projects:**

- Tata Power has signed a pact with Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) for setting up rooftop solar projects in the country. Tata Power is India's largest integrated power utility; IGL is country's largest CNG distribution company.
- The pact signed between Tata Power and IGL is for green energy solutions including rooftop solar projects, various integrated services including setting up of commercial scale EV charging/battery swapping stations

### **India offers USD 100 million credit to Bolivia for development projects:**

- Under the framework of South-South Cooperation, India has offered \$100 million Line of Credit to Bolivia for financing development projects. Accompanied by a 100-member strong official delegation, President Ramnath Kovind had wide ranging discussions with his counterpart President Evo Morales of Bolivia.
- The discussions focussed on political, economic and cultural issues including space, mining, IT, pharmaceutical and traditional medicines.

### **Cabinet apprised about MoU between India and Brazil in the area of Biotechnology**

- Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave its approval for an MoU signed in May, 2018 between India and Brazil. The motive behind this pact is to enhance the ties between India and Brazil to work out the future agenda for the amalgamation for innovation in Science & Technology diplomacy to develop a concrete deliberated plan in the area of biotechnology education, training and research.

### **Reliance Mutual Fund customers can now carry out voice-based transactions:**

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- Customers of Reliance Mutual Fund can now carry out voice-based financial transactions, with Reliance Nippon Life Asset Management (RNAM) partnering with internet major Google.
- With this, RNAM becomes the first company in India, to provide conversational interface that would help customers regarding funds transactions. In the first phase, the functionality would be launched in Reliance Simply Save app for the customers. RNAM is a joint venture between Anil Ambani-led Reliance Capital and Japan's Nippon Life Insurance Co Ltd.

### **Cabinet approves pact between India and Denmark in the field of Renewable energy:**

- Union cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave its approval for an agreement between Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and Denmark's Ministry for Energy, Utilities and Climate to facilitate deliberate collaboration in renewable energy with focus on offshore wind energy and a Letter of Intent to establish an Indo-Danish Centre of Excellence for renewable energy in India.

### **ICC to join hands with Interpol to tackle corruption in sport:**

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has sought closer working relations with the Interpol to widen the scope of its fight against corruption in the sport. The idea is to ensure that players are better educated about the corruptors and Interpol's vast network would be helpful in this.

### **NIIF, ROADIS to create a platform to invest \$2 billion in road projects**

- National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) and PSP Investment owned ROADIS will together create a platform to invest \$2 billion in road projects.
- The platform will invest up to \$ 2 billion of equity to target Toll Operate Transfer (TOT) models, acquisitions of existing road concessions and investment opportunities in the road sector with the aim of creating a large roads platform in the country.

### **Indiagets its first "Cold Spray" SMART lab with IIT Madras-GE collaboration**

- IIT Madras in collaboration with General Electric (GE) established India's first 'Cold Spray' SMART (Surface Modification and Additive Research Technologies) Laboratory. With this, IIT Madras is now the only academic institution in India, which has a first-of-its-kind High-Pressure Cold Spray (HPCS) facility.
- The lab has been set up with the Government of India's support under its 'Uchchar Avishkar Yojana' (UYAY).



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### APPOINTMENTS

Person	Designation
Manu Sawhney	ICC Chief Executive
D Choudhury	Senior Air Staff Officer, Western Air Command
Vipin Anand	Managing Director of LIC
Shri Rakesh Malhotra	High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Cameroon
Vinod K. Dasari	Royal Enfield CEO
Mayoori kango	Industry Head of Google India
Praful Patel	Member of FIFA Executive Council
CS Rajan	Managing Director of IL&FS
David Malpass	World bank President
Keshav Muruges	Nasscom Chairman
Vikram Kirloskar	President of Confederation of Indian Industry(CII)
Sheikh Salman	President of Asian Football Confederation
Lori Lightfoot	First Black Women Mayor of Chicago
Graham Reid	Indian Men's Hockey Team Chief Coach
Anwar Haleem	Ambassador of India to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
Vikramjit Sing Sahney	President of ICC India
Usha Padhee	first woman CMD of Pawan Hans Ltd
Jean Michel Lapin	Prime Minister of Haiti
Varun Dhawan	Navratna Cool brand ambassador
Karnam Sekar	MD, CEO of Indian Overseas Bank
Abdelkader Bensalah	President of Algeria
Murali Kartik	Brand ambassador of Fantasy 11
Gargi Kaul	New Secretary, Defence Finance
Shiv Das Meena	CMD of National Buildings Construction Corporation
Dr Bibhu Kalyan Nayak	FIH health & safety committee head
Najma Akhtar	First women vice-chancellor of Jamia Millia Islamia University
Mithali Raj	Goodwill Ambassador of Street Child Cricket World Cup 2019
Mohammed Ishtayeh	Palestinian President

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MS Dhoni	Brand ambassador of redBus
Padmaja Alaganandan	CPO of PwC
Rajesh Yaduvanshi	Executive Director of Punjab National Bank
Sanjay Manohar	Managing Director of McAfee India
Sanjay Kumar	Member of National Geospatial Advisory Committee
Jaideep Sarkar	India's High Commissioner to South Africa
Jitendra Chaddah	Chairman of IESA
Dr Suhel Ajaz khan	Ambassador of India to the Republic of Lebanon
Gagandeep Kang	Elected as a Fellow of the royal Society (FRS) in the UK
V.P. Pathak	Member (Materials Management) of Railway Board
Shri N. Kashinath	Member (Signal & Telecom) of Railway Board
Kaushik Shaparia	CEO of Deutsche Bank for India
Ravinder Kumar Passi	Chairman of Export Promotion Council for Handicraft (EPCH)
Ravi Shastri	Corporate Ambassador of the Dubai based 'RAKEZ'
Sairee Chahal	Board of directors in Paytm Payments Bank
Mukesh Kumar	Judo Union of Asia general secretary
Volodymyr Zelensky	Judo Union of Asia general secretary
Manish Maheshwari	Managing Director of Twitter India
Vikas Khanna	Brand ambassador of Indo-American Arts Council (IAAC)
Rajendra Kumar Nayak	52 <sup>nd</sup> Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA)
Dalbir Singh Suhag	High commissioner of India in Seychelles
Siddhartha Mohanty	COO of LIC Housing Finance
M S Yadav	general secretary of AIFPTIEU
Doru Isac	Technical Director for Indian football team.
Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria	Vice Chief of Indian Air Force
Dilip Kumar	Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in office of Lokpal

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### Resignation:

Person	Designation
Shaji Farooq	Wipro BFSI president
Amit Jain	Uber's Asia-Pacific region (APAC) Head
Uday Kumar Varma	Assocham Secretary General
Nasim Zaidi	Jet Airways board
Soumeylou Boubeye Maiga	Mali's Prime Minister
Jagjit Singh	PwC (PricewaterhouseCoopers)
Abdelaziz Bouteflika	Algeria's president
Rajan Anandan	Google India Head

## SPORTS

### ISSF Rifle/Pistol World Cup 2019 Concludes: India Finishes Top:

- India ended their campaign at the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup with a total of four medals, three golds and a silver.
- China was on the second position with 5 medals including 2 gold. The event was held in Beijing, China.
- Divyansh Panwar and Anjum Moudgil had won the first medal for India at the Beijing ISSF World Cup after clinching gold in 10m Air Rifle Mixed event.
- Manu Bhaker and Saurabh Choudhary won the gold medal in 10m Air Pistol Mixed event.

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	India	3	1	0	4
2	China	2	2	1	5
3	Russia	1	3	3	7

### 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.

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### Asian Weightlifting Championships 2019:

- The Asian Weightlifting Championships 2019 was held in Ningbo, China from April 20 to April 28, 2019.
- It was the 48th edition of men's and 29th edition of women's championship. There were 214 athletes from 27 nations participated in the tournament.
- India won 5 medals which include 3 silver and 2 bronze medals and finished at tenth place in the tournament.

Category	Event	Name	Medal
Women 49-kg	Snatch	Jhili Dalabehera	Silver
Women 49-kg	Clean and Jerk	Jhili Dalabehera	Silver
Women 49-kg	Total (Snatch + Clean and Jerk)	Jhili Dalabehera	Silver
Men 102-kg	Clean and Jerk	Pardeep Singh	Bronze
Women 49-kg	Clean and Jerk	Mirabai Chanu	Bronze

### ICF Chennai wins Arjan Singh Memorial International hockey tournament:

- Integrated Coach Factory, Chennai beat South Central Railway, Hyderabad via penalty shootout in the final to win the 2nd Marshal of the Indian Air Force Arjan Singh Memorial International hockey tournament title

### Indias Nitendra Singh Rawat finishes 27th in Virgin Money London Marathon 2019:

- Indian marathon runner, Nitendra Singh Rawat finished 27th in 2 hours 15 minutes and 59 seconds in the men's Elite race of prestigious Virgin Money London Marathon 2019 at London, the UK which was won by EliudKipchoge of Kenya for record fourth time.
- This was the fourth fastest in his career and his second fastest time in this season

### Australia's Claire Polosak became first female umpire to stand in men's ODI:

- The 31-year-old, Australia's Claire Polosak became the first womanumpire to stand in a men's ODI in the final match of ICC World Cricket League 2.
- Previously, she stood in 15 women's ODI matches, the first one played between Australia and South Africa in November 2016.

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### Ajinkya Rahane becomes 1st Indian cricketer to join Hampshire Indian cricketer:

- Ajinkya Madhukar Rahane became the first overseas player from India to represent Hampshire and he will replace Aiden Kyle Markram, who will join South Africa's World Cup Team.

### Sathiyam becomes first Indian to break into top-25 of ITTF rankings:

- India's G Sathiyam on Monday scaled new heights in his rapidly rising career by becoming the first Indian to break into the top-25 of world rankings.
- Sathiyam rose four spots to be 24th in the latest ITTF rankings, following his impressive sixth place finish in the Asia Cup in Yokohama earlier this month. Last week, he was the sole Indian to reach the round of 32 in the World Championships in Hungary.

### Papua New Guinea got ODI status after USA and Oman:

- Papua New Guinea, a south-western pacific country got their One Day International (ODI) status and a place in International Cricket Council (ICC) Cricket World Cup League 2 after beating Oman by 145-run.
- Now, Papua New Guinea joins Namibia, Oman, Scotland, the US, Nepal and UAE in the ICC Cricket World Cup League 2. In the next two-and-a-half-year all six team will play 36 ODIs each in the run-up to the Men's Cricket World Cup 2023.

### Manu Bhaker & Saurabh Chaudhary win India's second gold at ISSF World Cup:

- Manu Bhaker and Saurabh Chaudhary won their 2nd World Cup gold in the 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team
- The Indian duo outclassed Jiang Ranxin and Pang Wei of China 16-6
- Anjum Moudgil and Divyansh Singh won India its first gold at the ISSF World Cup in Beijing.

### Asian Wrestling Championship 2019 Concludes: India Finishes With 16 Medals, Iran Tops:

India wrapped up their campaign at the Asian Wrestling Championships on a resounding note with 16 medals after Harpreet Singh settled for a silver in 82kg on the final day of competitions. Only Bajrang Punia won the gold medal after defeating Kazakhstan's Sayatbek Okassov by 12-7 in 65kg men's freestyle. Asian Wrestling Championship 2019 was held at Xi'an, China.

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Iran	11	0	6	17
2	China	5	5	6	16
3	Japan	4	7	6	17
8	India	1	6	9	16



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### **Valtteri Bottas grabs Azerbaijan Grand Prix 2019:**

- Valtteri Viktor Bottas (Finland) of Mercedes captured Formula 1 State Oil Company of Azerbaijan Republic (SOCAR) Azerbaijan Grand Prix 2019 by beating Mercedes team-mate Lewis Hamilton at the Baku City Circuit in Baku, Azerbaijan.
- Bottas finished the race 1.5 seconds ahead of Hamilton.

### **Indians win 1 silver, 2 bronze at Asian Road Para-Cycling Championships 2019:**

- Asian Road Para-Cycling Championships 2019 was held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan from April 23 to April 28, 2019, and a total of twenty-eight countries took part.
- Indian para cyclists won a silver and two bronze medals.
- **Divij Shah** has clinched his third consecutive silver medal in the C5 category.
- **GurlalSingh**, Asian Para Games bronze medallist, became the only Indian cyclist (able-bodied or otherwise) to win a medal at the Asian Games level grabbed a bronze in the C4 section.
- **Sudhakar Marathe**, a Hand cyclist from Maharashtra has claimed bronze for India in H5 category.
- The entire team went under rigorous training at the Aditya Mehta Foundation Academy (AMF) academy in Hyderabad under the guidance of coach K. Dattatreya and physiotherapist AshaShaikh.

### **Services bags the 6<sup>th</sup> Santosh Trophy Football Tournament title against Punjab at Guru Nanak Stadium:**

- With a second-half strike by Bikash Thapa at the Guru Nanak Stadium in Ludhiana, Services won their 6th Santosh Trophy Football Tournament title with a 1-0 victory over Punjab.
- The Services football team represents the Indian defense services in the Santosh Trophy.

### **Garin becomes first Chilean ATP champion title in 10 years:**

- On 15th April 2019, Chilean professional tennis player Christian Garin (22) won his first ATP title in 10 years in the final of the US Men's Clay Court Championships in Houston. He beat Norway's Casper Ruud.

### **USA secure ODI status for the first time:**

- United States Cricket Team won their first one-day international status with a third straight victory at the World Cricket League Division Two event in Namibia.
- The Americans defeated Hong Kong by 84 runs.

### **Fabio Fognini became the first Italian to win an ATP Masters 1000 title:**

- 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.

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- Fognini had beaten Rafael Nadal in the semi-final. Fognini earns 1000 ATP Rankings points and receives €958,055 in prize money.

### 2019 Badminton Asia Championships Concludes: Complete List of Winners:

The 2019 Badminton Asia Championships is a badminton tournament which took place at Wuhan Sports Center Gymnasium in China and had a total purse of \$400,000. The 2019 Badminton Asia Championships was the 39th edition of the Badminton Asia Championships. This tournament was hosted by the Chinese Badminton Association.

Sl. No.	Event	Winner	Runner-Up
1.	Men's singles	Kento Momota	China Shi Yuqi
2.	Women's singles	Akane Yamaguchi (Japan)	China He Bingjiao
3.	Men's doubles	Hiroyuki Endo and Yuta Watanabe (Japan)	Marcus Fernaldi Gideon and Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo (Indonesia)
4.	Women's doubles	Chen Qingchen and Jia Yifan (China)	Mayu Matsumoto and Wakana Nagahara (Japan)
5.	Mixed doubles	Wang Yilü and Huang Dongping (China)	He Jiting and Du Yue (China)

### Dominic Thiem clinched 2019 67th Barcelona Open Title:

- Dominic Thiem clinched the Barcelona Open Banc Sabadell 2019 title held at Barcelona, Spain which was held from April 22 through April 28, 2019.
- The Austrian became just the fourth player in the past 15 years to lift the title in Barcelona, joining Rafael Nadal, Kei Nishikori, and Fernando Verdasco.
- He's also the first Austrian winner at this event since Thomas Muster in 1996. Thiem now has 13 ATP Tour titles, nine of which have come on clay.
- Men's Doubles: Juan Sebastian Cabal and Robert Farah, from Colombia, defeated Jamie Murray(UK) and Bruno Soares(Brazil) to clinch their 12th ATP Tour doubles title as a team

### FC Goa pip Chennaiyin FC to clinch 2019 Hero Super Cup title:

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- FC Goa, nicknamed as 'Gaur's', emerged as champions of the 2nd edition of Hero Super Cup 2019 after beating Chennaiyin FC 2-1 at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar.
- Goa lifted their first ever Trophy. 19 year old Goa Goal keeper Mohammad Nawaz has been named as Hero of the Match.
- In six years of existence, FC Goa accounted for two Indian Super League semi-finals and two finals and then in their first Super Cup final, they conquered their first trophy.

### **Petra Kvitova Wins Maiden Stuttgart's Porsche Grand Prix 2019:**

- World number three tennis player Petra Kvitova (Czech Republic) beat Anett Kontaveit (Estonia) to win Stuttgart's Porsche Grand Prix for her second title of the year.
- Kvitova is a two-time Wimbledon champion. The championship was held at Stuttgart, Germany.

### **Stephanie Frappart first woman to referee Ligue 1 match:**

- Stephanie Frappart, a French football referee, will become the first female referee, who will take charge of a Ligue 1 Conforama match in French football history.
- On 28th April 2019, she will be taking charge of the match between Amiens and Strasbourg.

### **The 2008 Olympic 1,500m champion, Asbel Kiprop banned for 4 years for doping:**

- The International Association of Athletics Federation Disciplinary Tribunal (IAAF) has banned the 2008 Olympic 1,500m champion and 3-time world champion Asbel Kiprop of Kenya for 4 years for doping until February 2022.

### **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 focussed 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.

### **Ethiopian runners Gelete Burka and Abreha Milaw won Paris Marathon 2019:**

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- Ethiopian athletes Gelete Burka in women's race and Abreha Birhanemul Kidanemariam in men's race have won the 43rd edition of the Paris Marathon by leading a record of 60,000 participants through the French capital, Paris.

### 23rd Asian Athletics Championships Concludes: Bahrain Tops, India Finishes 4<sup>th</sup>:

- The 2019 Asian Athletics Championships was the 23rd edition of the Asian Athletics Championships. The 4-day event was held from at the Khalifa International Stadium in Doha, Qatar.
- Bahrain topped the medal tally with 11 Golds followed by China (9 Gold) and Japan (5 Gold). India clinched the 4th spot with 17 total medals including 3 Gold. PU Chitra won gold in Women's 1,500 metres race.

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1.	Bahrain	11	7	4	22
2.	China	9	13	7	29
3.	Japan	5	4	9	18
4.	India	3	7	7	17

### Indian Open Badminton 2019:

- The Indian Badminton Tournament 2019 was held at K. D. Jadhav Indoor Hall in New Delhi from 26 to 31 March 2019.

Champions of Indian Open Badminton 2019

Men's Singles: Viktor Axelsen (Denmark).

Women's Singles: Ratchanok Intanon (Thailand).

Men's Doubles: Lee Yang and Wang Chi-lin (Chinese Taipei).

Women's Doubles: Greysia Polii and Apriyani Rahayu (Indonesia).

Mixed Doubles: Wang Yiliu and Huang Dongping (China).

### Cricketing icons Inzamam-ul-Haq, Mark Boucher inducted into MCC as Honorary Life Members:

- Pakistan's Inzamam and South African Boucher have been included in recognition to their outstanding achievements in the game of cricket.

### Miami Open 2019 Concludes:

- The Miami Open is an annual tennis tournament for men and women now held at the Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens, Florida. Here is the complete list:

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Category	Winner	Runner Up
Men's Single	Roger Federer (Switzerland)	John Isner (USA)
Women's Single	Ashleigh Barty (Australia)	Karolina Pliskova (Czech Republic)

Men's Double	Bob Bryan (USA) and Mike Bryan (USA)	Wasley Koolhof (Netherlands) and Stefanos Tsitsipas (Greece)
Women's Doubles	Elise Mertens (Belgium) and Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus)	Samantha Stosur (Australia) and Zhang Shuai (China)

### Cologne Boxing World Cup: Meena Kumari clinches gold as Indian boxers finish with 5 medals:

- Meena Kumari Maisnam continued her fine run to win gold medal in the 54 kg at the Boxing World Cup in Cologne.
- Sakshi (57kg) and Pwilao Basumatary (64kg) lost their final bouts and had to settle for the silver while Pinki Rani (51kg) and Parveen (60kg) won bronze as India finished with five medals.

### 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 Watingen,
- 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.

### 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.

### Lewis Hamilton clinched Formula One's 1000th race title British racing driver:

- Lewis Hamilton has achieved his 75th career victory in Formula One's 1000th race at the Chinese Grand Prix on 14th April, 2019.
- He has delivered a crushing performance to win this title.



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- Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes has achieved Chinese Grand Prix by defeating Valtteri Bottas, his teammate and pole sitter with a quick start from his No. 2 spot on the grid.

### **India finish with 16 gold medals at Asian Airgun Championship:**

- 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, five silver and four bronze.

### **India wins ICC Test Championship mace for 3rd straight year, get USD 1 million:**

- India have won ICC Test Championship mace for the third year in a row after finishing at the top of ICC Test team rankings on the cut-off date.
- India have also been awarded \$1-million cash prize.
- New Zealand, who are ranked second, won \$500,000 prize money after finishing with 108 points, eight behind India.
- South Africa finished 3rd with 105 points.
- Nine Test nations will compete across 27 series and 71 Test matches to reach the ICC World Test Championship Final in 2021 where the World Test Champions will be crowned.

### **Golfer Tiger Woods won fifth green jacket and 15th major title:**

- Golfer Tiger Woods won fifth Masters and 15th major title at Augusta National Golf Club.
- It was the 43-year-old American golfer's first major title victory in 11 years and his first Master's win since 2005.
- All-time leader, Jack Nicklaus is just three major titles ahead of the former world No.1.

### **Indian Squash player Saurav Ghosal became the first Indian to move in top 10 Squash world ranking:**

- On 1st April 2019, Saurav Ghosal moved up two places to become the first Indian male squash player to break into the top 10 of the latest PSA (Professional Squash Association) world ranking.
- He is ranked at 10th Place which is his career best ranking.

### **Malaysia Open 2019 Concludes:**

- 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.

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Sl. No.	Event	Winner	Runner Up
1.	Men's Singles	Lin Dan (China)	Chen Long (China)
2.	Women's Singles	Tai Tzu-ying (Chinese Taipei)	Akane Yamaguchi (Japan)
3.	Men's Doubles	Li Junhui and Liu Yuchen (China)	Takeshi Kamura and Keigo Sonoda (Japan)
4.	Women's Doubles	Chen Qingchen and Jia Yifan (China)	Du Yue and Li Yinhui (China)
5.	Mixed Doubles	Zheng Siwei and Huang Yaqiong (China)	Wang Yilü and Huang Dongping (China)

### Spain's Garbine Muguruza claimed Monterrey Open title:

- The 2019 Monterrey Open aka 2019 Abierto GNP Seguros was the 11th edition of Monterrey Open, held at Monterrey in Mexico.
- It was a women's tennis tournament played on outdoor hard courts. The prize money of the tournament was \$250,000.

### International Hockey Federation imposes fine of 1,70,000 Euros on Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) for disrespecting Pro League commitments:

- The International Hockey Federation (FIH) has imposed a fine of 170,000 Euros on Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) for not honouring the Pro League commitments and has given PHF a time-limit till 20th June, on failure of which PHF would have to pay double of penalty.

## DEFENCE

### India-Australia bilateral defence exercise will deepen strategic ties:

- India and Australia would further deepen defence and strategic relationship with the third iteration of bilateral exercise AUSINDEX 19, which will see the largest Australian defence joint task force to visit India.
- The Australian High Commission, in a statement, said that Australia and India's cooperation on shared maritime security interests in the Indian Ocean is set to rise to a new level with the biennial, bilateral exercise.

### Indian Navy warships to take part in Chinese fleet review:

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- Two Indian Navy warships, namely the destroyer INS Kolkata and tanker INS Shakti, would be taking part in Chinese international fleet review to be held at Qingdao.
- The celebrations are being held by the Chinese as part of the 70th Anniversary of the People's Liberation Army's Navy there and major navies are likely to take part in it.
- Indian Navy Ships Kolkata and Shakti are scheduled to arrive Qingdao, China on 21 Apr 19 to participate in the International Fleet Review as part of 70th Anniversary celebrations of PLA (Navy)

### **India successfully test fires sub-sonic cruise missile 'Nirbhay':**

- India today successfully test-fired its first indigenously designed and developed long range sub-sonic cruise missile 'Nirbhay', which has 1,000 km operational range and a capacity to carry warheads of up to 300 kg.
- It was successfully test fired from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur along the Odisha coast.

### **Pak navy successfully test-fires indigenous cruise missile:**

- An indigenously developed cruise missile successfully test fired by Pakistan Navy from its latest Azmat-class Patrol Craft, PNS Himmat (1027) in North Arabian Sea. The cruise missile has capability of anti-ship missile and land attack. The media arm of the Pakistan Armed Forces, Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) has not revealed the missile type which Pakistan Navy has tested.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of Indian Navy-Vietnam Peoples' Navy Bilateral Exercise (In – VPN Bilat Ex) Concludes:**

- The exercise was undertaken as a part of the ongoing Overseas Deployment of Eastern Fleet ships to South East Asian countries. IN Ships Kolkata under the command of Capt Aditya Hara and Shakti under the command of Capt Sriram Amur participated in the exercise, comprising a harbour and a sea phase.
- The Navy to Navy cooperation involves a Composite Training Programme in the fields of Submarine, Aviation and Dockyard training. The two countries have also signed an agreement to exchange White Shipping Information and have a running 'Information Sharing' programme.

### **Indian Army patrol team discovers wreckage of WW II vintage US Air Force aircraft:**

- A 12-member patrol team of the Indian Army along with a police official has discovered the wreckage of a World War II vintage US Air Force aircraft in Roing district of Arunachal Pradesh.
- The wreckage was located in a remote location at a distance of 30km from Roing and was covered by thick undergrowth and buried under five feet of snow. The discovery of this aircraft and other warlike stores will lead to the revelation of some historical inputs. World War II was fought from 1939 to 1945.

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### **Indian, US Navies hold anti-submarine warfare exercise:**

- Indian and the US Navies have held a joint submarine-hunting exercise in the Indian Ocean, aiming to lay the groundwork for coordinating maritime patrol and reconnaissance.
- Indian and the US' P-8 anti-submarine aircraft, along with the USS Spruance, a guided-missile destroyer, participated in the anti-submarine warfare training.
- The Indian P-8I Neptune aircraft from the Naval Air Squadron 312 based at Naval Station Rajali in Arakkonam, Tamil Nadu, joined the US P-8A Poseidon aircraft from Patrol Squadron VP-8 "Fighting Tigers", based in Jacksonville, Florida, in the exercise.

### **Army to hold joint exercise with coast guard, says Rawat:**

- Indian army chief General Bipin Rawat Monday said the army is planning to carry out a joint training and exercise with the Indian Coast Guard.
- He said the coast guard and the Indian Navy maintain coastal security and maritime surveillance.
- After commissioning the coast guard's offshore patrol vessel (OPV) Veera, the third in the series of the new-generation OPV here, he said Veera would help the coast guard monitor maritime boundaries more effectively.

### **Navy reviews outcome of Sea Vigil exercise:**

- The Indian Navy and several other agencies involved in coastal defence and maritime security brainstormed over the outcome of the 'Sea Vigil' exercise -- the first-of-its-kind multi-agency drill covering the entire 7,516 km-long Indian coastline and exclusive economic zone.
- The mega exercise took place on January 22 and 23 with participation of 13 coastal states and union territories along with all maritime stakeholders with an aim to check the efficacy of maritime security and surveillance.

### **Modi govt approves new agency to develop space warfare weapon systems:**

- With the aim of enhancing the capabilities of the armed forces to fight wars in space, the government has approved the setting up of a new agency which will develop sophisticated weapon systems and technologies for the purpose.
- The Cabinet Committee on Security headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has cleared the setting up of this new agency called the Defence Space Research Agency (DSRO) which has been entrusted with the task of creating space warfare weapon systems and technologies.
- Indian Navy's warships- INS Kolkata and INS Shakti at Busan, South Korea to participate in ADMM-PLUS:

### **Morocco-US Joint Military Exercise 'African Lion 2019' Starts In Morocco:**

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- 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.

### Indian Navy launches guided missile destroyer Imphal under Project 15B:

- The Indian Navy on Saturday launched guided missile destroyer Imphal at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders in Mumbai.
- Imphal, the third ship under Project 15B, successfully slipped into the waters at 12:20 pm, eliciting huge cheers and slogans of "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" and Vande Mataram from the huge crowd of staffers and officials that had assembled.

### BOOKS & AUTHORS

Name of the Book	Author
#Modi Again: Why Modi is right for India, An Ex-Communist's Manifesto	Aabhas Maldahiyar
Saffron Swords: Centuries of Indic Resistance to Invaders	Manoshi Sinha Rawal
Chequered Brilliance: The Many Lives of V K Krishna Menon	Jairam Ramesh
Kundan: Saigal's Life & Music	Sharad Dutt
Diary of an Awesome Friendly Kid: Rowley Jefferson's Journal	Jeff Kinney
Politics of Jugaad: The Coalition Handbook	Saba Naqvi
A ray of hope	Dr. Chandrasekhar
Diary of an Awesome Friendly Kid	Jeff Kinney
Quichotte	Salman Rushdie
Navdeep Suri	Khooni Vaisakhi



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### AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

Designation	Awardee
Zayed Medal by UAE	PM Modi
Global Slag Company of the Year	Tata Steel
Wisden Cricketers' Almanack 2019	Smriti Mandhana
Wisden Cricketers' Almanack 2019	Virat Kohli
Best Athletic Coach In Asia 2019	Indonesian Eni Nuraeni
Asian Tour with a 'Special Achievement Award'	Pawan Munjal
"Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle", by Russia	PM Modi
Next Billion Edtech Prize 2019	Dost Education
Freedom of the City of London for the recognition of her work to promote insurance ties between India and the UK.	Alice G. Vaidyan
Presidential Award of Maharshi Badrayan Vyas Samman 2019	Dr Gyanaditya Shakya
'D. Litt in Astrology' (Doctor of Letters)	Dr. Sohini Sastri
John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Award	Vikram Patel
New Zealand Prime Minister's Sir Edmund Hillary Fellowship for 2019	Deepa Malik
Honorary Doctorate from University of Law, London	Shah Rukh Khan
Celent Model Bank 2019 Award	Fincare Small Finance Bank
Best Digital Agency Award	Sudhanshu Kumar
Lifetime Achievement Award 2019 during 4th APJ Abdul Kalam Innovation Conclave	Dr A K Singh
UK Royal Society honour	Yusuf Hamie
Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant Award	Sunil Kumar Gautam, for his book 'Samvidhan Kavya'.
Best cinematography award at Beijing International Film Festival	Malayalam film "Bhayanakam"
World Press Photo of the Year	John Moore
Swacchta Pakhwada Awards 2019	i. All India Radio ii. Publication Division iii. Children's Film Society of India

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2019 Citi Journalistic Excellence Award	Teena Thacker
India's first retail company to cross the Rs.1 lakh crore annual revenue milestones	Reliance Retail
Order of Ikhamanga in the Silver Division	Jacques Kallis
World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) awards of the United Nations (UN).	"Utkarsh Bangla" and "Sabooj Sathi" scheme
2019 class of Cleveland International Hall of Fame	Sree Sreenath
Selected for UNESCO/Guillermo Cano Press Freedom Prize 2019	Kyaw Soe Oo and Wa Lone
IPI's 71st World Press Freedom Hero in 2019	Journalist Cyril Almeida
National Intellectual Property Award 2019	IPR cell of Kerala Agricultural University (KAU)
Saraswati Samman 2018	K Siva Reddy
National Basketball Coaches Association's 2019 Coach of the Year	Mike Budenholzer
National Intellectual Property Award for 2019 in the category of Top Individual for Patents and Commercialization	Benny Antony
Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize for his 2010 novel "Solo", a tale of estrangement and the ultimate failure of material existence	Rana Dasgupta

### **Batman will become the first Inductee of Comic-Con Museum's Character Hall of Fame:**

- On his 80th Birthday, Batman will become the first Inductee of Comic-On Museum's Character Hall of Fame, in a ceremony at 50th Annual Comic-Con International in San Diego, USA.

### **Kandhamal Haldi (turmeric) gets Geographical Indications (GI) tag:**

- Kandhamal Haldi (turmeric), Odisha's locally grown turmeric in its Kandhamal district has received the Geographical Indications (GI) tag from Intellectual Property India. It is organically grown by tribals.

### **Guwahati Railway station becomes the first 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 (International Organisation for Standardisation) certification from the National Green Tribunal (NGT).

### **150 Indian peacekeepers honoured with UN Medal for their service in UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS):**

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- In Malakal, South Sudan, the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) awarded 150 Indian peacekeepers with Medals of Honour for serving the mission with extreme dedication and sacrifice.

### **Isaak Hayik, 73, set a new record as world's oldest soccer player:**

- 73-year-old Israeli Isaak Hayik set a new world record as the world's oldest person to play in a professional soccer match. He played a match for FC Ironi Or Yehuda against FC Maccabi Ramat Gan.

### **3 Indian teams win awards at NASA Rover Challenge 2019:**

- NASA has awarded three teams of Indian students in its 25th Annual Human Exploration Rover challenge 2019 at the US Space and Rocket Centre in Huntsville, Alabama. The program invites college students and high school students to develop and test roving vehicles for future missions to the Mars, Moon and beyond.
- "AIAA Neil Armstrong Best Design Award" won by team from KIET Group of Institutions in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. Team from Lovely Professional University in Phagwara, Punjab, received "STEM Engagement Award."
- The Mukesh Patel School of Technology Management and Engineering, Mumbai, Maharashtra, received the "Frank Joe Sexton Memorial Pit Crew Award" and also won the System Safety Challenge Award at the competition hosted by NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center.

### **Helen, Salim Khan and Madhur Bhandarkar get Deenanath Mangeshkar award:**

- National Award-winning filmmaker Madhur Bhandarkar, popular scriptwriter Salim Khan and yesteryears dancingdiva Helen were honoured with the prestigious Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Award at a ceremony.

1. For music and art - Classical dancer, Smt. Sucheta Bhide-Chapekar
2. Lifetime award (Jeevan Gaurav Puraskar) - Salim Khan
3. Special Award - Madhur Bhandarkar (for his contribution to Indian Cinema)
4. Special Award - Helen (for her contribution to Indian Cinema)
5. The Vagvilasini Award - Vasant Abaji Dahake (for Literature)
6. Mohan Wagh Award - Bhadrakali Productions —Soyare Sakall (for Best Drama of the Year)
7. Anandmayee Puraskar - Pandit Suresh Talwalkar of Taalyogi Ashram (for espousing a social cause)

### **Neeraj, Sindhu picked for ESPN India Multi-Sport Awards:**

1. Olympic silver medallist P V Sindhu and star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra were named as female and male sportsperson of the year in the ESPN India Multi-Sport Awards for their achievements in 2018.
2. Sportsperson of the Year (Male) - Neeraj Chopra (athletics)
3. Sportsperson of the Year (Female) - P V Sindhu (badminton)
4. Comeback of the Year - Saina Nehwal (badminton)

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5. Coach of the Year - Jaspal Rana (shooting)
6. Emerging Sports person of the Year - Saurabh Chaudhary (shooting)
7. Team of the Year - Women's team (table tennis)
8. Match of the Year - Amit Panghal vs Hasanboy Dusmatov (boxing)
9. Differently-abled athlete of the Year - Ekta Bhyan (para-athletics)
10. Moment of the Year - Women's 4x400m relay
11. Lifetime Achievement Award - Pradip Kumar Banerjee (football)

### **Pulitzer Prize: 2019 Winners List:**

- Pulitzer Prize is an award for achievements in newspaper, magazine and online journalism, literature, and musical composition in the United States. It was established in 1917 by provisions in the will of American (Hungarian-born) Joseph Pulitzer who had made his fortune as a newspaper publisher, and is administered by Columbia University in New York City
- Prizes are awarded yearly in twenty-one categories. In twenty of the categories, each winner receives a certificate and a US\$15,000 cash award. The winner in the public service category of the journalism competition is awarded a gold medal.

1. Public service: South Florida Sun-Sentinel
2. Criticism: Carlos Lozada of The Washington Post
3. Editorial Writing: Brent Staples of The New York Times
4. Breaking News Reporting: staff of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
5. Investigative Reporting: Harriet Ryan, Matt Hamilton and Paul Pringle
6. Explanatory Reporting: David Barstow, Susanne Craig and Russ Buettner of The New York Times
7. Local Reporting: staff of The Advocate of Baton Rouge, Louisiana
8. National Reporting: staff of The Wall Street Journal
9. International Reporting:
  - i. Maggie Michael, Maad al-Zikry and Nariman El-Mofty
  - ii. Wa Lone, Kyaw Soe Oo and a team from Reuters
10. Commentary: Tony Messenger
11. Editorial Cartoons: Darrin Bell
12. Breaking News Photography: The photography staff of Reuters
13. Feature Photography: Lorenzo Tugnoli of The Washington Post

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### **BOOKS, DRAMA, AND MUSIC**

1. Fiction: The Overstory by Richard Powers
2. Drama: Fairview by Jackie Sibblies Drury
3. General Nonfiction: Amity and Prosperity: One Family and the Fracturing of America by Eliza Griswold
4. History: Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom by David W. Blight
5. Autobiography or Biography: The New Negro: The Life of Alain Locke by Jeffrey C. Stewart
6. Poetry: Be With by Forrest Gander
7. Special Citation: Aretha Franklin

### **SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

#### **China successfully launches second generation data relay satellite:**

- 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.

#### **In a mission of many firsts, ISRO puts defence satellite EMISAT, 28 other satellites in orbit:**

- The 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.

#### **Nepal successfully launched its first satellite NepaliSat-1 into space:**

- Nepal successfully launched its first satellite NepaliSat -1 into space from Virginia in the United States. The satellite, developed by two Nepalis -- Abhas Maskey and Hariram Shrestha – at Japan's Kyushu Institute of Technology. NepaliSat-1 is a low orbit satellite. It will be stationed at the International Space Station 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 . It weighs 1.3 kilograms, making it a small satellite with limited capability.

#### **Sri Lanka's first satellite 'Raavana-1' was 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.



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- The satellite was designed and built at the Kyushu Institute of Technology in Japan by two Sri Lankan research engineers.

### **Tesla has developed its 'largest power 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.

### **GAIL, BHEL tie up for development of solar power projects:**

- Maharatna public sector units GAIL India Ltd and Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) have inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for cooperation in the development of solar power projects.
- The MoU is aimed at building a closer strategic partnership between the two state-owned companies for jointly pursuing commercial solar power projects through participation in tariff and viability gap funding based competitive bidding process.
- India has set a target to achieve 100 GW of solar power by 2022 so that all citizens can have round-the-clock access to uninterrupted electricity.

### **Google Unveils Hybrid 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.

### **Japan creates first artificial crater on asteroid:**

- Japanese scientists have succeeded in creating what they called the first-ever artificial crater on an asteroid, a step towards shedding light on how the solar system evolved.
- The announcement comes after the Hayabusa2 probe fired an explosive device at the Ryugu asteroid early this month to blast a crater in the surface and scoop up material, aiming to reveal more about the origins of life on Earth.

### **South Korea launched 5G network:**

- 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.

### **NASA astronaut to set record for longest spaceflight by a woman:**

- NASA astronaut Christina Koch is going to have her mission on the International Space Station (ISS) extended to 328 days. This would set a record for the longest single spaceflight by a woman. Koch arrived at

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the space station on March 14 and now is scheduled to remain in orbit until February 2020. She will eclipse the record of 288 days set by former NASA astronaut Peggy Whitson in 2016-17

- The longest single spaceflight by a NASA astronaut is 340 days, set by former NASA astronaut Scott Kelly during his one-year mission in 2015-16.

### The most powerful operational rocket in the world:

- 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.

### IMPORTANT DAYS

Day	Celebrated as	Theme
2	World Autism Awareness Day	Assistive Technologies, Active Participation
4	International Mine Awareness Day	United Nations Promotes SDGs – Safe Ground – Safe Home
5	National Maritime Day	Indian Ocean-An Ocean of opportunity
7	World Health Day	Universal health coverage (UHC): Everyone, Everywhere
10	World Homoeopathy Day 2019	
12	International Day of Human Space Flight	
7-13	World Allergy Week 2019	The Global Problem of Food Allergy
18	International Day for Monuments and Sites.	Rural Landscapes
21	World Creativity and Innovation Day	
22	Earth Day	Protect Our Species
23	World Book Day	
24	National Panchayati Raj Day	
25	World Malaria Day	Zero malaria starts with me
26	World Intellectual Property Day	Reach Gold-Intellectual Property (IP) And Sports
29	International Dance Day	
Last week	World Immunisation Week	Protected Together: Vaccines Work

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### OBITUARY

Name of the Person	Field
J Mahendran	Tamil Movie Director
Viharidas Gopaldas Patel	Economist and 'Father of Entrepreneurship Movement'
Elriesa Theunissen-Fourie	South African women's world cup cricketer
Sydney Brenner	Biologist
Karingozhakkal Mani Mani	Kerala Congress leader and former finance minister of Kerala
Arie Irawan	Malaysian golfer
Holkhomang Haokip	Former minister of Manipur
Pradeep Choubey	Hindi poet
Nadja Regin	Serbian actress
Tommy Smith	Former Liverpool captain
Navtej Hundal	'Uri: The Surgical Strike' Actor
SK Shivakumar	Space scientist
Jerrie Cobb	NASA's 1st female astronaut
Drupad Borgohain	Veteran Communist Leader
Con de Lange	Scotland all-rounder
Paripooranand Painuli	Former Congress MP and freedom fighter
Ms.KismatSagar	Lucknow Door Darshan Kendra Director
Patrick Rousseau	Former WICB president
Jean	Luxembourg's Grand Duke
Alan Garcia	Peru's former president
Lorraine Warren	Paranormal Investigator
Rama Sengupta Paul	Veteran Lady Mountaineer
Terry Rawlings	BAFTA-Nominated Film Editor
Amar Paul	Famous Bengali Folk Singer
Negasso Gidada	Former Ethiopian president
Pungam Kannan	Former India's ace footballer 'Asian Pele'
John Singleton	Youngest best director Oscar nominee
Chaudhary Vidyasagar	Former Himachal Pradesh Minister
Mark Medoff	Tony Award winner "Children of A Lesser God" writer