

First in India

India's first oil museum to come up in Guwahati

- Assam, the state where oil was discovered and produced for **the first time in the country more than a century ago, will have the first Oil Museum in the country.**
- All major oil and gas PSUs of the country – **ONGC, IOCL, HPCL, BPCL and EIL are coming together for this project**, which was launched by Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan here yesterday.

One Nation, One Card: PM Modi launches mobility card for seamless travel through different metros

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi on March 4, 2019 launched 'One Nation, One Card' Model from Ahmedabad, Gujarat for seamless travel through different metros and other transport systems.**
- The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs introduced the '**National Common Mobility Card' (NCMC)** to enable seamless travel by different metros and other transport systems across the country besides retail shopping and purchases.

India's first indigenously developed payment eco-system for transport mobility consists of:

- National Common Mobility Card (NCMC)
- Swachalit Kiraya: Automatic Fare Collection System (SWEKAR)
- Swachalit Gate (SWAGAT) based on NCMC Standards

The '**National Common Mobility Card' (NCMC)**, an indigenous automatic fare collection system based on **One Nation One Card Model**, is the first of its kind indigenously developed payment platform in India. These are bank issued cards based on Debit, Credit and Prepaid card platform.

India's first monorail is now fully operational in Mumbai

- **Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis inaugurated the 11.28 km second phase of the monorail. The full route of the monorail is 19.54 km long, Chembur-Wadala-Jacob Circle.**
- The network was developed and is being implemented by the **Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA).**
- The first phase was commissioned in February 2014 and was built and operated by Larsen & Toubro and Malaysia's Scmi Engineering.
- **The 17-station project has been built at a cost of Rs 3,000 crore.** Fares would range between Rs 10 and Rs 40.

IIT-Delhi scientists create 'DotBook', India's first Braille laptop for visually-impaired

- **The alumnus and researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi have created a laptop for visually-impaired.**
- In what they claim to be a first in the country, **the laptop has an interface in form of dots or Braille instead of a visual one. The researchers have named it 'DotBook'.**

- Pulkit Sapra, 26, from Delhi and Suman Muralikrishnan, 27, from Chennai — both students of IIT-Delhi did not opt for a job and continued researching on the topic which after five years was launched as India's first laptop for visually-impaired.

India's first LGBTQ clinic and HIV treatment centre inaugurated in Mumbai

- Around 20 years after the **Humsafar Trust** started a support group for gay men, male sex workers and transgenders, creating awareness about the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), **the group inaugurated the country's first HIV treatment centre and holistic clinic for the for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) community.**
- Based out of the trust's office in Mumbai, the centre will give free counselling and provide Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART).

In A First, Transgender Gets Government Job In Madhya Pradesh

- **In a first in Madhya Pradesh, a transgender has been given a government job. Sanjana Singh, 36, has been appointed the personal secretary to the director of the state's Department of Social Justice and Disabled Welfare (DSJDW).**
- Known for proactively participating in social events in the city, Sanjana has also been made a legal volunteer of the District Legal Authority, and a member of the Lok Adalat, where she will hear the pending cases along with the judge.

Arecanut gets its first GI tag for 'Sirsi Supari'

- **Arecanut, known as supari or betel nut, made its entry in the list of agricultural produce for the first time with the Geographical Indication (GI) tag for 'Sirsi Supari'.**
- The GI tag was accorded by the Registrar of Geographical Indications in the first week of March 2019.

India kicks off military drill with 17 African countries

- In the first such military outreach to Africa, where China has made deep strategic inroads, **India on March 18, 2019 kicked off an exercise with 17 nations from the continent at the Aundh military station at Pune.**
- **The inaugural Africa-India field training exercise-2019 (AFINDEX-19)",** being held from March 18 to 27, is aimed at training the participating nations in humanitarian mine action (de-mining and other protocols to handle landmines and explosives) and UN peace-keeping operations in which India has decades of experience.

Indian Air Force to participate in LIMA 2019

- **The Indian Air Force will participate in Langkawi International Maritime Aero Expo, LIMA 2019.** The expo will take place in **Langkawi, Malaysia from March 26-30, 2019.**
- The Defence Ministry stated in a release that the **Indian Air Force is participating in the Expo for the first time** and it will showcase its indigenously developed LCA fighter aircraft.

First Indian Army Mountaineering Expedition to Mt Makalu flagged off

- **First Indian Army Mountaineering Expedition to Mt Makalu (8485m) was flagged off on March 26, 2019.** Expedition team comprises five Officers, two JCOs and eleven other officers. This expedition was flagged off by Director General Military Training.
- In furtherance of the objective of summiting all challenging peaks above 8000M, Indian Army is launching its maiden expedition to Mt Makalu in Mar-May 2019.

First in Finance

InstantPay launches neo-banking services for SMEs

- **InstantPay reiterated its focus on the SME industry with its launch of the first-of-its-kind Neo-banking services.**
- **This new age branchless banking solution will allow SMEs the advantage of managing all their payments, collections and reconciliation on a single and seamless interface.**
- With its 100% digital and mobile platform **InstantPay** is trying to reinvent the practices of a traditional bank, while at the same time ensuring that they are more cost-effective, automated and convenient, in line with the requirements of today's SMEs.

Blackstone-Embassy Group set to launch India's first REIT

- **Global investment company Blackstone** and realty firm **Embassy** will hit the capital market with **the country's first real estate investment trust (REIT) to raise up to Rs 4,750 crore**, while it has received Rs 876-crore commitment from strategic investors.
- Embassy Office Parks, joint venture of Blackstone and Embassy, has entered into unit subscription agreements with strategic investors to allot them 2,92,08,800 units for Rs 876.3 crore.
- These investors are American Funds Insurance Series, New World Fund INC and SMALLCAP World Fund Inc, according to a regulatory filing.

Rail Vikas Nigam IPO opens: Key Takeaways

- **Miniratna Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd (RVNL) came out with its first Initial public offering (IPO) on March 29, 2019.**
- The state-owned company will not receive any proceeds from the offer as the Central Government is selling around 12 percent of its stake in the company. **After the IPO, the Government's stake in RVNL will be pegged at 88 percent.**
- The Rail Vikas Nigam is offering its 25.34 crore shares at a price band of Rs 17 - Rs 19 per equity share.

First in World

First BRICS Sherpa meeting under Presidency of Brazil concludes successfully

- **The first BRICS Sherpa meeting under the Presidency of Brazil concluded yesterday at Curitiba in Brazil.** Secretary, Economic Relations in the Ministry of External Affairs, **T S Tirumurti** led the Indian delegation at the two-day meeting.

- External Affairs Ministry said in a statement that Brazil has identified countering terrorism as one of its priority areas for BRICS under its presidency.

UNSC passes Resolution to combat terrorist financing

- **The United Nations Security Council (UNSC)** on March 28, 2019 unanimously passed **the first-ever resolution to suppress the funding of terror groups worldwide.**
- **The “Resolution 2462 on Countering the Financing of Terrorism”** clearly states that all the member states shall make sure to establish laws and regulations that regard funding to terrorist groups or individual criminals a serious criminal offence.

First in Sports

Afghanistan records maiden Test win

- **Afghanistan's cricket team on March 18, 2019 recorded its maiden Test win** after beating Ireland by seven wickets in a one-off game at **Dehradun in Uttarakhand.**
- The test victory came to Afghanistan nine months after making its debut in the traditional format. **The nation scored 314 in the first innings. Chasing 147 for victory, it achieved the target in second innings, scoring 149 for 3.**
- On the other hand, Ireland scored 172 in the first innings and 288 in the second innings. Afghanistan's Rahmat Shah was named the Man of the Match for his twin fifties.

Suresh Raina becomes first player to score 5,000 IPL runs

- **Suresh Raina** added another feather to his illustrious cap, here on Saturday, as the Chennai Super Kings' (CSK) batsman **became the first in the Indian Premier League (IPL) history to amass 5,000 runs.**
- During the ongoing IPL 2019 opener against Royal Challengers Bangalore, Raina, a vital cog in the Chennai's armory, achieved the rare feat as soon as he touched the individual score of 15.

First in Banking, Economy and Finance

Former Chief Justice of Gauhati HC Ajit Singh appointed as first Lokayukta of Odisha

- **Former Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court Ajit Singh is appointed as the first Lokayukta of Odisha.**
- Odisha Governor Ganeshi Lal has approved his name following the recommendation of selection committee headed by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik which unanimously selected **Ajit Singh as the Lokayukta chairperson.**

C Lalsawta sworn in as Mizoram's first Lokayukta chairman

- Retired IAS officer **C Lalsawta** was on **March 11, 2019** sworn-in as the first Chairman of the newly-constituted Lokayukta in Mizoram.
- He was administered the oath of office and secrecy by the newly appointed Mizoram governor Jagdish Mukhi in a swearing-in ceremony held at Raj Bhavan in Aizawl.

Ritu Beri appointed as Cultural & Tourism Ambassador of Uzbekistan in India

- Popular Indian fashion designer **Ritu Beri** has been appointed as the Cultural and Tourism Ambassador of Uzbekistan in India by the Ministry of Tourism of Uzbekistan.
- She is the first Indian to be appointed to this position.

Pinaki Chandra Ghose appointed as India's first Lokpal

- India gets its first Lokpal six years after the passage of Act, former Supreme Court judge, **Pinaki Chandra Ghose** was on **March 19, 2019** appointed as India's first Lokpal also known as the anti-corruption ombudsman.
- **Ghose appointment was approved by the President Ram Nath Kovind.** Besides this, the President also appointed four judicial and four non-judicial members of the Lokpal.

Indian-origin Jagmeet creates history, enters Canadian Parliament

- **Indian-origin Jagmeet Singh** has created history in Canada by entering the House of Commons as the first non-white leader of a major opposition party in the country.
- The 40-year-old was elected as the leader of the New Democratic Party in the federal by-elections, which were held on February 25.