

CURRENT AFFAIRS - CAPSULE

MARCH BANKING

- **Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (SFB)** launches loan of **Ujjivan Bank KisanSuvidha loan** to offer financial credit services to small and marginal farmers.
- **Banking**
- **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** has become highest in implementation of 'Reforms agenda'.
- Cabinet approved the subscribed share capital of **Rs. 1,450 crore** to purchase **RBI stake in National Housing Bank (NHB)**.
- **UAE-based company** has released **commemorative notes** to mark **150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi**.
- **PSBloansin59minutes.com** emerged as **the largest online lending platform**.
- **ICICI Bank** will acquire **9.9% stake** in Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC) **Kisan Finance** for nearly **Rs. 18 crore**.
- **SBI and Hitachi Payment Services Pvt Ltd** launched their joint venture, **SBI Payment Services Pvt Ltd (SBIPSPL) in Mumbai** for establishing **digital payments platform for India**.
- **United Bank of India** has signed a **bancassurance deal** with **HDFC Life Insurance Company**.
- **Government** has given a nod to the **IDBI Bank** to **handle import and export transactions** with **Iran**.
- **National Housing Bank (NHB)** has proposed stricter regulations for **Housing Finance Companies** to prevent them from **falling prey to liquidity and credit risks**.
- **RBI** has eased business guidelines for **white label ATMs** by allowing companies **to get cash directly from the central bank**.
- **SBI** has become the **first domestic bank** to link the interest rate offers on savings account deposits to an external benchmark to the **Reserve Bank of India's Repo rate**.
- **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** has sanctioned loans worth **Rs. 689 crore** to **1,600 MSMEs via 59-minute loan portal**.
- **Bank of Baroda** becomes **first Public Sector Bank** to launch **crèche/day-care facility for children of employees**.
- According to the **World Gold Council**, **RBI (India)** have **the 11th largest gold reserves**.
- **HDFC** becomes the **third Indian company** after **Reliance and TCS** to achieve a market value of more than **Rs. 6 trillion**.
- **Bank of India** has raised capital of **Rs. 660 crore** by **selling shares to employees**.
- **SBI** has launched **doorstep banking service for senior citizens over 70 years of age and differently-abled customers**.
- **Corporation Bank** has celebrated **114th Foundation Day on 12th March**.
- **RBI** relaxed norms for **imports of capital and non-capital goods** by raising the **trade credit limit to USD 150 million** under the automatic route.

- **IDBI Bank** has been categorized as '**private sector bank**' for regulatory purposes by **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** with effect from **January 21, 2019**.
- **RBI** has decided to buy **USD 5 billion** from the banks in a **foreign exchange swap deal** to enhance the liquidity around **Rs. 35,000 crores** into the system.
- **SBI** has been launched '**YONO Cash**' for **cardless withdrawal of cash** at over **16,500 SBI ATMs across the country**.
- **RBI** has declared guidelines to **prevent misuse of price-sensitive information by participants in markets for financial instruments**.
- **RBI** named **SBI, ICICI Bank** and **HDFC Bank** as **Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs)**, which in other words mean banks that are **too big to fail**.
- **Indian bank's deposits** raised **9.8 percent** y/y in fortnight to **March 01**.
- **RBI** reiterates **No Dilution** in **Feb 12 Circular** on **Stressed Assets recognition and resolution**.
- **Bandhan Bank** gets **RBI** approval for acquisition of **Gruh Finance**.
- **Jammu and Kashmir Bank** to sell stake in **PNB Metlife** for **Rs. 185 crore**.
- **Bank of England** has recognized the **Clearing Corporation of Metropolitan Stock Exchange of India** as a **Third-Country Central Counterparty (TC-CCP)**.
- **Exim Bank** extends **USD 800 million credit line** for **financing developmental projects in Maldives**.
- **SBI** has signed **MoU** with **Bank of China** for **business opportunities**.
- **RBI** has proposed a rule-based approach in fixing **new Ways and Means limits for the state governments** by replacing the **previous expenditure-based system**.
- **RBI** has not approved for **name change proposal** by **IDBI Bank**.
- **RBI Governor Shaktikant Das** has been called for **Permanent Status to Finance Commission**.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) appointed 5-member committee under the chairmanship of **Nandan Nilekani** to strengthen digital payments as well as to boost financial inclusion through Financial Technology.
- **Digital lending industry** has been asked **RBI** to allow **direct debit for loan repayment**.
- **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** will develop an agriculture digital platform '**Baroda Kisan**' to provide **solutions for agricultural requirements**.
- **Government to Infuse Rs. 5,042 crore** Into **Bank of Baroda**
- **Supreme Court** warned **RBI** for **failing to disclose information** under the **Right to Information Act**.
- **Axis Bank** has opened its **4,000th branch** in **Pune**.
- **ICICI Bank** has launched **two instantaneous home loan facilities**, which would enable **instant and paperless home loan approval of up to ₹1 crore**.
- **RBI** sets **NBFC-MFI's average base rate** at **9.21 percent** for **April-June quarter**.
- **RBI** has cleared **Rs. 19,240.91 crore** towards **Cash Credit Limit (CCL)** for **Punjab for the purchase of wheat in the Rabi marketing season**.
- **RBI** has imposed a monetary penalty on the following banks for various reasons.

| Name of the Bank | Amount | Reason |
|----------------------|-------------|---|
| Dena Bank | Rs.2 crore | Non-compliance with various directions |
| Karnataka Bank | Rs.4 crore | Delayed implementation of SWIFT related operational controls |
| City Union Bank | Rs. 3 crore | Time-bound implementation & strengthening of SWIFT related operational controls |
| Punjab National Bank | Rs. 2 crore | Delayed implementation of SWIFT related operational controls |

- **Government of India has signed multiple agreements with various International Banks details given below.**

| Bank | Loan Amount | Purpose |
|-----------------|------------------|--|
| ADB | USD 926 million | To operationalise two lines for the Mumbai Metro Rail System |
| World Bank | USD 250 million | For the National Rural Economic Transformation Project (NRETP) |
| World Bank | USD 25.2 million | For Chhattisgarh Public Financial Management and Accountability Program |
| World Bank | USD 96 million | For Uttarakhand Disaster Recovery Project |
| AIB | USD 455 million | To finance the Andhra Pradesh rural roads project |
| World Bank | Rs. 2,200 crores | For Andhra healthcare project |
| ADB | USD 26 million | For additional financing to Assam Urban Project |
| World Bank | USD 137 million | Additional Financing for the Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) |
| ADB | USD 50 million | For solar power project developer 'Avaada' |
| Korea Exim Bank | Rs. 4,100 crore | For Vizag Metro |

ECONOMY

- **IFFCO Tokio General Insurance** launched **bank locker protector policy**, it is the **1st bank locker cover offered by any insurance company in India.**
- **Ayushman Bharat and Uber** ink partnership to facilitate **free healthcare for drivers.**
- **China** has slashed its official **GDP** target to **6% from 6.5%** for the year **2019.**
- **LIC Housing Finance** has partnered with **India Mortgage Guarantee Corporation (IMGIC)** to offer special loan scheme.
- **National Green Tribunal** slapped penalty of **Rs. 500 crore** on **Volkswagen** for cheating **emission tests.**
- **Organization for Economic Co-Operation & Development** forecast in its interim outlook report that the **world economy** would grow **3.3 per cent in 2019** and **3.4 per cent in 2020.**
- The **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)** has signed a cooperation agreement with the **International Finance Corporation (IFC).**
- **National Company Law Tribunal** has been cleared **Arcelor Mittal's Rs. 42,000 crore** bid to take over **Essar Steel.**

- Markets regulator **SEBI** withdraws the **20 percent limit** on investments by **Foreign Portfolio Investors** in **corporate bonds of an entity**.
- According to **the World Economic Forum (WEF)**, **Andhra Pradesh IT minister-Nara Lokesh, BJP MP-Poonam Mahajan** and **Xiaomi India head Manu Kumar Jain** are among the Indians featuring in the list of **Young Global Leaders**.
- **Shaktikanta Das** headed **panel of regulators** discuss issues **concerning economy**.
- **Aviva Life Insurance** has announced the launch of **'Wings'**, a specially designed mentorship program to **empower the female workforce**.
- According to **ICRA (Investment Information and Credit Rating Agency of India Ltd)**, **fresh NPAs in the banking sector** are expected to fall **1.9-2.4 %** in **FY-20** from **3.7%** in **FY-19**.
- **Microsoft India** partnered with **The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** to deploy Microsoft's **Project Sangam** cloud hosted mobile **first community learning platform**.
- **ICICI Lombard** and **Mobikwik** announced a strategic partnership to **provide cyber-insurance cover**.
- **WhatsApp** and **NASSCOM Foundation** collaborated to **tackle misinformation**. The aim of the partnership is to train **100,000 Indians** to spot false information.
- **IBBI (Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India)** and **SEBI** signed MoU for **effective implementation of IBC (Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016)**.
- **Hyundai** and **Kia** have signed to invest **USD 300 million in Ola** in developing **unique fleet and mobility solutions**, building **India-specific electric vehicles and infrastructure**.
- **India** registered the **highest growth of 27%** among countries in patent applications in 2018 with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO); India filed **2,013** international patent applications during the year.
- **Apple** has partnered with **Goldman Sachs and MasterCard** to develop a new credit card called **Apple Card**.
- **Adani Port and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ)** has become the **first Indian port operator** to handle **cargo movement of 200 million tonnes (MT)** in **2018-19**.
- **Infosys** has been partnered with **Roland-Garros Grand Slam tennis tournament** (also called the **French Open**) for a **three year strategic technology partnership**.
- **Reliance Nippon Life Asset Management (RNAM)** partnering with **Google** to carry out **voice-based financial transactions** for the **first time in India**.

INTERNATIONAL

- **Thailand** passed internet security law decried as **cyber martial law**.
- **USA** has officially shuttered its consulate in **Jerusalem** by downgrading the status of its main diplomatic mission to the Palestinians by folding it into the **U.S. Embassy to Israel**.
- Russian President **Vladimir Putin** has officially suspended the country's participation in a **key Cold War-era nuclear arms-control treaty** with the **USA**.
- **Indo-Bangladesh** border in **Assam** to be under **electronic surveillance**.
- **United Kingdom** launched global campaign to end **Period Poverty** by **2030**.
- **India** will collaborate with **Bhutan, Nepal, Indonesia** and **Malaysia** to **increase the population of three species of Asian rhinos**.
- **Venezuela** orders **German ambassador** to **leave the country**.
- **Russia's parliament** has advanced **strict new internet laws** to those who spread **fake news or disrespect government officials online**.

- **India and Maldives** signed MoU on new **Visa rules** to provide a **liberal visa policy** for **Maldivians** seeking **medical treatment, education and business opportunities in India**.
- **Pakistan** has become **deputy chairman** of general body of the Parliamentary Union of **Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC)**.
- **Italy** bans **unvaccinated children from school**.
- **Venezuela's parliament** declares '**state of alarm**' over **power outage**.
- **USA-India Strategic Security Dialogue** held in **Washington**.
- **European Union** expanded its **Tax haven blacklist** by **10 Countries** adding the **United Arab Emirates, Bermuda** despite the objections of powerful member states such as Italy. They are also joined by **Barbados, and the Marshall Islands**.
- The **4th session of United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)** held in **Nairobi, Kenya** where the **India piloted resolutions on single-use plastics and sustainable nitrogen management**.
- **Cyclone Idai** hit the **Mozambique city of Beira** and caused heavy rain and landfall at the port city.
- **French government** has decided to put **Masood Azhar** on a **European Union list of people suspected of being involved in terrorism**.
- **Sushma Swaraj** has unveiled a **plaque of the renovated Indira Gandhi Memorial Hospital in Maldives**. A **joint ministerial meeting was held in Male**.
- **Vijit** becomes the **first Indian Coast Guard ship** to visit **Indonesia**.
- **4th round of Free Trade Agreement** talks between **India and Peru** held in **Lima**.
- **Kazakhstan** has renamed its capital **Astana** as **Nursultan**.
- First ever **High-Level Dialogue on Indo-Pacific Cooperation (HLD-IPC)** held in **Jakarta, Indonesia**.
- **New Zealand** has imposed an immediate **ban on assault weapons** following the **Christchurch massacre** that claimed the lives of 50 mosque-goers.
- Three Naval Ships namely **INS Sujatha, INS Shardul, and INS Sarathi** have reached the **port city of Beira in Mozambique** to provide immediate **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief** under **operation Sahayata 19**.
- **16th meeting of the Canada-India Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism** and its Expert Sub-group was held in **Ottawa** to provide detailed briefings on their respective nation's counter-terrorism priorities, strategies and legislative frameworks.
- **Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale** held bilateral talks with Nepalese counterpart **Shankar Das** in **Kathmandu**.
- The Security Council of UN has passed the **new Resolution 2462** which is intended to crack down on the **financing of terrorist groups and ordering members to enforce laws against terror financing**.
- **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**.
- **Brunei** makes **gay sex and adultery punishable to death by stoning**.

NATIONAL

- **NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)** and **Adobe** signed a **Statement of Intent (SOI)** to collectively drive the charter of developing creative skills and spreading digital literacy across all **Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL)** in India.
- **Prakash Javadekar** launched the **Scheme for Higher Education Youth in Apprenticeship and Skills (SHREYAS)**, with an aim to **provide industry apprenticeship opportunities**.

- **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** launched **Van Dhan schemes** for **Minimum Support Price for Minor Forest products (MFP)**.
- **India and Brunei** signed a pact for exchange of Information and Assistance in Collection with respect to taxes in order to **curb tax evasion and tax avoidance** in **New Delhi**.
- **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** has signed MoU with **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** in order to **collaborate in the area of food and agriculture**.
- Union Minister **Smriti Irani** launched a comprehensive scheme for **Development of Knitting and Knitwear Sector** under **Power Tex India** in **New Delhi**.
- **Central government** has banned **Jamaat-e-Islami Jammu and Kashmir** under the **Unlawful Activities (Preventions) Act, 1967** for **5 years**.
- **PM Modi** inaugurated the **two day Expo-cum Conference on Construction Technology India 2019 (CTI-2019)** in **New Delhi**.
- **Anthem on "Plastic Waste-Free India"** which has been composed and produced by **Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Smriti Manch (PDUSM)** launched by **Harsh Vardhan**.
- **The Prayagraj Kumbh Mela 2019** has entered the **Guinness Book of World Records** for the **largest crowd management** and **largest painting exercise of public sites**.
- **PM Modi** launched the **"One Nation, One Card"** for **transport mobility** in **Ahmadabad**.
- **President Ram Nath Kovind** has given his approval for an Ordinance which allows voluntary use of **Aadhaar as ID proof** for **opening bank accounts and mobile SIM**.
- **The refurbished Handloom Haat** was inaugurated by **Textiles Minister Smriti Irani** at **Janpath, New Delhi**.
- **Union HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar** launched **STARS - Scheme** worth of **Rs. 250 crore** for **Translation and Advanced Research in Science** to **fund science projects**.
- **Coal Minister Piyush Goyal** dedicated a **1,000-megawatt (MW) thermal power project of Naively Tamil Nadu** to the nation.
- **Central government** has transferred the **first installment of Rs 2,000** each to over **2 crore farmers** so far under the ambitious **PM-Kisan** scheme.
- **Hardeep Singh Puri** launched **e-Dhari App** which is a new **online system** where all the **three main modules** i.e. **Conversion, Substitution and Mutation**.
- **Dharmendra Pradhan** announced **7 crore LPG** connections have been distributed under the **PMUY**. The highest number of connections have been issued in **Uttar Pradesh (1.26 crore)**.
- **Government** approved **National Mission on E-Mobility** to boost **electric vehicles (EV)** manufacturing.
- **The Lok Sabha elections** will be held between **April 11 and May 19** in **seven phases** and the counting of votes will take place on **May 23**.
- **34th edition of Aahar the International Food and Hospitality Fair** commences in **New Delhi**.
- Cabinet approves accession of India to **Nice Agreement, Vienna Agreement, and Locarno Agreement**.
- **Supreme Court** clarified on **police reforms and officers**, who have a minimum of **6 months** tenure left in service, can be considered for the post of **DGP**.

- **India** has urged **Pakistan** to grant **visa-free travel rights** to **Indian pilgrims** visiting the **Kartarpur shrine**.
- **The Power Finance Corporation (PFC)** has agreed to lend another **Rs. 30,000 crore** to **Telangana** to complete a few major projects.
- **IIT Kharagpur** will adopt **Amazon Web Services (AWS)** educate programme to help students gain cloud computing skills in **artificial intelligence**.
- **Prime Minister of Guinea Ibrahima Kassory Fofana** will address the inaugural session of **14th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Partnership Project** in **New Delhi**.
- **India** signed a MoU of with the **Afghanistan** to collaborate on **Digital Education Initiatives**.
- **PM Modi** launched a 'Main Bhi Chowkidar' campaign calling everyone who was fighting **corruption, social evils and working hard** for the progress of **India**.
- **Union Home Ministry** has approved the changing of name of the **Old Mangkhi village** in **Tuensang** of **Nagaland** to **Mungankhun village**.
- **Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai** has become the **single largest rail coach manufacturer** in the **world**.
- **33rd edition of the India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (Ind-Indo Corpat)** was started on **March 19 to 4th April 2019** at **Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Islands**.
- **Defence Minister Nirmala Sitaraman** cleared the proposal to procure **10 lakh hand grenades** for the **Indian Army** under its **Make in India programme**.
- **India** extended a financial grant of **35.5 million Nepalese rupees** to **Nepal** for the construction of an **educational campus** to boost the learning environment of the students.
- **Spice Jet** becomes **first Indian low-cost carrier airline** to join global airlines grouping **International Air Transport Association (IATA)**.
- **Indian Air Force** will participate in **Langkawi International Maritime Aero Expo, LIMA 2019**. The expo will take place in **Langkawi, Malaysia**.
- **NITI Aayog** is organizing a day-long **FinTech Conclave** at **Dr. Ambedkar International Center, New Delhi**. The conclave was inaugurated by RBI Governor **Shaktikanta Das**.
- **The Rubber Skill Development Council (RSDC)** has launched Project **Samarth**, which is aimed at skilling and rescaling **10 lakh** personnel involved in the rubber sector.
- The state of the art **Nuclear, Biological, Chemical Training Facility (NBCTF)** named **ABHEDYA** of Indian Navy has been commissioned at **INS Shivaji, Lonavla in Mumbai**.
- **Admiral Sunil Lanba** released the **platinum jubilee logo**, with the theme "**Propelling the Indian Navy since 1945**", for the premier technical training establishment.
- The **Union Health & Family Welfare Ministry** has notified the **Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules, 2019** to promote **clinical research in the country**.
- The **CBSE** introduce **Artificial Intelligence (AI), Early Childhood Care Education (ECCE)** and **Yoga** as skill subjects in the school curriculum for the coming academic session.
- **Vijayawada railway station** has received **gold rating** by the **Indian Green Building Council**.
- **Adani Port and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ)** claimed that it has become the **first Indian port operator** to handle cargo movement of **200 million tonnes (MT)** in **2018-19**.

- **Rail Tel Corporation of India** Limited under the **Ministry of Railways** has completed the work of turning **1,000 railway** stations across India into free **Wi-Fi zones**.
- **GAIL India Ltd** has signed an agreement with **Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL)** for cooperation in the development of **solar power projects**.
- **The Home Ministry announced** the next census of India will be carried out in **2021**.
- **Multi-disciplinary terror monitoring group (MDTMG)** will help **end terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir**.
- Government has extended the cut-off date for **linking Aadhaar** with **Permanent Account Number (PAN)** to **September 30, 2019**.
- **Garden Reach Ship Builders and Engineers Ltd (GRSE)** has become the “**first Indian shipyard**” to build and deliver **100 warships**.
- **NTPC-Simhadri here is setting up a 25 MW** floating solar power plant in its water storage reservoir as part of the company's efforts to diversify into the **solar segment**.
- **Important MoUs signed between India and other Nations in Delhi in the month of March**.

| MoU | Purpose |
|-----------------------------|---|
| India and Brunei | Exchange of banking information and assistance in tax collection |
| India and Tajikistan | Renewable Energy |
| India and UK | Weather and Climate Sciences |
| India and Norway | undertaking non-intrusive Geological Surveys and Investigations |
| India and Argentina | Medical Products Regulation |
| India and the USA | Missing and Exploited Children |
| India and Afghanistan | collaborate on digital education initiatives, rope in IITs to design programs |
| India and Morocco | cooperation on youth matters and promote exchange of information and technical cooperation in the field of Housing and Human Settlement |
| India and Saudi Arabia | cooperation in the field of Housing |
| India and Republic of Korea | Startup Cooperation |
| India-African | strengthening cooperation in healthcare sector |

➤ **Important Cabinet Approvals:**

| Cabinet approved and schemes | Reason | Project worth |
|---|--|----------------------|
| Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN (Yojana Jaiv Indhan – Vatavaran Anukool fasal awashesh Nivaran) | financial support integrated Bioethanol projects using lignocelluloses biomass | Rs.1450crore |
| Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Mandhan (PM-SYM) | national pension scheme | --- |
| Gram Samridhi Yojana | Unorganized food processing sector concentrated in rural areas. | Rs.3000 crore |
| The Daman and Diu Civil Courts & The Dadra and Nagar Haveli (Civil Courts and Miscellaneous Provisions) | helpful in bringing uniformity in Judicial Service | --- |
| extension of time and scope for revival and development of unserved and underserved air strips | --- | Rs.4,500 crore |
| creation of additional posts of 3 Judicial Members and 3 Technical Members in NCLAT | --- | Rs. 2, 27, 82,096 |
| Cabinet approved 5 year extension of Biomedical Research Career Programme | --- | Rs.1092 crore |

STATE

- **'Rice Knowledge Bank - Assam'**, an agriculture web portal to enhancing knowledge on rice production techniques and technologies, it was launched as part of the **World Bank** funded project- **Assam Agri-business and Rural Transformation (APART)**.
- **PM Modi** has laid the foundation stone of an **ordnance factory unit** in **Amethi**.
- **Tripura** government has announced **Notun Disha** programme to improve the **standard of education in the state** at a cost **Rs. 28 crore**.
- **Haryana government** has announced **Mukhyamantri Parivar Samman Nidhi Yojana 2019** to develop the **welfare of the farmers** who work up to **5 acres of land**.
- Three **Jharkhand** districts of **Chatra, Sahibganj and Hazaribagh** have topped in the ranking of aspirational districts by **NITI Aayog** for the Dec-Jan period of 2018-19.
- **Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik** launched the scheme **Mukhya Mantri Karigar Sahayata** for **financial assistance to craftsmen**.
- **PM Modi** will dedicate the **ESIC Hospital and Medical College, Bangalore** to the nation.
- **Trivendra Singh Rawat** launched the **Mukhyamantri Anchal Amrit Yojana**, under which **2.5 lakh** students of **20,000 anganwadi** centers across **Uttarakhand** would be provided **100ml of milk twice a week**.

- **Mamata Banerjee** launched **Yuvashree Arpan scheme** for financially assisting **young entrepreneurs**.
- **Maharashtra** government launched a scheme '**Atal Aahar Yojana**' for construction workers in the state which will provide **good quality food at a highly subsidized rate**.
- **PM Modi** laid foundation stone of two thermal power projects one at **Khurja, Uttar Pradesh** and other at **Buxar, Bihar**. And also laid foundation stone of **Panki Thermal Power Plant and unveiled plaques** to mark the launch of various projects in **Kanpur**.
- **Madhya Pradesh CM Kamal Nath** declared that **Gondi language** will be included in the primary education curriculum of the state's tribal-dominated districts.
- **Mizoram CM Zoramthanga** is approved the **Mizoram Liquor Prohibition Bill, 2019**.
- **Madhya Pradesh** has taken the ordinance route to increase reservation for **Other Backward Classes (OBCs)** from **14 per cent to 27 per cent**.
- **GOI** taking decision to set up **National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation (NIMHR)** at **Sehore in Madhya Pradesh**. The Center government has approved **Rs.180 core** for this project for an initial period of **3 years**.
- The **Japanese** government decided to provide **Rs. 22 lakh** (\$31,800) for the **Rabindra Bharati Museum in Kolkata**.
- **India and Saudi Arabia** came to an understanding to revive and 'expedite' the implementation of **USD 44 billion** West Coast refinery project in **Maharashtra**.
- **Meghalaya CM Conrad K Sangma**, who also holds the Finance portfolio, put forth **Rs. 1,223 crore tax-free, deficit budget** in the State Assembly for **2019-2020**.
- The advice of the Ministry of **Health and Family Welfare**, at least **12 states in India** has banned **Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS)**.
- **West Bengal** has (**20.1 lakh**) the **maximum number of first-time voters** in the coming Lok Sabha election, followed by UP (**16.7 lakh**) and MP (**13.6 lakh**).
- **Assam Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Mukesh Sahu** launched the '**i-help**' initiative at a meeting held at the **Election Department, Janata Bhawan in Guwahati**.
- **The Punjab and Haryana High Court** has instructed Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh not to mention the caste of the **accused and victims** in proceedings before the court.
- **Telangana government** has launched a digital business networking portal for **MSMEs**, Telangana State Global Linker (**ts-msme.globallinker.com**).
- **Yarn bank** had set up at the **Mysore Power loom Silk Manufacturers Cooperative Society**.
- **Assam Chief Election Officer (CEO) Mukesh Sahu** launched '**Enajori**' initiative in **Guwahati**.
- **Tashigang, a small Himachal Pradesh** village at an altitude of **15,256 feet** is now the highest polling station in the world.
- **In Assam**, the **Bongaigaon** district administration has developed a mobile app **Sankalp** to particularly reach out to the **first-time voters**.
- **The following Indian Products got Geographical Indication (GI) Tag in the month of March**.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

| Product | Place |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Marayur jaggery | Idukki ,Kerala |
| Erode turmeric | Erode in Tamil Nadu |
| Sirsi Supari | Uttara Kannada district in Karnataka |
| Coorg Arabica Coffee | Kodagu district of Karnataka |
| Wayanad Robusta coffee | Wayanad district in East Kerala |
| Araku Valley Arabica coffee | Visakhapatnam district in Andhra Pradesh and Odisha region |
| Chikmagalur Arabica coffee | Chikmagalur district in Karnataka |
| Bababudangiris Arabica coffee | Chikmagalur district in Karnataka |

- **India's** first indigenous **4G/5G semiconductor** chips unveiled by **SIGNALCHIP**.
- **Researchers** discovered **Methane Hydrate** in **Krishna-Godavari (K-G) Basin** off **Andhra Pradesh Coast**.
- **'Banglar Shiksha'** web portal has been launched by **West Bengal** to provide real-time data on state-run and aided schools.
- **IRCTC** has finally launched its own payment aggregator system **"IRCTC iPay"**.
- **India's first Braille laptop** named **'DotBook'** created by **IIT-Delhi Scientists**.
- **NASA** recreated **deep ocean conditions in lab** to study **4 billion years ago origins of life**.
- **Tamil Nadu** is the **first State in the country** to introduce **Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation (TAVI)**.
- **ISRO** has been launched young scientists programme **'Yuva Vigyani Karyakram** in tune with the government's vision **'Jai Vigyan, Jai Anusandhan'** to **train students in space technology**.
- **Google** unveiled new app **'Bolo'** to help children **to read Hindi and English**.
- **NASA** astronauts **Anne McClain and Christina Koch** will conduct an **all-female spacewalk** for the first time in history.
- **ISRO** signed an agreement with French Space Agency **'CNES'** on **Maritime Security**.
- **IIT Kharagpur Students** devised **unique solution** to **detect fake notes** at **Smart India Hackathon 2019**.
- **IIT- Madras** has signed MoU with **Teerthaa** (sustainable technology company) to develop a device **'NERO'** that can generate **potable water from atmospheric air**.
- **DRDO** successfully test fired the **Guided Pinaka weapons system** from **Pokhran ranges in Rajasthan**.
- **AstroSat** has been discovered new group of **ultraviolet stars** in **globular cluster NGC 2808**.
- **Indian Scientists** has been discovered the new species **'Starry Dwarf Frog'** in **Western Ghats Mountain range, Kerala**.

- **DRDO** has successfully test-fired indigenously designed and developed **Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM)** for **second time** in the deserts of **Pokhran in Rajasthan**.
- **The Election Commission (EC)** has started using a mobile application '**Observer App**' for the first time will **help poll observers to submit reports**.
- **Scientists at University of Texas (USA)** developed **solar-powered device** that creates **water from thin air**.
- **Indian Institute of Public Health Gandhinagar (IIPHG), Gujarat** has been developed a mobile app '**Conquer Exam, Be a Warrior**' to **reduce the exam pressure**.
- **Pune-based IT firm** developing software to operate **world's largest ground based 'Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT)'** on **Mauna Kea in Hawaii**.
- Four indigenous '**Dhanush**' Howitzers inducted into **Indian Army**.
- **Hong Kong** has planned to build one of the **world's largest artificial islands** at a cost of **USD 79 billion by 2032**.
- America's first **exascale supercomputer** to be built by 2021.
- **Xiaomi** launches **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** based Mi Pay payments app in India.
- **CBSE** launches **Shiksha Vani** app to upload podcast on Class 10, 12 exam evaluation process.
- **Intain Fintech** will launch block chain product **eMulya** in **India**.
- **Microsoft** successfully translates **digital information into DNA**.
- **NASA spacecraft** finds **evidence of water** and **particle plumes** on **asteroid Benu**.
- **Vega Rocket** Launches **Italy's Earth-Watching PRISMA Satellite**.
- **Indian Air Force (IAF)** inducts **first four heavy-lift Chinook helicopters**.
- **Oslo** becomes **world's first city** to install **wireless electric car charging station**.
- **EC** comes up with '**PWD**' app for over two lakh Divyang voters in **Maharashtra**
- ISRO will launch **29 satellites including EMISAT**.
- **NASA's Hubble Space Telescope** captured birth of giant storm on **Neptune**.
- **Ooty's muon** detection facility measures potential of thundercloud.
- **India** becomes **4th nation** to enter elite space power club with **anti-satellite weapon** called **Mission Shakthi**.
- **US Missile Defence Agency** successfully launches **Anti-intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) system**.
- **IIT-Delhi researchers** have developed an **AI-based electronic hardware system** to detect **malaria, tuberculosis, intestinal parasite, and cervical cancer in milliseconds**.
- Hyper local connectivity app "**Bhonga**" initiated in Mumbai.
- **Shanghai's Hongkou** becomes **first 5G district in the world**.
- **Scientists from IIT-Madras** have successfully converted **petroleum waste product Toluene into benzoic acid**.

SEMINARS AND MEETINGS

| Seminars and Meetings | Place | Theme/Tagline |
|--|----------------|---|
| Mainamati Maitree Exercise 2019 | Bangladesh | Anti-smuggling and anti-criminal activity related operations |
| Construction Technology India-2019 Expo-Cum-Conference | New Delhi | |
| Innovate for Airports | New Delhi | Letter of Consent |
| 7th RCEP Intercessional Ministerial Meeting | Cambodia | |
| Organization of Islamic Corporation (OIC) meeting | Abu Dhabi | |
| Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Summit on Innovation and Governance | New Delhi | no-cost digital based learning |
| 'Foal Eagle 2019' And 'Key Resolve' Military Exercises | Hanoi, Vietnam | |
| National Security Council | New Delhi | |
| 2 day North Korea – United States Hanoi Summit | Hanoi, Vietnam | |
| The 12-day Aerial Exercise Red Flag | United States | |
| India, Japan inaugural space dialogue | New Delhi | bilateral cooperation between JAXA-ISRO |
| Joint Army Exercise Al Nagah III 2019 | Oman | armies exchanging expertise and experience in tactics, weapon handling and firing |
| 14th edition of CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India - Africa Project Partnership | New Delhi | Enhancing the economic engagement between the two regions |
| India Smart Utility Week 2019 | New Delhi | digitalization and digital customer; resiliency and future readiness |
| Africa-India Joint Field Training Exercise (AFINDEX-19) | Pune | |
| Indo- Bangladesh joint military exercise Sampriti 2019 | Bangladesh | |
| Indo-Pacific Endeavour 2019 (IPE-19). | Australia | |

| | | |
|---|------------------|---|
| NSG, US army conduct joint exercise | Hyderabad | U S-India security partnership |
| The first BRICS Sherpa meeting | Brazil | Countering terrorism |
| SCO to hold joint anti-terrorism exercise in 2019 | Kazakhstan | |
| India -US DTII meeting | Washington | bilateral defence relationship |
| Theatre Level Readiness and Operational Exercise (TROPEX) | Kochi | |
| Indo-Sri Lanka Joint Exercise Mitra shakti-VI | Sri Lanka | International Counter Insurgency and Counter Terrorist environment |
| 34 th GST Council meeting | New Delhi | new tax rates on residential properties. |
| European Council summit | Brussels | European Union leaders for an extension to the Brexit withdrawal process |
| Langkawi International Maritime Aero Expo (LIMA) | Malaysia | showcase its indigenously developed LCA Tejas fighter aircraft |
| International seminar on "Sanskrit" | Kathmandu, Nepal | preservation and promotion of Sanskrit language |
| India-Australia Naval Exercise | Vishakhapatnam | anti-submarine warfare, as part of efforts to ramp up bilateral naval cooperation |
| Nepal Investment Summit 2019 | Kathmandu | promoting Nepal as a promising investment destination |
| The 16th meeting of the Canada-India Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism | Ottawa | Threats posed by terrorist groups worldwide |
| India, Australia bilateral defence exercise AUSINDEX | Vishakhapatnam | Australia – India defence relationship and interoperability |

PLACES IN NEWS

- **Railways Minister** announced new railway zone Southern Coast Railway for **Andhra Pradesh** and headquarters will be in **Visakhapatnam**.
- AYUSH Minister **Shripad Yesso Naik** laid the foundation stone for National Institute of Unani Medicine at **Ghaziabad** in **Uttar Pradesh**.
- **Prime Minister Modi** inaugurated **Ahmadabad metro first phase**.
- Shakuntala D. Gamlin, Secretary, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities laid the foundation stone of **National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation** at Sehore, **Madhya Pradesh**.

- **Malaysia** has become a member of the International Criminal Court, in a boost for the beleaguered institution at a time it faces growing criticism.
- **Azaadi Ke Diwane Museum** inaugurated at **Red Fort**.
- **Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh** will get **National Committee Law Tribunal (NCLT)** Benches.
- **Harsh Vardhan** released **the India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP)** in **New Delhi**.
- **PM Modi** has laid foundation stone for **Sela Tunnel** in **Arunachal Pradesh**.
- **PM** attends **50th Raising Day celebrations** of **Central Industrial Security Forces (CISF)** at **Indrapuram in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh**.
- **Humsafar Trust** inaugurates India's first **LGBTQ clinic, one-stop HIV treatment centre** in **Mumbai**.
- **HGS and NASSCOM Foundation** launched **Center of Excellence (CoE) for Persons with Disabilities** in **Bangalore**.
- **Internet of Things India Congress 2019** to be held on **August 22-23** in **Bengaluru**.
- **Ram Nath Kovind** inaugurated festival of **Innovation and Entrepreneurship** in **Gandhinagar**.
- **3rd edition of Namaste Thailand festival** held in **New Delhi**.
- MoU signed by **Ola and Telangana** to **strengthen traffic infrastructure** in **Hyderabad**.
- **International Workshop on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure-2019** held in **New Delhi**.
- **Indo-Japan workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction** held in **New Delhi**.
- **India's deepest shaft cave** discovered in **Meghalaya**.
- **Terror Camps on India-Myanmar Border** destroyed under **operation Sunrise**.
- **Sri Lanka President** hands over a proposal to declare **Tripitaka as World Heritage**.
- **Vice President Venkaiah Naidu** attends **16th convocation** of **Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research** in **Mumbai**.
- **Israeli cave explorers** discovered the **world's longest salt cave 'Malham'** near **Dead Sea**.
- **Environment Ministry** notified **Island Protection Zone (IPZ) 2019** for **Andaman & Nicobar**.
- **European Parliament** has banned the **single-use plastic cutlery, cotton buds, straws and stirrers** that **despoils beaches and pollutes oceans**.
- **India and Bangladesh** will start a cruise service that would take passengers through the **Sunderbans to Dhaka**.

AWARDS & HONOURS

- **PM Narendra Modi**, confers the award ceremony for the **Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize for Science and Technology** for the years **2016, 2017 and 2018**.
- **Vice President Venkaiah Naidu** presented **Kalam Innovation in Governance Award 2019** at **3rd edition of Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Summit on Innovation and Governance**.
- **Bhartia AXA General Insurance** has been conferred with the **'Non-Life Insurer of the Year Award 2019 by the Assocham**.
- **The Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA)** has bagged the **SKOCH Award, 2018** for its achievements in the field of **disaster management**.
- **G. Satheesh Reddy** selected as the **co-winner of the 2019 Missile Systems Award**.
- **Hailakandi** Became the **Top Aspirational District**.
- **Tata Steel** recognized as **One Of World's Most Ethical Companies**.

- **Indian Bank** has been conferred with the **Best Bank award by Tamil Nadu Government** for successfully meeting the needs of **Women's self-help groups (SHGs)**.
- Indian Air Force Wing Commander **Abhinandan Varthaman** has been chosen for the **first Bhagwan Mahavir Ahimsa Puraskar**.
- **Knighthood from Queen Elizabeth II** was presented to **Alastair Cook**.
- Nonagenarian artist **Phani Bhushan Biswaswas** awarded the Rs.10 lakh "**Sulabh Sculpture Award**" on the 49th Foundation Day of Sulabh International.
- Japanese architect **Arata Isozaki** has received **Pritzker Prize-2019**, the profession's highest honour.
- **President Ram Nath Kovind** presented the **Nari Shakti Puraskar 2018**, the highest civilian honour for women, on the occasion of **International Women's Day**.
- **ACKO General Insurance** was awarded the coveted **Golden Peacock Innovative Product Award - 2019**, for their contextual micro insurance product "**Ola Ride Insurance**".
- **India claims the 1st Prize** at The International '**Golden City Gate Tourism Awards 2019**' in the category of '**TV Cinema Spot**' at ITB, Berlin.
- **Chameli Devi Jain Award** won by **BBC Journalist Priyanka Dubey**.
- **Former RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan** gets **Yashwantrao Chavan national award**.
- **Megha Engineering Infrastructure Limited** enters **Limca Records & Asia Book of Records**.
- Skill development and training institute **Sona Yukti** has been given the **Social Enterprise Network (SEN) sustainability award for education**.
- Film director, novelist **Ved Rahi** to get **Kusumagraj literature award**.
- **Padmanaban Gopalan** bagged the **Commonwealth Youth Award for the Asian region**.
- **Kent RO** receives the **Best Domestic Water Purifier Award 2019**.
- **Swati Shingade of Pune** has bagged the first prize of **DD Mahila Kisan Award for 2018-19**.
- Chennai teen pianist **Lydian Nadhaswaram** wins American show "**The World's Best**".
- **Gollapudi Srinivas Award** was conferred for "**96**" Film director **C Prem Kumar**.
- **Raghu Karnad** awarded **Windham-Campbell prize** in the UK for his debut book **Farthest Field: an Indian Story of the Second World War**.
- American Mathematician **Karen Uhlenbeck** becomes **first woman** to win **Abel Prize**.
- Hindi writer **Leeladhar Jagudi** will be honoured with the **Vyas Samman 2018** by the KK Birla Foundation for his collection of poems "**Jitne Log Utne Prem**".
- **Former director of the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) Ashis Nandy** has been chosen as the recipient of the **Hans-Kilian Award for 2019**.
- Brazilian physicist and astronomer **Marcelo Gleiser** has been awarded the **2019 Templeton Prize**, worth **USD 1.4 million**, for his work **blending science and spirituality**.
- The council of **Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC)** has decided to endorse the Certification Standard for **Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)** developed by **Network for Certification and Conservation of Forests (NCCF)**.

- **Manmohan Singh** presented the BusinessLine **Changemaker of the Year** award to Union Finance Minister **Arun Jaitley**, for successfully **introducing the GST**.
- A consortium of **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited and Indian Oil Corporation Limited** has been awarded the exploration rights for Abu **Dhabi Onshore Block 1**.
- **President Ram Nath Kovind** has been awarded the **Grand Order of King Tomislav** with Sash and Grand Star by the **President of Croatia Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic**.
- The **2018 Turing Award**, known as the “**Nobel Prize of computing**,” has been given to a trio of researchers **Yoshua Bengio, Geoffrey Hinton, and Yann LeCun** (Godfathers of AI).
- Nobel laureate **Amartya Sen** honoured with **Oxford University's Bodley Medal**.
- Delhi govt. school teacher **Manu Gulati** gets **Martha Farrell Award 2019 for women empowerment**.
- **Pravasi Bharatiya Samman** Award conferred to **Dr. Rajendra Kumar Joshi**.
- **Rita Moreno** to receive **Peabody Career Achievement Award**.
- **The Lalit Kala Akademi announced 15 winners of the 60th Annual Academy Awards**
- Nagaland forest guard **Yimchunger** honoured with an **international Earth award**.
- **President Ram Nath Kovind conferred the Padma awards on prominent personalities at a civil investiture ceremony in Rashtrapati Bhawan**.
- The list comprises **4 Padma Vibhushan, 14 Padma Bhushan and 94 Padma Shri Awards**. 21 of the awardees are women and the list also includes 11 persons from the category of foreigners/NRI/PIO/OCI, three posthumous awardees, and one transgender person.
- **Padma Vibhushan:**
 1. Ms. Teejan Bai — Art-Vocals-Folk — Chhattisgarh
 2. Shri Ismail Omar Guelleh (Foreigner) - Public Affairs — Djibouti
 3. Shri Anilkumar Manibhai Naik — Trade & Industry-Infrastructure — Maharashtra
 4. Shri Balwant Moreshwar Purandare — Art-Acting-Theatre — Maharashtra
- The President and Supreme Commander of the Indian Armed Forces Ram Nath Kovind conferred **3 Kirti Chakras and 15 Shaurya Chakras** to Armed Forces Personnel. **2 Kirti Chakras and 1 Shaurya Chakra were given posthumously**.
- **Kirti Chakra Winners:**
- **Sepoy Vrahma Pal Singh**, the Rajput regiment (Posthumous): Army
- **Shri Rajendra Kumar Nain**, Constable, 130 billion, CRPF (posthumous): MHA.
- **Major Tushargauba**, the Jat regiment: Army.

64th Vimal Elaichi Filmfare Awards 2019

| Category | Winner |
|---|--|
| Best Film | Raazi |
| Critics Best Film | Andhadhun |
| Best Actor in a Leading Role (Male) | Ranbir Kapoor (Sanju) |
| Critics Best Actor in Leading Role (Male) | Ayushman n Khurrana (Andhadhun), Ranveer Singh (Padmaavat) |
| Best Actor in a Leading Role (Female) | Alia Bhatt (Raazi) |
| Critics Best Actor in Leading Role (Female) | Neena Gupta (Badhaai Ho) |
| Best Director | Meghna Gulzar (Raazi) |

PERSONS IN NEWS

- **Chris Gayle** becomes the **1st batsman** to smash **500 or more sixes** in **International cricket**.
- India's doubles badminton coach **Tan Kim** resigns from his post.
- **Kylie Jenner** becomes world's youngest **self-made billionaire at 21**.
- **Justice Arjan Kumar Sikri**, the second senior-most judge of the Supreme Court, has retired.
- **Mizoram Governor Kummanam Rajasekharan** has been resigned.
- United Nations founded University for Peace confers Honorary Doctorate on **Vice President Venkaiah Naidu**.
- A 116-year-old Japanese woman **Kane Tanaka** was honoured as the **world's oldest living person by Guinness World Records**.
- **Finland's Prime Minister Juha Sipilä** tendered his government's resignation.
- **Indian gymnast Dipa Karmakar** was selected as **Barbie role model**.
- **Lakshyaraj Singh Mewar** was set a **Guinness World Record** by **donating more than 3 Lakh clothing items**. "**Vastradan**" is the name of Campaign started by him.
- **Avast CEO Vince Steckler** to step down.
- India has set up a pavilion at the **London Book Fair in England** with a special focus on the **150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi**.
- **Rahul Bajaj** resigns as Bajaj **Finserv Chairman**.
- **Former IAS officer Shah Faesal** launched **Jammu and Kashmir People's Movement (JKPM)**.
- **Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev** resigns after nearly 30 years in power.
- Mumbai social worker **Gauri Sawant** becomes the **first transgender election ambassador**.
- Tokyo 2020: Chairman of the Japanese Olympic Committee **Tsunekazu Takeda** set to quit.
- International Boxing Association (AIBA) president **Gafur Rahimov** has resigned.
- Jet Airways Chairman **Naresh Goyal** steps down
- **Conor McGregor** announces his retirement from **(MMA) Mixed Martial Art**.
- **Social Entrepreneur Neha Upadhyaya** Selected By **Yale University among 2019 World Fellows**.
- Virat Kohli's childhood coach **Rajkumar Sharma** in charge of **Malta national team**.

APPOINTMENTS

| Name of the Organization | Name of the Person |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Non-Executive chairman of Bank of Baroda. | Hasmukh Adhia |
| MD and CEO of YES Bank | Ravneet Gill |
| Ambassador to Socialist Republic of Vietnam. | Pranay Kumar Verma |
| Chairman of the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) | Bhagwan Lal Sahni |
| Chairman of Tea Board | Prabhat Jamal Bezbaruah |
| Chairman of the ICC Cricket Committee | Anil Kumble |
| Senegal's President | Macky Sall |
| President of Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) | Sheikh Ahmad |
| Director General of National Archives of India | P Venkata Ramesh Babu |
| First female Prime Minister of Estonia | Kaja Kallas |
| Director of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre | Ajit Kumar Mohanty |
| Chief Scientist of the World Health Organisation (WHO) | Soumya Swaminathan |
| Finance Secretary | Subhash Chandra Garg |
| Palestinian Prime Minister | Mohammad Shtayyeh |
| Citi India CEO | Ashu Khullar |
| Officer on Special Duty, South Coast Railway | S.S.Srinivas |
| First Lokayukta of Mizoram | C Lalsawta |
| Chairman of LIC | M.R. Kumar |
| High Commissioner of Malawi | Anurag Bhushan |
| High Commissioner of Fiji | Ms.Padmaja |
| Ambassador of Uzbekistan | Santosh Jha |
| India's 1 st Lokpal | Pinaki Chandra Ghose |
| Goa Chief Minister | Pramod Sawant |
| Brand Ambassador of Phonepe | Aamir Khan |
| President of Kazakhstan | Kassym-Jomart |
| Western Fleet Commander | Rear Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh |
| NATHEALTH President | Sudarshan Ballal |
| Next Ambassador to Kingdom of Morocco | Shambhu S. Kumaran |
| Non-executive chairman of Karur Vysya Bank | N S Srinath |
| Director General Naval Operations (DGNO) | Vice Admiral MA Hampiholi |
| Next Ambassador to Republic of Benin | Abhay Thakur |
| Managing director of Hitachi Payments | Rustom Irani |
| Ambassador of Toronto International Film Fest | Rima Das |
| First female president of Slovakia | Zuzana Caputova |
| Next Chief of Naval Staff | Karambir Singh |

SPECIAL DAYS

| Date | Special day | Theme |
|------------------------|--|---|
| 1 st March | Zero Discrimination Day | Act to change laws that discriminate |
| | World Civil Defence Day | Children's Safety, Our Responsibility |
| 3 rd March | World Wild Life Day | Life below water: for people and planet |
| | World Hearing Day | Check your hearing |
| 4 th March | Fight Against Sexual Exploitation Day | |
| | National Security Day | |
| | National Safety Day | Cultivate and Sustain a safety culture for building nation |
| 7 th March | Janaushadhi Diwas | |
| 8 th March | International Women's Day (IWD) | Balance for Better |
| 10 th March | National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day | |
| 12 th March | World Day Against Cyber-Censorship | |
| 13 th March | World Rotaract Day | |
| 14 th March | World Kidney Day 2019 | Kidney Health for Everyone Everywhere |
| | International Pi Day | |
| | No Smoking Day 2019 | |
| | The 22nd annual International Day of Action for Rivers | Celebration of the role of women in protecting and managing our rivers. |
| 15 th March | World Consumer Rights Day 2019 | Trusted Smart Products |
| | World Sleep Day 2019 | |
| 16 th March | National Vaccination Day | |
| 18 th March | National Ordnance Factories Day | |
| | Global Recycling Day 2019 | Recycling into the Future |
| 20 th March | World Sparrow Day | I LOVE Sparrows |
| | International Day of Happiness | Happier Together |
| 21 st March | International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination | Mitigating and countering rising nationalist populism and extreme supremacist ideologies. |
| | International Day of Forests | Forests and Education – Learn to Love Forests |
| | World Down Syndrome Day | Leave no one behind |
| 22 nd March | World Water Day | 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development Goal 6(SDG 6) |
| | 107th foundation day of Bihar | |
| 23 rd March | World Meteorological Day | The Sun, the Earth and the Weather |
| | 88th Martyrs' Day of Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Shivaram | |

| | | |
|------------------------|---|---|
| 24 th March | World Tuberculosis Day | It's time |
| | International Day for Achievers (IDA) | |
| 25 th March | International Day of Remembrance of Slavery Victims and the Transatlantic Slave Trade | Remember Slavery: The Power of the Arts for Justice |
| | International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members | |
| 26 th March | Purple Day (Epilepsy Awareness Day) | |
| | The Independence Day of Bangladesh | |
| 27 th March | World Theatre Day | |
| 30 th March | Rajasthan Diwas | |

SPORTS

- **National champion Deepak Singh (49kg)** was the lone Indian boxer to notch up **gold**, while five others claimed **silver medals in the Makran cup in Chabahar, Iran.**
- **Australia** won the two-match **T20I series against India**, registering a whitewash on Indian soil for the **first time in history.**
- **India's Shashank Shekhar** won the **10 kilometer race of Nepal's Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Open Marathon and Run for Fun** held in **Kathmandu. Shekhar** of Central **Industrial Security Force (CISF)** Contingent at Embassy of India in **Kathmandu** secured first position.
- **Bajrang Punia** has won **gold medal** at the **57th Dan Kolov-Nikola Petrov tournament in Ruse, Bulgaria** and dedicated the victory to **IAF Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman.**
- **Dubai Tennis Championship 2019** held in **Dubai, UAE.**
- Men's singles-**Roger Federer (Switzerland)** defeated **Stefanos Tsitsipas (Greece).**
- Women's singles-**Belinda Bencic (Switzerland)** defeated **Petra Kvitova (Czech Republic).**
- **Mexican open 2019** at the Princess Mundo Imperial in Mexico.
- Men's single-**Nick Kyrgios (Australia)** defeated **Alexander Zverev (Germany)**
- Women's single-**Wang Yafan (China)** defeated **Sofia Kenin (USA)**
- **Olympic Council of Asia** decided to invite **Oceania Nations** to compete in **2022 Asian Games** for the first time after a **meeting held in Bangkok** and **2022 Asian Games Venue: Hangzhou, China.**
- Former Zimbabwe Cricket director **Enock Ikope** has been banned for **10 years** by the **ICC** for breaching **three counts of ICC's anti-corruption code** from all cricketing activities.
- **Hockey India** has named **Man Preet Singh** as **captain** of the **18- member Indian Hockey team** to play in the upcoming **28th Sultan Azlan Shah Cup.**
- 16 year **P. Iniyan** defeated **GM Sergey Fedorchuk** of Ukraine to become the **61st Grandmaster** for India during the **Noisiel Open 2019** held in **Paris.**
- **Kavinder Singh Bisht** shone bright with the **lone gold medal** as Indian boxers collected eight medals, including **four silver** and **three bronze** medals at the **38th GeeBee Boxing Tournament** held from March 7 th to march 10, 2019 in **Helsinki, Finland.**

- **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports** has granted provisional recognition to **All India Carrom Federation (AICF)** as National Sport Federation till up to **31st March, 2019**.
- **Indian Young sailor Upamanyu Dutta** bagged the **bronze medal** in the Laser Standard race for men in the **Asian Open Laser Sailing Championship** which held in **Singapore**.
- **Liu Hong** has set a new world record in the **50km race walk**, becoming the first woman to break the **four-hour barrier** at the **Chinese Race Walk Grand Prix** in **Huangshan**.
- **WWE Hall of Famer Kurt Angle** will **retire** after **WrestleMania 35** in **April 2019**.
- According to the President of FIFA Gianni Infantino, India **will host the 2020 FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup**.
- **Kamal preet Knur** grabbed the spotlight by winning a **gold medal** in the **women's discus throw event in Athletics**.
- National record holder **KT Irfan** became the **first Indian** from athletics to qualify for **2020 Olympics** while finishing fourth in the **20km event** of the Asian Race Walking Championships in **Nomi, Japan**
- Eighteen-year-old **Diksha Dagar** became the **second Indian** to win an event on **Ladies European Tour** after clinching **South African Women's Open in Cape Town**.
- **YONEX Swiss Open 2019** held at St. Jakobshalle in **Basel, Switzerland**.
- Men's single-**Shi Yuki (China)**
- Women's single-**Chen Yufei (China)**
- **Mercedes' Valtteri Bottas** won **Australian Grand Prix** by defeating **Lewis Hamilton**.
- Indian youth team finish **second in the overall medals tally** with a total of **26 medals** including **eight gold, nine silver and nine bronze medals** in **Asian Youth Athletics Championships 2019 in Hong Kong**.
- **United World Wrestling (UWW)** has taken away the **hosting rights from India** for the **junior Asian Championship**.
- **Bengaluru Football Club (FC)** won their first **Indian Super League (ISL)** title at the **Mumbai Football Arena** defeating **FC Goa** by 1-0 in the **final**.
- **Afghanistan** claimed their **first ever victory in Test cricket** by beating **Ireland** in **Dehradun**.
- **India** has won a total of **368 medals** at the **Special Olympics World Games** in **Abu Dhabi**. The medals include **85 gold, 154 silver and 129 bronze**.
- **India's Gopi Thonakal** has qualified for the **World Athletics Championships** to be held in **Doha** after finishing 11th in the **Seoul International Marathon**.
- **India** has lost the hosting rights of the **junior Davis Cup and Fed Cup**.
- **Pakistan Cricket Board** has paid approximately **USD 1.6 million** to **BCCI** as compensation after losing the case filed against the India for allegedly not honoring a bilateral agreement.
- **Chennai City FC** crowned as the **1-League Champion** by **All India Football Federation (AIFF) in Chennai**.
- Organizers of the **Tokyo 2020 Olympics** unveiled a **cherry-blossom shaped torch** for the games as the city prepares for the famed flower season to begin in coming days.
- **India** won **5th consecutive SAFF Women's Championship** by beating **Nepal** at **Biratnagar, Nepal**.

- **Saina Nehwal** was named '**Sportsperson of the Year**' at the annual **Telangana Sports Journalists Association** awards function held at **The Park**.
- **India** will play the **second Test** of the World Championship against **West Indies** wearing numbered **white shirts**.
- **The 2019 Lingshui China Masters** held at **Agile Stadium in China**.
- Men Singles-**Weng Hongyang (China)**
- Women Singles-**Kim Ga-eun (South Korea)**
- **Suresh Raina** became the **1st batsman** to reach the **5000-run mark in the IPL**.
- **Denmark's Joachim Persson** has been **banned** by the **Badminton World Federation** for **18 months** for offences linked to **betting and match-fixing**.
- **China** won the **2019 badminton Asia mixed team championships** by defeating **Japan** held in **Queen Elizabeth Stadium, Hong Kong**.
- Indian paddler **Archana Kamath** clinched **silver medal in Seamaster 2019 ITTF Challenge Plus (Oman Open)** in the **U-21 women's singles** category held in **Muscat, Oman**.
- **Breakdancing, skateboarding, surfing and sport climbing** were got a provisional green light for inclusion in the **Paris 2024 Games** by the **International Olympic Committee**.
- **Manu Bhaker and Saurabh Chaudhary** have bagged **gold medal in the 10-metre Air Pistol Mixed team event** at the **12th Asian Airgun Championship** at **Taoyuan in Taipei**.
- **Virat Kohli** became the **fastest batsman** in the history of the **IPL to complete 5000 runs**.
- The **Hopman Cup** in **Perth** has been axed after 31 years and replaced by the **ATP World Team Cup**.
- **India** has lost to **South Korea** in the final of **Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey tournament** at **Ipoh in Malaysia**. **South Korea** lifted the title, defeating **India** in a **shootout 4-2**.
- **Roger Federer** lifted his **101st title** in **ATP Miami Open** by defeating **John Isner (USA)**.
- **Kento Momota (Japan)** has clinched **YONEX All England Open Badminton Championship 2019 (All England Open)** by defeating **Viktor Axelsen (Denmark)** in **England**.

SURVEYS

- According to **BCG-IBA Report on EASE Reforms index** released by **Arun Jaitley**, **Punjab National Bank** has been ranked **first** among public sector banks in the implementation of **reforms agenda**.
- According to **Moody's quarterly Global Macro Outlook**, **Indian economy** is expected to grow at **7.3% in 2019 and 2020**.
- According to the **Delta ranking report** released by **NITI Aayog**, **Assam's Hailakandi** has become the **top aspirational district** among the **112 aspirational districts** of the country.
- **India** ranked **first** in the **Confidence Board Global Consumer Confidence Survey**, which was conducted in collaboration with the **Nielsen Holdings**.
- According to **NGO Greenpeace and IQ Air Visual report**, **seven** of the **world's top ten cities with the worst air quality in 2018** are in **India** and the **five most polluted cities in the world** are **Gurugram, Ghaziabad, Faridabad, Bhiwadi (India)** and **Faisalabad (Pakistan)**.

- According to **Forbes Billionaire list 2019**, **Mukesh Ambani** has become **13th richest person in the world** and topped by **Amazon founder Jeff Bezos**.
- According to a **Knight Frank Report**, **Mumbai** is the only **Indian city** to feature in the **global top 20 list of expensive prime residential markets**.
- According to **Trends in International Arms Transfers-2018** released by **SIPRI**, **India** is the **second largest importer of weapons** in the world after **Saudi Arabia**.
- According to **World Gold Council (WGC)**, **India (607 tonnes)** has become the **11th largest gold reserve and topped by USA (8133.5 tonnes)**.
- **India** was ranked **16th** in the world in terms of highest number of impacted species in biodiversity-rich zones (also known as hotspots) due to human actions.
- According to **World Fame 100**, **Virat Kohli (7th)** is the only **Indian in top 10**, **MS Dhoni in 13th spot** and **Cristiano Ronaldo (Portugal)** at the **top spot**.
- **Vienna** placed at **top position** in the **Mercer's Quality of Living Survey 2019**.
- **United Nation Environment Program (UNEP)** has released the **6th edition of the Global Environment Outlook (2019)** titled '**Healthy Planet, Healthy People**'.
- **Mukesh Ambani** has become **top** in **Forbes list of richest sports team owners** with a net worth of around **\$50 billion**.
- According to **Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)**, the world's most expensive cities are **Singapore, Paris and Hong Kong** and **Caracas (Venezuela)** is the **cheapest city**.
- According to **World Happiness Report** was released by **United Nations**, **India** ranked **140th** out of **156 nations** for the **second consecutive year** and **Finland topped** the list.
- **Piyush Goyal and Harsh Vardhan** are among the **7 Indians** have been named in the '**World's 100 Most Influential People in Climate Policy for 2019**', which was published by **Apolitical**.
- According to **the World Airport Traffic rankings for 2018** released by **Airports Council International (ACI)**, **Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport** has become **12th busiest in the world** and topped by **Atlanta-Hartsfield-Jackson Airport (USA)**.
- According to **WEF's Global Energy Transition index**, **India** ranked **76th** and **Sweden** remains on the **top**, while **Switzerland** and **Norway** ranked at **2nd** and **3rd** respectively.
- **Hinduja family** has topped the **Asian Rich List 2019** for the **6th successive year** with **25.2 billion Euros (over Rs. 2.3 lakh crore)** wealth.
- **India and USA** signed an **Inter-Governmental Agreement** for exchange of **Country-by-Country (CbC) reports** to check the **tax evasions of Multinational Companies (MNCs)** in **income allocation and taxes paid**.
- According to the **Skytrax World Airport Awards**, **Singapore's Changi Airport** has been crowned the **world's best aviation hub** for the **7th time** in a row, while **New Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport** featured at number **59**.
- According to **the National Family Health Survey (NFHS)**, **Tripura** ranks **2nd place** in **India** in terms of **child marriages among girls** between the age of **15 and 19 years**.
- **India** has become the **1st country** in the world to have a **Blockchain-based Marketplace App** for **Coffee trading**.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

| Books | Author/Released by | Speaks about |
|--|---|---|
| Indian Sign Language (ISL) Dictionary | Released by- Thaawarchand Gehlot | Six thousand words under the categories of academic, legal, medical, technical and everyday terms. |
| 'Mann Ki Baat - A Social Revolution on Radio' | Released by-Arun Jaitley | 50 editions of the 'Mann Ki Baat' programme by Modi on All India Radio. |
| The Fate Of Butterflies | Author-Nayantara Sahgal | The toxic dangers of "war, religious polarization and authoritarian charisma -- a dystopian future that is already upon the world". |
| Designing Destiny: The Heartfulness Way | Author-Kamlesh Patel | The subject of consciousness, the role of evolution and explains what happens to people at the time of birth and death |
| Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas– a collection of selected speeches of Prime Minister | Released by-Arun Jaitley | The vision of the PM of seeing all citizens of the country as one and taking everyone along on the path of inclusive development |
| Dictionary of Martyrs of India's Freedom Struggle | Released by- Narendra Modi | Contains an account of the martyrs from India's First War of Independence in 1857 to India's Independence in 1947 |
| Indian Fiscal Federalism | Authors-Dr.Y.V Reddy and G.R Reddy [Released by- Shakthikant Das] | The role of finance Commissions and assesses replacement of the planning Commission by NITI Aayog, the emergence of the GST Council |
| Every Vote Counts | Author-Navin Chawla | How the electoral machinery works in India |
| India Positive | Author-Chetan Bhagat | Variety of subjects such as education, employment, GST, Corruption and Casteism |
| The 3 rd pillar-How markets and states leave the country behind | Author-Raghuram Rajan | Three forces–the state, markets, and our communities–interact, why things begin to break down, and how we can find our way back to a more secure and stable plane |

OBITUARIES

| Name of the Person | Field/ Importance |
|---------------------------|---|
| Kumar Bhattacharyya | British-Indian Academic |
| Zhores Alferov | Russian Nobel Prize winner |
| Justice Valmiki J Mehta | Sitting judge of the Delhi High Court |
| Andre Previn | Oscar-winning composer |
| Bharat Mohan Adhikari | Former Nepal Deputy Prime Minister |
| Venur Dhananjay Kumar | Former union minister |
| Jerry Merryman | Co-inventor of the World's First Handheld Electronic Calculator |
| Binapani Devi | All India Matua Mahasangha's chief advisor |
| Virendra Kataria | Former Puducherry lieutenant governor |
| Vinod Kashyap | Veteran Hindi News reader |
| Charlie Whiting | Formula One director |
| Darryl D'Monte | Senior journalist |
| Manohar Parrikar | Goa Chief Minister |
| Chinmoy Roy | Bengali actor |
| W.S. Merwin | Poet |
| Alan B. Krueger | Former White House Economist |
| Satya Brata Sinha | Former Supreme Court judge |
| Haku Shah | Artist |
| L V Sharada Rao | Kannada actress |
| Anasuya Devi | Folk Artiste and Radio commentator |
| Shahnaz Rahmatullah | Bangladeshi Singer |
| Hitruchivijayji | Jain monk |
| Ashita | Malayalam Writer |
| Ghulam Nabi Rather | Social activist |
| Prafulla Rajguru | Journalist |