

CURRENT AFFAIRS - CAPSULE

APRIL

BANKING

- After the merging with **Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank**, **Bank of Baroda** has become **3rd largest commercial bank** after **SBI and HDFC Bank**.
- **Kotak Mahindra Bank** will become **first lender** to charge customers for **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** transactions starting from **1st of May 2019**.
- **RBI** has changed the **disclosure norms for banks on bad loan divergence rule** to improve **transparency in asset classification** and preventing under-reporting of **bad loans**.
- The **Supreme Court** has been scrapped the **RBI's 12th February 2018 circular on debt resolution**.
- **Government** has infused a capital of **Rs. 205 crore** into the **Bank of Maharashtra** in lieu of **preferential allotment of shares on 30th March 2019**.
- **RBI** in consultation with the **government of India** has set the limit of **Rs. 75000 crore** for **Ways and Means Advances** for the **first half of the financial year 2019-20**.
- **Karnataka Bank** has entered into MoU with **Bharti AXA Life Insurance Company** to distribute the latter's life insurance products.
- The board of **Lakshmi Vilas Bank** has approved the merger with **Indiabulls Housing Finance** through a **share swap deal**. The merged entity to be called **Indiabulls Lakshmi Vilas Bank** will be among the **top eight private banks in India by size and profitability**.
- **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** has reduced the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** usage fees for small transactions to encourage banks and payment service providers (PSPs) to adopt the system.
- **National Thermal Power Corporation (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 **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 FY18 and **Rs. 50,000 crore** in FY17.
- **Bank of India** is planning to sell **25.05 per cent equity stake** in Star Union Dai-ichi Life Insurance for **Rs. 1,106 crore** at **Rs. 170.50** floor price of each share.
- **RBI** came out with guidelines for banks to set up **new currency chests** with a minimum area of **1,500 square feet** for strong room.
- **SBI** has reduced its benchmark lending rate by **5 basis points** across all tenors, making loans in segments such as home and vehicles cheaper.
- Dubai based **Emirates Islamic Bank** has announced the launch of Chat banking services for customers via **WhatsApp** and has become **world's first Islamic bank**.
- **RBI** has imposed a penalty of **Rs. 1 lakh** on **UP Postal Primary Co-operative Bank**, Lucknow for violation of norms regarding **shifting of its branch**.

- **PAISALO Digital Limited** signed the first co-origination loan agreement with **SBI** for empowering the **AGRI, MSME segment and small businesses**.
- **Ratnakar Bank Limited (RBL)** has partnered with credit profiler **CreditVidya** to improve the **lender's customer experience**.
- **RBI** has been permitted **reinsurance brokers** to open **non-interest bearing foreign currency accounts with banks** for undertaking transactions.
- **Punjab National Bank** has been celebrated its **125th foundation day** on **12th April 2019** and **Vice President Venkaiah Naidu** was the Guest of Honour.
- **RBI** has given **12 years** to **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** for **cut down stake** in **IDBI Bank** (At present LIC has 51 percent stake in the IDBI Bank).
- **Asian Development Bank** committed to provide highest level of assistance **USD 3.88 billion** in **sovereign loans** to **India**, which was agreed in 2018.
- **IDBI Bank** has launched '**NRI-Insta-Online**' account opening process for **Non-Resident Indians (NRI)** residing in the **Financial Action Task Force (FATF) member countries**.
- **Central government** has increased the **authorized capital** of **Allahabad Bank** from **Rs. 3,000 crore** to **Rs. 8,000 crore** after consultation with the **Reserve Bank of India**.
- **The total deposits in bank accounts** opened under the **Jan Dhan scheme** are set to cross **Rs. 1 lakh crore soon**.
- According to the report by **Bank of America Merrill Lynch (BofAML)**, the **excess reserves** that **RBI** holds could be up to **Rs.3 lakh crore (\$43 billion)** or **1.5%** of the **GDP**.
- **Kotak Mahindra Bank** has launched the **first debit card** based authentication solution on **NPCI's e-Mandate API platform**.
- **RBI** has granted approval to **HDFC Ltd** for holding up to **9.9%** stake in **Bandhan Bank**.
- **National Company Law Tribunal** approved the merger of private sector lender **IndusInd Bank** with **Bharat Financial Inclusion**, a microfinance company.
- **RBI** has divested its entire stake held in **National Housing Bank** and **NABARD** to the **government**, which now holds **100%** in these entities.
- Germany-based global provider of digital payments and commerce solutions **Wirecard** entered into a partnership with **RBL Bank** to promote **financial inclusion in India**.
- On **World Earth Day- 22nd April 2019**, **SBI** has launched India's first '**Green Car Loan**' to encourage customers to buy electric vehicles.
- **National Payments Corporation of India** has received approval from the **RBI** to implement **e-mandates** for **internet banking and debit cards**, which will allow the users to **automatically deal with their recurring payments**.
- **HDFC Bank** and **Max Bupa** launched **AnyTimeHealth machines** to distribute **health insurance products**.
- **RBI** has extended the **ombudsman scheme coverage** to **non-deposit taking NBFCs** having asset size of **Rs.100 crore** or **higher**.
- **RBI** notified that the **banking ombudsman** received **24.9%** more **customer complaints** in **FY18** over **FY17** and the overall complaint disposal rate was **96.5%** in **FY18** and **92%** in **FY17**.
- **RBI** will issue new **Rs 20 denomination** banknotes having a base colour of **greenish-yellow** with size of **63 X 129 mm**.

- **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**.
- **RBI** has proposed **strict rules on opening and operating current accounts of corporate borrowers** to prevent the **diversion of funds**.
- **1st Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement for 2019-20 financial** has been **announced in Mumbai**.

Repo Rate	6.0%
Reverse Repo Rate	5.75%
Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate	6.25%
Projected GDP growth for 2019-20	7.2%

ECONOMY

- **Anti-Dumping Duty** has been imposed on the **import of Solar Components** from **four nations China, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia and Thailand** for a period of **5 years**.
- **BNP Paribas Cardif** sold **5 crore shares** of the company for **Rs. 2,889 crore** to increase its public shareholding to **25%** of its paid-up equity share capital on or before October 2, 2020.
- **HCL** had acquired the **US-based Strong-Bridge Envision** for **USD 45 million** to enhance its **digital transformation consulting capabilities**.
- According to **ADB**, **India** has been downgraded by **40 basis points** to **7.2%** for fiscal year **2019-20** and **Southeast Asia's growth** estimate was lowered to **4.9%** by 20 basis points.
- **Paytm Money** receives **SEBI Approval** to start **Stock Broking** to its users.
- **Reliance Jio Digital** has acquired Mumbai based Artificial Intelligence-based conversational platform '**Haptik**' for **Rs. 700 crore**.
- **Bombay Stock Exchange** and **India International Exchange** have become **the first ever Indian exchanges to sign MoU with Moscow Exchange** in order to allow **capital formation platform, connect investor community and companies** in both **India and Russia**.
- **The Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has approved **Larsen & Toubro's (L&T's)** proposal to acquire up to **66.15 per cent** stake in **Mindtree**.
- **National Investment and Infrastructure Fund** and transport infrastructure operator **Roadis** will jointly set up a platform to invest **USD 2 billion** of equity in **road projects in India**.
- For the first time **SEBI** has given nod to '**Taking off to the Future Airport Fund**' of **Rs.10,000 crore (USD 1.5 billion)** for **airport specific fund**.
- **World Bank** has estimated **India's GDP growth to 7.5% in Fiscal Year 2019-20**.
- **PTC India Financial Services (PFS)** has partnered with **the US-India Clean Energy Finance (USICEF)** to leverage funds **for solar projects in India**.
- According to the **World Economic Outlook (WEO) report** released by **IMF**, **India's growth rate** is estimated to rise from **7.3% in 2019 to 7.5% in 2020**.
- **Government** has kept **interest rate unchanged** for **General Provident Fund** at **8%** for the quarter of **April-June, 2019-20**.
- **TCS** paired with **Google** to **build industry-specific cloud solutions**.
- **International Maritime Organisation** has been launched new rules on **electronic information exchange** between **Ships and Ports**.

- **Tata Teleservices** has received conditional nod from the **telecom department** for the merger of its mobility business with **Bharti Airtel**.
- **PayU** has been acquired digital financial security firm '**Wibmo**' for **USD 70 Million (about Rs 484 crore)** to **assist the company scale-up its business**.
- **Google** has partnered with **MMTC-PAMP India** to introduce **buying and selling of gold through the app**.
- **Tata Trusts and Microsoft India** has signed MoU for jointly collaborating **handloom clusters in India's eastern and north-eastern parts**.
- A unique proposition to **pay electricity bill on EMIs** has been launched by **Bajaj Finserv** through the campaign of **#BijliOnEMI**.
- **ETMONEY** has become **India's 1st comprehensive financial services app to integrate with Unified Payment Interface (UPI)**.
- **Bajaj Allianz General Insurance** in a partnership with **Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance** launched their **1st product 'Total Health Secure Goal'**.
- **Network Intelligence** inks MoU with **BSE** to provide **Cyber Security Services**.
- **SBI General Insurance** has launched its new product **cyber defence insurance** to **protect businesses from financial and reputational losses** due to **cyber attacks**.
- World's largest cryptocurrency exchange '**Binance**' has launched its own blockchain titled '**Binance Chain**' to rival **Ethereum network**.
- According to **Stanford study** revealed that **Global warming shrank Indian Economy by 31 percent**.
- **Federation of Indian Export Organizations** has signed an agreement with Mumbai based **Prin. L N Welingkar Institute of Management Development and Research** in order to support **startups engaged in the export sector**.
- **Aegon Life Insurance** has collaborated with **Mobikwik** to launch a **smart digital insurance product to enhance financial inclusion**.
- **DPIIT** proposes **Startup India Vision 2024** tax sops for new ventures by planning to set up 50,000 new start-ups in India by 2024 and create 20 lakh job opportunities.
- **Microsoft** has reached a valuation of **\$1 trillion** for the **first time** after a jump in stock valuation that followed a qualitative-laden third fiscal quarter.
- **IEPF Authority** has been recovered **Rs. 1514 crore of depositors money** from Kolkata-based **Peerless General Finance and Investment Company**.
- **HCL Technologies** sets up **cyber security centre in Texas** to enhance **business growth**.
- **Quikr** has acquired Bengaluru-based secondhand goods marketplace '**Zefo**' for **Rs. 200 crore** to **strengthen play in pre-owned goods sales business**.
- **The Department of Financial Services** has approved an **Employee's Provident Fund (EPF) interest rate** hike of **10 basis points** to **8.65 percent** for **2018-19**.
- Second oldest Cryptocurrency Exchange in India '**BuyUcoin**' has introduced a new and unique platform for **wholesale cryptocurrency trading**.
- '**Guidelines for Determination of Allotment and Trading Lot Size for Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) and Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs)**' has reduced the minimum subscription requirement as well as defined trading by **SEBI**.
- According to **Fitch Solutions Macro Research** report, **India** is probably going to install **54.7GW of wind capacity by 2022** against the **60 GW target set by the government**.

- **Paytm** launched a new option of **recurring payments** for its merchants to enable recurring payments.
- **Bharti AXA General Insurance** has become **the 1st company to sell 2-wheeler policies via WhatsApp** by partnering with **Wishfin**.
- **India's GDP growth** projection for **2019-20** lowered to **7.3 percent** by **India Ratings and Research**, a Fitch Group company.
- According to **Data Security Council of India (DSCI)**, **Indian cyber insurance market** grows **40% with 350 cyber insurance policies** bought in **2018 against 250 in 2017**.
- **Wipro Consumer Care** announced that it is acquiring personal care company '**Splash**', which is based in the **Philippines**
INTERNATIONAL
- '**Reiwa**' will be the name for the new era when Prince **Naruhito** succeeds his father Emperor **Akihito** on May 1, 2019 and the country's current era is **Heisei**.
- **China** has successfully launched the 1st of its **new-generation data relay satellites** into orbit that will provide data relay, measurement and control services for its manned spacecraft.
- **Algeria's President Abdul-Aziz Bouteflika** has **resigned** from the post with immediate effect, ceding power in the face of massive street protests against his 20-year rule.
- The **US House of Representatives** has voted to **end US involvement in Yemen's civil war**, rejecting President **Donald Trump's** support for **Saudi-led campaign**.
- **South Korean** government declared a **state of national disaster over the massive blaze** that engulfed **five cities and counties along the northeastern coast**.
- The **UAE Government** has announced granting long-term visas for the top **100 start-ups** shaping the fourth industrial revolution.
- **Rwanda** has begun **100 days of mourning** for over **800,000 people** slaughtered in a genocide that shocked the world.
- **India and Sri Lanka** have agreed to increase cooperation in **security and defence spheres** in several areas, including **regional security, curbing drug smuggling and human trafficking**.
- **USA** designated **Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)** as **foreign terrorist organization**.
- The Government of **Sri Lanka** has opened a railway line extension between **Matara and Beliatta** in the southern part of the country.
- The **UAE** announced that **India** will be the **Guest of Honour country** at the **29th edition of Abu Dhabi International Book Fair (ADIBF) 2019**, to be held from **24th to 30th April 2019**.
- **Sudan's defence minister** announced that Army has arrested President **Omar al-Bashir**.
- **The United Nations Security Council (UNSC)** voted unanimously for **the resolution to completely end its peacekeeping operations in Haiti**.
- **Google** has opened its **1st African artificial intelligence (AI) centre** in **Accra, Ghana**.
- **WHO** has been released the new guidelines on the usage of **digital health technology to boost health of the people**.
- **North Korea** leader **Kim Jong-un** has met with **Vladimir Putin** of **Russia** to rally international support for an approach to **sanctions relief and gradual nuclear disarmament**.
- **India's Haj Quota** has been increased the number to **2 lakh from 1.75 lakh** by **Saudi Arabia**.
- **Malaysia** has resumed a **China-backed rail link project** after the Chinese contractor agreed to cut the construction cost by one third to **10.6 billion US dollars**.

- To boost tea trade, cultural and technical exchanges the **Asian Tea Alliance (ATA)**, a union of five tea-growing and consuming countries was launched in **Guizhou, China**.
- **Saudi Arabia and UAE** announced financial support of **3 billion dollars** for the people of **Sudan** following the overthrow of longtime leader **Omar al-Bashir**.
- **Iran and Pakistan** are going to create a joint '**reaction force**' on border between the two countries.
- To honor the Indian Nobel laureate **Amartya Sen**, the **London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)** has created the **Amartya Sen Chair in Inequality Studies**.
- **Saudi Arabia** has become first Arab country will host the **G20 summit** on **21-22 November 2020** in **Riyadh**.
- **Donald Trump** to Make State Visit to **UK** in June on **Queen Elizabeth's Invitation**.
- **Indonesia** has released a special stamp on the **theme of Ramayana** at the **70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties** between **India and Indonesia**.
- **Kazakhstan** Prime Minister **Askar Mamin** has set up **Coordinating Council** for attracting **foreign investments** inclusive of investments from **India**.
- **WHO** has issued recommendations on the use of **sedentary screen** which includes **watching television or videos** and **playing computer games for children** under **5-year-old**.
- **UAE** based flag carrier '**Etihad Airways**' has become the **1st major airline in the gulf region** to operate a **flight without any single-use plastics on board**.
- **Zoologists** at **Trinity College Dublin** have discovered **two new bird species** named as **Wakatobi white-eye** and **Wangi-Wangi white-eye** in **Indonesia**.
- **Qatar** is set to abolish its exit visa system for all foreign workers by the end of **2019** as per the United Nation's **International Labour Organization (ILO)**.
- According to **Sri Lankan** tourism ministry, Sri Lankan government suspended plans to grant visas on arrival to citizens of 39 countries after the recent bombings.
- **United Nations** and **European Union** have signed a **joint framework** aimed at strengthening partnership in **counter-terrorism efforts**.
- **Sri Lanka** has decided to **ban** the two fundamentalist terror networks **National Thawheed Jamath** and **Jamathei Milathu Ibrahim** linked with recent attacks.
- Defence Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** is on a 3 day visit to **Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan** to attend the **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Defence Minister's Meet**.
- **US President Donald Trump** stated that his administration is withdrawing the U.S. signature from the **U.N. Arms Trade Treaty**.
- A two-part maritime exercise by the 10-member **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)** and its partnering countries is slated to start in South Korea's port city of **Busan**. The exercise aims to counter maritime crime, including illicit transactions of weapons.
- **Wipro** Consumer Care has announced to acquire Philippine largest personal care company '**Splash**', deal value is yet to be disclosed.
- **Lebanon's capital Beirut** has set a new Guinness World Record for most number of national flags displayed in one city for 24 hours.
- **The European Union** has extended a ban on selling arms to **Myanmar** and prolonged sanctions against high-ranking officials till 30th April 2020, over their role in the **Rohingya crisis**.

NATIONAL

- **India and US** has structured the 1st reliable communication link between **the Indian Navy & US Central** under the **OMCASA (Communications, Compatibility and Security Agreement)**.

- **Ministry of Home Affairs** has constituted **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Tribunal** to determine the sufficient cause to ban **Jamaat-e-Islami and JKLF faction**, which is headed by **Justice Chander Shekhar**.
- The Government of India organized '**Prevention of Blindness Week**' annually from **1st to 7th April** to raise awareness regarding the precautions to be taken to **prevent blindness**.
- **Indian Army** has **built the longest suspension bridge** named '**Maitri Bridge**' over **Indus River** in **Leh** in just **40 days**.
- **N. K. Singh** has chaired the high-level discussion on '**Fiscal Relations across levels of Government**' organized by **15th Finance Commission** in partnership with the **World Bank, OECD and ADB**.
- The **Indian Navy** has initiated the process to acquire **six lethal submarines** under the ambitious **Project-75** India likely to cost over **Rs 50,000 crore**.
- **Government of India** is planning to link **Social Media accounts** with **Mobile Numbers and Aadhaar or Passport** to control **trolls and spread of fake news**.
- **Goa government** has **extended the retirement age** from **60 to 62** for **doctors**.
- **The National Green Tribunal** formed a committee to look into the **alleged erosion of Yamuna floodplain** due to movement of heavy vehicles in **Sonipat district** in **Haryana**.
- **President Ramnath Kovind** Published 4th edition of the **NIRF 2019** and **ARIIA 2019** ranking for higher educational institutes in India at **Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi**.

Categories	1st	2nd
Overall	IIT-Madras	IISc-Bengaluru
University	IISc-Bengaluru	JNU-New Delhi
Engineering	IIT- Madras	IIT-Delhi
Medical	AIIMS-Delhi	PGIMER-Chandigarh
Management	IIM-Bengaluru	IIM-Ahmedabad

- **The government** has begun the process for **registration of pilgrims** for this year **Kailash Mansarovar Yatra** which will be held from **June 8 to September 8**.
- **National Green Tribunal** chairman **Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel** has constituted a **Central Monitoring Committee** to ensure the **implementation of action plan** meant for reducing **pollution stretches across the country**.
- **India and Sweden** launched a joint Programme that will work towards addressing a **range of challenges around smart cities and clean technologies**.
- The Cabinet Committee of Security has cleared the procurement of **464 Russian tanks** from **Russia** under **T-90 project** in a deal worth over **Rs 13,500 crore**.
- **India and the Netherlands** reviewed bilateral cooperation in various fields including **political, economic scientific and cultural cooperation** during the **Foreign Office Consultations** in **New Delhi**.
- The festival of harvest **Baisakhi** is being celebrated with traditional enthusiasm in the **northern part of the country**.
- **ISRO** has partnered with **Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI)** for the first time to conserve **smaller wetlands to combat effects of climate change**.
- The Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral **Sunil Lanba** has inaugurated the maiden state-of-the-art **Virtual Reality Centre (VRC)** at the **Directorate of Naval Design** in **New Delhi**.

- On 16th April 2019, Rongali Bihu festival is celebrated Assam.
- Vellore constituency, Tamil Nadu has become the 1st Lok Sabha seat to cancel election in the history of independent India over abuse of money power by Election Commission.
- Veera coast guard offshore patrol vessel (OPV) has been commissioned by Chief of Army Staff General Bipin Rawat in Visakhapatnam.
- Supreme Court has banned all mining activities in Kaziranga National Park and catchment area of rivers originating in Karbi Anglong Hills in Assam.
- Rs. 4315.15 crores budget has been approved Union Cabinet headed by Narendra Modi for implementing 10% EWS Quota to create over 2 lakh additional seats in 158 institutions.
- Ministry of Home Affairs issued an order to suspend the Line of Control trade between Jammu & Kashmir and Pakistan occupied Jammu & Kashmir (POJK) due to an increase in terror funding, drug trade and fake currencies.
- To get immediate assistance to the people who are in trouble, Union territories and Twenty states have joined in a pan-India network of single emergency helpline number '112', which is implemented by central government's Nirbhaya Fund.
- Indigenously designed guided missile destroyer 'INS Imphal' was launched by Navy Chief Sunil Lanba at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, Mumbai.
- Indian Posts has collaborated with TCS to digitalize 1.5 lakh post offices & creating world's largest EPostal network by deploying largest SAP implementation.
- The CBSE students will be allowed to use magnifying glasses and portable video magnifiers during the Class X final examination from 2020.
- Union Ministry of Home Affairs has distributed around 3,120 special kits termed 'SAECKs' (The Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kits) to collect blood and semen samples.
- Indian Army has started the process of inducting women as Jawans in military police.
- Central Works Public Department has set up an expert 8-member committee under M K Sharma for developing a design scheme to construct buildings and develop infrastructure.
- Indian Council of Medical Research has launched the Malaria Elimination Research Alliance (MERA) in order to eliminate the disease from India by 2030.
- United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) India and Atal Innovation Mission have signed the Letter of Intent to promote participation, skill and empowerment among young children.
- C K Mishra as the head of the Committee formed by MOEFCC to implement the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) to handle the major issue of air-pollution in India.
- IRDAI set up Suresh Mathur Committee comprising of 13 members to review regulatory framework on micro-insurance.
- Cyclonic storm 'Fani' is likely to hit Coastal Andhra Pradesh by April 30, 2019.
- Scientists at Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi have developed an ultrasensitive quantum thermometer by using grapheme quantum dots.
- The Gujarat health department has issued an 'Orange Alert' for two-days as the temperatures are likely to touch 44 degrees.
- Defence Ministry has awarded a contract of worth Rs. 6,311 crore to Garden

Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited to build **8 anti submarine warfare shallow watercrafts** for the **Indian Navy**.

- The Union Cabinet approved creation of an additional post of **Deputy Comptroller and Auditor General** (Coordination, Communication and Information System).
- The Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of the **GSLV Phase - 4 programmes consisting of five GSLV flights** during the period from 2021 to 2024.
- **List of Important agreements and MoUs**

MoUs/Agreements	Purpose
India and Denmark	Renewable energy
India and Republic of Korea	jointly Postage Stamp
India and Brazil	Biotechnology education, training and research
India and Cambodia	Communications
BSE and Network Intelligence	to provide cyber security services to its members
Indian Army and National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited	to build four underground tunnels along China and Pakistan borders
Tata Power and Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL)	integrated customer services and optimize value for customers
Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi	To collaborate in the field of standardization and conformity assessment
Indian Navy and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)	to tackle joint research and development of advanced technologies

STATE

- **Kandhamal Haldi (turmeric)** produced by the tribal farmers in **Odisha's Kandhamal district** received the **Geographical Indication (GI) tag**.
- **Telangana** has ranked **No 1 in eLearning training** by reaching to **20,000 field staff during 2018-19**.
- After **32 years**, **Controversial Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act** was partially removed from **3 districts of Arunachal Pradesh**, but remains in force in areas bordering **Myanmar**.
- An Application named '**Sahulat**' was launched in **Rajouri district, Jammu and Kashmir** to facilitate and to encourage **the elder voters for participating in the elections**.
- **75th anniversary of the Battle of Kohima** was observed by the **Nagaland** with representatives from the **UK and Japan** speaking on the theme of '**Remembrance, Reconciliation and Rebirth**'.
- **Phayeng**, a scheduled caste village of the Chakpa community in Imphal West district of **Manipur** has been tagged as **India's first carbon-positive settlement**.
- **Tamil Nadu** government has renamed the iconic Chennai Central Railway Station as **Puratchi Thalaivar Dr MGR Central Railway Station** and it has become **2nd highest named Railway station in the world with 57 letters**.
- Meteorological Department (MeT) has issued **yellow weather warning** for rain in **Himachal Pradesh**.
- **National Green Tribunal** bench has slapped an interim penalty of **Rs. 100 crore** on the **Andhra Pradesh** for **inaction to prevent illegal sand mining in the state**.
- According to **PCB (Pollution Control Board)**, **Kerala** continues to see fish deaths in the Periyar as authorities pass the buck

- **Supreme Court** has imposed fine of **Rs. 20 lakh** on **West Bengal** for **virtual ban** on film '**Bhobishyoter Bhoot**'.
- **Ministry of Home Affairs** has given approval for renaming **Durjanpur village as Shivdham in Madhya Pradesh**.
- To ensure good menstrual health, **Project Kannamma** initiated by Rotary Club of Madras North.
- The **Rongali Bihu**, also known as 'Bohaag Bihu' which marks the beginning of the new Assamese calendar year started.
- **Sahitya Akademi honours Veteran authors from Chandigarh**
- Best Book in English (Novel): Masha Kaur
- Best Book in Hindi (Novel): Shashi Prabha
- Best Book (Poetry): Amarjeet Amar
- Best story: Pragya Sharda
- Best children's literature: Anita Surbhi
- **Delhi Metro** to become 1st in the World to run on **100 percent Solar Power**.
- **Meghalaya Cabinet** approved the proposal for the creation of a **new Directorate of Dairy Development** to boost the **milk production**.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- **ISRO** has launched a **Defence Intelligence Satellite 'EMISAT'** along with **28 other customer satellites** in **PSLV-C45 Rocket** from **Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota**.
- **China** has launched the new-generation data relay satellite **Tianlian II-01** into orbit and that will provide **data relay, measurement and control services for its manned spacecraft**.
- **ISRO** has constructed a launch **viewing gallery** in the form of a stadium at the **spaceport of Sriharikota** at the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Andhra Pradesh**.
- **South Korea** launched the world's first fully-fledged **5G mobile networks**.
- **WhatsApp** has launched a **fact-checking service** in **India** to help **curb the spread of misinformation** ahead of the **Lok Sabha elections 2019**.
- **Astronomers** have discovered a new exoplanet using NASA's exoplanet-hunting space telescope **Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS)**.
- Scientists from the **Centre for Cellular & Molecular Biology (CCMB)** have discovered a new enzyme '**Murein Endopeptidase**', which helps in breaking cell walls of bacteria.
- The **Indian Army** has recovered a **wreckage of a World War II vintage US Air Force aircraft** in Roing district, **Arunachal Pradesh**.
- A new study by Queen's University Belfast and Aberystwyth University has indicated that the Sun's magnetic field is **10 times** more powerful than previously thought.
- **Germany** scientists have warned that there is more **Carbon dioxide (CO2)** in our atmosphere than in the past three million years.
- **Japan's** space agency '**Hayabusa2**' spacecraft has released an explosive onto an asteroid to make a crater on its surface and collect underground samples to find possible clues to the origin of the solar system.
- **Amazon** has confirmed it plans to launch a constellation of over **3,200 low-Earth orbit satellites** for **high-speed broadband internet service from space**.
- The fossil of a **43-million-year-old whale** with four legs, webbed feet and hooves has been discovered in Peru's Pacific coast at Playa Media Luna.
- A new species of jumping spiders named '**Habrocestum longispinum**' has been spotted in **Ernakulam's Illithodu forests, Kerala** by the **arachnologists** from **Kochi's Sacred Heart College, Thevara**.

- President **Ram Nath Kovind** has launched '**CRPF Veer Parivar**' app, a mobile application for families of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel killed in the line of duty.
- The Scientists of the **University of Edinburgh** has been discovered a new state of matter '**chain-melted state**', which can be solid and liquid at the same time.
- **Google** has been launched '**Anthos**', a new open platform from Google Cloud, that lets users run applications from anywhere.
- **Scientists** have developed a **novel sensor** that can be used in **smartphone-sized** devices to detect **dangerous chemicals based on a unique fingerprint of absorbed and emitted light**.
- The first-ever black hole to be pictured has been named '**Powehi**' by a Hawaiian professor **Larry Kimura**, who was tasked with the job by astronomers involved in the project.
- The world's largest airplane a Stratolaunch's behemoth named '**Roc**' has made its first test flight in **California, over the Mojave Desert**.
- In the Mariana Trench of **Western Pacific Ocean**, Scientists have discovered unique oil-eating bacteria that can help in sustainable ways of cleaning up man-made oil spills.
- Telecom operator **Bharti Airtel** and the **FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO)** launched a safety app '**My Circle**' to assist women in case they face any panic situation or problem.
- **ISRO** has successfully test fired **1,000 km strike range sub-sonic cruise missile** named '**Nirbhay**' from **ITR, Chandipur, Odisha coast**.
- **China** has successfully tested the world's first armed amphibious drone boat '**Marine Lizard**' which the Chinese military analysts claimed could be used in land assault operations.
- **Israel** Scientists unveiled the **first 3D print** of a heart with human tissue and vessels, calling it a first and a 'major medical breakthrough' that advances possibilities for transplants.
- **Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS)** Mission of NASA has discovered its first Earth-size alien world 'HD 21749b'.
- The researchers at the **University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)** have created a **3D-printed device** that that can produce **electricity from falling snow**.
- **NASA** has revealed that **Mercury** planet in the solar system has a massive **solid inner core**.
- **France** has launched 'Tchap', its government-only chat app for officials, after fixing a bug that exposed chats and could let people chat with government workers.
- World's first **Malaria vaccine** launched in **Malawi**.
- **Russia** successfully tests World's First Floating Nuclear Power Plant named '**Akademik Lomonosov**'.
- **Harvard University** scientists have transmitted radio frequency using semiconductor laser for the 1st time, resulting in the '**1st step towards ultra-high-speed Wi-Fi**'.
- **Facebook** has announced ban on personality quiz apps on its platform.
- IT service management company **Financial Software Services (FSS)** has launched real time voice banking platform titled FSS voice commerce.
- **IIT Madras** team develops **easy OCR system for reading documents** in Bharati script containing **9 Indian languages**.
- **NASA** has announced that it is preparing to send the next man and the 1st woman to the lunar South Pole by the year **2024**.
- **Indian Army** has claimed to have sighted '**mysterious footprints of a Yeti**', a mythical creature of folklore in Nepal.

SEMINARS AND MEETINGS

Seminars and Meetings	Place	Theme/Tagline
Seven-nation Indian Ocean military exercise	India	counter the growing Chinese influence in the India Ocean
NuGen Mobility Summit 2019	Manesar, NCR	To share new ideas, learnings, global experiences, innovations and future technology trends for faster adoption
4 th Meeting of India-Ukraine Working Group on Trade and Economic Cooperation	New Delhi	Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technical, Industrial and Cultural Cooperation
Nepal-India Franchise Investment Expo & Conclave	Kathmandu, Nepal	To build relations b/w India & Nepal through entrepreneurship development
India, Russia to hold annual media forum	New Delhi	For Media Cooperation
First Global Conference on Synergies	Copenhagen, Denmark	On Climate Change
3-day National Cardiology Conference	Lucknow	To showcase newer innovations in Cardiology
African Lion 2019	Morocco	US and Morocco conduct F-16 training
Biannual Army Commanders Conference	New Delhi	Management of the extant security dynamics and mitigation of future security threats
Mitra Shakti VI	Sri Lanka	India and Sri Lanka joint exercise
National Seminar on Greenery and Landscaping	New Delhi	Green Urban Areas
17 th MENA World Economic Forum	Jordan	Economic growth, humanitarian crises, sustainability, health care, energy, water
Bold Kurukshetra 2019	Uttar Pradesh	India & Singapore Joint Military Exercise
Global Water Summit 2019	London	Disruptive Designs
21 st ASEAN-India Senior Officials Meeting	New Delhi	Political-security, economic and socio-cultural
G-20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meet	Washington DC	
Artificial Intelligence Summit	UAE	Governance, business and society - augmenting the world's happiness
4th Resilient Cities Asia-Pacific Congress 2019	New Delhi	Good governance and resilience
Home Expo India 2019	Greater Noida	Growth in home decor, furnishing, furniture, flooring and textiles

Army planning to carry out joint exercise with Indian Coast Guard	Visakhapatnam	
2 nd IN – VPN BILAT EX	Vietnam	India-Vietnam Bilateral Exercise
Indian Navy coastal defence exercise 'Sea Vigil'	New Delhi	Strengthening Maritime and Coastal Security
G20 Summit 2020	Saudi Arabia	Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy'
Varuna	Goa Coast	India and France Naval Exercise
7 th China International Technology Fair	Shanghai, China	International technology trade
Indian, US navies conduct Anti-Submarine Warfare drill	Indian Ocean	
1 st Naval Commanders' Conference of 2019	New Delhi	Functional Reorganization of Indian Navy towards enhancing Operational Efficiency and Optimal Manning
ABU Media Summit on Climate Action and Disaster Preparedness	Kathmandu, Nepal	Media Solutions for Sustainable Future: Saving Lives, Building Resilient Communities
2 nd edition of Belt and Road Forum (BRF)	Beijing, China	Belt and Road Cooperation: Shaping a Brighter Shared Future
Shanghai Co-operation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers' conclave	Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan	Bilateral defence issues, including defence co-operation

PLACES IN NEWS

- American multinational technology company **Apple** has begun manufacturing the **iPhone 7** in **Bengaluru**, making it the **3rd iPhone** model being manufactured locally in the country.
- Registration of pilgrims for **Amarnath Yatra** (two-month long) began through **442 branches of Punjab National Bank, Jammu & Kashmir Bank and Yes Bank** across the country.
- A music and poetry festival titled '**Jashn-e-Ittihaad**' was held at the **Jamia Milia Islamia Central University** in **New Delhi** to spread awareness about **unity amongst the youth**.
- **India's 1st Foreign Interactive Bird Park** launched by **Essel World** in **Mumbai** spread over **1.4 acres of land** and surrounded by **flora and fauna**.
- As part of the **70th Anniversary** of People's Liberation Army Navy celebrations in **China**, two Indian Navy warships, namely **INS Kolkata** and **INS Shakti** will participate in **the Chinese International Fleet Review (IFR)** maritime parade in **Qingdao**.
- Scientists unearth **220 million year old dinosaurs fossils** were found at the **Ischigualasto National Park in San Juan province**.
- **India** has rebuilt **Chhyoiphel Kundeling Monastery** with grant of **18.9 million Nepalese rupees**.
- Thousands of people attended the **stone-laying ceremony** of the 1st Traditional Hindu temple in **UAE capital Abu Dhabi**.

- **India** to be **Guest of Honour country** at **29th Abu Dhabi International Book Fair** at the **Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre**.
- Alberta University paleontologists have discovered **95 million-year-old coin-sized 'cartoon-eyed'** crab species called **Callichimaeraperplexa**.
- **South Central Zone Cultural Centre (SCZCC)** of Ministry of Culture is organizing **Madhya Dakshini Festival 2019** in collaboration with **North East Zone Cultural Centre (NEZCC)** from April 25 to 28, 2019 in four venues of **Guwahati**.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

- **Hero** Chairman **Pawan Munjal** honoured with the Asian Tour with a '**Special Achievement Award**' for his contributions to **Asian Golf**.
- **Vikram patel** (psychiatrist and professor of global health at Harvard Medical school) has been honoured with prestigious **John drinks Canada Gairdner Global Health awards**.
- **UAE** honoured **Narendra Modi** with its highest civilian award '**the Zayed Medal**' for boosting the bilateral ties between both of the nations.
- **Dr. Sohini Sastri (Astrologer)** has been honoured with '**D. Litt in Astrology**' (**Doctor of Letters**) held in **Mumbai** at **Classique Club** by **National American University, USA**.
- **Shah Rukh Khan** was conferred with an honorary doctorate in **Philanthropy** by the **University of Law, London**.
- Chief of Army Staff **Bipin Rawat** is now inducted into prestigious **International Hall of Fame**.
- **ESPN India Multi-Sport Awards 2018**

AWARDS	CATEGORY
Sportsperson of the Year (Male)	Neeraj Chopra (Javelin throw)
Sportsperson of the Year (Female)	PV Sindhu (Badminton)
Emerging Sportsperson of the Year	Saurabh Chaudhary (Pistol Shooting)
Coach of the Year	Jaspal Rana (Pistol Shooting)
Lifetime Achievement Award	Pradip Kumar 'PK' Banerjee (Football)

- **Pali Scholar Dr Gyanaditya Shakya** honoured with **Presidential Award of Maharshi Badrayan Vyas Samman 2019**.
- **Tata Steel** bagged the '**Global Slag Company of the Year**' award at the **14th Global Slag Conference and Exhibition 2019** for its innovative practices in the development of new applications for **Steel by-products (Slag)**.
- **Israeli Isaaka Hayik (73 years)** set a new world record as **the world's oldest person** to play in a **professional soccer match**.
- **Deepa Malik** honoured with **New Zealand Prime Ministers Sir Edmund Hillary Fellowship for 2019** in recognition of her '**inspiring achievements**'.
- '**Dost Education**' (India's education technology startup) won **USD 25,000 Edtech prize** for its ability to **empower parents to take charge of their child's early education**.
- **Eni Nuraeni (Indonesia)** was named by **Asian Athletic Association (AAA)** as the **best athletic coach in Asia** for the **short-haul run category** in **2019**.
- **Alice G. Vaidyan** (CMD of General Insurance Corporation) awarded with the **Freedom of the City of London** for **promote insurance ties between India and the UK**.

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** was conferred with the '**Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle**' by **Russia** for exceptional services in **promoting bilateral ties**.
- An image of a crying girl titled '**Crying Girl on the Border**' won the **prestigious World Press Photo of the Year** and Veteran Getty photographer **John Moore**.
- **Dr A K Singh** (director at Life Sciences, DRDO) honoured with **Lifetime Achievement Award 2019** during **4th APJ Abdul Kalam Innovation Conclave at Chandigarh University, Mohali**.
- **Mint's Teena Thacker** conferred with **2019 Citi Journalistic Excellence Award**.
- **Reuter's journalists, Kyaw Soe Oo and Wa Lone** have been selected for **UNESCO/Guillermo Cano Press Freedom Prize 2019** for recognizing their commitment, courage and resistance to freedom of expression.
- **Fincare Small Finance Bank (SFB)** awarded the prestigious **Celent Model Bank 2019 Award** in the category of Financial Inclusion, for '**Redesigning Lending to Reach Small Businesses**'.
- **2019 Pulitzer Prize Announced**

Category	Winner
Public service	Staff of the South Florida Sun Sentinel
Criticism	Carlos Lozada of The Washington Post
Editorial writing	Brent Staples of the New York Times
Fiction	'The Overstory' by Richard Powers
Drama	'Fairview' by Jackie Sibblies Drury
History	'Frederick Douglass' by David W. Blight
Autobiography	The New Negro' by Jeffrey C. Stewart
Poetry	'Be with' by Forest Gander
General non fiction	Amity and Prosperity' by Eliza Griswold
Music	'prism' by Ellen Reid
Special Citation	Aretha Franklin

- **Yusuf Hamied** (chairman of Cipla) was honoured in the **2019 list of new fellows** of the **UK's Royal Society**.
- **150 Indian peacekeepers** honoured with **UN Medal** for their service in **UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)**.
- **Police officer Sunil Kumar Gautam** bestowed with '**Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant Award**' for writing '**Samvidhan Kavya**', a poetic verse of the Indian Constitution.
- Prof. **Sree N Sreenath** (President of Sewa International) has been inducted into the **Cleveland Hall of Fame**.
- **The Intellectual Property Rights cell (IPR cell)** of **Kerala Agricultural University (KAU)** has been selected for the **National Intellectual Property Award 2019**.
- Malayalam film **Bhayanakam** (directed by **Jayaraj**) won the **best cinematography award** at the **Beijing International Film Festival** and also won the best cinematography award at the **65th National Film Awards**.
- **Indian Air Force (IAF)** is going to recommend Wing Commander **Abhinandan Varthaman** for the gallantry medal **Vir Chakra** for shooting down **Pakistani F-16 jet**.
- **Swacchta Pakhwada Awards 2019** awarded to **All India Radio, Publication Division & Children's Film Society of India**.
- Dawn Editor **Cyril Almeida** (Pakistan) has won the IPI's **World Press Freedom**

Hero award 2019 for his 'critical' and 'tenacious coverage' of the civil-military relations in Pakistan.

- **Deenanath Mangeshkar Award 2019:**
- Award for music and art: Classical dancer Sucheta Bhide-Chapekar
- Lifetime Award: Salim Khan (Father of Salman Khan)
- Special Award for the contribution to Indian cinema : Madhur Bhandarkar
- Special Award: Helen
- Mohan Wagh Award (Best Drama of the Year 2019) : SoyareSakal
- Anandmayee Puraskar: Pandit Suresh Talwalkar
- **Dr. Benny Antony** conferred with **the National (IP) Intellectual Property Award 2019** in the category of **Top Individual for Patents and Commercialization.**
- **British Indian novelist Rana Dasgupta** has been awarded the **2nd edition of Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize 2019** for his 2010 novel **'Solo'**.
- **Prasanna Kumar Rao** received the **Corporate Excellence award in the Manufacturing Industry** from **Enterprise Asia of Malaysia for 2019.**
- A six-year-old boy **Derek C Lalchhanhima** (Mizoram), who saved life of a chicken, has been awarded the **Compassionate Kid award 2019.**
- Former South Africa all-rounder **Jacques Kallis** receives **Ikhamanga Award 2019.**
- **Bajrang Punia** became **1st Indian wrestler** to fight at **New York's Madison Square Garden.**
- **Gaganjeet Bhullar (Golfer)** has been awarded **outstanding achievement as a player award** at the **4th edition of annual India Golf Industry Association (GIA) award 2019.**
- **Manchester City Forward Raheem Sterling** awarded with **Football Writers' Association Footballer of the Year 2019.**

PERSONS IN NEWS

- **Deepa Malik** was named as the recipient of the New Zealand Prime Minister's **Sir Edmund Hillary Fellowship for 2019** in recognition of her **'inspiring achievements'**.
- Haryana Chief Electoral Officer **Rajeev Ranjan** inaugurated India's **first-of-its-kind 'Voter Park'** in Vikas Sadan building complex, **Gurugram.**
- Union Steel Minister **Chaudhry Birendra Singh** resigned from the Union Cabinet as well as from the membership of Rajya Sabha and he will continue to be a member of the **BJP.**
- **Gagandeep Kang** has become the **first Indian female scientist** to be elected as a **Fellow of the royal Society (FRS)** in the **UK.**
- Pakistan's Finance Minister **Asad Umar** abruptly quit the **Cabinet** before securing a multi-billion dollar International Monetary Fund bailout package for the cash-strapped country.
- **India's Bajrang Punia** has regained the world number one spot in the Men's 65-kilogram freestyle category rankings released by United World Wrestling.
- In **Ukrainian presidential election 2019**, Comedian **Volodymyr Oleksandrovych Zelensky** defeated incumbent Petro Poroshenko of Bloc 'Solidarity' party.
- Former ECI, and ex-civil aviation secretary, **Nasim Zaidi** has resigned from the post of non-executive and non-independent director of **Jet Airways.**
- **Uday Kumar Varma** resigned from post of the **Assocham Secretary-General.**
- **Amit Jain**, Uber's Asia-Pacific region (APAC) Head has announced his resignation at the end of May 2019 after four-year service.
- The president of **Wipro's banking financial services and insurance (BFSI)** business unit, **Shaji Farooq** has resigned from the company after 5 years.
- **Ajinkya Rahane** became the first overseas player from India to represent Hampshire.
- Former all-rounder **Shane Watson** has announced his retirement from **Big Bash League.**
- **Australia's Claire Polosak** has become the first female umpire to stand in a men's ODI.

APPOINTMENTS

Name of the Organization	Name of the Person
1 st Indian member of FIFA Executive Council	Praful Patel
Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Royal Enfield	Vinod Dasari
Senior Air Staff Officer of Western Air Command	Air Marshal D Choudhry AVSM VM VSM
Investigation Head For Myanmar	Nicholas Koumjian
MD of the LIC	Vipin Anand
Next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Cameroon	Shri Rakesh Malhotra
Chicago's First Black Woman Mayor	Lori Lightfoot
Managing Director of IL&FS	Chandra Shekhar Rajan
Brand ambassador for the Lok Sabha elections in Jammu and Kashmir	Sana Dua
Next Ambassador of India to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	Shri Anwar Haleem
MD and CEO of Indian Overseas Bank	Kamam Sekar
NBCC Chairman and Managing Director	Shiv Das Meena
Secretary of Defence Finance	Argi Kaul
First women vice-chancellor of Jamia Millia Islamia University (JMI)	Professor Najma Akhtar
Secretary of the Interior Department	David Bernhardt
Chairman of South Asia board of RICS	Sanjay Dutt
1 st Indian chair of International Hockey Federation Health and Safety Committee	Bibhu Kalyan Nayak
Brand ambassador of 'redBus'	MS Dhoni
CEO of Cairn Oil & Gas	Ajay Dixit
New Chief People Officer of PwC	Padmaja Alaganandan
Executive Director of Punjab National Bank	Rajesh Kumar Yaduvanshi
Next India MD of McAfee	Sanjay Manohar
Member (Signal & Telecom) of Railway Board	Shri N. Kashinath
Special Election Observer of West Bengal	Ajay V Nayak
Judo Union of Asia general secretary	Mukesh Kumar
Corporate Ambassador to 'RAKEZ'	Ravi Shastri
Managing Director of Twitter in India	Manish Maheshwari
Brand ambassador of Indo-American Arts Council (IAAC)	Vikas Khanna
52 nd Controller General of Defence Accounts	Shri. Rajendra Kumar Nayak
Next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Seychelles	Dalbir Singh Suhag
Chief Operating Officer of LIC Housing Finance	Siddhartha Mohanty
New Technical director of Indian football team	Dorulsac
Next Vice Chief of Indian Air Force	Air Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria
Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in Lokpal office	Dilip Kumar
IRDAI Executive Director	Suresh Mathur
New president of Algeria	Abd-el-Kader Bensalah
Prime Minister of Haiti	Jean Michel Lapin
Brand ambassador of Navratna Cool	Varun Dhawan
Brand ambassador of Fantasy 11	Murali Kartik
PM of Israel	Benjamin Netanyahu
Goodwill Ambassador of Street Child Cricket World Cup 2019	Mithali Raj

SPECIAL DAYS

DATE	SPECIAL DAY	THEME
1 st April	Odisha celebrates 84th foundation day (or) Utkal Divas	
2 nd April	World Autism Awareness Day	Assistive Technologies. Active Participation
4 th April	International Mine Awareness Day	UN Promotes SDGs-Safe Ground-Safe Home
5 th April	National Maritime Day	Indian Ocean-An Ocean of opportunity
6 th April	International Day of Sport for Development and Peace	
7 th April	World Health Day 2019	Universal health Coverage: Everyone, Everywhere
7-14 th April	National Handloom Week	
8 th April	International Romani Day 2019	
9 th April	CRPF celebrating 54 th Valour Day	
10 th April	World Homoeopathy Day	
11 th April	National Safe Motherhood Day	Midwives for Mothers
12 th April	The World Aviation and Cosmonautics Day	
7 th to 13 th April	World Allergy Week 2019	The Global Problem of Food Allergy
13 th April	Centenary of Jallianwala Bagh Massacre	
17 th April	World Hemophilia Day Mahavir Jayanti	Outreach and Identification
18 th April	World Heritage Day	Rural Landscapes
19 th April	World Liver day	
21 st April	World Creativity and Innovation Day National Civil Service Day	
22 nd April	Earth Day 2019	Protecting Our Species
23 rd April	World Book Day or World Book and Copyright Day, or International Day of the Book UN English Language Day	Inclusivity, reading, heritage, outreach, publishing and children
24 th April	National Panchayati Raj Day	
25 th April	World Malaria Day An International Girls in ICT Day	Zero malaria starts with me
24 th to 30 th April	The World Immunization Week 2019	Protected Together: Vaccines Work
26 th April	World Intellectual Property Day	Reach for Gold: IP and Sports
28 th April	World Day for Safety and Health at Work	Safety and Health and the Future of Work
29 th April	International Dance Day	
30 th April	International Jazz Day	

SPORTS

- **The 2019 India badminton Open**, officially the **YONEX-SUNRISE India Open 2019**, held at **K. D. Jadhav Indoor Hall in India**.
- Men's Singles -Srikanth Kidambi (India) defeated Viktor Axelsen (Denmark)
- Women's single-Ratchanok Intanon (Thailand) defeated He Bingjiao (China)
- **35th edition of 2019 Miami open** held at **Miami Gardens in Florida, USA**.
- Men's Singles- Roger Federer (Switzerland) defeated John Isner (USA)
- Women's Single- Ashleigh Barty (Australia) defeated Karolina Pliskova (Czech)
- **Lewis Hamilton** won **Bahrain Grand Prix 2019** title by defeating Mercedes **Valtteri Bottas**.
- **India** ended the **12th Asian Airgun Championships 2019 in Taiyuan, Taipei** with an overall tally of **25 medals** including **16 gold, 5 silver and 4 bronze**.
- **India** retained the **ICC Test Championship Mace** for 3rd year consecutively while **New Zealand** has ensured **second place** and **South Africa** finished **third**.
- **India's 1st professional kho kho league Ultimate Kho Kho** launched by **Kho Kho Federation of India** in the presence of Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports **Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore**.
- **ICC** to join hands with **Interpol** to fight against **corruption in the sport**.
- **The CELCOM AXIATA Malaysia Open 2019** held at **Axiata Arena in Malaysia**.
- Men's Singles- Lin Dan (China) defeated Chen Long (China)
- Women's Singles- Tai Tzu-Ying (Chinese Taipei) defeated Akane Yamaguchi(Japan)
- **Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)** organises 1st **National Sky Running Championship** at **Auli in Uttarakhand**.
- **Spain's Garbine Muguruza** defended her **Monterrey Open** title when **Victoria Azarenka** retired injured from her first **WTA singles final** in **three years**.
- **Isaak Hayik** (Israel) has set **Guinness World Record** as the **oldest active player in a professional soccer** match in the game against **Maccabi Ramat Gan**.
- **Virat Kohli** has been named as **The Wisden Almanack's leading Cricketer of the Year 2018** for the third consecutive time and **Smriti Mandhana** has been named the **Women's leading Cricketer of the Year for 2018**.
- Asian champion shot putter **Manpreet Kaur** has been banned for **4 years** by the **National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA)** for flunking **four dope tests in 2017**.
- **AITA** has signed MoU with **Serbian Tennis Federation** to **train junior players** under world renowned **Serbian coaches** at the **RK Khanna Stadium, New Delhi**
- **Indian women's hockey team** beat **Malaysia team** in the **five-match** bilateral series in **Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**.
- **Meena Kumari** clinches **gold** as **Indian pugilists** finish with **five medals** in **Cologne World Cup boxing** in **Cologne, Germany**.
- **Lewis Hamilton** of **Mercedes** won **Chinese Grand Prix** by defeating **Valtteri Bottas** and it was his **6th victory** in the **Shanghai race**.
- **Chris Gayle** has become the 1st **cricketer to score hundred 50+ scores in T20 cricket history**.
- **Golfer Tiger Woods** won **fifth Masters** and **15th major** title at **Augusta National Golf Club**.
- **Kento Momota** (Japan) won the **Singapore Badminton Open 2019 men's singles title** while **Women's Singles title** won by **Tai Tzu-ying(Taiwan)**.
- **FC Goa** emerged as champions of the **Hero Super Cup 2019** after beating **Chennaiyin FC** at the **Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar**.
- Former Brazilian Football Confederation president **Jose Maria Marin** has been banned **for life** from all **football activities** by **FIFA**.

- Ethiopian athletes **Gelete Burka in women's race** and **Abrha Milaw in men's race** have won the **43rd edition of the Paris Marathon 2019**.
- **The International Hockey Federation (FIH)** has imposed a fine of **170,000 Euros on Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF)** for **not honoring the Pro League commitments**.
- Leg-spinner **Amit Mishra** became the **1st Indian** to claim **150 or more wickets in IPL**.
- **The Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** has asked Goa to **pay Rs. 10 crore** penalty for repeatedly missing the deadline for hosting **36th National Games**.
- **International Association of Athletics Federation Disciplinary Tribunal** has banned **2008 Olympic 1,500 m champion Asbel Kiprop (Kenya)** for **4 years** for doping until **Feb 2022**.
- **Services** lifted the **Santosh Trophy 2019 (Football)** by defeating **Punjab** at **Ludhiana**.
- **M.S.Dhoni** has become the **1st Indian** to hit **200 sixes** in the **IPL 2019**.
- **Bajrang Punia** won **gold** at **Asian Wrestling Championship in China's Xian** by defeating **Sayatbek Okassov** (Kazakhstan) in **65 kg men's freestyle**.
- **India** won **17 medals** (3 gold, 7 silver and 7 bronze) and finished **4th** in **Asian Athletics Championship 2019** which is held in **Doha, Qatar** while **Bahrain** stands in **1st** position.
- **The International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup 2019** held in **Beijing, China**. **India** has topped with **4 medals**(3 gold,1 silver)
 - 10 m Air Pistol- Abhishek Verma
 - 10 m Air Pistol Mixed- Manu Bhaker and Saurabh Chaudary
 - 10 m Air Rifle Mixed- Anjum Moudgil and Divyansh Singh Panwar
- **India's Pankaj Advani** has defeated **Ehsan Heydari Nezhad of Iran** to clinch the inaugural **Asian Snooker Tour** title in **Bengaluru**.
- **ICF (Integrated Coach Factory) Chennai** wins **Arjan Singh Memorial International hockey tournament** by beating **South Central Railway, Hyderabad**.
- **Asian Boxing Championship (Men's and Women's) 2019** was held in **Huamark Indoor Stadium** in **Bangkok, Thailand**. **India** finished with **13 medals** (**2 gold, 4 silver** and **7 bronze**)
 - Boxer **Amit Panghal** (52-kg) defeated **Kim Inkyu** (Korea).
 - Boxer **Pooja Rani** (81-kg) defeated **Wang Lina** (China).
- **Papua New Guinea**, a south-western pacific country got their **One Day International (ODI) status** after **USA and Oman**.
- **Dominic Thiem (Austria)** won **Barcelona Open 2019** by defeating **Danil Medvedev (Russia)**.
- **The 2019 Badminton Asia Championships** held in **China**.
 - Men's singles- **Kento Momota** (Japan) defeated **Shi Yuqi** (China)
 - Women's singles- **Akane Yamaguchi** (Japan) defeated **He Bingjiao** (China)
- **Petra Kvitova (Czech Republic)** defeated **Anett Kontaveit (Estonia)** to win **Stuttgart's Porsche Grand Prix 2019**.
- Mercedes **Valtteri Bottas** defeated **Lewis Hamilton** to win **Azerbaijan Grand Prix 2019**.
- **India's Bajrang Punia** is **1st Indian wrestler** to be invited by **American wrestling body** for a special fight at **iconic Madison Square Garden in New York, US**.
- **Indian Para cyclists** won **one silver** and **two bronze** medals in **Asian Road Para-Cycling Championships 2019** which was held in **Tashkent, Uzbekistan**.

SURVEYS

- **Saurav Ghosal** becomes **1st Indian man** to enter top 10 in the latest **PSA world rankings**.
- **Woolly-necked Stork** and **White-bellied Drongo**, both dry-land species of birds have been spotted in **North Kerala's Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary** during the **19th bird survey**.
- **Fitch Ratings** kept **India's sovereign rating unchanged** at the lowest investment grade of **BBB-** with a stable outlook.
- According to the annual **2019 Global Report on Food Crises**, around **113 million people** across 53 countries faced severe hunger in 2018.
- According to **FIFA Rankings**, **Belgium** holds off World Cup winners France to retain **top spot**, **India** move up two places to **101**.
- According to **ADB Report**, **USD 1.7 trillion** needed per year to build **disaster-resilient infrastructure in Asia**.
- According to **World Bank Report** was titled as '**World Bank's Migration and Development Brief**' **India** Retains **Top Spot** with Largest Remittances globally amounting to **\$79** in 2018.
- According to **Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) Report**, **HDFC AMC** Ranks 1st In Terms Of Assets.
- According to **UN Report**, India's Population Grew At **1.2 %** Average Annual Rate between 2010 and 2019.
- As per **Air Quality in India 2014-2019' report**, **Kanpur ranked 1st** as the most polluted city.
- **HDFC Bank** has been identified as **number 1 bank** by customers in India, as per **Forbes World's Best Bank survey**.
- The **Hong Kong's equity market** has overtaken **Japan** to be the **world's 3rd largest in value** and behind only to the **USA** and mainland **China**.
- According to **United Nation Secretary General (UNSG)**, **UN** owes **India USD 38 million** for peacekeeping operations.
- According to **Reporters Without Borders** released **World Press Freedom Index 2019** in which **Norway** topped the index in third consecutive year and India drops down by two positions (138th rank in 2018) to be ranked **140th out of 180 countries** in 2019.
- LGBTQ Rights Lawyer **Arundhati Katju, Menaka Guruswamy** Among TIME's 100 Most Influential People List
- **India** ranked at **17th** position among 100 countries in 2018, from the 37th spot in 2017 in the **Startup Ecosystem ranking for 2019** and topped by **United States**.
- **India** ranks **19th** out of 28 countries in **Index of Cancer Preparedness (ICP)** released by **Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)**.
- According to **Akamai Technologies Report**, **India** ranked as the **2nd-most targeted nation by hackers** in 2018 with 120 Crore Attacks.
- **The Indian Institute of Management-Bangalore's (IIM-B)** post-graduate programme in Enterprise Management (PGPEM) has secured the **12th rank** in APAC listing and came **61st** globally in the QS Executive MBA Rankings 2019.
- **By 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 a UN report**, **drug-resistant diseases could kill 10 million annually by 2050** causing an economic and social disaster.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Books	Author/Released By	Speaks about
#Modi Again	Aabhas Maldahiya	Why Modi is right for India
Saffron Swords	Manoshi Sinha Rawal	52 unsung warriors of India from last 1300 years
Biography 'Kundan: Saigal's Life & Music'	Sharad Dutt	
Shiksha: A Journey	Manish Sisodia	Delhi's education system
Diary of an Awesome Friendly Kid: Rowley Jefferson's Journal	Jeff Kinney	Opinion of Rowley Jefferson, the best friend of 'Diary of a Wimpy Kid' supporter Greg Heffley
Indian constitution (Konkani Translation)	Prof. Stephen Quadros Permude	Released by Mangaluru Bishop Peter Paul Saldanha at Rosario cathedral
Politics of Jugaa: The Coalition Handbook	Saba Naqvi	Examines possibility of coalition government after 2019 Lok Sabha polls
Chequered Brilliance: The Many Lives of V K Krishna Menon	Former union minister Jai ram Ramesh	A biography of Indian nationalist, diplomat, and politician V K Krishna Menon

OBITUARIES

Name of the Person	Field/Importance
J Mahendran	Popular Tamil actor-director
Kartik Rath	Eminent dramatist, theatre organiser and Economics teacher
Dilip Sarkar	Tripura Minister and five-time MLA from Badharghat in Agartala
Dr. V.G Patel	An eminent economist
Silamboli Chellappan	Tamil scholar
Sydney Brenner	Nobel Prize-winning biologist
Arie Irawan	Malaysian golfer
Elriesa Theunissen-Fourie	Former South Africa Women cricket all-rounder
Pradeep Choubey	Renowned Hindi poet
Paripooranand Painuli	Former Congress MP and freedom fighter
Tommy Smith	Former Liverpool captain
Dr D Babu Paul	Orator, writer and former civil servant
JK Ritheesh	Actor and AIADMK leader
SK Shivakumar	Former ISRO Scientist and former Indian Space Research Organisation Satellite Center (ISAC) Director
Bibi Andersson	Swedish veteran actress
S. Muthiah	Chennai's famed chronicler, cartographer, and journalist
Rama Sengupta Paul	veteran lady mountaineer
Jean	Luxembourg's Grand Duke
Terry Rawlings	BAFTA-Nominated Film Editor of 'Alien' and 'Blade Runner'
Chaudhary Vidyasagar	Former Himachal Pradesh minister and senior BJP leader
Mark Medoff	The writer of 'Children of a Lesser God'
Pungam Kannan	Former Indian Footballer
Negasso Gidada	Former Ethiopian president
John Singleton	Youngest Best Director Oscar Nominee
