

MANTHAN

Current Affairs Supplement

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Preface

Dear Readers,

The 'Current Affairs' section is an integral part of any examination. This edition of Manthan has been developed by our team to help you cover all the important events of the month for the upcoming exams like Banking, Insurance, CLAT, MBA etc. This comprehensive bulletin will help you prepare the section in a vivid manner. We hope that our sincere efforts will serve you in a better way to fulfil aspirations.

Happy Reading!

Best Wishes

Team CL

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POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

National



Phayeng is the first Indian village with carbon-positive tag

- **Phayeng is a scheduled caste village of the Chakpa community in Imphal West district, Manipur** and its conservation efforts are mainly linked to the belief that the forest is a sacred grove, but the idea has changed over the years. It is the **first Indian village that is being developed on the carbon-positive model.**
- **A village that is home to 660 households in Manipur is using its lush community-managed forest to develop itself as India's first carbon-positive settlement.**

A village is given the carbon-positive tag if it sequesters more carbon than it emits, slowing the accumulation of greenhouse gases and mitigating the effects of climate change. As part of the carbon-positive village project, Phayeng will receive a grant of Rs.10 crore in phases to facilitate afforestation in the catchment of river Maklang that flows along the village.

Braille-enabled ballot papers at all polling booths in Meghalaya

- **For the first time, Meghalaya will witness Braille-enabled ballot papers at all polling booths** to ensure wider participation of voters in Lok Sabha elections.
- **The ballot papers pasted on the EVMs will have the names and symbols of candidates in Braille alphabet.** It has mapped **over 4,500 persons** with disabilities to make sure that they get a priority at polling booths.

Odisha turmeric gets GI tag

- **Odisha's Kandhamal Haldi (turmeric) named after central Odisha district of Kandhamal, where it is organically grown by tribals, received the GI tag.**
- **The GI tag for the Kandhamal turmeric comes just over a year after Odisha lost the battle for GI tag of Rasagola, the popular spongy sweet to Bengal.**
- **Though Odisha did not get the GI tag for Rasagola, it has so far received GI tag for 15 of its items** including two agricultural products. The products include Kotpad's handloom fabric, Odisha Ikat saree, Khandua, Gopalpur's Tussar cloth, Pipili appliqué, Pattachitra, Konark stone work, Sambalpur Bandhasaree, Bamkei Saree, Habaspur saree, Brahmapur Pattasaree and Joda and Ganjam's Ketaki flower.

A geographical indication (GI) is a name or sign used on certain products which corresponds to a specific geographical location or origin (e.g. a town, region, or country). India, as a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), enacted the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 has come into force with effect from 15 September 2003. Darjeeling tea became the first GI tagged product in India, in 2004-05, since then by oct 2018, 321 had been added to the list. Madhya Pradesh was recently granted GI tag for the Kadaknath chicken breed on 30th July 2018.

Longest suspension bridge over Indus River opens to public

- **Indian Army built the longest suspension bridge over Indus River in Leh in just 40 days**, making a record of its own. The **260-foot long bridge** is likely to give a major boost to **connectivity in remote areas in Ladakh**.
- **Named Maitri Bridge**, the construction of the bridge was undertaken by the combat engineers of 'Sahas aur Yogyata' regiment of 'Fire and Fury Corps' of the Indian Army. The bridge is **built using around 500 tonnes of bridge equipment** and construction material.

Last year, in June 2018, the **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** opened a **vital 35-meter bridge in the Ladakh region** to ease vehicular movement to the base camp of Siachen Glacier, **which is the world's highest battlefield**.

Third Edition of Bilateral Maritime Exercise between Royal Australian and Indian Navies – AUSINDEX-19 set to begin

- **The third edition of AUSINDEX**, an acronym for **Australia India Exercise** is scheduled to **commence** with the arrival of HMAS Canberra (L02), a Landing Helicopter Dock, HMAS New Castle(06) and HMAS Paramatta(154), both frigates; HMAS Collins, a conventional submarine and HMAS Success(OR 304), a Durance-class multi-product replenishment oiler **at Visakhapatnam** on 02 April 19.
- **The aim of the exercise is, “to strengthen and enhance mutual cooperation and interoperability between the IN and RAN**, providing opportunities for interaction and exchange of professional views between the personnel of the two navies”.

First secure link between India, US navies set up

- **India and the US have set up the first ever secure communication link between the naval headquarters** and the US Central as well as Pacific Naval Commands under the landmark Indo-US COMCASA pact reached last year.
- **USA has also activated the Selective Availability Anti-Spoofing Module GPS system** in some of C-130 and C-17 transport aircraft as a result of the implementation of the COMCASA (Communications, Compatibility & Security Agreement).

In a first, India to post women as defence attaches abroad

- **India will post women officers as defence attaches in its overseas missions**. After a decision taken by the government early this year, the three Services have been asked to identify women officers who could fill the posts. **The first missions have been identified largely in Europe and America**.

Nirmala Sitharaman is currently a member of the Rajya Sabha from Karnataka. Nirmala Sitharaman became the first full-time Defence Minister to fly in a Sukhoi 30 MKI of the Indian Air Force. She is the first full-fledged woman defence minister of India. The first defence minister of independent India was Baldev Singh. She is the second woman since Indira Gandhi to hold this major post.

TBN Radhakrishnan Sworn in as New Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court

- **Justice T B N Radhakrishnan was sworn-in as the new Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court**.
- **West Bengal Governor K N Tripathi administered the oath of office to Justice Radhakrishnan** in a solemn ceremony at the high court.

The Calcutta High Court is one of the three High Courts in India established at the Presidency Towns by Letters patent granted by Her Majesty Queen Victoria, bearing date 26 June 1862, and is the oldest High Court in India. It was established as the High Court of Judicature at Fort William on 1 July 1862 under the High Courts Act, 1861, which was preceded by the Supreme Court of Judicature at Fort William. It has jurisdiction over the state of West Bengal and the Union Territory of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Justice Pradeep Nandrajog takes oath as new Chief Justice of Bombay High Court

- Justice Pradeep Nandrajog took oath as the new Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court. He was administered the oath by Maharashtra Governor C Vidyasagar Rao at the Raj Bhavan.
- He was earlier Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court. He now succeeds Justice Naresh Patil, who retired as Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court.

The Bombay High Court was one of the three High Courts in India established at the Presidency Towns by Letters patent granted by Queen Victoria, bearing date June 26, 1862. It was inaugurated on August 14, 1862 under the High Courts Act, 1861. It is one of the oldest High Courts of India Its jurisdiction covers the states of Maharashtra and Goa, and the Union Territories of Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli. The first Chief Justice of India, Justice H. J. Kania was from this court.

Abu Dhabi's first Hindu temple to be opened by Prime Minister Modi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will have to take a call this week on whether he inaugurates the first Hindu Temple in Abu Dhabi by video, or in person on April 19-20.
- The Swami Narayan sect has considerable influence in the state of Gujarat. The land for the temple was given by Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi after Modi's first visit as PM to UAE in 2015.

Out of the six awards given to PM Modi in the past five years, four are from Islamic nations. These include the King Abdulaziz Sash Award (April 3, 2016) from Saudi Arabia; the Amir Amanullah Khan Award (June 4, 2016) from Afghanistan; the Grand Collar of the State of Palestine (February 10, 2018); and the Zayed Medal (April 4, 2019) from UAE. The other two awards received by PM Modi were the UN Champions of the Earth Award (September 26, 2018) and Seoul Peace Prize on October 24, 2018.

Guwahati Railway station becomes the First ISO certified railway station in India

- The Guwahati Railway Station became the first ever railway station in Indian Railways to get ISO certification from National Green Tribunal (NGT) for "providing passenger amenities in a clean and green environment."

ISO stands for the International Organization for Standardization, which is accountable for setting standards in the activities of various fields. According to the international regulations, there are several types of ISO certification and ISO 14001 for the ecosystem management system. It has been upgraded from the previous 2015. Therefore the certificate is called ISO 14001: 2015. The certification will be reviewed in the year 2020 and due to this; the rules of environment related to the disposal of waste by the Eastern Railway in the area of Guwahati station are being followed strictly.

Army gets Dhanush artillery guns

- The Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) handed over the first batch of six Dhanush artillery guns to the Army. Dhanush is the indigenously upgraded version of the Swedish Bofors gun procured in the 1980s.
- The gun completed development trials in 2018 and was approved for series production in 2019. Indian Army has ordered 114 guns and the total order size could increase to 414 guns.

Dhanush is a 155 mm, 45-calibre towed artillery gun with a range of 36 km and has demonstrated a range of 38 km with specialised ammunition. It is an upgrade of the existing 155mm, 39 calibre Bofors FH 77 gun. It is compatible with all North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) 155 mm ammunition system.

NIRF rankings: IISc, IIMB, NLSIU bag top spots

- Three premier education institutions from the city have bagged the top spots in their respective disciplines in the **National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) Rankings 2019**, released by the **Ministry of Human Resource (MHRD)**.
- The **Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore (IIMB)** was **ranked number one** in the **management category**, **National Law School of India University, Bengaluru (NLSIU)** in the **law category**, and **Indian Institute of Science (IISc.)** in the **university category**.
- While **IISc. and NLSIU** have **retained the top slots** from last year, **IIMB** has dislodged **Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad**.
- However, in the **overall rankings**, **Indian Institute of Technology, Madras** has replaced **IISc**, which stood first last year. In the overall ranking, **six other institutions from Karnataka** have made it to the **top 99**.

The rankings have been awarded based on five criteria – teaching, learning and resources, research and professional practice, graduation outcomes, outreach and inclusivity, and perception. In the university category, nine from the State have made it to the top 100 apart from IISc. St. Joseph's College of Commerce has bagged the 61st spot in the 'college category'.

'Bold Kurukshetra-2019': India and Singapore kick off joint Military Exercise

- **Armed forces of India and Singapore** kicked off a joint military exercise, **'Bold Kurukshetra-2019'**, in **Jhansi's Babina Cantonment**. The three-day exercise is aimed at bolstering cooperation against terrorism, developing defence technology and improving maritime security.
- The two countries had signed a cooperation agreement to strengthen the defence ties between **Indian Military and Singapore Armed Forces in November, 2017**. As per the agreement, the Singapore military would undergo training and participate in firing exercise with their Indian counterpart. This is the **12th in the series**.

Vikram Nath appointed as first chief justice of new Andhra Pradesh HC

- **Senior judge of Allahabad high court, Justice Vikram Nath**, was appointed as the **first Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh High Court**.
- A collegium of Supreme Court comprising **Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi** and judges **S A Bobde** and **N V Ramana** recommended the name of **Justice Nath** as the **chief justice of the AP High Court**.

Andhra Pradesh High Court is the **High Court of the Indian State of Andhra Pradesh**. The seat of the **High Court** is at **Amaravati**, the capital of **Andhra Pradesh** and the **first justice city of India**. The court complex currently used for High court was named as "**Judicial complex**". As per the **Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014**, the **High Court of Judicature at Hyderabad** was constituted as a common High Court, until the new High Court for the State of **Andhra Pradesh** is created. Later by a **Presidential order**, the **High Court for the state of Andhra Pradesh** was established on **1 January 2019** under the **Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014**.

SC Collegium recommends names of 5 judges as Chief Justices of HCs

- The **Supreme Court Collegium** has recommended names of five judges for appointment as the **Chief Justices** in **Rajasthan, Kerala, Meghalaya, Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh High Courts**.
- The five names are **Delhi HC Judge Justice S. Ravindra Bhat**, **Kerala HC Judge Justice P.R. Ramachandra Menon**, **Punjab and Haryana HC Judge Justice A.K. Mittal**, **Allahabad HC Judge Justice Vikram Nath** and **Bombay HC Judge Justice A.S. Oka**.

The Collegium system is one where the **Chief Justice of India** and a forum of four senior-most judges of the **Supreme Court** recommend appointments and transfers of judges. However, it has no place in the **Indian Constitution**. The system was evolved through **Supreme Court judgments in the Three Judges Cases**.

Nizamabad Lok Sabha Seat to enter into Guinness Book of World Record for EVMs

- Nizamabad Lok Sabha constituency in Telangana, which went to elections, may well get into the Guinness Book of World Record for the use of largest number of electronic voting machines (EVMs).
- With a high number of 185 candidates, including 178 farmers, in the contest, the Election Commission used 12 EVMs in each booth in the constituency.
- Nizamabad not only created the record for the highest number of candidates but also became the first constituency in the country to witness polling with EVMs for such a large number of candidates.

First-of-its-kind 'Voter Park' inaugurated in Gurugram

- India's first-of-its-kind 'Voter Park' was inaugurated in Gurugram aimed at increasing voter awareness and educating people about the electoral process.
- At the park, voters will get information about the polling process and the history of elections in the country. Dummy VVPAT and EVM machines have been set up at the park, along with a dummy of a publicity van. Haryana Chief Electoral Officer Rajeev Ranjan inaugurated the park in Vikas Sadan building complex.

ECI invokes powers under Article 324 to prohibit display/exhibit any biopic/publicity material during MCC period

- The Election Commission of India issued an order prohibiting display in electronic media including cinematograph of any biopic or publicity material in the nature of biography/hagiography sub-serving the purposes of any political entity or any individual entity connected to it.
- Under the Article 324, the superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of the electoral rolls for, and the conduct of, all elections to Parliament and to the Legislature of every State and of elections to the offices of President and Vice President held under this Constitution shall be vested in the Election Commission.

Election Commission of India operates under the authority of Constitution per Article 324. Chief Election Commissioner of India is usually a member of the Indian Civil Service and mostly from the Indian Administrative Service. It is very difficult to remove the authority of the Chief Election Commissioner once appointed by the president, as two-thirds of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha need to vote against him for disorderly conduct or improper actions. Sukumar Sen was the first Chief Election Commissioner of India. Sunil Arora is the current and 23rd Chief Election Commissioner of India

India drops down on World Press Freedom Index

- India has dropped two places on a global press freedom index to be ranked 140th out of 180 countries in the annual Reporters without Borders analysis, with the lead up to the ongoing Indian general elections flagged as a particularly dangerous time for journalists.
- As per the Index, one of the most striking features of the current state of press freedom in India is violence against journalists including police violence, attacks by Maoist fighters, criminal groups and corrupt politicians. At least six Indian journalists were killed on duty in 2018.
- Norway is ranked first in the 2019 Index for the third year running while Finland (up two places) has taken second place from the Netherlands (down one at 4th). An increase in cyber-harassment caused Sweden (third) to lose one place. In Africa, the rankings of Ethiopia (up 40 at 110th) and Gambia (up 30 at 92nd) have significantly improved from last year's Index. At the bottom of the Index, both Vietnam (176th) and China (177th) have fallen one place and Turkmenistan (down two at 180th).

Paris-based Reporters Sans Frontieres (RSF), or Reporters Without Borders, is a non-profit organisation that works to document and combat attacks on journalists around the world. In its 2019 index, RSF finds that hatred of journalists has degenerated into violence, contributing to an increase in fear around the world.

Essel World launches India's first Foreign Interactive Bird Park in Mumbai

- India's first foreign interactive and exotic world park was inaugurated in Mumbai. Bird lovers are up for a treat with this interactive bird park in Mumbai.
- The park is spread across 1.4 acres and is home to over 500 exotic birds from more than 60 species.

The Post of Deputy Comptroller and Auditor General in the office of Comptroller and Auditor General of India created

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has given its approval to create one post of Deputy Comptroller & Auditor General (Coordination, Communication and Information System) in Pay Level-17 (by abolishing one STS level post) in the Office of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India.

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India is an authority, established by Article 148 of the Constitution of India, which audits all receipts and expenditure of the Government of India and the state governments, including those of bodies and authorities substantially financed by the government. The CAG is mentioned in the Constitution of India under Article 148 – 151. V. Narahari Rao served as the first Comptroller and Auditor General of India from 1948 to 1954. The current CAG of India is Rajiv Mehrishi. The CAG is ranked 9th and enjoys the same status as a judge of Supreme Court of India in Indian order of precedence.

AUSINDEX-19 Concludes

- The Australian and Indian Navy have concluded a two-week long bilateral maritime exercise code-named AUSINDEX on 14 April 2019.
- Personnel from the Eastern Fleet bid farewell to Her Majesty's Australian Ships Canberra, Newcastle, Paramatta and Success with a promise to meet again. For the first time, 55 American and 20 New Zealand military personnel embarked onboard the RAN ships and witnessed the exercises during AUSINDEX-19.

The exercise Australia-India (AUSINDEX) was first conducted off the East Coast of India in September 2015. AUSINDEX-19 was the fourth overall bilateral drill between Indian Navy and Royal Australian Navy. AUSINDEX bilateral exercise aims to enhance interoperability and professional interaction between two navies.

Second Edition of Indian Navy-Vietnam Peoples' Navy (IN – VPN BILAT EX) Concludes

- In the backdrop of the growing maritime engagement between India and Vietnam, the Indian Navy undertook the second edition of the bilateral maritime exercise between Indian Navy and Vietnam Peoples' Navy at/ off Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam.
- The maiden edition was conducted from 21 to 26 May 18 at Da Nang, Vietnam. The exercise was undertaken as a part of the ongoing Overseas Deployment of Eastern Fleet ships to South East Asian countries.

India and France to hold their largest Naval Exercise 'VARUNA'

- With the objective of expanding their strategic partnership in the Indian Ocean region (IOR), India and France will conduct their largest ever naval exercise 'Varuna'.
- The two countries will be deploying their aircraft carriers INS Vikramaditya and FNS Charles de Gaulle with their Mig-29K and Rafale-M naval fighter jets. The exercise has been christened 'Varuna' and will take place off Goa and Karwar from 1 May 2019.

150 Indian peacekeepers in S Sudan awarded medal of honour for dedicated service

- A total of 150 Indian peacekeepers serving with the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) have received medals of honour for their dedicated service and sacrifice.
- "A glimpse beyond the dedicated Service and Sacrifice of the @UN blue beret - Indian peacekeepers receive medals of honour in Malakal -@India Be Proud.

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

- Twenty states and Union Territories have so far joined a pan-India network of single emergency helpline number '112' on which immediate assistance can be sought by anyone in distress, officials said.
- The '112' helpline is an integration of police (100), fire (101) and women (1090) helpline numbers, and the project is being implemented under the central government's Nirbhaya Fund. The single number for emergency services is similar to '911' in the United States.
- The Nirbhaya Fund was set up by the central government for projects specifically designed to improve the safety and security of the women.
- The Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) envisages a single pan-India emergency number '112', which is an internationally recognised number, to target all types of emergencies. A panic button is already provided on all mobile phones, which on activation will trigger an emergency call to '112'.

The 20 states and Union Territories include Himachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Puducherry, Lakshadweep, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Dadar and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, Jammu and Kashmir and Nagaland.

Israel to honour Lt. Gen. Jacob

- Israel will honour late Lt. Gen. J.F.R Jacob, one of the heroes of the 1971 Bangladesh war, as a Jewish soldier who served in a foreign army. "Lt. Gen. Jacob will be honoured by unveiling of a wall plaque on the Wall of Honour at Jerusalem for soldiers who served with distinction in foreign armies".
- Lt. Gen. Jacob was born in Kolkata in 1923 into a Jewish family which migrated from Baghdad. He joined the British Indian Army in 1942 during World War II and had served across Asia and Africa and graduated from artillery schools in England and the U.S. After Independence, Lt. Gen. Jacob served in the Indian Army and retired in 1978 after 37 years of service. Later, he was appointed Governor of Goa and Punjab.

Lt. Gen. Jacob is known for negotiating the surrender of Pakistani troops in Dhaka in 1972 which ended the 13-day war and led to the creation of Bangladesh. At that time he was a Major General and the Chief of Staff of the Kolkata-based Eastern Army Command. He later went on to become the Commander-in-Chief of the eastern command.

Top U.K. honour for Indian scientist

- Scientist and businessman Yusuf Hamied is among a host of Indian-origin experts honoured in the 2019 list of new fellows of the U.K.'s Royal Society. The 82-year-old chairman of pharmaceutical major Cipla has been made an honorary fellow of the prestigious body, comprising of many of the world's most eminent scientists.
- His honorary fellowship of the world's oldest scientific academy came alongside 51 new fellows and 10 new foreign members as part of the 2019 cohort unveiled earlier this week. The fellows this year come from across the U.K. and Commonwealth, as well as international institutions in Argentina, Israel, and the Netherlands.

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

TIME's 100 most-influential people list

- Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani and public-interest litigators Arundhati Katju and Menaka Guruswamy, who led a legal battle for the rights of LGBTQ community in India, have joined the list of Indians named by TIME magazine's list of the 100 most influential people in the world.
- Some of the names in the list included Indian-American comedian Hasan Minhaj, US President Donald Trump, Pope Francis, Chinese President Xi Jinping, Pakistan PM Imran Khan, golfer Tiger Woods and

Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg. The Time 100 Most Influential People 2019 list named the world's most-influential pioneers, leaders, titans, artists and icons.

Book on Jallianwala Bagh poem Khooni Vaisakhi released in UAE

- **India's Ambassador to the UAE Navdeep Singh Suri** has commended the launch of a book containing english translation of the Punjabi poem, **Khooni Vaisakhi**, saying the 100-year old classic ballad about the Jallianwala Bagh massacre is now reaching a global audience.
- The poem was translated by Suri whose grandfather revolutionary poet and novelist **Nanak Singh**, a Jallianwala Bagh survivor, wrote it after witnessing first-hand the events of April 13, 1919, when British troops fired upon crowds of protestors peacefully demonstrating against the Rowlatt Act of the British Raj, leading to the loss of well over a thousand lives.

The Jallianwala Bagh massacre, also known as the Amritsar massacre, took place on 13 April 1919 when troops of the British Indian Army under the command of Acting Brig-Gen Reginald Dyer fired rifles into a crowd of Indians, who had gathered in Jallianwala Bagh, Amritsar, Punjab. The civilians had assembled for a peaceful protest to condemn the arrest and deportation of two national leaders, **Satya Pal** and **Saifuddin Kitchlew**. The Viceroy during this massacre was **Lord Chelmsford**.

Bhopal gas tragedy among world's major industrial accidents of 20th century: UN

- The **1984 Bhopal gas tragedy** which killed thousands of people is among the world's "major industrial accidents" of the 20th century, a UN report has said, warning that **2.78 million workers** die from occupational accidents and work-related diseases each year.
- The report released by the UN labour agency **International Labour Organization (ILO)** said in 1984, at least **30 tons of methyl isocyanate gas**, which was released from the **Union Carbide pesticide plant** in the **Madhya Pradesh capital**, affected more than **600,000 workers** and nearby inhabitants.

The Bhopal disaster, also referred to as the Bhopal gas tragedy, was a gas leak incident on the night of **2–3 December 1984** at the **Union Carbide India Limited (UCIL)** pesticide plant in **Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, India**. It is considered to be the world's worst industrial disaster. Over **500,000 people** were exposed to **methyl isocyanate (MIC)** gas.

Former SC judge to hold inquiry into allegations of conspiracy against CJI

- The Supreme Court constituted a one-man panel of former apex court judge **Justice A K Patnaik** to hold an inquiry into the allegations of a larger conspiracy to frame **Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi** and fixing of benches in the top court.

Ranjan Gogoi is an Indian judge serving as the **46th and current Chief Justice of India** since 3 October 2018. His term as Chief Justice ends on **17 November 2019**. He is the **first person from Northeast India** to become **Chief Justice of India**.

Navy chief launches new guided missile destroyer 'INS Imphal'

- Navy chief **Admiral Sunil Lanba** launched the third ship of **Project 15B**, a guided missile destroyer 'Imphal', at **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders, Mumbai**. The launch marks yet another significant milestone in the annals of the indigenous warship design and construction programme of India. **With a launch weight of 3,037 tonnes**, the vessel made its first contact with water with full fanfare during the launching ceremony.
- **Project 15B ships feature cutting edge advanced technology** and are comparable to the best ships of similar class anywhere in the world. These ships have been designed indigenously by the Indian Navy's Directorate of Naval Design. **Each ship spans 163 metres in length and 17.4 metres at beam and displaces 7,300 tonnes**. These ships will be propelled by four gas turbines to achieve speed in excess of 30 knots.

The Navy had launched INS Vishakhapatnam, the first Project 15B ship, in April 2015, while the second ship, INS Mormugao, was launched in September 2016. A contract for four destroyers under the Project 15B has been signed.

First Edition of Biennial Naval Commanders' Conference begins in New Delhi

- The first edition of Naval Commanders' Conference of 2019 begins in New Delhi from April 23. The themes of 'Functional Reorganisation of Indian Navy towards improving Operational Efficiency' and 'Optimal Manning' would form the core of discussions towards finalising long term road map for the Indian Navy.
- Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is addressed the Naval Commanders on the opening day and interact with them. The Chief of the Naval Staff, with the Commanders-in-Chief, would review major operational, materiel, logistics, HR, training and administrative activities undertaken during the previous six months and deliberate upon the course to be steered in the ensuing six months

The Indian Navy is the naval branch of the Indian Armed Forces. The President of India is the Supreme Commander of the Indian Navy. The Chief of Naval Staff, a four-star admiral, commands the navy. Sunil Lanba is the current and the 23rd Chief of the Naval Staff of the Indian Navy.

Arunachalam Muruganantham named in the Fortune's list of world's greatest leaders

- Arunachalam Muruganantham, known as the maker of low-cost sanitary napkins in India with his invention of cellulose-based pads, has made it to Fortune magazine's 2019 list of the world's greatest leaders. Muruganantham ranks 45th in the list released by the American publication.
- He was named in the TIME magazines list of 100 Most Influential People in the World in 2014. For his efforts, Muruganantham has also been awarded a Padma Shri in 2016.
- Bill and Melinda Gates top the list for the work of their charitable organisation Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, who earned much acclaim for her response to Christchurch mosque shootings in February, ranked second while the US special counsel Robert Mueller, who recently submitted his findings of the Donald Trump campaign's collusion with Russia, rounded off the top three.

According to a survey conducted by the World Health Organisation (WHO) about 43 percent of Indian women do not have access to sanitary essentials at the beginning of periods. According to a National Family Health Survey (NFHS) 2015-16, about 57.6 percent of the Indian women use sanitary napkins and 62 percent women in the age group 15-24 years still rely on a cloth during periods.

UNICEF, NITI Aayog tie up for children empowerment

- Niti Aayogs Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and Unicef India signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) to provide an open platform to promote participation, skilling and empowerment among young children across different communities.
- The LoI was signed by Yasmin Ali Haque, UNICEF representative in India, and Ramanathan Ramanan, Mission Director, Atal Innovation Mission. As per a release, the plan will be implemented through Atal Tinkering Lab initiative to orient the burgeoning innovation ecosystem towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals with a focus on child rights.

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF is a United Nations (UN) agency headquartered in New York City that provides humanitarian and developmental assistance to children and mothers in developing countries. It was created by the United Nations General Assembly on 11 December 1946, to provide emergency food and healthcare to children in countries that had been devastated by World War II.

Deposits in Jan Dhan bank accounts set to cross Rs 1 lakh crore

- The **total deposits in bank accounts opened under the Jan Dhan scheme** are set to **cross Rs 1 lakh crore soon**. Government data claimed that the cumulative balance in 35.29 crore accounts under the flagship programme of the Modi government reached Rs 97,665.66 crore as on April 3.
- **The total deposits in Jan Dhan accounts stood at Rs 96,107.35 crore on March 27 and Rs 95,382.14 crore** in the week before, government data showed. Rupay debit cards have been issued to a total of 27.89 crore Jan Dhan account holders, as per government records.

Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) is **financial inclusion program of Government of India** that **aims to expand and make affordable access to financial services** such as bank accounts, remittances, credit, insurance and pensions. This financial inclusion campaign was launched by the **Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi on 15 August 2014**. Run by **Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance**, under this scheme **1.5 Crore (15 million) bank accounts were opened on inauguration day**. The **Guinness Book of World Records** recognised this achievement. The main features of PMJDY include **Rs. 10,000 overdraft facility** for Aadhar-linked accounts and a **RuPay debit card with inbuilt Rs. 1 lakh accident insurance cover**. Under the scheme, **age entitlement has been relaxed to 18-65 years**.

IIM-Bangalore, only Indian institute features in QS EMBA rankings 2019

- **After being ranked number 1 in the NIRF Rankings 2019**, under the Management category, **IIM-Bangalore** has added another feather to its cap. The B-school's post graduate programme in Enterprise Management (PGPEM) has been ranked **12th in Asia-Pacific region (APAC) and 61st globally in the QS Executive MBA rankings 2019**. This is reflective of IIMB's mission to nurture innovative global business leaders through holistic and transformative education.
- With the announcement of these rankings, **IIM-B has become the only B-school in India to be a part of top 100 B-Schools globally and top 16 in APAC**, for the second consecutive year.

Indian, US Navies hold anti-submarine warfare exercise

- **Indian and the US Navies have held a joint submarine-hunting exercise in the Indian Ocean**, aiming to lay the groundwork for coordinating maritime patrol and reconnaissance, according to the US Navy.
- **Indian and the US' P-8 anti-submarine aircraft**, along with the USS Spruance, a guided-missile destroyer, participated in the **anti-submarine warfare training** on April 15, a US 7th Fleet press statement issued from Diego Garcia said.
- The **Indian P-8I Neptune aircraft** from the **Naval Air Squadron 312** based at **Naval Station Rajali in Arakkonam, Tamil Nadu**, joined the **US P-8A Poseidon aircraft** from **Patrol Squadron VP-8 "Fighting Tigers"**, based in Jacksonville, Florida, in the exercise, the statement said.

India Second-Most Targeted Country by Hackers in 2018 with 120 Crore Attacks

- **With over 120 crore account takeover attacks in 2018**, India came **only second to the US** among top destinations for hacking attempts in the world.
- **Canada comes close third for attacks**. However, **India and Canada** are greatly **overshadowed in volume compared with the US**, said the report that focused on credential stuffing -- or breaching of databases -- attacks.

The report titled '**Credential Stuffing: Attacks and Economies**' by technology giant **Akamai** highlights that **India reported 1.4 lakh account takeover (ATO) login attempts every hour**. The US witnessed **1,252 crore hacking attempts in 2018**, compared with **120 crore in India and 102 crore in Canada**.

International



Zuzana Caputova set to become 1st female President of Slovakia

- In Slovakia, the government critic and anti-corruption activist Zuzana Caputova is set to become the first female President.
- Environmental lawyer Caputova got over 58 percent of the ballot after results from 91 percent of polling stations were counted, while EU energy commissioner Maros Sefcovic garnered nearly 42 percent.

Slovakia is a landlocked country in Central Europe. The capital and largest city is Bratislava. The currency is Euro. Peter Pellegrini is the current Prime Minister of Slovakia.

Shanghai becomes world's first district with 5G coverage

- Shanghai claimed to have the world's first district with 5G coverage and a broadband gigabit network. It conducted trial runs of the 5G network, backed by telecom services provider China Mobile.
- The city aims to build over 10,000 5G base stations by the end of this year and the number of 5G base stations could cross 30,000 in 2021.

China is a country in East Asia and the world's most populous country, with a population of around 1.404 billion. Beijing is the capital of the People's Republic of China, the world's third most populous city proper, and most populous capital city. Xi Jinping is serving as president of the People's Republic of China. National People's Congress is the national legislature of the People's Republic of China. With 2,980 members in 2018, it is the largest parliamentary body in the world. China's currency yuan joins the International Monetary Fund's basket of reserve currencies.

China successfully launches second generation data relay satellite

- China has successfully launched the first of its new-generation data relay satellites into orbit that will provide data relay, measurement and control services for its manned spacecraft.
- The Tianlian II-01 satellite was launched by a Long March-3B carrier rocket from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in southwest China's Sichuan Province.

Japan reveals name of new imperial era will be 'Reiwa'

- Japan has announced that the name of its new imperial era, set to begin on 1 May, will be "Reiwa" - signifying order and harmony.
- The country's current era, Heisei, will end in a month with Emperor Akihito's historic abdication.

Tokyo is the capital city of Japan and yen is the official currency of Japan and it is the third most traded currency in the foreign exchange market after the United States dollar and the euro. Tokyo will host the 2020 Summer Olympics and the 2020 Summer Paralympics. Shinzo Abe is serving as the 57th Prime Minister of Japan and Akihito is the current Emperor of Japan.

South Korea launched world's first national 5G networks

- **South Korea launched the world's first fully-fledged 5G mobile networks.** The transformational leap already has superpowers sparring for control of innovation that could potentially change the day-to-day lives of billions of people.
- **Hyper-wired South Korea** has a reputation for technical prowess, and **Seoul has made the 5G rollout a priority** as it seeks to stimulate stuttering economic growth.

Moon Jae-in is serving as the **19th and current President of South Korea** since 2017. **Seoul** is the **capital and largest metropolis of South Korea**. **South Korean won** is the **currency** of South Korea. **Park Geun-hye** was the **first woman to be President of South Korea** and also the **first female president popularly elected as head of state in East Asia**. She served as the **18th President of South Korea** from 2013 to 2017.

Chicago makes history electing Lori Lightfoot as first black woman

- **Chicago has created history by electing an African-American woman as its mayor for the first time.**
- **Lori Lightfoot**, a 56-year-old **former federal prosecutor and practicing lawyer** who has never before held elected office, won the city's mayoral race by a huge margin. **She will also be Chicago's first openly gay mayor.**

Nepal-India Franchise Investment Expo and Conclave to be held in Kathmandu

- **Nepal-India Franchise Investment Expo and Conclave** will be held in **Kathmandu** from 15th to 16th May, 2019.
- The event **primarily focuses on building the relations between India and Nepal through entrepreneurship development**. The conclave is organised by **Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FNCCI)** in association with **Embassy of India and Franchise India**.

Theresa May seeks further Brexit extension from EU until June 30

- **The U.K. and European Council president Donald Tusk** appeared to be nearing a consensus on a **further Brexit extension**. **Prime Minister Theresa May** has written to **Mr. Tusk**, asking for an extension till at least **June 30 this year**.
- It comes as **Mr. Tusk** himself was reported to be **proposing a “flexextension”** — an extension that could last up till **April next year**, but could also last a much shorter period were the **U.K.** to break the **EU deadlock** before that.

In July 2016, following a **Brexit referendum** in which a **majority of those voting supported leaving the European Union**, **Davis** was **appointed by new Prime Minister Theresa May as Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union**, with responsibility for negotiating the **UK's prospective exit from the EU**. **Brexit is the impending withdrawal of the United Kingdom (UK) from the European Union (EU)**. In a referendum on 23 June 2016, **51.9% of the participating UK electorate voted to leave the EU**.

Thailand collects sacred waters for king's coronation rituals

- **Thailand began rituals for the coronation of King Maha Vajiralongkorn** next month, with officials collecting water in ceremonies across the country for use in purification rites. The 66-year-old **King Vajiralongkorn** became **Thailand's constitutional monarch** following the death of his father, **King Bhumibol Adulyadej**, in **2016** following a 70-year reign.
- **The elaborate coronation for King Vajiralongkorn will take place over three days**, from May 4 to 6, in the capital **Bangkok** with many **Buddhist and Brahmin rituals** performed in the month leading up to the event.

Thailand officially the **Kingdom of Thailand** and formerly known as **Siam** is a country **at the center of the Southeast Asian Indochinese peninsula**. The **capital and largest city is Bangkok**, a special administrative area. **Prayut Chan-o-cha** serves as the **Prime Minister** of Thailand. The **baht** is the **official currency** of Thailand.

President Ibrahim Solih's MDP heads for a landslide in Maldives

- **Maldives President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih's party is leading in the vote count in the parliamentary election** and has already declared a landslide victory that could give him a free hand in efforts to restore political freedoms and tackle corruption.
- **This could be the first time that a single party has won the majority in Parliament since the Indian Ocean archipelago nation became a multiparty democracy in 2008** after decades of autocratic rule.
- Provisional results pointed to the **Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) heading for a big win in the parliamentary election, securing some 60 of the 87 seats** in the people's Majlis or Parliament.

Maldives is a South Asian sovereign state, located in the Indian Ocean, situated in the Arabian Sea. Male is the capital and most populated city, traditionally called the "King's Island" for its central location. Maldivian rufiyaa is the currency of the Maldives. Ibrahim Mohamed Solih is the current President of the Maldives.

'African Lion 2019' exercise concluded

- The **Morocco-US sponsored exercise "African Lion 2019"** took place from March 16 to April 7, 2019, in the region of Agadir, Tifnit, Tan-Tan, Tata and Ben Guerir, with the participation of thousands of military personnel. **Approximately 900 U.S. service members redeployed from Morocco and Tunisia.**
- **The African Lion exercise agenda included counter-terrorism trainings, land and air exercise, in addition to tactical simulation.**

Nepal to remeasure Everest

- **Nepal is sending a team of government-appointed climbers up Mount Everest to remeasure its height** hoping to quash persistent speculation that the world's tallest mountain has shrunk.
- **Its official height is 8,848 metres (29,029 feet), first recorded by an Indian survey in 1954.**

Mount Everest, known in Nepali as Sagarmatha is Earth's highest mountain above sea level, located in the Mahalangur Himal sub-range of the Himalayas. It lies on the border between Nepal and the Tibet Autonomous Region of China; Mount Everest is the highest mountain in the world. In 1865, Everest was given its official English name by the Royal Geographical Society, upon a recommendation by Andrew Waugh, the British Surveyor General of India.

Algerian lawmakers choose new President

- **Lawmakers named Abdelkader Bensalah, the Speaker of the upper house, as Algeria's first new President in two decades, after the resignation of Abdelaziz Bouteflika** following mass protests.
- **The election of Abdelkader Bensalah as interim president follows constitutional rules.**

Algeria is Africa's largest country by area, and Nigeria is its largest by population. The capital and most populous city is Algiers. The dinar is the monetary currency of Algeria.

Sri Lanka opens China-financed railway line

- **Sri Lanka has opened a new railway line, built with China's assistance, connecting its coastal city of Matara and Beliatta in Hambantota, a move that will boost passenger traffic into the island nation's Deep South.**
- **The 26.75-km long Matara-Beliatta railway extension is the first to be constructed in Sri Lanka since 1948, and it passes through the country's longest and second-longest railway bridges.**

Sri Lanka is an island country in South Asia, located in the Indian Ocean to the southwest of the Bay of Bengal. Sri Lanka is separated from the India by the Gulf of Mannar and the Palk Strait. Sri Jayewardenepura Kotte is the official, administrative capital of Sri Lanka. Colombo is the commercial capital and largest city of Sri Lanka. Maithripala Sirisena is the current and 7th and current President of Sri Lanka, in office since January 2015. Sri Lankan rupee is the currency of Sri Lanka.

London becomes first city to implement 24x7 pollution charge zone

- London became the first city in the world to implement a special Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) that would charge an entry fee for older vehicles if they do not meet the emission standards.
- In an attempt to reduce air pollution and protect public health, the ULEZ will be operational for 24 hours and seven days a week, according to a statement by London mayor Sadiq Khan's office.
- Motorists who drive into the zone in a vehicle that does not meet the new emission standard (petrol-run vehicles that do not meet Euro 4 standards and diesel-run vehicles that do not meet Euro 6) will have to pay a daily charge.

London is the capital and most populous city of England and the United Kingdom. Pound sterling is the official currency of the United Kingdom. Theresa Mary May is serving as the current Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. Elizabeth II is Queen of the United Kingdom and the other Commonwealth realms. She is the longest-lived and longest-reigning British monarch as well as the world's longest-reigning queen regnant and female head of state, the oldest and longest-reigning current monarch and the oldest and longest-serving current head of state.

US, Iran designate each other's organisations as supporters of terrorism

- The United States has designated Iran's Revolutionary Guard (IRGC) as a foreign terrorist organization.
- Meanwhile, Iran has threatened to retaliate for the decision, and shortly after it was announced foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif called on President Hassan Rouhani to include Mideast-based US forces on Iran's own terrorist list. .

UAE to host world's foremost Artificial Intelligence Summit

- UAE is set to host the world's foremost Artificial Intelligence, AI Summit to empower global dialogue on the future of government, business and society. The inaugural 'AI Everything', AIE will take place at the Dubai World Trade Centre, between 30th of this month and 1st of next month.

Acting Haiti prime minister tapped for permanent post

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

Haiti is a sovereign state located on the island of Hispaniola in the Greater Antilles archipelago of the Caribbean Sea. Port-au-Prince is the capital and most populous city of Haiti. Jovenel Moise is serving as the 42nd and current President of Haiti. The gourde is the currency of Haiti.

Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu set for fifth term

- Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is set to win re-election after his main rival former Army chief Benny Gantz conceded defeat.
- With more than 99 percent of votes counted, Netanyahu's Likud tied with Gantz's Blue and White, gaining 35 seats each. No party has crossed the half way mark in the 120 seat Parliament (Knesset).

- However, since a number of right-wing parties have expressed their support for Netanyahu, **a coalition between Likud and smaller right-wing parties could form a 65 seat majority.**

Israel is a country in the Middle East, Jerusalem is one of the oldest cities in the world, and is considered holy to the three major Abrahamic religions—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Both Israel and the Palestinian Authority claim Jerusalem as their capital, however, neither claim is widely recognized internationally. Knesset is the unicameral national legislature of Israel. Israeli new shekel is the currency of Israel. Reuven Rivlin is serving as the 10th and current President of Israel since 2014.

Sudan's military council removes defence minister Awad Ibn Auf from his role and appoints new intelligence chief

- **Sudan's military council removed defence minister Awad Ibn Auf from his role and appointed a new intelligence chief.**
- **Lieutenant General Abu Bakr Mustafa will replace Salah Abdallah Mohamed Saleh, known as Salah Gosh, as chief of Sudan's National Intelligence and Security Service.**

Sudan's army ousts president Omar al-Bashir

- **Sudan's army ousted and arrested President Omar al-Bashir. The President has been removed from power and detained by the army.** He also said, a three-month state of emergency was being put in place.
- **The army had decided to oversee a two-year transitional period followed by elections.**

The Sudan or Sudan also known as North Sudan since South Sudan's independence is a country in Northeast Africa. The capital is Khartoum. Sudanese pound is the basic unit of the Sudanese currency.

EU, U.K. agree to delay Brexit till Oct. 31

- **European Union leaders and Britain agreed to a Brexit extension that will allow the U.K. to delay its EU departure date until Halloween.**
- **Leaders of the 27 remaining EU member states met for more than six hours before agreeing after midnight to postpone Brexit until Oct. 31.**
- **Britain won't be leaving the EU on April 12, after Britain and the EU agreed to an extension till the end of October — with the option of Britain leaving earlier if a deal were agreed to in Parliament.**

In July 2016, following a Brexit referendum in which a majority of those voting supported leaving the European Union, Davis was appointed by new Prime Minister Theresa May as Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, with responsibility for negotiating the UK's prospective exit from the EU. Brexit is the impending withdrawal of the United Kingdom (UK) from the European Union (EU). In a referendum on 23 June 2016, 51.9% of the participating UK electorate voted to leave the EU.

Social Democrats party wins general elections in Finland

- **Finland's leftist Social Democrats have recorded a razor-thin victory in general elections, holding off the far-right Finns Party.**
- **With 100 per cent of ballots counted, the Social Democrats, led by Antti Rinne, bagged 40 seats in the 200-member Parliament, while the Finns Party picked up 39 seats.**
- **The National Coalition Party claimed 38 seats, with the ruling Centre Party winning 31 seats. The remaining seats were won by other parties.**

Finland is a country in Northern Europe. The capital and largest city is Helsinki. Sauli Niinistö is the 12th and current President of Finland. Juha Sipilä has served as Prime Minister of Finland since 2015. President Sauli Niinistö has asked him to continue with a caretaker government until a parliamentary election can be held on April 14. Euro is the currency of Finland.

Abu Dhabi International Book Fair: India nominated as Guest of Honour

- The 29th edition of the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair (ADIBF) is all set to receive more than 1000 exhibitors from 50 countries.
- India has been nominated as the “Guest of Honour” country at the Book Fair.

World's largest plane makes first test flight

- The world's largest aeroplane with two fuselages and six Boeing 747 engines made its first test flight in California. The mega jet, called Stratolaunch, carried out its maiden voyage over the Mojave Desert.
- It was started by late Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen, as the company enters the lucrative private space market. It is designed to carry into space, and drop, a rocket that would in turn ignite to deploy satellites.

Paul Allen, who co-founded Microsoft with Bill Gates in 1975, announced in 2011 that he had formed the privately funded Stratolaunch. Stratolaunch has said that it intends to launch its first rockets from the Roc in 2020 at the earliest. Allen died in October 2018 while suffering from non-Hodgkins' lymphoma, just months after the plane's development was unveiled.

In a first, US appoints Indian to geospatial advisory committee

- India's growing might in earth observation, remote sensing, mapping, and location technologies has got a shot in the arm, with the US department of interior appointing an Indian to its prestigious National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC).
- Delhi-based Sanjay Kumar, CEO of Geospatial Media and Communications and Secretary General of World Geospatial Industry Council, is the first Indian to be inducted to NGAC.

The National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) is a US Federal Advisory Committee sponsored by the Department of the Interior. The NGAC is authorized under the Geospatial Data Act of 2018.

China develops world's first armed amphibious drone boat

- China has successfully tested the world's first armed amphibious drone boat which the Chinese military analysts claimed could be used in land assault operations and is capable of forming a combat triad with aerial drones and other drone ships.
- Built by Wuchang Shipbuilding Industry Group under China Shipbuilding Industry Corporation (CSIC), the drone ship, named Marine Lizard, successfully passed delivery checks and left factory on April 8 in Wuhan, capital of Central China's Hubei Province.
- With about USD 178 billion defence budget, the two million strong Chinese military, the world's largest, has been focussing on developing a range of new weapons in recent years.

Marine Lizard Is having a maximum operation range of 1,200 kms, the Marine Lizard can be remotely controlled via satellites. In ship form, the 12-meter-long Marine Lizard is a trimaran propelled by a diesel-powered hydrojet and can reach a maximum speed of 50 knots while maintaining stealth.

Peru's Garcia, former president kills himself to avoid arrest

- Peru's former president Alan Garcia shot himself in the head to avoid arrest in connection with alleged bribes from Brazilian builder Odebrecht, taking his own life, in the most dramatic turn yet in Latin America's largest graft scandal.
- Alan Garcia was elected president twice. But his terms were filled with ups and downs and he eventually became caught up in the Odebrecht bribery scandal that rocked Latin America. Odebrecht, a family-owned construction conglomerate, spurred probes across Latin America after it admitted publicly in late 2016 that it had secured lucrative contracts in the region by bribing politicians.

Peru is a country in western South America. Lima is the capital and the largest city of Peru and sol is the currency of Peru. César Villanueva has been the Prime Minister of Peru since April 2018.

India rebuilds Chhyoiphel Kundeling monastery in Nepal

- India has rebuilt Chhyoiphel Kundeling Monastery in Nepal.
- Shyalpa Tenzin Rinpoche inaugurated newly reconstructed Monastery at Lisankhu village in Sindhupalchok district.
- The Chhyoiphel Kundeling Monastery was established in 1946 with the active initiation and contribution of Lisankhu villagers.

Riyadh will host G20 summit in November 2020

- Saudi Arabia will host the 15th annual Summit of Group 20 leaders in November next year.
- Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman will chair the summit, which will be held on 21-22 November in the capital city of Riyadh.
- Saudi Arabia welcomed the decision with regard to its hosting of the Summit of G20, which is a premier forum for international economic cooperation.

The G20 or Group of Twenty is an international forum for the governments and central bank governors from Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union. It was founded in 1999; the G20 aims to discuss policy pertaining to the promotion of international financial stability. Membership of the G20 consists of 19 individual countries plus the European Union (EU). Collectively, the G20 countries represent two-third of the world's population, 85 percent of its economy, and 75 percent of international trade.

Benjamin Netanyahu Formally named next Israeli Prime Minister

- Israeli President Reuven Rivlin formally handed Benjamin Netanyahu his letter of appointment to start building a coalition government following last week's general election.
- The results from the April 9 election put Netanyahu on course to become Israel's longest-serving prime minister later this year, surpassing the state's founding father David Ben-Gurion.

Mali's PM resigns along with his entire government

- Mali's Prime Minister has resigned along with his entire government after it came under mounting pressure over handling the violence in the restive Mopti region.
- The rage was rising especially after a massacre on March 23 in which 160 people were killed in the village of Ogossagou near the border with Burkina Faso.

Mali is a landlocked country in West Africa, a region geologically identified with the West African Craton. Mali is the eighth-largest country in Africa. Bamako is the capital and largest city of Mali. Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta or as he is often known, IBK, has been President of Mali since 2013. West African CFA franc is the currency of eight independent states in West Africa: Benin, Burkina Faso, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo.

Saudi Arabia increases India's Haj Quota to 2 lakh

- Saudi Arabia has issued a formal order increasing the Haj quota of India to two lakhs from one lakh seventy five-thousand.
- Official sources said, the decision will ensure that all the Haj applicants from big states like Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Bihar can embark pilgrimage this year as their waiting lists have been cleared due to the increase in quota.
- In February this year, the Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman at a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced that Indian Haj quota would be increased by 25 thousand to two lakhs. This is the third hike in three consecutive years.

Saudi Arabia is a sovereign Arab state in Western Asia. Saudi Arabia is the largest country in the Middle East. Riyadh is the capital and most populous city of Saudi Arabia. Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud has been King of Saudi Arabia, Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia, and Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques since 23 January 2015. Mohammad bin Salman is the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, also serving as First Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Council for Economic and Development Affairs and Minister of Defense—the world's youngest office holder at the time. Saudi riyal is the currency of Saudi Arabia.

Ukraine election: Comedian Zelensky wins presidency by landslide victory

- In Ukraine, comedian and political newcomer Volodymyr Zelensky has apparently secured a landslide victory in the Presidential election. Exit polls indicated that he is going to take 73 per cent of the votes while incumbent Petro Poroshenko securing 25 per cent.
- Mr Zelensky, a political novice, is best known for starring in a satirical television series *Servant of the People*, in which his character accidentally becomes Ukrainian president.

Ukraine is a sovereign state in Eastern Europe. Its capital and largest city is Kiev. Petro Oleksiyovych Poroshenko is the fifth and current President of Ukraine. Volodymyr Groysman has been the Prime Minister of Ukraine since 14 April 2016. The hryvnia, sometimes hryvnya has been the national currency of Ukraine since 2 September 1996. The Crimean peninsula was annexed from Ukraine by the Russian Federation in February–March 2014 and since then has been administered as two Russian federal subjects—the Republic of Crimea and the federal city of Sevastopol.

Saudi, UAE pledge 3 billion financial aid for Sudan

- Saudi Arabia and the UAE announced financial support of three billion dollars for the people of Sudan following the overthrow of longtime leader Omar al-Bashir.
- The Emirates News Agency said that the assistance bundle entails 500 million USD deposit into Sudan's central bank to strengthen the country's liquidity and monetary reserves. The remaining amount will be dedicated to support the people of Sudan, across food, medicines, and fuel derivatives.

The Sudan or Sudan also known as North Sudan since South Sudan's independence is a country in Northeast Africa. The capital is Khartoum. Sudanese pound is the basic unit of the Sudanese currency. Omar al-Bashir served as the seventh President of Sudan from 1989 to 2019 and founder of the National Congress Party. Abdel Fattah Abdelrahman Burhan is currently serving as de facto Head of State of Sudan after former Chairman Ahmed Awad Ibn Auf resigned and transferred control.

Emergency imposed in Sri Lanka

- **Sri Lankan Government imposed emergency in the country** following bomb attacks on churches and hotels. The decision to impose an emergency was taken at a meeting of the National Security Council to ensure public security.
- **The state of emergency, which gave police and the military special powers to counter militant strikes**, came into force. Suspects can be detained without a court order.

UAE adopts National Artificial Intelligence Strategy 2031

- The **UAE Cabinet has adopted the National Artificial Intelligence Strategy 2031**. The Cabinet adopted it during a meeting, **chaired by Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum**, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai at the Presidential Palace in Abu Dhabi.
- **Its aims at positioning the UAE as a global leader in artificial intelligence by 2031** and to develop an integrated system that employs artificial intelligence in vital areas in the country.

Abu Dhabi is the capital and the second most populous city of the United Arab Emirates (the most populous being Dubai), and also capital of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, the largest of the UAE's seven emirates. United Arab Emirates (UAE) is a federal sovereign absolute monarchy in Western Asia. Khalifa Al Nahyan is the current President of the United Arab Emirates. Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum is the Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Ruler of the Emirate of Dubai. United Arab Emirates dirham is the currency of the United Arab Emirates.

Indonesia releases special stamp on theme of Ramayana

- **Indonesia has released a special commemorative stamp on the theme of Ramayana to mark the 70th anniversary of the establishment** of its diplomatic ties with India.
- Embassy of India in Jakarta said the stamp, **designed by renowned Indonesian sculptor Padmashri Bapak Nyoman Nuarta**, featured a scene from Ramayana in which Jatayu valiantly fought to save Sita.

Indonesia is a transcontinental unitary sovereign state located mainly in Southeast Asia, with some territories in Oceania. It is the world's largest island country, with more than thirteen thousand islands. Jakarta is the capital and largest city of Indonesia. Joko Widodo also known as Jokowi is the seventh and current President of Indonesia. The rupiah (Rp) is the official currency of Indonesia.

US not to extend exemptions to any country buying Iranian oil beyond May 2

- **The US has decided to end exemptions from sanctions for countries still buying oil from Iran**. In a statement, White House said that **five countries - India, China, Japan, South Korea and Turkey will no longer be exempt from US sanctions** if they continue to import oil from Iran after their waivers end on May 2.
- **President Donald Trump's efforts to sink Iran's oil exports to zero will have a direct impact on India**, the largest buyer of the oil after China.
- **Trump's sanctions on Iran are intended to curb its nuclear and ballistic missile programme & reduce its influence in Syria, Yemen and other countries in the Middle East.**

World's first floating nuclear power unit set to start operations in Russia

- **The world's only floating nuclear power unit is ready to start commercial operations in Russia**, according to a statement from owner Rosatom.
- **The Akademik Lomonosov is ready to start generating power** after a series of comprehensive and successful tests on its **twin KLT-40 reactor system**.

Vladimir Putin first became President of Russia in 1999. He has held the office since then except for one term when Dmitry Medvedev was in office due to term-limit restrictions. The presidential term in Russia is six years but it was four years during Putin's first two terms. A duma is a Russian assembly with advisory or legislative functions. Moscow is the capital and most populous city of Russia. Russian ruble or rouble is the currency of the Russian Federation.

Pakistan's 'Dawn' journalist Cyril Almeida named IPI's World Press Freedom Hero

- The International Press Institute declared Dawn editor and columnist Cyril Almeida in Pakistan the recipient of its 71st World Press Freedom Hero award.
- The institute lauded Almeida for his “tenacious coverage of the Pakistani state’s patronage of militant groups”. The World Press Freedom Hero award honours journalists who have made significant contributions to the promotion of press freedom.

IPI World Press Freedom Heroes are journalists who have displayed tremendous courage and resilience in fighting for media freedom and the free flow of news – often at great personal risk. At a special ceremony at IPI's 2000 World Congress in Boston, we named our first 50 World Press Freedom Heroes to mark our 50th anniversary. In 2010, we brought the list to 60 at a special ceremony in Vienna. The award is now given annually at our World Congress.

Vladimir Putin, Kim Jong Un hold first-ever talks

- Russia's Vladimir Putin and North Korea's Kim Jong Un met face-to-face for the first time and vowed to seek closer ties. The meeting was held at Russia's Pacific port city of Vladivostok.
- Russia was also a member of the Six-Party Talks to pursue North Korea to dismantle its nuclear programme. But, North Korea's decision to launch a long-range rocket in April 2009 and later its withdrawal from the Six-Party Talks, put ties with Russia on the sidelines.

North Korea, officially the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is a country in East Asia constituting the northern part of the Korean Peninsula. Pyongyang is the capital and largest city. Kim Jong-un is serving as Supreme Leader of North Korea since 2011 and Leader of the Workers' Party of Korea since 2012. Korean People's won is the official currency of North Korea.

Qatar's exit visa system to end this year: U.N.

- Qatar is set to abolish its controversial exit visa system for all foreign workers by the end of 2019.
- Qatar has introduced a series of labour reforms since its selection as the 2022 World Cup host, with the event setting in motion a huge construction programme employing foreign workers.

Qatar is a country located in Western Asia, occupying the small Qatar Peninsula on the northeastern coast of the Arabian Peninsula. Doha is the capital and most populous city of the State of Qatar. Qatari riyal is the currency of the State of Qatar. Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani is the current Emir of Qatar. Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani has been Prime Minister of Qatar since 26 June 2013.

ECONOMY AND FINANCE



Economy News

GST collections at Rs. 1.06 lakh cr. in March, clock the highest-ever

- **Goods and Services Tax collections in March 2019 hit Rs. 1.06 lakh crore, the highest in the history of the tax in India,** and the fourth time monthly collections have crossed Rs. 1 lakh crore this year.
- **GST, which was rolled out from July 1, 2017, subsumed 17 central and state levies and collections** thereof are divided into three broad heads - central GST (which accrues to the Union Government), state GST (which goes to states) and integrated GST (that is divided equally between the centre and the state).

The GST tax came into effect from July 1, 2017 through the implementation of One Hundred and First Amendment of the Constitution of India by the Indian government. The tax replaced existing multiple cascading taxes levied by the central and state governments. The GST has a four-tier structure for taxation of services, 5, 12, 18 and 28 per cent, in line with what has been done for goods. As per Article 279A (1) of the amended Constitution, the GST Council has to be constituted by the President within 60 days of the commencement of Article 279A. GST Council is headed by Union Finance Minister.

Now, a blockchain-enabled marketplace app for coffee

- With a view to enabling growers find better price for their produce, the **Coffee Board has launched Coffee Blockchain, a marketplace app, developed in coordination with Eka Software Solutions.** The pilot project has about 20 participants, including 14 coffee growers, and will run for four-to-six months.

New Delhi airport named India's best, followed by Mumbai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru

- **New Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport is India's best but ranks 59th globally.** Airports in Mumbai, Hyderabad and Bengaluru also featured in the list of world's best airports.
- **Singapore's Changi Airport has been crowned the world's best aviation hub for the seventh time in a row,** while New Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport featured at number 59, according to the Skytrax World Airport Awards.

Supply of ultra-clean Euro-VI grade fuels begins in cities adjoining NCR

- **Supply of ultra-clean Euro-VI grade petrol and diesel has begun in cities adjoining the national capital.**
- **Delhi in April 2018 became the first city in the country to leapfrog from Euro-IV grade petrol and diesel to Euro-VI fuels,** cities in the 12 contiguous districts of Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh as well as the city of Agra switched over to the cleaner fuel. **Rest of the country will follow suit from April 2020.**

Bharat stage emissions standards are based on European regulations were first introduced in 2000. Since October 2010, Bharat Stage (BS) III norms have been enforced across the country. In 13 major cities, Bharat Stage IV emission norms have been in place since April 2010 and it has been enforced for entire country since April 2017. In 2016, the Indian government announced that the country would skip the BS-V norms altogether and adopt BS-VI norms by 2020.

India inks an agreement with a development bank for setting up India-Africa Institute of Agriculture & Rural Development in Malawi

- India signed an agreement with a development bank for setting up India-Africa Institute of Agriculture and Rural Development (IAIARD) in Malawi.
- IAIARD will be a Pan-African Institute wherein trainees not only from Malawi but also from other African countries, will receive training to develop their human resources and build their capacity.
- The entire expenditure on faculty from India, the travel, logistics and training course expenses for students from other African countries will be borne by the Government of India for an initial period of three years. This institute will be the first of its kind developed in an African country by India.

India likely to grow at 7.2% in current fiscal year: ADB

- Asian Development Bank, ADB, says India's growth is set to pick up. In its report released, ADB said India is expected to grow at 7.2 per cent in the current fiscal on strengthening consumption.
- According to the Asian Development Outlook 2019, India's growth slowed from 7.2 per cent in fiscal 2017 to 7 per cent in 2018, with weaker agricultural output and consumption growth curtailed by higher global oil prices and lower government expenditure.
- It is expected to rebound to 7.2 per cent in 2019 and 7.3 per cent in 2020 as policy rates are cut and farmers receive income support, bolstering domestic demand.

Asian Development Bank (ADB) is a regional development bank established on 19 December 1966, which is headquartered in the Ortigas Center located in the city of Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines. Takehiko Nakao is the current and ninth president of the Asian Development Bank.

India highest recipient of remittances at \$79 billion in 2018: World Bank

- India retained its position as the world's top recipient of remittances with its diaspora sending a whopping USD 79 billion back home in 2018, the World Bank said in a report.
- India was followed by China (USD 67 billion), Mexico (USD 36 billion), the Philippines (USD 34 billion), and Egypt (USD 29 billion).
- With this, India has retained its top spot on remittances, according to the latest edition of the World Bank's Migration and Development Brief. Over the last three years, India has registered a significant flow of remittances from \$62.7 billion in 2016 to \$65.3 billion 2017.
- Reducing remittance costs to 3% by 2030 is a global target under Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 10.7.

\$1.7 trillion needed per year to build disaster-resilient infrastructure in Asia: ADB

- Developing economies across Asia are among the most vulnerable to natural disasters and have suffered damages estimated at 644 billion dollars since 2000, according to Asian Development Bank (ADB).
- Of these, weather-related hazards caused the greatest share at 507 billion dollars (or 79 per cent) while geophysical hazards accounted for the remaining 137 billion dollars (or 21 per cent), as per a recent ADB report titled 'Asian Development Outlook 2019: Strengthening Disaster Resilience.'

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World Bank pegs India's GDP growth at 7.5%

- **India's GDP growth is expected to accelerate moderately to 7.5% in fiscal year 2019-20**, driven by continued investment strengthening — particularly private — improved export performance and resilient consumption.
- **China's economic growth is projected to slow down to 6.2% each in 2019 and 2020 and 6% in 2021**, according to the January 2019 Global Economic Prospects report released by the World Bank.
- **Senior US Treasury official David Malpass** has been selected as **President of the World Bank**. The World Bank's executive board unanimously selected 63-year-old Malpass as the bank's 13th President for a five-year term.

The World Bank is a vital source of financial and technical assistance to developing countries around the world. The World Bank Group comprises five institutions managed by their member countries. It was established in 1944, the World Bank Group is headquartered in Washington, D.C. J Kristalina Georgieva is the first Chief Executive Officer of the World Bank and served as the interim President of the World Bank Group since 1 February 2019 to April 8, 2019. Together, IBRD and IDA form the World Bank, which provides financing, policy advice, and technical assistance to governments of developing countries.

MENA World Economic Forum kicks off in Jordan

- The **World Economic Forum (WEF) on the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) 2019** kicked off in **Jordan** with over 1,000 participants from more than 50 countries.
- The 17th WEF meeting in the region called for united efforts to address the most pressing challenges of the area.

World Economic Forum (WEF), based in **Cologny-Geneva, Switzerland**, was founded in 1971 as a not-for-profit organization. It gained formal status in January 2015 under the Swiss Host-State Act, confirming the role of the Forum as an International Institution for Public-Private Cooperation. The WEF hosts an annual meeting at the end of January in Davos, a mountain resort in Graubunden, in the eastern Alps region of Switzerland.

India becomes YouTube's largest and fastest growing market

- **In the last one year, the video-sharing website's consumption on mobile phones has increased to 85%**
- With substantial growth in India's internet coverage and data growth, the country has **become YouTube's largest and fastest growing market with 265 million Indians watching the video-sharing website every month.**

Union Government retains interest rate for General Provident Fund at 8%

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

India to grow at 7.3% in 2019 and 7.5% in 2020: IMF

- The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** has projected that global growth will be 3.3% in 2019, down from 3.6% in 2018 and 4% in 2017.
- **India's growth is projected to pick up (from 7.1% in 2018) to 7.3% in 2019 and 7.5% in 2020**, "supported by the continued recovery of investment and robust consumption amid a more expansionary stance of monetary policy and some expected impetus from fiscal policy,"

The IMF, also known as the Fund, was conceived at a UN conference in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, United States, in July 1944. The IMF's primary purpose is to ensure the stability of the international monetary system—the system of exchange rates and international payments that enables countries (and their citizens) to transact with each other. It is headquartered in Washington, D.C., of ". At present, 189 countries are the member countries in IMF. The current Managing Director (MD) and Chairman of the International Monetary Fund is noted French lawyer and former politician, Christine Lagarde, who has held the post since 5 July 2011.

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

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

IDRBT sets up 5G Lab for banking, financial sector

- The Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT), an arm of Reserve Bank of India, has launched a 5G Use Cases Lab for banking and financial sector.
- The 5G technology, along with blockchain, will be progressively adopted by banks.

The IMF and World Bank launches "Learning Coin" to explore blockchain technologies

- The two global financial agencies The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank want to gain insights into how blockchain and cryptocurrencies work.
- To get a better understanding of the subject, they launched a private blockchain and quasi-cryptocurrency called "Learning Coin".

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Asian Tea Alliance launched in China

- The Asian Tea Alliance (ATA), a union of five tea-growing and consuming countries, was launched in Guizhou in China.
- The members of the alliance are the Indian Tea Association, China Tea Marketing Association, Indonesian Tea Marketing Association, Sri Lanka Tea Board and Japan Tea Association.

India ranked 17 among 100 countries, based on the strength of its startup ecosystem

- According to data released by StartupBlink, India moved up to 17th position in 2018 from 37th spot last year in the Startup Ecosystem Ranking for 2019.
- India ranks 17 globally among 100 countries, based on the strength of its startup ecosystem, according to StartupBlink, which tracks startup ecosystems on a number of parameters. ,
- In StartupBlink's cities ranking, six Indian entries made it to top 100. Bengaluru was as the top startup city in India at 11th, while New Delhi followed in the 18th spot. Mumbai stood at 29th rank, while Chennai, Hyderabad and Pune also made it to top 100.

The rise in India's rank can be attributed to a number of factors besides the ones stated by StartupBlink. According to Inc42 DataLabs, 3800 new startups were launched in India during the last year. Overall, Indian startups received \$11 Bn of funding through 743 deals in 2018.

Government forms committee to examine introduction of e-invoices under GST

- The government is exploring introduction of electronic invoices (e-invoices) through Goods and Services Tax (GST) portal, a move which if implemented will help streamline the indirect tax system and ensure better compliance by keeping a check on tax evasion.
- A 13-member committee having representatives from GST Network (GSTN), central and state governments has been formed to examine the electronic tax invoice system of South Korea, Latin America and other countries and suggest a model for India.
- The committee of officers on electronic generation of invoice through GST portal, with Rajeew Ranjan, Special Secretary, GST Council as the convenor, is expected to submit its interim report within three weeks. Representatives from National Informatics Centre, technical experts and trade representatives are also expected to be part of the consultations.

Global warming shrank Indian economy by 31 per cent: Stanford study

- Global warming has caused the Indian economy to be 31 per cent smaller than it would otherwise have been, according to a Stanford study which shows how Earth's temperature changes have increased inequalities.
- The study, published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, showed that growing concentrations of greenhouse gases in Earth's atmosphere since 1960s have enriched cool countries like Norway and Sweden, while dragging down economic growth in warm countries such as India and Nigeria.

IRDAI forms panel to review micro insurance framework

- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has set up a committee to review the regulatory framework on microinsurance and recommend measures to increase the demand for such products.
- Comprising officials of the IRDAI, insurers and NGOs, the committee has been formed in the backdrop of a less-than-desired offtake of microinsurance products despite their inherent benefits.
- With IRDAI Executive Director Suresh Mathur as the chairman, the 13-member panel has been tasked with suggesting product designs with customer-friendly underwriting, including easy premium payment methods and simple claims settlement procedures.

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) is an autonomous, statutory body tasked with regulating and promoting the insurance and re-insurance industries in India. It was constituted by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999, an Act of Parliament passed by the Government of India. The agency's headquarters are in Hyderabad, Telangana, where it moved from Delhi in 2001.

Banks in News

Kotak Bank first lender to charge for UPI use

- **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**, which has been leading the digital payments push since demonetisation, will no longer be free to use for peer-to-peer (P2P) transactions as **Kotak Mahindra Bank** has become the first lender to charge beyond a monthly limit of 30 transactions from May.
- **Kotak Mahindra**, in an email notification to some of its account holders, said it will charge **Rs 2.50** for every transaction worth **Rs 1,000** or less while the same would be **Rs 5** for transactions of more than **Rs 1,000**.

Kotak Mahindra Bank is an Indian private sector bank headquartered in **Mumbai, Maharashtra, India**. In **1985** **Uday Kotak** established an Indian financial services conglomerate. In **February 2003**, **Kotak Mahindra Finance Ltd. (KMFL)**, the Group's flagship company, received a banking licence from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**. In **2019**, it is the **third largest private bank in India** by market capitalization after **HDFC Bank** and **ICICI bank**.

Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is a system that powers multiple bank accounts into a single mobile application (of any participating bank), merging several banking features, seamless fund routing & merchant payments into one hood. It also caters to the “Peer to Peer” collect request which can be scheduled and paid as per requirement and convenience. With the above context in mind, **NPCI** conducted a pilot launch with **21 member banks**. The pilot launch was on **11th April 2016** by then **RBI Governor Dr. Raghuram G Rajan** at **Mumbai**.

Vijaya Bank, Dena Bank to merge with Bank of Baroda

- **Vijaya Bank** and **Dena Bank** will merge with **Bank of Baroda (BoB)** to create the third-largest lender of the country.
- The government in September last year had announced merger of state-owned **Vijaya Bank** and **Dena Bank**, with larger peer **Bank of Baroda**, aiming to create the third largest lender after **SBI** and **ICICI Bank**.

Bank of Baroda (BoB) is an Indian multinational, public sector banking and financial services company. It is owned by **Government of India** and headquartered in **Vadodara, Gujarat**.

RBI tweaks LCR norms to boost liquidity

- In a bid to further improve the cash position of banks, the **RBI** provided additional **2 per cent liquidity window** to the lenders by tweaking **liquidity coverage ratio (LCR)** norms. The **LCR** indicates the proportion of highly liquid assets held by banks to ensure their ability to meet short-term obligations.

RBI sells entire stake in NHB, NABARD to govt for Rs 1,470 cr

- The **Reserve Bank** has exited the **National Housing Bank (NHB)** and the **National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (Nabard)**, by selling its entire stakes to government for **Rs 1,450 crore** and **Rs 20 crore**, respectively, making them fully government-owned now.

Reserve Bank to inject USD 5 billion more liquidity into banking system

- The **Reserve Bank of India, RBI** said it will inject **long-term liquidity worth 5 billion US Dollars** into the banking system through a **dollar-rupee buy-sell swap** for a tenure of three years on **April 23**.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is India's central banking institution, which controls the **monetary policy of the Indian rupee**. It commenced its operations on **1 April 1935** in accordance with the **Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934**. **RBI** was nationalised on **1 January 1949**. **Foreign exchange reserves of India** are India's holdings of cash, bank deposits, bonds, and other financial assets denominated in currencies other than India's national currency, the Indian rupee. **Shaktikanta Das** is the current **Governor of RBI**.

Senior US Treasury official David Malpass selected as President of World Bank

- Senior US Treasury official David Malpass has been selected as President of the World Bank. The World Bank's executive board unanimously selected 63-year-old Malpass as the bank's 13th President for a five-year term.
- The World Bank President is Chair of Boards of Directors of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and International Development Association.

The World Bank is a vital source of financial and technical assistance to developing countries around the world. The World Bank Group comprises five institutions managed by their member countries. It was established in 1944, the World Bank Group is headquartered in Washington, D.C. Jim Yong Kim has been served as the 12th President of the World Bank since July 1, 2012 to January 31, 2019. Kristalina Georgieva is the first Chief Executive Officer of the World Bank and served as the interim President of the World Bank Group since 1 February 2019 to April 8, 2019. Together, IBRD and IDA form the World Bank, which provides financing, policy advice, and technical assistance to governments of developing countries.

RBI issues norms for banks to set up currency chests

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has come out with guidelines for banks to set up new currency chests, which include minimum area of 1,500 square feet for strong room.
- The RBI said that the new chests should have a processing capacity of 6.6 lakh pieces of banknotes per day.
- It added that for those situated in the hilly/ inaccessible places, capacity should be 2.1 lakh pieces of banknotes per day.

The Government of India has the sole right to mint coins. Coins are minted at the four India Government Mints at Mumbai, Alipore (Kolkata), Saifabad (Hyderabad), Cherlapally (Hyderabad) and Noida (UP). All the coins are issued by RBI except one rupee and one rupee note.

BSE, HDFC Bank tie up to strengthen startup platform

- The BSE has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with HDFC Bank with an objective to strengthen the BSE Startups platform. The MoU has been signed to spread more awareness on the benefits of listing of startups on this BSE startup platform.
- The exchange had launched the startup platform on December 22, with an aim to encourage entrepreneurs to get listed and raise equity capital for their growth and expansion.

Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) is an Indian stock exchange located at Dalal Street, Mumbai. It was established in 1875. BSE is Asia's first stock exchange. BSE claims to be the world's fastest stock exchange, with a median trade speed of 6 microseconds.

SBI sets terms for Jet Airways sale

- State Bank of India (SBI) invited bids from strategic and financial investors for stake sale in the cash-strapped Jet Airways.
- SBI, the lead bank of the consortium of lenders of Jet Airways (India) Ltd., has offered bidders a maximum of 75% stake.

On April 1, 2017, the State Bank of India, which was India's largest bank, merged with five of its associate banks (State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur, State Bank of Hyderabad, State Bank of Mysore, State Bank of Patiala and State Bank of Travancore), and with the Bharatiya Mahila Bank. Rajnish Kumar is the current chairman of the SBI.

Kotak Bank becomes first Destination Bank to go live with Net Banking and Debit Card-based e-mandate authentication

- **Kotak Mahindra Bank** has announced the launch of an industry-first debit card-based authentication solution on NPCI's e-Mandate API platform.
- **Kotak becomes the first Destination Bank to go live with Net Banking and Debit Card-based e-mandate authentication**, the bank said in a statement adding that the capability will enable its customers to create electronic mandates (similar to the erstwhile eNACH with Aadhaar + OTP) via both the Debit Card and Net Banking channels.

Kotak Mahindra Bank is an Indian private sector bank headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra, India. In 1985 Uday Kotak established what an Indian financial services conglomerate became. In February 2003, Kotak Mahindra Finance Ltd. (KMFL), the Group's flagship company, received a banking licence from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to carry on banking business.

Former Dena Bank MD Karnam Sekar appointed as IOB's new MD & CEO

- **Former Dena Bank MD Karnam Sekar** is set to take over as the new Managing Director and CEO of Indian Overseas Bank from July 1, 2019. He will take over from R Subramaniakumar, who was instrumental in taking measures to turn around the bank, which has been reporting losses due to high NPA.
- **Prior to joining as officer on Special Duty and Whole Time Director of IOB** in April 2019, **Sekar** was the MD & CEO of Dena Bank till March 31, 2019. Earlier he was the Deputy Managing Director and Chief Credit Officer in State Bank of India heading its highest Credit Committee. In SBI, he was also responsible for formulating loan policy of the bank.

Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) is a major public sector bank based in Chennai, India. In 1937, **Thiru.M. Ct. M. Chidambaram Chettyar** established the Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) to encourage overseas banking and foreign exchange operations.

Emirates Islamic becomes world's first Islamic bank to launch banking via WhatsApp

- **Emirates Islamic** have announced the launch of Chat Banking services for customers via WhatsApp, marking a global first in the Islamic banking sector.
- The bank's customers will now able to conduct daily banking activities via WhatsApp in a seamless and hassle-free manner.
- **As the first Islamic bank in the world to launch a WhatsApp banking solution for customers**, we have further cemented our position as an industry innovator and digital frontrunner in the Islamic banking sector.

Islamic banking, also known as non-interest banking, is a banking system that is based on the principles of Islamic law and guided by Islamic economics. Two fundamental principles of Islamic banking are the sharing of profit and loss, and the prohibition of the collection and payment of interest by lenders and investors. Islamic law prohibits collecting interest or "riba."

HDFC tops Forbes' list of best Indian banks

- **Forbes** has compiled a first-ever list of the World's Best Bank 2019 in terms of customer services and technological advancements.
- The private lender, **HDFC Bank**, was ranked at the top of the list. However, India's largest public sector bank, the **State Bank of India (SBI)**, did not even make it to top 10 of the list and was ranked 11th by the customers.

HDFC Bank Limited is an Indian banking and financial services company headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra. **HDFC Bank** is India's largest private sector lender by assets. In 1994 **HDFC Bank** was incorporated, with its registered office in Mumbai, India. **Aditya Puri** is the Managing Director of **HDFC Bank**.

Fincare Small Finance Bank Awarded the Celent Model Bank 2019 Award

- **Fincare Small Finance Bank (SFB)** has been awarded the prestigious **Celent Model Bank 2019 Award** in the category of Financial Inclusion, for '**Redesigning Lending to Reach Small Businesses**'.
- The award recognizes **LAP, D. Lite**, a tab-based solution designed and developed in-house by **Fincare SFB** for origination and instant underwriting of loans against property targeted at micro and small enterprises.

ADB committed highest-ever USD 3 billion in sovereign loans to India in 2018

- **ADB** committed to provide **USD 3 billion** in sovereign loans to **India** in **2018**, the highest level of assistance since sovereign operations began in the country in **1986**, said the annual report of multilateral lending agency.
- In all, the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)**, owned by **68 member countries**, committed a total of **USD 3.88 billion**; including sovereign loans and co-financing during the year ended December 2018.

ADB is a regional development bank established on **19 December 1966**, which is headquartered in the **Ortigas Center** located in the city of **Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines**. **Takehiko Nakao** is the current and ninth president of the **ADB**.

Canara Bank becomes the first public sector bank in India to meet RBI's EMV mandate

- **Canara Bank**, one of India's largest public sector banks with nearly **6,300 branches** and a network of more than **10,000 ATMs**, is the **first public sector bank** to shift to **EMV chip and PIN** for card present transactions across the country's vast **ATM network**.
- The **EMV shift**, as in other major global markets, is aimed at reducing lost and stolen card fraud and making counterfeit card fraud more difficult.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** had set a deadline of **December 31, 2018** for the switch, mandating use of an embedded chip to replace the traditional magnetic stripe card.

Canara Bank is one of the largest public sector banks owned by the Government of India. It is headquartered in **Bengaluru**. It was established at **Mangalore** in **1906** by **Ammemba Subba Rao Pai**.

RBI puts into circulation Rs 50 banknotes signed by Governor Shaktikanta Das

- The **Reserve Bank of India** has put into circulation **50 rupees denomination banknotes** signed by its **Governor Shaktikanta Das**.
- The design of these notes is similar in all respects to **50 banknotes** in **Mahatma Gandhi** new series.

The Government of India has the sole right to mint coins. Coins are minted at the **four India Government Mints** at **Mumbai, Alipore (Kolkata), Saifabad (Hyderabad), Cherlapally (Hyderabad)** and **Noida (UP)**. All the coins are issued by **RBI** except one rupee and one rupee note.

Government raises authorised capital of Allahabad Bank to Rs 8,000 cr

- **State-owned Allahabad Bank** said that central government has increased its authorised capital by **Rs 5,000 crore** to **Rs 8,000 crore**.
- The central government after consultation with the **Reserve Bank of India** has increased the authorised capital of the bank from **Rs 3,000** to **Rs 8,000** through **Gazette Notification**, **Allahabad Bank** said in a regulatory filing.

- **CH SS Mallikarjuna Rao** has taken charge as the MD and CEO of Allahabad Bank effective September 19, 2019. He was earlier Executive Director of Syndicate Bank.

Allahabad Bank is a nationalised bank with its headquarters in Kolkata, India. It is the oldest joint stock bank in India. On 24 April 2014, the bank entered into its 150th year of establishment. It was founded in Allahabad in 1865.

RBI has \$43 billion in excess reserves, says BofAML

- The Bimal Jalan committee studying the appropriate level of capital reserves for the Reserve Bank is likely to identify excess reserves of up to Rs 3 lakh crore (\$43 billion), or 1.5 per cent of gross domestic product, according to foreign brokerage Bank of America Merrill Lynch.
- “We expect the Jalan committee to identify RBI’s excess capital at Rs 1-3 lakh crore/0.5-1.5 per cent of GDP in its report expected shortly,” said Indranil Sen Gupta, Chief India Economist at BofAML. India’s central bank books revaluation gains on the foreign currency assets and gold holdings. Those holdings are currently just above \$400 billion.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is India's central banking institution, which controls the monetary policy of the Indian rupee. It commenced its operations on 1 April 1935 in accordance with the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. RBI was nationalised on 1 January 1949. The inaugural officeholder was the British banker Osborne Smith, while C. D. Deshmukh was the first Indian governor. The bank's 15th governor, Manmohan Singh, later became India's 13th prime minister. The position is currently held by Shaktikanta Das.

HDFC Bank and Max Bupa launch Anytime Health machines to distribute health insurance products

- Max Bupa, one of India's leading standalone health insurance players, and HDFC Bank, one of India's leading private sector banks announced the launch of 'digital first' propositions for the bank's 40+ million customers, spread across its 5,000+ branches.
- Max Bupa is committed to provide the best bespoke and comprehensive health insurance solutions and services to HDFC Bank's customers through a slew of digital touch points like Anytime Health (ATH) machines, deep integration with HDFC Bank Net banking and digital seller apps like InstaInsure.

RBI to issue new Rs 20 denomination banknote with greenish-yellow colour

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced that it will issue new Rs 20 denomination banknotes soon. The new banknote will have a base colour of greenish -yellow and will be 63 X 129 mm in size. The apex bank had first introduced the Rs 20 note in the Mahatma Gandhi Series in August 2001.
- In contrast to the old red-orange colored Rs 20 note of size 143 X 63 mm, which has a motif of Mount Harriet, the new note will have a motif of Ellora caves on the back side, depicting India's cultural heritage.

The Government of India has the sole right to mint coins. Coins are minted at the four India Government Mints at Mumbai, Alipore (Kolkata), Saifabad (Hyderabad), Cherlapally (Hyderabad) and Noida (UP). All the coins are issued by RBI except one rupee and one rupee note.

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

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

- **This is the first back-to-back rate cut since the MPC was formed in late 2016.** "Benign food inflation and easier global financial conditions following the US Fed's shift to a more dovish policy stance has **enabled the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to become the first central bank in Asia-Pacific (APAC) to begin an explicit easing cycle,**" Fitch said in its APAC sovereign credit overview report. **Inflation at 2.9 per cent has remained within the RBI's comfort zone of 4 per cent (+/- 2 per cent).**

SBI Launches Green Car Loan on The Occasion of World Earth Day

- In an effort to encourage customers to buy electric vehicle, the **country's largest lender, State Bank of India (SBI) launched India's first 'Green Car Loan' (Electric Vehicle),** on the occasion of World Earth Day on April 22.
- The scheme comes with the **longest repayment period of up to eight years is a strategic inclusion to the bank's auto loan segment** would be **offered with zero processing fee** for the first six months of the launch.

On April 1, 2017, the State Bank of India, which was **India's largest bank, merged with five of its associate banks** (State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur, State Bank of Hyderabad, State Bank of Mysore, State Bank of Patiala and State Bank of Travancore), and **with the Bharatiya Mahila Bank. Rajnish Kumar is the current chairman of the State Bank of India (SBI). Imperial Bank of India** was the **oldest and the largest commercial bank of the Indian subcontinent,** and was subsequently **transformed into State Bank of India in 1955.**



Firms in News

Facebook Bans White Nationalism, White Separatism on its Platforms

- Facebook Inc banned praise, support and representation of white nationalism and white separatism, a move that drew qualified approval from New Zealand where a massacre of 50 people in mosques was live streamed earlier this month.

Facebook is an American online social media and social networking service company based in Menlo Park, California. Its website was launched on February 4, 2004, by Mark Zuckerberg along with Eduardo Saverin, Andrew McCollum, Dustin Moskovitz, and Chris Hughes.

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

- Customers of Reliance Mutual Fund can now carry out voice-based financial transactions, with Reliance Nippon Life Asset Management (RNAM) partnering with internet major- Google.
- For the first time in India, Reliance Mutual Fund for its customers is introducing a conversational interface that would help customers shop with the fund "just by listening and speaking to your smartphone or digital device through a series of voice commands".

BNP Paribas Cardif sells 5 crore shares in SBI Life Insurance for Rs 2,889 crore

- BNP Paribas Cardif sold 5 crore shares of SBI Life Insurance through a block deal for Rs 2,889 crore, which saw shares skidding over 6 per cent on the local bourses.
- SBI Life Insurance is a joint venture life insurance company between State Bank of India, the country's largest bank, and French multinational bank BNP Paribas Cardif.

Cardif is an international insurance company with a presence in the Netherlands, United Kingdom and worldwide. The company is part of the BNP Paribas Group.

Paytm Money receives SEBI Approval to start Stock Broking

- Paytm Money – India's largest online platform for mutual fund investments and the wholly owned subsidiary of One97 Communications Limited that owns & operates Paytm, announced that it has received approval from SEBI (Securities & Exchange Board of India) to offer Stock Broking service to its users.
- Paytm Money has received approval for its membership from Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) & National Stock Exchange (NSE). It plans to introduce new product & offerings through its app such as investing & trading in equities, derivatives, currency, commodities, ETFs and other exchange traded products.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India was established on April 12, 1992 in accordance with the provisions of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992. SEBI has its headquarters at the business district of Bandra Kurla Complex in Mumbai. Shri Ajay Tyagi is the current chairman of Securities and Exchange Board of India.

Reliance Jio buys chatbot firm Haptik in Rs 700 crore deal

- Reliance Industries Ltd's fascination with the startup space continues. And this time, it comes in the form of a strategic investment of Rs 700 crore (about \$100 million) in enterprise conversational AI startup Haptik by telecom giant Reliance Jio for around 87 percent stake.

Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited is an Indian mobile network operator. Owned by Reliance Industries and headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra, it operates a national LTE network with coverage across all 22 telecom circles. As of 31 January 2019, it is the third largest mobile network operator in India and the ninth largest mobile network operator in the world with over 289.44 million subscribers.

Micromax Cofounder Rahul Sharma Launches an AI-Enabled Motorcycle Brand

- **Rahul Sharma**, cofounder of Indian phone maker **Micromax**, has forayed into the **electric vehicle** space.
- The **Micromax veteran** has started a new enterprise called **Revolt Intellicorp Pvt. Ltd.**, with plans to launch an artificial intelligence (AI) based motorcycle.
- The proposed **AI-enabled motorcycle** will have a range of 156.8 km and a top speed of 85km/hr.

BSE, India INX become first Indian exchanges to sign MoU with Moscow Exchange

- **BSE** (earlier known as **Bombay Stock Exchange**) and **India International Exchange (India INX)** have signed a memorandum of understanding with **Moscow Exchange (MOEX)** to connect investor community and companies in both countries besides allowing a capital formation platform.
- **BSE and India INX** are the first Indian exchanges to enter into the MoU with Moscow exchange.

Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) is an **Indian stock exchange** located at **Dalal Street, Mumbai**. It was established in **1875**. BSE is **Asia's first stock exchange**. BSE claims to be the **world's fastest stock exchange**, with a **median trade speed of 6 microseconds**.

Amazon India launches seller-funding programme for small businesses

- **Amazon India** announced the launch of its seller-funding programme--**Amazon Wings**--in partnership with **Ketto**, a crowd-funding platform.
- Through this **India first initiative**, Amazon looks at enabling the small businesses and entrepreneurs who are sellers on its platform, raise funds for their business expansion, product development and innovation or community development.
- **Amazon India sellers** can use **Ketto's platform** for a subsidised fee of around **50 per cent** to initiate fundraisers. The subsidised fee is 2.5 per cent of the amount for Amazon sellers compared to 5 per cent that Ketto charges normally.

Amazon is a **multinational technology company** focusing in **e-commerce, cloud computing, and artificial intelligence** in **Seattle, Washington**. Amazon is the **largest e-commerce marketplace and cloud computing platform** in the world as measured by revenue and market capitalization. Amazon.com was founded by **Jeff Bezos** on **July 5, 1994** in **Seattle, Washington, U.S.**

Paisalo Digital signs first co-origination loan agreement with SBI

- **Paisalo Digital** signed the first co-origination loan agreement with **State Bank of India**, the first agreement of its kind in the country that State Bank of India has signed. Introducing a platform for the last mile customer, the loan ticket is designed at **Rs. 10,000 to 2 lakh**. The company expects to disburse 200,000 loan applications in FY20.

Google has opened its first Africa Artificial Intelligence lab in Ghana

- **Google** opened its first center in Africa in **Ghana's capital city, Accra**, now it wants to position itself as an "AI first" company and with research centers across the globe in places such as **Tokyo, Zurich, New York, and Paris**.
- **AI** can be applied in sectors such as **agriculture, health, and education**, and **Moustapha Cisse**, the research scientist heading up Google's AI efforts in Africa.

Google Inc. is an **American multinational technology company** that specializes in **Internet-related services and products**, which include online advertising technologies, search engine, cloud computing, software, and hardware. Google was founded in **1998** by **Larry Page and Sergey Brin** while they were **Ph.D. students at Stanford University, California**. It is now headquartered in **California, USA**. **Pichai Sundararajan** is the current chief executive officer (CEO) of Google Inc.

Airtel launches My Circle safety app for women

- India's second largest telecom operator Bharti Airtel and the FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) has launched a safety app My Circle for women which has been designed to help in the event of any distress or panic situation.
- MyCircle app enables women to send SOS alerts to any five of their family or friends in 13 languages including English, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, Marathi, Punjabi, Bangla, Urdu, Assamese, Oriya, and Gujarati.

TikTok removed from Google, Apple app stores

- Tech giants Google and Apple have removed TikTok from their app stores after the Supreme Court refused to stay a Madras High Court order asking the Centre to prohibit the download of the Chinese social media platform.
- The government had asked tech giants Google and Apple to comply with the Madras High Court's order that had banned popular mobile app TikTok, according to sources.

TikTok, also known as Douyin in China, is an iOS and Android media app for creating and sharing short videos. Owned by ByteDance, the app was launched as Douyin in China in September 2016 and introduced to the overseas market as TikTok one year later.

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

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

Bank of Baroda has become one of the first public sector banks to launch a crèche/child daycare facility for children of its employees. After launching such a facility at its Mumbai corporate office in Bandra Kurla Complex which houses some 1500-plus employees, the bank intends to roll out more of them at its head office in Vadodara.

Flipkart launches second data centre in Hyderabad to strengthen e-commerce biz

- Flipkart, the country's largest e-commerce entity, announced the launch of a data centre in the city, besides investment in the state (Telangana) to strengthen its technology infrastructure.
- This is Flipkart's second data centre in the country, the first being in Mumbai. It says the new one (built in partnership with CtrlS) is part of one of the largest cloud deployments in the country, to strengthen its growing marketplace e-commerce business.

Flipkart Pvt Ltd. is an Indian electronic commerce company based in Bengaluru, India. Founded by Sachin Bansal and Binny Bansal in 2007, the company initially focused on book sales, before expanding into other product categories such as consumer electronics, fashion, and lifestyle products. Kalyan Krishnamurthy is the current chief executive officer of Flipkart.

BuyUcoin Introduces First Indian Platform for Wholesale Cryptocurrency Trading

- BuyUcoin, which is the second oldest Cryptocurrency Exchange in India, announces the launch of a new and unique platform for wholesale cryptocurrency trading which allows its users to trade on a large scale with low price fluctuations. The platform currently works on free trading model i.e. charges zero fee on any trade
- This new feature introduced by BuyUcoin will help to improve the liquidity of cryptocurrency in Indian market and lead to quicker transaction, better prices and market stability.

Huawei announces worlds' first 5G hardware for automotive industry

- **China's Huawei Technologies launched** what it said was the **world's first 5G communications hardware for the automotive industry**, in a sign of its growing ambitions to become a key supplier to the sector for self-driving technology.
- **Huawei said** in a statement that the so-called **MH5000 module is based on the Balong 5000 5G chip**, which it launched in January. "Based on this chip, **Huawei has developed the world's first 5G car module with high speed and high quality**," it said.

Huawei Technologies Co. Ltd. is a **Chinese multinational telecommunications equipment and consumer electronics manufacturer, headquartered in Shenzhen, Guangdong, China.** The company was **founded in 1987 by Ren Zhengfei**, a former People's Liberation Army officer.

Assocham Secretary General U K Varma resigns

- **Uday Kumar Varma**, a former bureaucrat who took over as the **Secretary General of Assocham** in August last year, has **resigned from the post.**
- According to sources, **Varma resigned from the industry chamber last week and Assocham Deputy Secretary General Saurabh Sanyal is discharging the duties of secretary general at present.**

Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) is one of the **apex trade associations of India.** The organisation represents the interests of trade and commerce in India, and acts as an interface between issues and initiatives. **ASSOCHAM was established in 1921 by promoter chambers**, representing all regions of India. The Association's head office is located in New Delhi. The goal of this organisation is to **promote both domestic and international trade, and reduce trade barriers** while fostering conducive environment for the growth of trade and industry of India.

Twitter appoints Manish Maheshwari as India MD

- **Twitter said** that it has **appointed Manish Maheshwari as the Managing Director of its India operations.** Last year, **Taranjeet Singh had stepped down as the India Country Director** and Balaji Krish was given charge of leading the country's operations in the interim period.
- **Krish will return to Twitter global headquarters in San Francisco** to resume his role as Global Head of Revenue Strategy and Operations at Twitter. **Maheshwari, who previously served as the CEO of Network18 Digital,** takes over the new role from April 29, Twitter said in a statement.

Twitter is an online news and social networking service on which users post and interacts with messages known as "tweets". Twitter was created in **March 2006 by Jack Dorsey, Noah Glass, Biz Stone, and Evan Williams** and launched in **July, 2006.** Twitter, Inc. is based in **San Francisco, California, USA.**

Etihad becomes first airline in the Gulf to operate plastic-free flight

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

TCS modernises more than 1.5 lakh post offices in India

- **India's largest IT services company Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** has **helped modernise a network of more than 1.5 lakh post offices** in the country, thus creating **World's Biggest EPostal Network** and the **largest SAP implementations worldwide.**

- TCS has also implemented a Point of Sale (PoS) solution in 80,000 terminals across 24,000 post offices. They also build a web portal with consignment tracking capabilities and set up a multi-lingual call centre for customer support.

Tata Consultancy Services Limited (TCS) is an Indian multinational information technology (IT) service, consulting and business solutions company headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra. It is a subsidiary of the Tata Group. On 12 January 2017, N.Chandrashekar was elevated as the chairman for Tata Sons.

Tata Steel gets award at Global Slag Conference & Exhibition

- Tata Steel has been named as the 'Global Slag Company of the Year' at the 14th Global Slag Conference and Exhibition 2019.
- The award was presented to Tata Steel for its innovative practices in development of new applications for Steel by-products (Slag).

Tata Iron and Steel Company was founded by Jamsetji Tata and established by Dorabji Tata on 26 August 1907, and began producing steel in 1912 as a branch of Jamsetji's Tata Group. It is headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra, India, and a subsidiary of the Tata Group. It is the second largest steel company in India (measured by domestic production) after SAIL

Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, wife reach biggest divorce deal in history

- Jeff Bezos's wife MacKenzie said she would give all of her stake in The Washington Post and the space exploration firm Blue Origin to her husband -- the world's richest man -- as well as voting control of her remaining Amazon stock.
- Amazon founder Jeff Bezos and his wife, MacKenzie, finalized the biggest divorce settlement in history leaving him with 75 per cent of their stock in the tech giant and giving her nearly \$36 billion in shares.

Google launches new cloud platform, Anthos

- Google launched Anthos, a new open platform from Google Cloud, that lets users run applications from anywhere.
- Anthos allows users to run applications, unmodified, on existing on-premise hardware or on the public cloud, and is based on the Cloud Services Platform that Google announced last year.

Microsoft becomes world's third company to be worth \$1 trillion

- Microsoft has reached a valuation of one trillion dollars for the first time after posting a 19pc increase in profits.
- It makes the software giant only the third publicly-traded company in history to reach the threshold, after Apple and Amazon passed it last year.

Microsoft Corporation is an American multinational technology company with headquarters in Redmond, Washington. Microsoft was founded by Paul Allen and Bill Gates on April 4, 1975, to develop and sell BASIC interpreters for the Altair 8800. The first versions of two classic Microsoft products, Microsoft Word and the Windows operating system, were released in 1983. By 1991, Microsoft's operating systems were used by 93 percent of the world's personal computers.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



NASA's Mars helicopter completes flight tests

- **NASA's Mars Helicopter, designed to fly in thin atmosphere and low gravity, has successfully completed flight tests and is prepared for its journey to the Red Planet scheduled to take off in 2020.**
- **Weighing in at no more than 1.8 kg, the helicopter is a technology demonstration project currently going through the rigorous verification process certifying it for Mars.**

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is an independent agency of the executive branch of the United States federal government responsible for the civilian space program, as well as aeronautics and aerospace research. **President Dwight D. Eisenhower** established NASA in 1958. **James Frederick Bridenstine** is an American politician and the current administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. He became the first member of Congress to lead NASA.

PSLV-C45 successfully launches EMISAT and 28 customer satellites

- **India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C45) successfully launched EMISAT and 28 international customer satellites from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR in Sriharikota.**
- **This flight marked the first mission of PSLV-QL, a new variant of PSLV with four strap-on motors.**
- **PSLV-C45 lifted off from the Second Launch Pad and injected India's EMISAT into a 748 km sun-synchronous polar orbit, 17 minutes and 12 seconds after liftoff.**

Indian Space Research Organisation is the space agency of the Government of India headquartered in the city of Bangalore. ISRO was formed in 1969. ISRO built India's first satellite, **Aryabhata**, which was launched by the Soviet Union on 19 April 1975. **Dr Kailasavadivoo Sivan Nadar** is current the chairperson of the ISRO.

Sun's magnetic field is ten times stronger than thought

- **A combination of favourable conditions and an element of luck enabled the team to determine the strength of the flare's magnetic field with unprecedented accuracy.**
- **The Sun's magnetic field is ten times stronger than previously believed, according to study which can potentially change our understanding of the solar atmosphere and its effects on Earth.**

Soon, first photo of black hole

- **Scientists from USA are expected to unveil the first-ever photograph of a black hole, a breakthrough in astrophysics, providing insight into celestial monsters with gravitational fields so intense no matter or light can escape.**

- The U.S. National Science Foundation has scheduled a news conference in Washington to announce a “groundbreaking result from the Event Horizon Telescope (EHT) project,” an international partnership formed in 2012 to try to directly observe the immediate environment of a black hole.

A black hole is a region of spacetime exhibiting such strong gravitational effects that nothing—not even particles and electromagnetic radiation such as light—can escape from inside it. In 1915, Albert Einstein developed his theory of general relativity, having earlier shown that gravity does influence light's motion. Only a few months later, Karl Schwarzschild found a solution to the Einstein field equations, which describes the gravitational field of a point mass and a spherical mass.

India's first 'Cold Spray' SMART lab launched

- The Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT-M) announced its collaboration with American conglomerate General Electric (GE) to set up a lab that will develop advanced services technology for aircraft engine components.
- The 'Cold Spray' SMART (Surface Modification and Additive Research Technologies) Laboratory is the first-of-its-kind being installed in any academic institute in India.

Cold spray technology is different from other widely used thermal spray processes in that there is no melting and oxidation of powders. Thus, high quality coatings can be produced.

Sub-sonic cruise missile 'Nirbhay' successfully test-fired

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), successfully test fired indigenously designed and developed Long Range Sub-Sonic Cruise Missile - Nirbhay from the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur Odisha.
- The entire flight was fully tracked by a chain of Electro-Optical Tracking Systems, Radars and Ground Telemetry Systems deployed all along the seacoast and all the mission objectives were met.
- The missile was primarily designed and developed by the Advanced Defence Establishment of DRDO located in Bengaluru in cooperation with other DRDO laboratories.

Nirbhay has a range of 1000 km and can fly very low to the ground to avoid detection by enemy radar called terrain hugging capability. Once inducted, Nirbhay, similar to U.S. Tomahawk cruise missile, will give Indian armed forces a long range standoff capability to strike targets on land.

‘First’ 3D printed heart has human cells, vessels

- Researchers at Tel Aviv University, Israel managed to successfully print the first ever 3D heart that uses cells and biological materials from a patient and calling it a first and a “major medical breakthrough” that advances possibilities for transplants.
- The heart marked “the first time anyone has successfully engineered and printed an entire heart replete with cells, blood vessels, ventricles and chambers”.

The medical breakthrough, which was published in Advanced Science, managed to produce an entire heart, complete with cells, blood vessels, ventricles and chambers -- a marked improvement over previous attempts that only printed simple tissues without vessels.

Coast Guard patrol ship Veera commissioned

- Chief of Army Staff General Bipin Rawat commissioned the Indian Coast Guard Ship Veera at a ceremony held at Naval Jetty at the dockyard in the Visakhapatnam city.
- Veera, third in the series of offshore patrol vessels of the Coast Guard, was built by L&T at its shipbuilding facility at Kattupalli in Chennai.

PIO-led team's CubeSat to be launched by NASA

- A team led by an Indian American student has been chosen by NASA to have their CubeSat -- a mini research satellite to detect cosmic rays -- flown into space on future missions of the US space agency.
- The researchers from the Yale Undergraduate Aerospace Association (YUAA), led by 21-year-old Keshav Raghavan, are among the 16 teams across the country whose CubeSats will be flown into space on missions planned to launch in 2020, 2021 and 2022.

Mars base simulator unveiled in Gobi desert

- In the middle of China's Gobi desert sits a Mars base simulator, but instead of housing astronauts training to live on the red planet, the facility is full of teenagers on a school trip.
- The white-coloured base has a silver dome and nine modules, including living quarters, a control room, a greenhouse and an airlock.
- Built at a cost of 50 million yuan, the base was constructed with help from the Astronauts Centre of China and the China Intercontinental Communication Centre, a state television production organisation.

As budding astronauts explore "Mars" on Earth, China is planning to send a probe to the real red planet next year. Beijing is pouring billions into its military-run space programme, with hopes of having a crewed space station by 2022. Earlier this year, it made the first ever soft landing on the far side of the moon, deploying a rover on the surface.

Sri Lanka's first satellite 'Raavana-1' launched into space

- Sri Lanka's first satellite 'Raavana-1' was launched into space from NASA's Flight Facility on Virginia's east shore. 'Raavana 1' weighs around 1.05 kg and the lifespan of the satellite is around one and a half years.
- The launch marks Sri Lanka's entry into the global space age. The satellite was designed and built at the Kyushu Institute of Technology in Japan by two Sri Lankan research engineers.

Nepal launches its first satellite NepaliSat-1 from US

- Nepal successfully launched its first satellite into space from the US to gather detailed geographical information of the Himalayan nation, evoking unbridled excitement among the people and scientists.
- Developed by the Nepalese scientists, NepaliSat-1 satellite was launched from Virginia in United States, according to Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST).

WHO recommend 10 ways countries can use digital health technology

- World Health Organisation (WHO) has released new recommendations on 10 ways that countries can use digital health technology, accessible via mobile phones, tablets and computers, to improve people's health and essential services.
- In 2018, governments unanimously adopted a World Health Assembly resolution calling on WHO to develop a global strategy on digital health to support national efforts to achieve universal health coverage. That strategy is scheduled to be considered at the World Health Assembly in 2020.
- On 6 March 2019, Dr Tedros announced the creation of the Department of Digital Health to enhance WHO's role in assessing digital technologies and support Member States in prioritizing, integrating and regulating them.

World Health Organization (WHO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that is concerned with international public health. It was established on 7 April 1948, and is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. The current Director-General of WHO is Tedros Adhanom, who started his five-year term on 1 July 2017.

Mercury has a massive solid inner core

- **NASA has revealed that Mercury, the smallest planet in the solar system has a massive solid inner core.** The final trip around Mercury before crash-landing in 2015 was **made by NASA's 'MESSENGER'.** The spacecraft orbited Mercury for around **2011 to 2015** and it was its **second mission to Mercury.**
- The new mission is on its way to Mercury. **It is termed 'BepiColombo'** and is **a joint mission by the European Space Agency (ESA) and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)** to explore Mercury from 2 unique vantage points.

India's first lab-meat project takes off

- **India's first laboratory meat project took off with the Hyderabad-based Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) and National Research Centre on Meat (NRCM)** coming together to produce "ahimsa meat".
- With an **initial funding of Rs 4.5 crore** by the department of biotechnology, scientists will develop mutton and chicken from stem cells, without animal rearing.

NASA astronaut to set record for longest spaceflight by a woman

- **NASA astronaut Christina Koch** is going to **have her mission on the International Space Station (ISS) extended to 328 days,** which would set a record for the longest single spaceflight by a woman, the US space agency said.
- **NASA and its ISS partners** have set a new schedule and new crew assignments that will **include the first flight of NASA astronaut Jessica Meir and an extended stay for NASA astronaut Andrew Morgan. Koch,** who arrived at the space station on March 14, and now is scheduled to remain in orbit until February 2020, will **eclipse the record of 288 days set by former NASA astronaut Peggy Whitson in 2016-17.**

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is an independent agency of the executive branch of the **United States** federal government **responsible for the civilian space program,** as well as aeronautics and aerospace research. **President Dwight D. Eisenhower** established NASA in **1958.** **James Frederick Bridenstine** is an **American politician and the current administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.** He became the **first member of Congress to lead NASA.**

Inventions/Discoveries

Universe's first molecule detected in space

- Scientists have detected the most ancient type of molecule in our universe in space for the first time ever.
- Helium hydride ion (HeH^+) was the first molecule that formed when, almost 14 billion years ago, falling temperatures in the young universe allowed recombination of the light elements produced in the Big Bang.
- At that time, ionised hydrogen and neutral helium atoms reacted to form HeH^+ , said researchers from The Max Planck Institute for Radio Astronomy (MPIfR) in Germany.
- Despite its importance in the history of the early Universe, HeH^+ has so far escaped detection in astrophysical nebulae -- cloud of gas and dust in outer space.
- Operating the GREAT far-infrared spectrometer onboard the flying observatory SOFIA, an international team reported unambiguous detection of the molecule towards the planetary nebula NGC 7027.

The helium hydride ion or hydridohelium ($1+$) ion is a cation (positively charged ion) with chemical formula HeH^+ . It consists of a helium atom bonded to a hydrogen atom, with one electron removed. It is the lightest heteronuclear ion, and is believed to be one of the first compounds formed in the Universe after the Big Bang.

NASA exoplanet hunter TESS finds Earth size planet

- NASA's new exoplanet hunter Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) has discovered its first earth-sized world.
- The planet orbits HD 21749, a star with about 70% of the sun's mass located 53 light years away in the southern constellation Reticulum and is the second planet TESS has identified in the system.

Scientists discover new Saturn-like planet 60 times bigger than Earth – The Sun

- NASA has discovered a planet which has about 60 times the mass of Earth in a habitable area in space called Goldilocks.
- The space agency's world hunting mission called the Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) has spotted a Saturn-like planet it is provisionally calling TOI 197.01.

The Goldilocks Zone refers to the habitable zone around a star where the temperature is just right - not too hot and not too cold - for liquid water to exist on a planet.

CCMB scientists make major breakthrough

- Researchers at Center for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) proclaimed new discovery on new antimicrobial approaches.
- They are studying the cell growth in bacteria and have discovered a new enzyme "Murein EndopeptidaseK" which would cut the bacteria cell wall.
- The researchers had identified a new enzyme which would act on the protein of cell wall in Escherichia coli (E. coli) that can be a potential drug target.

Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology is an Indian biotechnology research establishment located in Hyderabad that operates under the aegis of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. CCMB is a designated "Center of Excellence" by the Global Molecular and Cell Biology Network, UNESCO.

Discovery of 'death switch' mechanism in plants may yield stronger crops: Scientists

- **Chinese scientists** have discovered a possible "death switch" mechanism in plant's immune system that triggers infected cells to self-destruct, thus limiting the spread of the disease and keeping other parts of the plant healthy.
- Scientists said the **discovery provides clues to cell death control and immunity for plants**, and they hope further research can lead to a new generation of disease-resistant crops that use significantly less pesticide and are more environmentally friendly.

Scientists reveal first image ever made of a black hole

- **The Event Horizon Telescope (EHT)**, a planet-scale array of eight ground-based radio telescopes forged through international collaboration — was **designed to capture images of a black hole**. EHT researchers reveal that they have succeeded, **unveiling the first direct visual evidence of a supermassive black hole and its shadow**.
- This breakthrough was **announced in a series of six papers published in a special issue of The Astrophysical Journal Letters**.
- **The image reveals the black hole at the center of Messier 87, a massive galaxy in the nearby Virgo galaxy cluster. This black hole resides 55 million light-years from Earth and has a mass 6.5 billion times that of the Sun.**

Black holes are extraordinary cosmic objects with enormous masses but extremely compact sizes. The presence of these objects affects their environment in extreme ways, warping spacetime and super-heating any surrounding material. **Albert Einstein first predicted black holes in 1916 with his general theory of relativity. The term "black hole" was coined in 1967 by American astronomer John Wheeler, and the first one was discovered in 1971. According to the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, "the Milky Way contains a few hundred million" stellar black holes.**

Scientists insert human brain genes into monkeys

- **Chinese scientists** have **implanted human brain genes into monkeys**, in a study on evolution of human intelligence.
- **Researchers inserted human versions of MCPH1; a gene that scientists believe plays a role in the development of the human brain**, into 11 rhesus monkeys.
- **They found the monkeys' brains — like those of humans — took longer to develop, and the animals performed better in tests of short-term memory as well as reaction time compared to wild monkeys. However, the monkeys did not grow bigger brains than the control group**

Researchers develop new technique to study movement of cells

- **In new research, researchers from USA have developed a technique to study the movement of cells without using labels or dyes.** The method also revealed an undiscovered phenomenon that may play a role in the earliest stages of cell death.
- **Studying the movement of tiny cells is no small task. For chromatin, the group of DNA, RNA, and protein macromolecules packed within our genome**, the motion is an integral part of its active role as a regulator of how our genes get expressed or repressed.
- **The new technique, called dual-PWS, is label-free and can image and measure macromolecular motion without using dyes.**

Researches find how lifestyle affects genes

- **Researchers at the Lund University Diabetes Centre have discovered how lifestyle affects genes and disease development in a human body in a new study called 'Epigenetic Mechanisms'.**

- The details were published in **The Journal of Cell Metabolism**. **Epigenetics** is the study of heritable changes in genes. Epigenetic changes can be influenced by several factors including age, environment, and particular disease state.

Japan creates first Artificial Crater on Asteroid

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

Nasa's InSight lander 'detects first Marsquake'

- NASA has announced the first clear detection of a quake on Mars. The red planet joins Earth and the moon as one of only three bodies where humans have measured seismic activity.
- Scientists have previously recorded a handful of ambiguous vibrations on Mars, but the April 6 detection by NASA's InSight lander was the first to clearly originate from inside the planet.

InSight, which stands for "Interior Exploration using Seismic Investigations, Geodesy and Heat Transport mission," studies Mars's deep interior. It landed on the planet last November. It was manufactured by Lockheed Martin, is managed by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, and most of its sensor instruments were built by European agencies.

Health/ Disease

WHO raises alarm over 300% increase in case of measles globally

- World Health Organization (WHO) has raised alarm over a 300 percent increase in the case of measles globally in the first quarter of 2019 compared with last year.
- So far this year, 170 countries have reported 112,163 measles cases to WHO.

World Health Organization (WHO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that is concerned with international public health. It was established on 7 April 1948, and is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. The current Director-General of WHO is Tedros Adhanom, who started his five-year term on 1 July 2017.

Measles is a highly contagious infectious disease caused by the measles virus. It remains an important cause of death among young children globally, despite the availability of a safe and effective vaccine. Under the Global Vaccine Action Plan, measles and rubella are targeted for elimination in five WHO Regions by 2020.

IIT Roorkee Develops Non-Invasive Method to Detect Breast, Ovarian Cancer

- Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee have identified a new method of detecting breast and ovarian cancers, two of the worst forms of cancer, which are responsible for approximately one third of all cancers that occur in women and one fifth of all cancer related deaths worldwide.
- The research team led by Prof Kiran Ambatipudi from the Biotechnology Department at IIT Roorkee has got a breakthrough in identifying certain proteins present in the saliva, which act as potential biomarkers indicative of breast and ovarian cancer metastasis.

Adding egg or milk can reduce stunting in young children: study

- About 38% of children in India below the age of five years are stunted. One of the reasons for this is that the food consumed by young children are mainly cereal based, which lack quality protein that can be well digested and the content of certain essential amino acids such as lysine is limited.
- Using a novel, non-invasive technique, researchers at St. John's Medical College, Bengaluru measured the digestibility and quality of commonly used complementary foods in young children.

HIV used to cure 'bubble boy' disease

- US scientists say they used HIV to make a gene therapy that cured eight infants of severe combined immunodeficiency, or "bubble boy" disease.
- Results of the research, developed at a Tennessee hospital, were published in the New England Journal of Medicine. The babies, born with little to no immune protection, now have fully functional immune systems.
- Untreated babies with this disorder have to live in completely sterile conditions and tend to die as infants. The gene therapy involved collecting the babies' bone marrow and correcting the genetic defect in their DNA soon after their birth.

The human immunodeficiency viruses (HIV) are two species of Lentivirus (a subgroup of retrovirus) that causes HIV infection and over time acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). AIDS is a condition in humans in which progressive failure of the immune system allows life-threatening opportunistic infections and cancers to thrive. In most cases, HIV is a sexually transmitted infection and occurs by contact with or transfer of blood, pre-ejaculate, semen, and vaginal fluids.

ICMR launches 'Malaria Elimination Research Alliance'

- ICMR launched Malaria Elimination Research Alliance (MERA)- India and organised the stakeholders' meeting at ICMR headquarters, New Delhi to have vibrant discussions on the roadmap of the alliance. National and international leaders of malaria research, officials from Government of India, NGOs participated in the day-long meeting.
- The purpose of MERA India is to identify, articulate, prioritize and respond to the research needs of the country to eliminate malaria from India by 2030.

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the apex body in India for the formulation, coordination and promotion of biomedical research, is one of the oldest and largest medical research bodies in the world. The ICMR is funded by the Government of India through the Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

World's First Malaria Vaccine Launched in Malawi

- According to The World Health Organization (WHO), Malawi has launched world's first malaria vaccine RTS,S (also known as Mosquirix) produced by the pharmaceutical company, GSK, in a landmark large-scale pilot programme to immunise young children and give them partial protection against the disease.
- Malawi is the first of three countries in Africa chosen for the pilot programme which aims to immunise 120,000 children aged two years and below. The other two countries are Ghana and Kenya, where this vaccine will be introduced in the coming weeks. The three Africa countries chosen for this pilot programme already run other programmes at a large level to prevent the disease which includes the use of bed nets. However, they still have a high number of cases. Overall 360,000 children will get vaccination.

Malaria is a life-threatening mosquito-borne blood disease. The Anopheles mosquito transmits it to humans. The parasites in mosquitos that spread malaria belong to the Plasmodium genus. Over 100 types of Plasmodium parasite can infect a variety of species.

ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT



The hump-backed mahseer is now 'critically endangered'

- The hump-backed mahseer—a large freshwater fish also called the tiger of the water and found only in the Cauvery river basin (including Kerala's Pambar, Kabini and Bhavani rivers)—is now “Critically Endangered”: more threatened than the tiger is, as per the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species.
- The fish is one of the 229 species added to the Red List.

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is an international organization working in the field of nature conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. The organization is best known to the wider public for compiling and publishing the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, which assesses the conservation status of species worldwide. Its headquarters are in Gland, Switzerland.

Bleaching hits world's southernmost coral reef

- The world's southernmost coral reef has been hit by bleaching this summer, Australian scientists said, as they warned rising sea temperatures from climate change were affecting even the most isolated ecosystems
- The corals off Lord Howe Island — some 600 km offshore from Sydney — were affected by elevated temperatures this summer, despite escaping severe bleaching that damaged the Great Barrier Reef in 2016 and 2017.

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

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

CMFRI, ISRO ink MoU to protect smaller wetlands

- In a bid to build resilience against the impact of climate change, premier fisheries research institute CMFRI and the ISRO have joined hands to map, validate and protect smaller wetlands by restoring them through coastal livelihood programmes.

- They would develop a mobile app and a centralised web portal with a **complete database of wetlands that are smaller than 2.25 hectares in the country.**

Indian Space Research Organisation is the space agency of the Government of India **headquartered in the city of Bangalore. ISRO was formed in 1969. ISRO built India's first satellite, Aryabhata, which was launched by the Soviet Union on 19 April 1975. Dr Kailasavadivoo Sivan Nadar is current the chairperson of the ISRO.**

Death of rare turtle leaves 3 remaining in the world

- The **only known female member of one of the world's rarest turtle species** has died at a zoo in southern China.
- The animal was one of four Yangtze giant softshell turtles known to be remaining in the world. The Suzhou zoo, where the female turtle lived, also houses a male Yangtze giant softshell turtle.

Yangtze giant softshell turtles originated in China, making their homes in the Yangtze River and Taihu Lake. The species is often referred to as the most endangered turtle in the world.

Oil consuming bacteria found below ocean

- **Scientists have discovered a unique oil eating bacteria in the Mariana Trench, the deepest part of the earth's oceans, a finding that may pave way for sustainable ways to clean up oils spills.**
- One of these expeditions was organised and led by noted marine explorer and Academy Award-winning film director **James Cameron**, who built a specialised submersible to collect samples in the trench. In the samples, they found microorganisms that eat compounds similar to those in oil and then use it for fuel.
- We know more about Mars than the **deepest part of the ocean," said Xiao-Hua Zhang of the Ocean University in China, who led the study.**

The Mariana Trench is located in the Western Pacific Ocean and reaches a depth of approximately 11,000 metres. By comparison, Mount Everest is 8,848 metres high.

Carbon dioxide at its highest level in 3 million years: Study

- The **levels of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the atmosphere are higher** than ever before in the past three million years, according to a study.
- **For the first time, scientists from the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research in Germany succeeded to do a computer simulation that fits ocean floor sediment data of climate evolution over this period of time.**
- The study found that **Ice Age onset**, and the start of the glacial cycles from cold to warm and back, was mainly triggered by a decrease of CO₂-levels.

Carbon dioxide is a colorless gas with a density about 60% higher than that of dry air. Carbon dioxide consists of a carbon atom covalently double bonded to two oxygen atoms. It occurs naturally in Earth's atmosphere as a trace gas. Carbon dioxide is the most significant long-lived greenhouse gas in Earth's atmosphere.

Kerala forests home to new spider species

- **A group of jumping spiders that mostly occurs in Eurasia and Africa, has been spotted for the first time in Ernakulam's Illithodu forests** by arachnologists from Kochi's Sacred Heart College, Thevara.
- The team also found that the spider belonging to the genus (a taxonomic classification above species) *Habrocestum* is a species new to science.

First-ever global coalition for clean cooling launched

- The **first-ever global coalition on clean and efficient cooling** was launched at the **First Global Conference on Synergies between the 2030 Agenda and Paris Agreement** which concluded in Copenhagen, Denmark.
- Clean, efficient cooling appliances and equipment can **save up to \$2.9 trillion in energy use by 2050**, and help **avoid 0.4° Celsius warming of the planet**, said the United Nations-backed 'Cool Coalition' comprising 23 members.

Swiss protest over global warming

- **Tens of thousands of people demonstrated in several Swiss cities against climate change.** Around 50,000 marched in all, including 15,000 in Zurich and up to nine thousand in the capital Berne and in Lausanne.
- The marches were organised by an alliance of activist groups in Switzerland, including Greenpeace, Swiss Youth for Climate and green groups.

Zoologists discover two new bird species in Indonesia

- Zoologists from Trinity College Dublin, working with partners from Halu Oleo University (UHO) and Operation Wallacea, have **discovered two beautiful new bird species in the Wakatobi Archipelago of Sulawesi, Indonesia.**

Human family tree gets a new member: Homo luzonensis

- The **human family tree has got a new branch with the unearthing of an unknown human species that lived on an island in Philippines some 50,000 years ago.**
- The species, dubbed **Homo luzonensis** after the **island of Luzon** where its remains were found is not a direct ancestor of modern day humans, but rather a distant ancient relative.

Humans (Homo sapiens) are the only extant members of the subtribe Hominina. Together with chimpanzees, gorillas, and orangutans, they are part of the family Hominidae (the great apes, or hominids).

SPORTS



Sports Personalities in News

Kidambi Srikanth loses in India Open final

- **Former champion Kidambi Srikanth** lost in straight games to former **world champion Viktor Axelsen** of Denmark at the **Yonex-Sunrise India Open badminton tournament** in New Delhi.

Sawhney takes over as ICC chief

- **Media professional Manu Sawhney** took charge as **chief executive of the International Cricket Council** and will work alongside **Dave Richardson**, who will step down after the World Cup in July.

Saurav Ghosal scales a new peak

- **India's top-ranked squash player Saurav Ghosal** stormed into the record books when he became the **first Indian male** to enter the top-10 list in the world.

Roger Federer lifts his 4th ATP Miami Open title

- In tennis, **Roger Federer** lifted his **fourth ATP Miami Open title** with an emphatic 6-1, 6-4 win over defending champion **John Isner**.

Pawan Munjal felicitated by Asian Tour for contribution to golf in Asia

- **Dr Pawan Munjal, Chairman, Hero MotoCorp** - the world's largest manufacturer of motorcycles and scooters - was **felicitated by the Asian Tour** with a Special Achievement Award for his contributions to Asian Golf.
- At a ceremony held at the recently concluded **Hero Indian Open golf tournament here**, **Dr Munjal** was presented with a special salver by leading Indian golfer **Shiv Kapur**, representing the players on the Asian Tour.

Afridi's autobiography to hit the stands soon

- **Former Pakistan captain Shahid Afridi** has promised his fans a no-holds barred account of his life in his upcoming biography **Game Changer**, which will hit the stands on April 30.

Sheikh Salman becomes president of Asian Football Confederation for third time

- **Sheikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa** was **re-elected unopposed to the position as president of the Asian Football Confederation** after the regional body's congress confirmed a new four-year term for the Bahraini by acclamation.

Sportsperson of the Year (Female) at the ESPN India Awards for 2018

- Into the fourth month of the 2019 season, it appears **PV Sindhu**, winner of **Sportsperson of the Year (Female) at the ESPN India Awards for 2018** is struggling for momentum -- with only a single semifinal to show for her efforts so far.

AIFF president Praful Patel elected as FIFA Council member

- **Praful Patel** said his **unprecedented election to the FIFA Council** means more tournaments, international friendlies and exposure for India, besides a chance to operate in close proximity with the developed football nations.
- **AIFF President Praful** won with a **record-breaking margin**, securing **38 out of the 46 votes** at the 29th Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Congress in Kuala Lumpur.

Lin Dan clinches Malaysia Open

- **Chinese badminton ace Lin Dan** clinched the **Malaysia Open** in **Kuala Lumpur**. After an electric performance, he beat countryman **Chen Long** 9-21, 21-7, 21-11.

Virat Kohli, Smriti Mandhana Named Wisden's Leading Cricketers Of 2018

- **Virat Kohli** and **Smriti Mandhana**, the **top scorer in women's One-day Internationals (ODIs) and Twenty20 Internationals (T20Is)** since the start of last year, have been named **Wisden's Leading Cricketers of the year 2018**.
- **Tammy Beaumont, Rory Burns, Jos Buttler and Sam Curran** were also chosen alongside **Virat Kohli** by the **Wisden Cricketers' Almanack** as the **five Cricketers of the Year** for their performances last year.

Inzamam-ul-Haq, Mark Boucher inducted into MCC as Honorary Life Members

- **Inzamam-ul-Haq** and **Mark Boucher** were inducted as the **Honorary Life Members of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC)**.
- According the **MCC website**, **Pakistan's Inzamam** and **South African Boucher** have been included in recognition to their **outstanding achievements in the game of cricket**.

Tiger Woods clinches his fifth Masters

- **Golfer Tiger Woods** clinched his **fifth Masters** and a **15th major title**, ending **11-year wait for a major title** after overcoming career-threatening back problems.

Motor racing: Lewis Hamilton wins Formula One's 1,000th race

- In motor racing, **Lewis Hamilton** won the **Chinese Grand Prix** for a **record sixth time**. He seized the overall lead from his **Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas** in **Formula One's 1,000th world championship race**.

Meena Kumari Maisnam clinches gold in Boxing World Cup

- **India** finished with **5 medals** in the **Boxing World Cup** which concluded at **Cologne, Germany**. **Meena Kumari Maisnam** continued her fine run to win gold in the **54 kg**.

Kento Momota clinches Singapore Open title

- **Japan's Kento Momota** withstood a barrage of smashes from **Indonesia's Anthony Sinisuka Ginting** to rally for a thrilling victory in the **Singapore Open final**.

Garin tops Ruud to give Chile first ATP Tour title in 10 years

- **Christian Garin** became the first **Chilean** to win an **ATP Tour title in 10 years** when he beat **Norway's Casper Ruud** at the **U.S. Men's Clay Court Championship in Houston**.

Mithali Raj named goodwill ambassador of Team India at the Street Child Cricket World Cup

- Indian women's cricket team captain **Mithali Raj** has been named the goodwill ambassador of Team India at the Street Child Cricket World Cup (SCCWC).
- The Street Child Cricket World Cup 2019 SCCWC is the first cricket world cup for street-connected children. The tournament is being organised by Street Child United (SCU), a UK based organization.

BK Nayak appointed FIH Health and Safety Committee Chair

- **Bibhu Kalyan Nayak** became the first Indian to be appointed Chair of International Hockey Federation (FIH) Health and Safety Committee by the world governing body.
- He will serve a two-year term lasting till the first executive board meeting after Congress 2020.

Harsheel Dani clinches Dutch Open International

- India's **Harsheel Dani** recovered from a game down to get the better of Denmark's **Mads Christophersen** to clinch the Dutch International badminton title in **Wateringen**, The Netherlands.

Paris Marathon: Ethiopian runners Gelete Burka and Abrha Milaw win 2019 race

- Ethiopian athletes **Gelete Burka** (women's race) and **Abrha Milaw** (men's race) won the 43rd edition of the Paris Marathon.
- **Milaw** won the men's race with a time of 2 hours :07 minutes and :50 seconds.
- **Burka** was the fastest woman with 2 hours :22 minutes and :48 seconds. Kenyan **Paul Lonyangata**, a two-time Paris Marathon winner, was the third-fastest man.

Bajrang regains top spot in world wrestling rankings

- India's **Bajrang Punia** has regained the world number one spot in the men's 65-kilogram freestyle category rankings.
- **Punia**, who won Gold in the Asian Games and Commonwealth Games as well as a silver in the World Championships last year, secured 58 points ahead of **Akhmed Chakaev** of Russia.

Dubai based 'RAKEZ' appointed Cricket Champion Ravi Shastri as a Corporate Ambassador

- "Champion of Champions", Former Cricketer **Ravi Shastri** appointed as **Ras Al Khaimah Economic Zone (RAKEZ)** exclusive Corporate Ambassador to the Indian Business Community. As brand Ambassador **Ravi Shastri** may attract more Indian business leaders to set up or expand their operations in UAE through RAKEZ.
- This first-of-its-kind approach is one of the many other initiatives that **RAKEZ** will be launching in the future to attract more investors from all over the world and boost the economic growth of Ras Al Khaimah.

Asbel Kiprop: Former Olympic 1,500m champion banned for four years for doping

- Former Olympic and three-time world champion **Asbel Kiprop** of Kenya was banned for four years for testing positive for the blood-boosting drug **EPO** after his claim that urine samples might have been tampered with by disreputable doping control officers was rejected.
- The 2008 Olympic 1,500m champion failed an out-of-competition test in his home country in November 2017. His backup "B" sample also tested positive for EPO.

MS Dhoni becomes first Indian to hit 200 IPL sixes

- **Chennai Super Kings (CSK) captain MS Dhoni** has become the first Indian batsman to hit 200 sixes in the Indian Premier League (IPL).
- Dhoni achieved this feat during his sensational 84-run knock in the game against Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) which CSK lost by only one run. **Rohit Sharma and Suresh Raina are next best Indian batsman in the list with both boasting of 190 sixes each in the IPL.** RCB skipper Virat Kohli is not too far behind with 186 maximums to his name.

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

- **Fabio Fognini** became the first Italian to win an ATP Masters 1000 title at the Rolex Monte-Carlo Masters, defeating Dusan Lajovic 6-3, 6-4 in one hour and 38 minutes.
- **The 13th seed converted four of five break points to become the lowest seeded player** to lift the trophy since fellow No. 13 seed **Gustavo Kuerten's title run in 1999.** Fognini will rise to a career-high No. 12 when the latest ATP Rankings are published.

Bajrang Punia wins Gold in Asian Wrestling C'ship

- **India clinched one gold, one silver and bronze at the Asian Wrestling Championship in China's Xian.** World number one **Bajrang Punia** logged 10 points in a row in the gold medal bout to reclaim his Asian Championship crown.
- He defeated **Kazakhstan's Sayatbek Okassov 12-7** in a nail-biting 65kg men's freestyle final. It is **Bajrang's** second gold at this championship, having won one in 2017.

Stephanie Frappart first woman to referee Ligue 1 match

- **French official Stephanie Frappart** will become the first woman to referee a Ligue 1 match when Amiens hosts Strasbourg. **Frappart** was the first woman to referee a Ligue 2 fixture in 2014.

Shooting: India bag two gold at ISSF World Cup

- In Shooting, **India opened its medal account with gold each in 10 metres Air Rifle Mixed Team and 10 metres Air Pistol Mixed team events** on the third day of ISSF World Cup in Beijing.

Ajinkya Rahane becomes 1st Indian cricketer to join Hampshire

- **Ajinkya Rahane** became the first overseas player from India to sign for Hampshire and he will feature in County Championship matches throughout May, June and the start of July, subject to visa clearance.

Pankaj Advani beats Iran's Ehsan Heydari Nezhad in final to clinch inaugural Asian Snooker Tour title

- **India's ace cueist Pankaj Advani** defeated Ehsan Heydari Nezhad of Iran 6-4 to claim the inaugural Asian Snooker Tour title.

Australia's Claire Polosak set to become first woman umpire to stand in men's ODI

- **Australia's Claire Polosak** will create history as the first woman umpire ever to stand in a men's One-Day International when she takes the field in the final of the ICC World Cricket League Division 2.
- The 31-year-old, who is **breaking new ground for women cricket officials** has previously stood in 15 women's ODIs, the first one in November 2016 between Australia and South Africa.

Abhishek wins gold and Olympic quota

- At the place where **Abhinav Bindra** won the country's only individual Olympic gold in 2008, the Indian shooters were busy collecting more Olympic quota places for the Tokyo 2020 Games.

- Abhishek Verma bettered Divyansh Singh Panwars' effort — he won the silver and Olympic quota in men's air rifle — by clinching the men's air pistol gold to go with the Olympic quota.

Sport Events

India finish with 16 gold medals at Asian Airgun Championships

- Indian shooters continued their dominance claiming five gold medals in the Asian Airgun Championships to sign off with a total of 25 medals in Taoyuan, Taipei.
- India finished with 16 gold, five silver and four bronze medals.

India wins ICC Test championship mace for 3rd successive year

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced India have won the ICC Test Championship mace and a prize money of \$1 million after finishing as the No. 1 Test team on the cut-off date of April 1. Kane Williamson-led New Zealand finished second on the ICC Test rankings.
- Notably, India has won the ICC Test championship mace for the third straight year after their dominant performances both at home and overseas.

Ultimate Kho Kho League announced

- The Ultimate Kho Kho League, featuring eight teams consisting of national and international players and played on a double round-robin league format, has been proposed to be staged in two cities in September-October this year.

ICC to join hands with Interpol to fight corruption in sport

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has sought closer working relations with the Interpol to widen the scope of its fight against corruption in the sport.
- The cooperation was discussed during ICC Anti-Corruption Unit General Manager, Alex Marshall's visit to the Interpol headquarters in Lyon, France.

India women's hockey team beat Malaysia 1-0 to win series

- The India women's hockey team beat Malaysia by a solitary goal to complete a 4-0 win in the five-match bilateral series in Kuala Lumpur.

Dream 11

- Mumbai-based gaming startup Dream 11 has joined India's mushrooming unicorn club following an investment from Steadview Capital through the secondary route in the range of \$60 million.
- The sports platform has become the first gaming company in the country to make it to the elite club of privately-held startups valued at \$1 billion or more.

Paris Marathon: Ethiopian runners Gelete Burka and Abrha Milaw win 2019 race

- Ethiopian athletes Gelete Burka (women's race) and Abrha Milaw (men's race) won the 43rd edition of the Paris Marathon. They led a record 60,000 participants to the finish line through the French capital.

ICC partners with UNICEF to deliver 'One Day for Children' at Men's Cricket World Cup 2019

- #OneDay4Children ambassador Nasser Hussain and England all-rounder Chris Woakes, launched the tournament-wide campaign focussed on bringing the world of cricket together as one team to help build a better world for every child.

- There will be **#OneDay4Children** activity throughout all 48 matches of the event, peaking with a day of celebration during the **England v India** game on **30 June** at **Edgbaston**. The money raised will support UNICEF's work in cricket playing nations to help children learn to play and be healthy.

FC Goa pip Chennaiyin FC to win 2019 Super Cup

- **FC Goa** emerged as champions of the 2019 Super Cup as they pipped Chennaiyin FC 2-1 at the Kalinga Stadium.
- **Goa** held on till the final whistle to claim their first-ever Hero Super Cup trophy.

Indian athletes win 5 medals on opening day of Asian Athletics C-ships

- **Indian athletes** won five medals on the opening day of the Asian Athletics Championships in Doha. Javelin thrower **Annu Rani** and 3000-meter steeple chaser **Avinash Sable** won the silver medals.
- **Quartermiler M P Poovamma**, 5000-meter runner **Parul Choudhary** and 10000-meter runner **Gavit Murali Kumar** bagged a bronze each on a day which saw sprint sensation **Hima Das** suffer a lower back spasm during her 400m heat.

Services lift Santosh Trophy Football; beat Punjab 1-nil in final

- In Football, the **Services** lifted the **Santosh Trophy**, beating **Punjab 1-nil** in the final at Ludhiana. In the first half, both the teams were goal-less. In the second half, Services scored the lone goal and held on till the final whistle.
- In the semi-finals earlier, eight-time champions Punjab had defeated five-time winners Goa 2-1 to enter their 15th final. **Services beat Karnataka 4-3** in the semis via a penalty shootout to book a place in the title clash for the 11th time.

Asian Athletics C'hips: India bag four medals on final day; finish fourth

- **India** bagged four medals, including a Gold, on the final day of the Asian Athletics Championships at Doha in Qatar. **PU Chitra** successfully defended her Women's 1,500 metres Gold she had won in 2017, while **Ajay Kumar Saroj** in Men's 1,500 metres and the Women's 4x400 metres relay team clinched a silver each. **Sprinter Dutee Chand** added a bronze in Women's 200 metres race.
- **India** ended at the fourth spot in the medals tally with 3 Gold, 7 Silver and 7 Bronze. Bahrain topped the table with 11 Gold, 7 Silver and 4 Bronze. China was second with 10 Gold, 13 Silver and 7 Bronze, while Japan was third with 5 Gold, 4 Silver and 9 Bronze.

India ends with 13 medals at Asian Boxing C'ship

- **India** bagged a gold and two silver medals at the Asian Boxing Championships in Bangkok. With this, India has won 13 medals, including two gold, four silver and seven bronze

AWARDS



Order of St Andrew: Russia honours PM Narendra Modi with highest State Honour

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been honoured with Russia's highest state decoration, the Order of St Andrew the Apostle, for his role in promoting close ties between the two countries.
- The Russian government said Modi is given the highest state decoration of Russia for "exceptional services" in promoting special and privileged strategic partnership between Russia and India and friendly relations between the Russian and Indian peoples.

The Order of St. Andrew the Apostle the First-Called is the highest order of the Russian Federation. Established as the first and highest order of chivalry of the Russian Empire in 1698, it was abolished under the USSR before being re-established as the top Russian order in 1998.

Indian origin scientist awarded

- RUJ Group's founder and chairman, Dr. Rajendra Kumar Joshi, has been awarded with the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award for his contributions in the field of science, education and medicine, promoting the honour and prestige of India.
- Dr. Joshi, who belongs to Rajasthan, is a scientist of Indian origin and is based in Switzerland.

Emerging artist award for Vadodra artist Raju Baraiya

- Vadodra-based artist Raju Baraiya has been chosen as the Glenfiddich's Emerging Artist of the Year 2019.
- The eighth recipient of the honour, Baraiya will represent India at the Glenfiddich Artists in Residence (AiR) programme where he will spend three months at the Glenfiddich Distillery in Scotland with artists from around the world.

Vikram Patel wins global health award

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

UAE confers prestigious Zayed Medal on PM Modi

- The United Arab Emirates has conferred the prestigious Zayed Medal on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the highest decoration awarded to kings, presidents and heads of states.
- The award comes in appreciation of Prime Minister Modi's role in consolidating the long-standing friendship and joint strategic cooperation between the two countries.

GIC India chief awarded Freedom of the City of London

- The Chairman and Managing Director of the General Insurance Corporation (GIC) of India, the country's reinsurance major, has been awarded the Freedom of the City of London in recognition of her work to promote insurance ties between India and the UK.
- Alice G. Vaidyan, in London to attend the first India-UK Insurance Summit, was nominated for the traditional honour by the Lord Mayor of London, Peter Estlin, and City of London Corporation Policy Chair Catherine McGuinness.

Image of crying toddler on US border wins World Press Photo

- The haunting image of a little girl crying helplessly as she and her mother are taken into custody by US border officials won the prestigious World Press Photo Award.
- World Press Photo Foundation is an independent, non-profit organization based in Amsterdam, Netherlands. Founded in 1955, the organization is known for holding an annual press photography contest. Since 2011, World Press Photo has organized a separate annual contest for journalistic multimedia productions, and, in association with Human Rights Watch, the annual Tim Hetherington Grant.

K Siva Reddy conferred with Saraswati Samman

- Telugu poet K Siva Reddy is conferred the prestigious Saraswati Samman, 2018, for his collection of poems titled Pakkaki Ottigilite (Turning Aside While Lying Down).
- The award, instituted by the KK Birla Foundation, is given annually for an outstanding literary work written in any official Indian language and published during the preceding 10 years.
- It is the highest recognition in the field of Indian literature and carries a cash purse of Rs 15 lakh, apart from a citation and a plaque.

Digital Sukoon founder, Sudhanshu Kumar receives Best Digital Agency award

- Digital Sukoon founder, Sudhanshu Kumar was honoured with the Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Nobel Award by International Human Rights Council.
- Among the awardee, Digital Sukoon was the Best Digital Agency of the Year 2019 to receive the award. Yogesh Lakhani of Bright Outdoor Media, Actor Johnny Lever, Jasleen Matharu also received awards in various other categories.
- Digital Sukoon (DS) was not only successful in creating interest around the films but also made sure that the films got the top spot in IMDb's list of most anticipated films and shows.

International Human Rights Council is one of the world's leading independent organizations dedicated to defending and protecting human rights. It awards the Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Nobel Awards.

India's education technology startup bags \$25,000 global tech prize

- India's education technology startup 'Dost Education' has bagged a \$25,000 tech prize along with two other winners from Tanzania and Egypt.
- The Next Billion Edtech Prize 2019, run by UK-based Varkey Foundation, recognises the most innovative technology destined to have a radical impact on education in low income and emerging world countries.
- Dost was awarded for its ability to empower parents to take charge of their child's early education by creating short, friendly audio content that is sent to them via their mobile phones.

Two Bengal govt. schemes win UN awards

- Two schemes of the West Bengal government for skill development and distribution of bicycles to students have won the prestigious World Summit on the Information Society awards of the United Nations.

Jailed Myanmar scribes win press freedom prize

- The United Nations's cultural agency had awarded its annual press freedom prize to two Reuters reporters jailed in Myanmar over their reporting on the killings of Rohingya Muslims in the country.
- Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo have been behind bars since December 2017, detained on claims of violating state secrets.

Created in 1997, the annual UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize honours a person, organization or institution that has made an outstanding contribution to the defence and, or promotion of press freedom anywhere in the world, and especially when this has been achieved in the face of danger. The Prize was established on the initiative of UNESCO's Executive Board and is formally conferred by the Director-General of the Organization, on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day, on 3 May. It is named in honour of Guillermo Cano Isaza, a Colombian journalist who was assassinated in front of the offices of his newspaper El Espectador in Bogotá, Colombia on 17 December 1986.

Pulitzer Prize 2019: Aretha Franklin honoured posthumously, 'Frederick Douglass' named the best work of history

- David W. Blight's 900-page 'Frederick Douglass' was named the best work of history, while the biography prize went to Jeffrey C. Stewart's 'The New Negro: The Life of Alain Locke.'
- Richard Powers' innovative novel 'The Overstory,' which shows us the world through the perspective of nature, won for fiction.

The Pulitzer Prize is an award for achievements in newspaper, magazine and online journalism, literature, and musical composition in the United States. It was established in 1917 by provisions in the will of American (Hungarian-born) Joseph Pulitzer who had made his fortune as a newspaper publisher, and is administered by Columbia University in New York City.

3 Indian teams win NASA awards

- NASA has awarded three teams from India as part its annual Human Exploration Rover Challenge, which invites high school and college students to build and test roving vehicles for future missions to the Moon, Mars and beyond.
- The team from KIET Group of Institutions in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, won the "AIAA Neil Armstrong Best Design Award".
- The Mukesh Patel School of Technology Management and Engineering from Mumbai, Maharashtra, won the "Frank Joe Sexton Memorial Pit Crew Award".
- A team from Lovely Professional University in Phagwara, Punjab, won the "STEM Engagement Award".

Malayalam film Bhayanakam wins best cinematography at 2019 Beijing International Film Festival

- Malayalam film Bhayanakam (Fear) directed by Jayaraj won the best cinematography award at the Beijing International Film Festival. The cinematography was done by Nikihil S Praveen. The film had also won the best cinematography award at the 65th National Film Awards.
- The film portrays the visits of first World War veteran to a small village in the backwaters of Kerala's Kuttanad as a postman during the World War-II. He shares with the families the good and bad news of the soldiers who took part in the war.
- According to Jayaraj, about 600 soldiers from Kerala died during the World War-II. Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan-starrer Zero was screened at the end of the festival.

National award for KAU IPR Cell

- The Intellectual Property Rights Cell (IPR Cell) of Kerala Agricultural University (KAU) has been selected for the National Intellectual Property Award 2019.
- The award, comprising prize money of Rs.1 lakh, citation and memento, will be presented at a function to be held in New Delhi on World IP Day on April 26.
- The award constituted by the Indian Intellectual Property Office under the Union Ministry of Industry and Commerce is conferred on persons and organisations working in the field of patents, trademarks and Geographical Indications.

Bhandarkar, Helen get Deenanath Mangeshkar Award

- National Award-winning filmmaker Madhur Bhandarkar, popular scriptwriter Salim Khan and yesteryears dancing diva Helen were honoured with the prestigious Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Award.
- Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Smruti Pratishthan, Pune, a charitable trust established and nurtured over the last 30 years by the Mangeshkar family, felicitated legends from the fields of music, drama, art and social work with the Deenanath Award and other awards.

Pt. Deenanath Mangeshkar was a well-known Marathi theatre actor, a renowned Natya Sangeet musician and a Hindustani classical vocalist. He is also the father of well-known singers Lata Mangeshkar, Asha Bhosle, Meena Khadikar and Usha Mangeshkar as well as composer Hridaynath Mangeshkar.

All India Radio, Publication Division & Children's Film Society of India given Swacchta Pakhwada Awards-2019

- All India Radio, Publication Division and Children's Film Society of India were given Swacchta Pakhwada Awards-2019 in New Delhi.
- Secretary in the Information and Broadcasting Ministry Amit Khare gave away the awards. Director General of All India Radio F. Sheheryar and Director General (News) Ms. Ira Joshi received the Award for All India Radio.

Mizoram Boy Who Tried to Save Chicken Receives PETA Award For Gesture

- Accolades continue to pour in for Derek C Lalchhanhima, the six-year-old boy from Mizoram, who recently restored our fledgling faith in humanity by rushing to the hospital a chicken he had accidentally run over with his cycle.
- After social media users turned him into an overnight Internet sensation and his school felicitated him for the act, Derek C Lalchhanhima has now been awarded the 'Compassionate Kid' award by PETA India.

Literature professor to head Swedish Academy

- The Swedish Academy, which awards the Nobel Literature Prize, that it had named a literature professor as its new permanent secretary, after a #MeToo scandal in late 2017 threw the institution into turmoil.
- Mats Malm is a professor of literary theory at the University of Gothenburg.

9 years after 'Solo' release, Rana Dasgupta bags Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize

- The second edition of Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize was awarded to author Rana Dasgupta for his 2010 novel 'Solo', a tale of estrangement and the ultimate failure of material existence.
- An amount of \$10,000, a Tagore statue and a certificate for contribution to literature was given to Dasgupta.

The first Tagore Award was conferred on Pt. Ravi Shankar; the Indian Sitar Maestro in 2012 and second was conferred on Shri Zubin Mehta in 2013. The award carries an amount of Rs. 1 crore, a citation in a scroll, a plaque as well as an exquisite traditional handicraft/ handloom item. The award is open to all persons regardless of nationality, race, language, caste, creed or sex.

PERSONS IN NEWS

Rima Das is latest ambassador for Toronto International Film Festival's Share Her Journey

- National Award-winning filmmaker Rima Das has been named the Toronto International Film Festival's Share Her Journey programme as an official ambassador.
- The Canadian festival launched the initiative in 2017 to increase the role of women in film, both in behind-the-scenes and in front of the camera.
- It is part of the festival's five-year campaign to reshape and change the opportunities for women in the film business.

Amal Clooney appointed U.K.'s media envoy

- Amal Clooney has been appointed the U.K.'s special envoy on media freedom, as the U.K. prepares to host an international conference this July in the wake of attacks on journalists across the world.

Vipin Anand assumes charge as new Managing Director of LIC

- Vipin Anand took charge as the Managing Director of the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).
- Anand was appointed as LIC MD by the government.

Former Bollywood actress Mayoore Kango is now Google India industry head

- The 90s actress Mayoore Kango, who many might remember as the "Ghar Se Nikalte Hi, Kuch Door Chalte Hi" girl is now industry head in Google India.
- According to media reports, Kango will be leading Google's engagement with Publicis and DAN.

Vikram Kirloskar is CII's new chief

- Vikram Kirloskar, CMD of Kirloskar Systems Ltd., and vice-chairman of Toyota Kirloskar Motor, has assumed office as president of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for 2019-20.
- He takes over from Rakesh Bharti Mittal, vice-chairman, Bharti Enterprises.
- Uday Kotak, founder and MD & CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank, is the president designate of CII for 2019-20, while T.V. Narendran, CEO & MD of Tata Steel Limited, takes over as CII vice-president for 2019-20.

Murugesh is Nasscom chairman

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

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange arrested in London

- The British police dragged Julian Assange out of the Ecuadorian embassy after Ecuador abruptly revoked his seven-year asylum, paving the way for his extradition to the U.S. for involvement in one of the biggest-ever leaks of classified information.

Rail Vikas Nigam makes tepid debut

- Rail Vikas Nigam made a tepid debut on the bourses, with the equity shares closing almost flat compared with the issue price.

SUN Group chairman Vikramjit Sahney elected as president of ICC India

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

Najma Akhtar takes over as Jamia Millia V-C

- Najma Akhtar, who has spent nearly four decades in academic planning and administration, **took over as the first woman Vice-Chancellor of Jamia Millia Islamia** as it heads towards marking its centenary year in 2020.

Deepa Malik wins New Zealand PM's Sir Edmund Hillary Fellowship

- Rio Paralympics silver medallist Deepa Malik named as the recipient of the New Zealand Prime Minister's Sir Edmund Hillary Fellowship for 2019 in recognition of her "inspiring achievements".
- The 48-year-old Deepa, who **won the silver medal in shot put F53 event in Rio in 2016**, will work to promote sporting, cultural as well people-to-people relationship between India and New Zealand.

Indian-American Professor Sree Sreenath inducted into Cleveland International Hall of Fame

- An Indian-American scientist and social activist has been inducted into the prestigious Cleveland International Hall of fame for his contribution in applications in systems biology, global issues and sustainable development.
- Prof Sree Sreenath, a long-time faculty at Case Western Reserve University, was inducted into the Cleveland International Hall of Fame, along with five other inductees – Dr Akram Boutros, Ingrida Bublys, Paul Burik, Richard Fleischman, and Marilyn Madigan.
- The six inductees for the Class of 2019 were selected from among 150 plus nominees through an anonymous process.
- Cleveland International Hall of Fame has inducted more than 50 people since its founding ten years ago. US Senator George Voinovich and automotive entrepreneur Monte Ahuja, among others have been inducted in the past.

Gagandeep Kang is first Indian Woman in 360 Years to Join Royal Society

- Scientist Dr Gagandeep Kang has become the first Indian woman to be inducted as a Fellow of the Royal Society (FRS) in London. Called India's vaccine "God Mother", Dr Gagandeep Kang has joined the likes of Isaac Newton and Charles Darwin to be elected to the almost 360-year-old scientific body.

America's first female astronaut candidate, Jerrie Cobb, dies

- America's first female astronaut candidate, pilot Jerrie Cobb, who pushed for equality in space but never reached its heights, **has died**.
- In 1961, Cobb became the first woman to pass astronaut testing. Altogether, 13 women passed the arduous physical testing and became known as the Mercury 13. But NASA already had its Mercury 7 astronauts, all jet test pilots and all military men. None of the Mercury 13 ever reached space, despite Cobb's testimony in 1962 before a Congressional panel.

Dalbir Singh Suhag's appointment as Indian High Commissioner to Seychelles

- In a move that is likely to be a significant move in India's effort to increase its security presence in the Indian Ocean region, former Indian Army chief Dalbir Singh Suhag was appointed as India's High Commissioner to Seychelles.
- The country, an archipelago off East Africa, is of strategic importance to India.

Vinod Zutshi appointed as special observer for Tripura

- **Former deputy Election Commissioner Vinod Zutshi** has been **appointed as special observer for Tripura** where the **Lok Sabha** polls to one of the seats were postponed in view of the law and order situation.
- The Election Commission had postponed polling in the Tripura (East) Lok Sabha seat, saying the prevailing law and order situation there is not conducive for holding free and fair polls. Official sources said the **Commission has issued orders appointing Zutshi as a special observer for Tripura.**

Noted Bengali folk singer Amar Pal dies in Kolkata

- **Noted Bengali folk singer Amar Pal died in Kolkata** after a prolonged illness. Pal was suffering from old age diseases and suffered a cerebral attack. **He is one of the legendary figures to popularise Bengali folk songs.**
- **His playback in Satyajit Ray directed Hirak Rajar Deshe 'Kotai Ranga Dekhi Duniyay'** was one of the hit songs among Bengali circles. The **West Bengal Government conferred Sangeet Mahasamman on him in 2012** for his outstanding contribution **in the field of music.**

Amartya Sen Chair at LSE for research on inequality

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



MISCELLANEOUS

Government sets up multi-disciplinary terror action group for J&K

- The Centre has set up a multi-disciplinary terror monitoring group (MDTMG) to ensure synergised and concerted action against terror financing and terror-related activities in Jammu and Kashmir.
- The MDTMG will have representatives from the Jammu and Kashmir Police, Intelligence Bureau, CBI, NIA, and Income Tax Department.
- The ADGP CID of JK Police will head the MDTMG which will meet on a weekly basis and submit their action taken report regularly.

Bongaigaon district develops 'Sankalp' app to reach out to first-time voter

- In Assam, the Bongaigaon district administration has developed a mobile app Sankalp to particularly reach out to the first-time voters.

4th Session of India-Ukraine working group on Trade and Economic Cooperation held in New Delhi

- The 4th Meeting of India-Ukraine Working Group on Trade and Economic Cooperation (IU-WGTEC), under the India-Ukraine Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technical, Industrial and Cultural Cooperation was held in New Delhi.

Government sets up tribunal to review ban imposed on Jamaat-e-Islami, JKLF

- The Centre has set up a tribunal, headed by Justice Chander Shekhar of the Delhi High Court, to adjudicate if there exists sufficient cause to ban the Jamaat-e-Islami Jammu and Kashmir (JeI) and the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front-Yasin Malik (JKLF-Y) faction.

App launched to facilitate elderly voters in Rajouri

- 'Sahulat', a mobile app aimed to facilitate voting by elders was launched in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district.
- The app is designed to aid the old-age voters' only. It is free of cost and can be downloaded from the Google Play store. There are two versions of the app one for the citizen where they can fill in their requirements and other for the officer concerned who can access and provide data regarding necessary arrangements.

Vice President inaugurated 3-day National Cardiology Conference in Lucknow

- Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu is visited Lucknow where he was the chief guest at National Cardiology Conference 2019 being held at Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of medical sciences.
- Vice President inaugurated the 3-day conference organised by Dept of Cardiology in which leading national and international experts from Europe, USA, Japan, Singapore South Korea, Indonesia and Australia will deliberate on the latest topics of Interventional cardiology and cutting edge technology.

92% in Asia exposed to harmful air

- Around 92% of the population in the Asia Pacific region are exposed to levels of air pollution that pose a significant risk to their health, according to UN Environment. Some of the Asian countries have taken steps to limit its effects.
- Bangkok tried a raft of measures to combat a murky haze that blanketed the city in January, including spraying overpasses with water, cloud seeding.
- An attempt by South Korea to create artificial rain in January failed.

- Hong Kong opened a tunnel equipped with air purification system.

Odisha celebrated 84th foundation day on 1st April

- Odisha is celebrated 84 years of its foundation.
- The day is also known as 'Utkal Divas.' To commemorate the sacrifices of people for the formation of Odisha province in 1936, programmes are being organised at various places across the State.
- Odisha was the first State to be formed on linguistic basis in 1936. Earlier, Odisha was part of Bihar.

NuGen Mobility Summit 2019

- The International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT) is organized a NuGen Mobility Summit, 2019, at Manesar, NCR, from 27th to 29th November 2019.
- The objective of the Summit is to share new ideas, learnings, global experiences, innovations and future technology trends for faster adoption, assimilation and development of advanced automotive technologies for a smarter and greener future.

Batman to be first inductee into Comic-Con Museum's Character Hall of Fame

- Batman, who turned 80 years old, got a birthday gift with the fictional character being announced as the first entrant to the Comic-Con Museum's Character Hall of Fame.

Garuda Prakashan launches 'Modi Again' and 'Saffron Swords'

- One of India's homegrown startup publishing houses - Garuda Prakashan - is all set to launch its next two books '#Modi Again' and 'Saffron Swords - Centuries of Indic Resistance to Invaders' after the success of its recently launched books - 'Urban Naxals' by Vivek Agnihotri and 'Thank you India' by Maria Writh.

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

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

Over 1.2 M early deaths in India due to air pollution: Report

- A global report has found that life expectancy of children born these days will be shortened by 20 months on average, growing up in current high levels of air pollution.
- According to a study, conducted by the Boston-headquartered Health Effects Institute, the situation in South Asia is much worse with the life expectancy shortened by two years and six months.
- The institute's State of Global Air Report 2019, released, said that overall long-term exposure to outdoor and indoor air pollution contributed to nearly 5 million deaths across the world from stroke, diabetes, heart attack, lung cancer, and chronic lung disease in 2017.

Traditional New Year festivities being held in several parts of country

- Traditional New Year festivities are being celebrated in several parts of the country.
- Festivals of Chaitra Sukladi, Ugadi, Gudi Padava, Cheti Chand, Navreh and Sajibu Cheiraoba are being celebrated with traditional fervour and gaiety.
- In Telangana, people are celebrating Ugaadi across two Telugu states, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh to mark the beginning of the Hindu Lunar calendar. In Maharashtra, Gudi Padwa signifies the welcoming of spring.

Chennai Central railway station renamed after AIADMK founder MGR

- The Tamil Nadu government released an official notification that **Chennai Central railway Station** has been **officially named after former state chief minister and ruling All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam(AIADMK) founder MG Ramachandran.**
- With the new gazette notification, the Chennai Central railway station will be hereafter **called as Dr. MG Ramachandran Chennai Central railway station.**

India to be Guest of Honour country at ADIBF 2019

- **UAE has announced that India will be the Guest of Honour country at the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair, ADIBF 2019,** to be held from 24th to 30th of this month.
- **The fair aims to highlight the UAE's rich heritage,** showcasing its authenticity and modernity, as well as its cultural and literary output.

India, ASEAN vow to boost ties in maritime sector, strengthen connectivity

- **India and ASEAN have resolved to strengthen ties by deepening cooperation in the maritime sector and boosting connectivity.**
- The two sides made the affirmations **at the 21st ASEAN-India Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) held in New Delhi.**

Biannual Army Commanders' Conference begins in New Delhi

- The **biannual Army Commanders' Conference** began in New Delhi. **Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman delivered her opening address** at the conference.
- During the conference, **important issues that are likely to be discussed are the management of the extant security dynamics,** mitigation of future security threats and enhancement of combat edge over potential adversaries.

Namami Gange gets global recognition at world summit

- The **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)** was awarded the distinction of **"Public Water Agency of the Year"** by **Global Water Intelligence at the Global Water Summit in London** on April 9, according to a release issued by the NMCG.
- The **Global Water Awards** are presented at the **Global Water Summit,** the major business conference for the water industry worldwide.
- **The awards recognise excellence across the international water industry** and reward those initiatives in the water, waste water, and desalination sectors, which bring remarkable improvements in the lives of people, according to NMCG, which is under the Union Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.

Varanasi's air quality 'deteriorating', Delhi victim of 'negligence': Report

- **The air quality in Varanasi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Lok Sabha constituency, is ranked third on the WHO's list of 15 most polluted cities** and the situation is "deteriorating" as its MP has focused on beautification and infrastructure, a Delhi-based environment body claimed.
- **Delhi is ranked sixth on the list** and there has been "laziness" on part of its elected caretakers in tackling air pollution in the city, the 'Political Leaders Position and Action on Air Quality in India 2014.
- **Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh is the most polluted city in the world and is ranked one on the list. Faridabad in Haryana has been ranked second and Varanasi third.**

Jallianwala Bagh massacre centenary

- **Indians across the country paid tribute to those who lost their lives in the Jallianwala Bagh massacre on 13 April, 1919.**
- **The Jallianwala Bagh massacre, also known as the Amritsar massacre, took place on 13 April 1919 when troops of the British Indian Army under the command of Acting Brig-Gen Reginald Dyer fired rifles into a crowd of Indians, who had gathered in Jallianwala Bagh, Amritsar, Punjab. The civilians had assembled for a peaceful protest to condemn the arrest and deportation of two national leaders, Satya Pal and Saifuddin Kitchlew.**

Raksha mantri Smt Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurates Air force commanders' conference

- **The first bi-annual Commanders' Conference of IAF for the year 2019 began at the Air Headquarters (Vayu Bhawan). Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal B S Dhanoa PVSM AVSM YSM VM ADC, welcomed the Hon'ble Raksha Mantri Smt Nirmala Sitharaman to the conference..**
- **The Raksha Mantri said that the IAF has proved its mettle in Exercise Gagan Shakti 2018 and Vayu Shakti 2019 and the same reflected in the successfully conducted Balakot Strike and air action on 27 February.**

President of India releases the India rankings – 2019

- **The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, released the India Rankings – 2019 and presented the India Rankings awards to the top eight institutions in different categories at a function held in New Delhi.**
- **He also released the Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA) and presented the ARIIA awards to the top two institutions.**

India's population grew twice as fast as China's: UN report

- **India's population grew at 1.2% a year between 2010 and 2019, marginally higher than the global average of 1.1% a year in this period, but more than double China's 0.5% a year, according to the United Nations Population Fund's (UNFPA) State of the World Population 2018.**
- **The least developed countries recorded the highest population growth, with countries in Africa registering an average of 2.7% a year, said the report, which marks 50 years of the UNFPA being established to support countries to bring down fertility levels.**

Home Expo India 2019 begins

- **The 8th edition of Home Expo India 2019 began at India Expo Centre and Mart in Greater Noida.**
- **It covers sectors with maximum thrust and growth potential in home decor, furnishing, furniture, flooring and textiles. The three-day exhibition has been organized by the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts.**

2 Indian warships to take part in Chinese navy drill

- **The Indian Navy has dispatched two of its warships to China to take part in an international fleet review being staged at Qingdao to mark the 70th anniversary of the Chinese navy.**
- **The locally-built stealth guided-missile destroyer INS Kolkata and fleet support ship INS Shakti are set to reach China's east coast.**

Different harvest festivals being celebrated in several parts of country

- **President Ram Nath Kovind and Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu have greeted the nation on Vaisakhi, Vishu, Rongali Bihu, Naba Barsha, Vaisakhadi and Puthandu Pirappu.**
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi has greeted people on Baisakhi, Odia New Year Maha Vishuba Sankranti, Tamil New Year Puthandu.**

President Ram Nath Kovind pays homage to CRPF martyrs on 54th Valour Day

- As a tribute to the brave personnel of the Force, **9th April is celebrated as Valour Day in the Force**. The President also **launched Veer Parivar App** for assistance to the next of kin of the CRPF martyrs.

RailTel turns 1600 railway stations into RailWire Wi-Fi zone

- RailWire Wi-Fi by RailTel is now live at 1600 railway stations across the country**, with Santacruz railway station in Mumbai becoming the 1600th station to become a RailWire Wi-Fi zone.

Cabinet approves cooperation agreement between India & Denmark in the field of renewable energy

- Cabinet has **approved cooperation agreement between India and Denmark in the field of renewable energy with focus on offshore wind energy**.
- The areas of cooperation include technical capacity building for management of **off-shore wind projects and measures to develop and sustain a highly efficient wind industry**.

SDMC hosts Asia Pacific forum on sustainable urbanisation

- South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) kicked off the fourth Asia Pacific Forum on Urban Resilience and Adaptation-Resilient Cities 2019 in New Delhi** hosted in association with the United Nations. The three-day event is **hosted in India for the first time with 31 participating countries**.

Bangladesh observes Mujibnagar Day to mark formation of first government

- The historic Mujibnagar Day is being observed, marking the formation of Bangladesh's first government that led the War of Liberation in 1971** throughout Bangladesh.
- Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina paid tributes to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman** on the occasion of historic Mujibnagar Day on 17 April.

Konkani translation of Indian Constitution released

- A Konkani translation of the Indian Constitution has been released by the Mangaluru Bishop Peter Paul Saldanha** at the Rosario cathedral, Mangaluru.
- The translation has been done by Prof Stephen Quadros Permude**, who has authored several books in Konkani. The book has been brought out by the Mangaluru diocesan commission, led by its convener Fr J B Crasta.

100 years of Jallianwala Bagh Massacre: On display in Lahore, documents that detail horrors committed by the British in 1919

- An exhibition displaying secret official documents of British India government related to Jallianwala Bagh massacre of 1919, its aftermath and the Martial law** (that was imposed by the British in Punjab banning public assemblies to suppress agitations against them) **opened in Pakistan's Lahore**.
- The exhibition — '100 Years of the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre & Martial Law in Punjab – The Official Records Speak Themselves' was inaugurated by Tahir Yousaf**, secretary (archives), government of Punjab, Pakistan.
- The documents put on display include: a report dated April 13, 1919 regarding outbreak of disturbances in Lahore, Amritsar, Kasur, Ahmadabad and Patna; a telegram dated April 15, 1919, which states that Martial Law has been declared in Lahore and Amritsar; a telegram of April 19, 1919 stating that the first riot in Lahore occurred on April 10 and further stating that a murder occurred in Amritsar on April 10 and persons involved should be tried by the Military commission; and a telegram of April 24 the same year reporting news of hartal at Lyallpur and Gojra and that Martial Law has been declared in Lyallpur.**

ABU Media Summit on Climate Action and Disaster Preparedness underway in Nepal

- The 5th Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) Media Summit on Climate Action and Disaster Preparedness began in Kathmandu.
- The theme of the two-day summit is “Media Solutions for Sustainable Future: Saving Lives, Building Resilient Communities”.

In a first, Army starts process to induct women as military police

- In a historic first, the Army began the process to induct women in the military police, nearly two years after Army Chief Gen. Bipin Rawat said women will be recruited as jawans.

29th Abu Dhabi International Book Fair: India nominated as Guest of Honour

- India has been which nominated as the “Guest of Honour” country at the 29th edition of the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair (ADIBF) begins on 23rd April 2019.
- Indian Ambassador to the UAE, Navdeep Singh Suri said that India's selection as the guest of honour reflects the strong relations between the leadership and the people of the UAE and India. He added that 30 publishing houses from India will take part in the fair.
- A three-member team from the Publications Division is also participating in the Fair. Books on the life and struggle of Mahatma Gandhi will be on display as part of the 150th birth anniversary celebrations.



IMPORTANT DAYS

International Mine Awareness Day: 4 April

- On 8 December 2005, the General Assembly declared that 4 April of each year shall be observed as the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action.

Earth Hour 2019 theme

- This year, 30 March at 8.30PM local time, is Earth Hour. The world's largest grassroots movement for the environment grows another year older and will continue to unite millions of people around the world who take part in this annual celebration. This year's Earth Hour theme is #Connect2Earth. "Earth Hour 2019 with its campaign '#Connect2Earth' aims to build mass awareness on why nature is important and create an unstoppable movement for nature similar to when the world came together to tackle climate change".

National Maritime Day of India

- 5 April marks the National Maritime Day of India. On this day in 1919 navigation history was created when SS Loyalty, the first ship of The Scindia Steam Navigation Company Ltd., journeyed to the United Kingdom, a crucial step for India shipping history when sea routes were controlled by the British.

International Day of Sport for Development and Peace 6 April

- The General Assembly of the United Nations decided to proclaim on 6 April as "International Day of Sport for Development and Peace."
- This date commemorates the inauguration, in 1896, of the first Olympic games of the modern era, in Athens (Greece)

World Health Day

- The World Health Day is a global health awareness day celebrated every year on 7 April, under the sponsorship of the World Health Organization, as well as other related organizations.
- The theme of World Health Day 2019 is Universal health coverage: everyone, everywhere.

National Handloom Week (April 7-14)

- The sector celebrated with craft and textile exhibitions, and fashion shows held across the country. Cut to mid-April 2019, and there's barely any activity ahead of National Handloom Week (April 7-14).

World Homoeopathy Day

- World Homeopathy Day is observed on 10th April to commemorate the birth anniversary of the founder of Homeopathy, Dr Christian Fredrich Samuel Hahnemann.
- On the occasion, the Central Council for Research in Homeopathy, CCRH, is organized a two-day convention in New Delhi. The council will take stock of the challenges faced and formulate future strategies for the development of Homeopathy in the country. The theme of the convention is linking research with education and clinical practice.

Cosmonautics Day

- Cosmonautics Day is an anniversary celebrated in Russia and some other former USSR countries on 12 April.
- In 2011, 12 April was declared as the International Day of Human Space Flight in dedication of the first manned space flight made on 12 April 1961 by the 27-year-old Russian Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin.

World Haemophilia Day 2019

- Every April 17 World Haemophilia Day is recognised worldwide to increase awareness of haemophilia and other inherited bleeding disorders.
- World Haemophilia Day was started in 1989 by the World Federation of Hemophilia (WFH) which chose to bring the community together on April 17 in honour of WFH founder Frank Schnabel's birthday.
- It is an initiative of 'World Federation of Haemophilia' and April 17, 2019, marks the 29th World Hemophilia Day. WHD Theme for this year is "Outreach and Identification".

World Creativity and Innovation Day: 21 April

- The first World Creativity and Innovation Day (WCID), as announced by the United Nations, was celebrated on April 21, 2018.

World Heritage Day

- The day is celebrated every year to promote the cultural heritage across the world. The theme of this year is Rural Landscapes.
- As of 2018, India has 36 World Heritage Sites including Western Ghats, Sundarbans National Park, Taj Mahal, City of Ahmadabad, Nalanda University, Mahabodhi Temple in Bihar and Khajuraho in Madhya Pradesh.
- International Council on Monuments and Sites, ICOMOS in 1982, suggested that 18th April be celebrated as the International Day for Monuments and Sites and UNESCO approved the proposal the next year during its 22nd General Conference.

World Liver Day 2019

- World Liver Day 2019 is observed on April 19. Constant damage to the liver can result in liver cirrhosis, a life-threatening condition that causes liver failure.

Civil Service Day is celebrated on 21 April

- The Civil Service Day is celebrated on 21 April every year. The purpose for this day is to rededicate and recommit themselves to the cause of the people. It is observed by all Civil Services. The present civil services of India are mainly based on the pattern of the former Indian Civil Service of British India.
- Warren Hastings laid the foundation of civil service and Charles Cornwallis reformed, modernised, and rationalised it. Hence, Charles Cornwallis is known as 'the father of civil service in India'.
- The present modern civil service was formed after the partition of India in 1947. It was Sardar Patel's vision that the civil service should strengthen cohesion and national unity.

World Creativity and Innovation Day observed on 21st April

- The first World Creativity and Innovation Day (WCID), as announced by the United Nations, was celebrated on April 21, 2018.
- World Creativity and Innovation Day is observed six days after Leonardo da Vinci's birthday and one day before International Mother Earth Day, World Creativity and Innovation Day (WCID) is well positioned to encourage creative multidisciplinary thinking to help us achieve the sustainable future we want.

World Earth Day 2019

- World Earth Day is an annual activity which is celebrated on 22nd April worldwide. This day is celebrated to make people aware of the environmental degradation and the steps to be taken towards environmental protection.

- **World Earth Day was first celebrated in 1970.** With 49 years of its inception, the International Earth Day is now celebrated in more than 193 countries, coordinated globally by the Earth Day Network. **Earth Day 2019 theme is ‘Protect Our Species.’**

International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace observed on 24 April

- The **International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace** “underscores the value of international cooperation for the common good”, according to United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres marking its first-ever observance on 24 April.
- The **International Day was officially approved on 12 December, 2018 and 24 April of every year** is designated as the day for the international observance.

World Malaria Day observed on 25th April

- This year’s World Malaria Day, being observed on April 25, and the theme for this year is ‘Zero malaria starts with me’.

World Intellectual Property Day observed

- **World Intellectual Property Day is observed on 26th April across the globe.**
- The theme is “**Reach for Gold: IP and Sports**”.



QUESTIONS

- For the first time in 2019, which of the following states will witness Braille-enabled ballot papers at all polling booths to ensure wider participation of voters in Lok Sabha elections?
(a) Tripura (b) Meghalaya (c) Nagaland (d) Manipur
- Which is the world's first district with 5G coverage and a broadband gigabit network?
(a) Beijing (b) Shanghai (c) New York (d) Wellington
- Who is set to become first female President of Slovakia?
(a) Sahle-Work Zewde (b) Zuzana Caputova
(c) Erna Solberg (d) Dalia Grybauskait?
- Which of the following banks is to become the first lender to charge beyond a monthly limit of 30 Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions from May 2019?
(a) HDFC Bank (b) ICICI Bank (c) State Bank of India (d) Kotak Mahindra
- Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank merged with Bank of Baroda (BoB) to create _____largest lender of the country.
(a) Second (b) Third (c) Fourth (d) Fifth
- Who is the winner of Men's singles Yonex-Sunrise India Open badminton tournament in New Delhi?
(a) Kidambi Srikanth (b) P. Kashyap (c) Viktor Axelsen (d) Huang Yuxiang
- Name the National Award-winning filmmaker, who has been named for the Toronto International Film Festival's Share Her Journey programme as an official ambassador.
(a) Deepa Nair (b) Rima Das (c) Meghna Gulzar (d) Ashwini Iyer Tiwari
- According to UN Environment about _____percent of the population in the Asia Pacific region are exposed to levels of air pollution that pose a significant risk to their health.
(a) 56 (b) 68 (c) 74 (d) 92
- Name the scientist, who has been awarded with the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award for his contributions in the field of science, education and medicine, promoting the honour and prestige of India.
(a) Dr. Devendra Bhatnagar (b) Dr. Deepak Luthra
(c) Dr. Rajendra Kumar Joshi (d) Dr. Amardeep Bagga
- Utkala Diwasa is celebrated every year on:
(a) 25th March (b) 28th March (c) 31st March (d) 1st April
- Name the Indian state, where first Indian village is being developed on the carbon-positive model.
(a) Manipur (b) Sikkim (c) Mizoram (d) Nagaland
- Recently, Kandhamal Haldi (turmeric) has received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag. Kandhamal Haldi is found in the Indian state of:
(a) Gujarat (b) Maharashtra (c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Odisha

13. Recently, Reserve Bank of India had informed that it will inject long-term liquidity worth _____billion US Dollars into the banking system through a dollar-rupee buy-sell swap for a tenure of three years,
(a) 2 (b) 5 (c) 8 (d) 10
14. Name the Indian, who took charge as chief executive of the International Cricket Council (ICC) recently.
(a) Arun Shourie (b) Jaideep Singhal (c) Manu Sawhney (d) Vikas Manucha
15. As per the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species, hump-backed mahseer, a large freshwater fish is now "Critically Endangered". The Hump backed mahseer is found only in:
(a) Cauvery river basin (b) Narmada river basin (c) Ganga river basin (d) Godavari river basin
16. Recently, India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C45) successfully launched EMISAT and _____international customer satellites from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR in Sriharikota.
(a) 14 (b) 17 (c) 23 (d) 28
17. Name the fictional character, who has been announced as the first entrant to the Comic-Con Museum's Character Hall of Fame recently.
(a) Superman (b) Ironman (c) Batman (d) Spiderman
18. Who is the first Indian male squash player to enter the top-10 list in the world?
(a) Harinder Pal Sandhu (b) Saurav Ghosal (c) Cyrus Poncha (d) Ramit Tandon
19. In tennis, who won his fourth ATP Miami Open title recently?
(a) Rafael Nadal (b) Andy Murray (c) Roger Federer (d) John Isner
20. How many gold medals have been won by the Indian shooters at Asian Airgun Championships?
(a) 8 (b) 11 (c) 13 (d) 16
21. The third edition of AUSINDEX, an acronym for Australia India Exercise is scheduled to commence at:
(a) Panaji (b) Agartala (c) Moirang (d) Visakhapatnam
22. Recently, Japan has announced the name of its new imperial era, set to begin on 1 May as:
(a) Reiwa (b) Lukaku (c) Heisei (d) Galodie
23. According to the Skytrax World Airport Awards, which of the following airports is India's best but ranks 59th globally?
(a) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport (b) Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport
(c) Visakhapatnam International Airport (d) Kempegowda International Airport
24. Recently who among the following banned praise, support and representation of white nationalism and white separatism, a move that drew qualified approval from New Zealand?
(a) Twitter (b) Google (c) Facebook Inc (d) Yahoo
25. Name the company, which sold 5 crore shares of SBI Life Insurance through a block deal for Rs 2,889 crore recently.
(a) ICICI Prudential (b) PNB Metlife (c) HDFC Ergo (d) BNP Paribas Cardif
26. Which is the first city in the country to leapfrog from Euro-IV grade petrol and diesel to Euro-VI fuels in 2018?
(a) Delhi (b) Bengaluru (c) Pune (d) Panaji

27. The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced _____ have won the ICC Test Championship mace and a prize money of \$1 million after finishing as the No. 1 Test team on the cut-off date of April 1.
(a) New Zealand (b) India (c) England (d) Australia
28. India signed an agreement with a development bank for setting up India-Africa Institute of Agriculture and Rural Development (IAIRD) in:
(a) Eritrea (b) Djibouti (c) Egypt (d) Malawi
29. The Ultimate Kho Kho League, featuring _____ teams consisting of national and international players and played on a double round-robin league format, has been proposed to be staged in two cities in September-October this year.
(a) Four (b) Six (c) Eight (d) Ten
30. Name the psychiatrist and professor of global health at Harvard Medical School, who has won the prestigious John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Award recently.
(a) Vikram Patel (b) Amardeep Sawhney (c) Vijay Sawant (d) Rupak Bose
31. Which of the following countries has launched the world's first fully-fledged 5G mobile networks?
(a) China (b) USA (c) South Korea (d) Germany
32. In India, the International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT) is organizing a NuGen Mobility Summit, 2019 at:
(a) Kanpur (b) Surat (c) Manesar (d) Pune
33. Recently, Indian Army built the longest suspension bridge over _____ river in Leh in just 40 days, making a record of its own.
(a) Indus (b) Sutluj (c) Ravi (d) Chenab
34. Which of the following US cities has created history by electing an African-American woman Lori Lightfoot as its mayor for the first time?
(a) New York (b) Chicago (c) Seattle (d) San Francisco
35. According to ADB, India is projected to grow at _____ per cent in the current fiscal on strengthening consumption.
(a) 5.5 (b) 6.1 (c) 6.4 (d) 7.2
36. Who among the following has discovered a planet which has about 60 times the mass of Earth in a habitable area in space called Goldilocks?
(a) ISRO (b) NASA (c) JAXA (d) CERN
37. Name the Indian Industrialist, who was felicitated by the Asian Tour with a Special Achievement Award for his contributions to Asian Golf recently.
(a) Azim Premji (b) Ratan Tata
(c) Kumarmangalam Birla (d) Dr Pawan Munjal
38. "Game Changer" is a biography of a famous cricketer:
(a) Sanath Jayasuriya (b) Manoj Prabhakar (c) Shahid Afridi (d) Steve Waugh
39. Name India's largest online platform for mutual fund investments, which has received approval from SEBI (Securities & Exchange Board of India) to offer Stock Broking service to its users.
(a) Paytm Money (b) Freecharge (c) Jio Money (d) Airtel Money

40. International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action is observed every year on:
(a) 1st April (b) 4th April (c) 7th April (d) 10th April
41. Recently, United Arab Emirates has conferred the prestigious Zayed Medal on:
(a) Shri Ramnath Kovind (b) Shri Arun Jaitley
(c) Smt. Sushma Swaraj (d) Shri Narendra Modi
42. Nepal-India Franchise Investment Expo and Conclave will be held in:
(a) New Delhi (b) Mumbai (c) Kathmandu (d) Janakpur
43. Recently, which of the following countries has successfully launched the first of its new-generation data relay satellites Tianlian II-01 into orbit that will provide data relay, measurement and control services for its manned spacecraft?
(a) Japan (b) China (c) South Korea (d) Thailand
44. The Centre has set up a tribunal, headed by _____ of the Delhi High Court, to adjudicate if there exists sufficient cause to ban the Jamaat-e-Islami Jammu and Kashmir (JeI).
(a) Justice Chander Shekhar (b) Justice Swatantra Rawat
(c) Justice Amiya Paul (d) Justice Hasan Nihar
45. Who took charge as the Managing Director of the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) recently?
(a) Atul Karleskar (b) Vipin Anand (c) Chandan Rahi (d) Anuj Kumar Singh
46. Name the former Bollywood actress, who is now Google India industry head.
(a) Mayoori Kango (b) Lisa Ray (c) Gayatri Joshi (d) Suman Ranganathan
47. According to a new joint UN and European Union (EU) report, how many million people across 53 countries experienced acute hunger last year?
(a) 54 (b) 76 (c) 91 (d) 113
48. According to the study of scientists from the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research in Germany, the levels of the greenhouse gas _____ in the atmosphere are higher than ever before in the past three million years.
(a) Carbon dioxide (b) Chlorofluorocarbons (c) Nitrous oxide (d) Methane
49. The theme of this year's Earth Hour is:
(a) Give Up to Give Back (b) More sustainable lifestyle
(c) Connect2Earth (d) Light Pollution
50. Name the artist, who has been chosen as the Glenfiddich's Emerging Artist of the Year 2019.
(a) Shyam Dholakiya (b) Arun Ranade (c) Sushil Bharadwaj (d) Raju Baraiya
51. Recently, 'Sahulat', a mobile app aimed to facilitate voting by elders was launched in:
(a) Nagpur (b) Tawang (c) Rishikesh (d) Rajouri
52. Recently, BSE and India INX are the first Indian exchanges to enter into the MoU with:
(a) Tokyo Exchange (b) Moscow Exchange
(c) Munich Exchange (d) Shanghai Exchange
53. Which of the following companies has started a new enterprise called Revolt Intellicorp Pvt. Ltd, with plans to launch an artificial intelligence (AI) based motorcycle?
(a) Yamaha (b) Intex (c) Micromax (d) Lava

54. The 3-day National Cardiology Conference is being held in:
(a) Pune (b) Noida (c) Lucknow (d) Chandigarh
55. Who has been appointed the U.K.'s special envoy on media freedom?
(a) Britt Matthew (b) Amal Clooney (c) Thomas Buch (d) Arnold Fisher
56. Who has been appointed as chairman of NASSCOM for 2019-20?
(a) Isha Ambani (b) Azim Premji (c) Keshav Murugesb (d) Rishad Premji
57. Who has been selected as President of the World Bank recently?
(a) Tom Buchanan (b) David Malpass
(c) Thomas Michel (d) Avertan Mckenzie
58. Who among the following has assumed office as president of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for 2019-20?
(a) Vikram Kirloskar (b) T.V. Narendran (c) Rakesh Bharti Mittal (d) Uday Kotak
59. A group of jumping spiders that mostly occurs in Eurasia and Africa, has been spotted for the first time in India at:
(a) Karnataka (b) Tamil Nadu (c) Kerala (d) Andhra Pradesh
60. Name the Bollywood actor, who got honorary doctorate from University of Law in London recently.
(a) Akshay Kumar (b) Shah Rukh Khan (c) Aamir Khan (d) Ajay Devgan
61. Justice T B N Radhakrishnan was sworn-in as the new Chief Justice of:
(a) Calcutta High Court (b) Mumbai High Court
(c) Chennai High Court (d) Andhra Pradesh High Court
62. The U.K. and European Council president Donald Tusk appeared to be nearing a consensus on a further Brexit extension. Prime Minister Theresa May has written to Mr. Tusk, asking for an extension till at least _____ this year.
(a) May 30 (b) June 30 (c) July 30 (d) December 30
63. Maha Vajiralongkorn is the current King of:
(a) Thailand (b) Vietnam (c) Indonesia (d) Malaysia
64. National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) and PSP Investment owned ROADIS will together create a platform to invest _____ in road projects.
(a) \$1 billion (b) \$2 billion (c) \$3 billion (d) \$5 billion
65. In a bid to further improve the cash position of banks, the RBI provided additional _____ per cent liquidity window to the lenders by tweaking liquidity coverage ratio (LCR) norms.
(a) 2 (b) 3 (c) 4 (d) 5
66. The first-ever global coalition on clean and efficient cooling was launched at the First Global Conference on Synergies between the 2030 Agenda and Paris Agreement which concluded in:
(a) New Delhi (b) Beijing (c) Copenhagen (d) Paris
67. Scientists from _____ are expected to unveil the first-ever photograph of a black hole, a breakthrough in astrophysics, providing insight into celestial monsters with gravitational fields so intense no matter or light can escape.
(a) China (b) Japan (c) USA (d) India

68. Sheikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa was re-elected unopposed to the position as president of the:
(a) Asian Cricket Council (b) Asian Football Confederation
(c) Asian Badminton Confederation (d) Asian Tennis Confederation
69. Who is the winner of Sportsperson of the Year (Female) at the ESPN India Awards for 2018?
(a) Saina Nehwal (b) Mithali Raj (c) Sania Mirza (d) PV Sindhu
70. The International Day of Sport for Development and Peace is celebrated every year on:
(a) 4 April (b) 5 April (c) 6 April (d) 7 April
71. Who took oath as the new Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court recently?
(a) Justice Prashant Khorbade (b) Justice Pradeep Nandrajog
(c) Justice Atul Bannerjee (d) Justice Amit Jagtap
72. The exercise “African Lion 2019” took place between:
(a) South Sudan-Mexico (b) Morocco-USA (c) Djibouti-Canada (d) South Africa-UK
73. The biannual Army Commanders’ Conference began in:
(a) Nagpur (b) Pune (c) New Delhi (d) Mumbai
74. Recently, The Tamil Nadu government released an official notification that _____ Railway station has been officially named after former state chief minister and ruling All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) founder MG Ramachandran.
(a) Chennai Beach (b) Chennai Central (c) Washermanpet (d) Royapuram
75. Recently, Tens of thousands of people demonstrated in several _____ cities against climate change.
(a) France (b) Germany (c) Switzerland (d) Australia
76. According to Asian Development Bank (ADB), Developing economies across Asia are among the most vulnerable to natural disasters and have suffered damages estimated at _____ since 2000.
(a) 432 billion dollars (b) 571 billion dollars (c) 644 billion dollars (d) 750 billion dollars
77. Who won the Malaysia Open in Kuala Lumpur recently?
(a) Kidambi Srikanth (b) Lin Dan (c) Chen Long (d) Son Wan-Ho
78. In 2019, National Handloom Week is celebrated on:
(a) April 7- April 14 (b) April 15- April 21 (c) April 22- April 28 (d) April 29- May 5
79. World Health Day is a global health awareness day celebrated every year on:
(a) 5th April (b) 6th April (c) 7th April (d) 8th april
80. Which of the following companies has been named as the ‘Global Slag Company of the Year’ at the 14th Global Slag Conference and Exhibition 2019?
(a) Reliance Industries Limited (b) Adani Wilmar
(c) Tata Steel (d) Bharti Airtel
81. Name the first railway station of India, which became the first ever railway station in Indian Railways to get ISO certification from National Green Tribunal (NGT) for “providing passenger amenities in a clean and green environment”.
(a) Gorakhpur Railway Station (b) Habibganj Railway Station
(c) Mumbai Central Railway Station (d) Guwahati Railway Station

82. According to the recent National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) Rankings 2019, which of the following management college was ranked number one in the management category?
(a) Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIMA)
(b) Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore (IIMB)
(c) Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow (IIML)
(d) Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta (IIMC)
83. Recently, President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih's party is leading in the vote count in the parliamentary election and has already declared a landslide victory. Ibrahim Mohamed Solih is President of:
(a) Maldives (b) Mauritius (c) Egypt (d) Turkey
84. Mount Everest's official height is 8,848 metres (29,029 feet), first recorded by an Indian survey in:
(a) 1930 (b) 1940 (c) 1954 (d) 1960
85. Recently, The Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) handed over the first batch of six _____ artillery guns to the Army.
(a) Pinaak (b) Dhanush (c) Arrow (d) Spear
86. According to a report of World Bank, which of the following countries is world's top recipient of remittances with its diaspora sending a whopping USD 79 billion back home in 2018?
(a) China (b) India (c) Bangladesh (d) Mexico
87. Which of the following banks invited bids from strategic and financial investors for stake sale in the cash-strapped Jet Airways recently?
(a) Punjab National Bank (b) State Bank of India (c) Canara Bank (d) Union Bank of India
88. In fiscal year 2019-20 according to the World Bank, India's GDP growth is expected to accelerate moderately to:
(a) 6.6% (b) 6.9% (c) 7.2% (d) 7.5%
89. According to the research done by scientists from Tsinghua University and the Chinese Academy of Sciences which of the following mechanism in plant's immune system triggers infected cells to self-destruct?
(a) Death Switch (b) Call Switch (c) Live Switch (d) Shut Switch
90. International Day of Forests is celebrated across the world every year on:
(a) 11th March (b) 16th March (c) 21st March (d) 27th March
91. Name the first city in the world, which implemented a special Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) that would charge an entry fee for older vehicles if they do not meet the emission standards.
(a) Paris (b) Munich (c) London (d) New York
92. Recently, which of the following country has designated Iran's Revolutionary Guard (IRGC) as a foreign terrorist organization?
(a) Iraq (b) Syria (c) USA (d) Israel
93. Who has been elected as Algeria's first new President in two decades recently?
(a) Abdelaziz Bouteflika (b) Deperes Boutyrew (c) Alexachais Festryiu (d) Abdelkader Bensalah
94. Who has been elected as the new president of International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) - India?
(a) Gautam Adani (b) Adi Godrej
(c) Vikramjit Singh Sahney (d) Diljeet Singh Shekhon

95. Recently, The BSE has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with _____bank with an objective to strengthen the BSE Startups platform.
(a) ICICI Bank (b) HDFC Bank (c) State Bank of India (d) Punjab National Bank
96. Recently, the World Economic Forum (WEF) on the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) 2019 was held in:
(a) Saudi Arabia (b) Morocco (c) Algeria (d) Jordan
97. Which of the following countries has become YouTube's largest and fastest growing market with 265 million citizens watching the video-sharing website every month?
(a) China (b) USA (c) India (d) Brazil
98. Recently, The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has projected that global growth will be _____in 2019.
(a) 2.5% (b) 2.7% (c) 2.9% (d) 3.3%
99. According to the United Nations Population Fund's (UNFPA) State of the World Population 2018, India's population grew at _____a year between 2010 and 2019.
(a) 0.5% (b) 0.7% (c) 1.2% (d) 1.9%
100. World Homeopathy Day is observed on:
(a) 5th April (b) 6th April (c) 8th April (d) 10th April
101. Who has been appointed as the first Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh High Court?
(a) Justice A.S. Oka (b) Justice Vikram Nath (c) Justice A.K. Mittal (d) Justice S. Ravindra Bhat
102. Recently, Armed forces of India and Singapore kicked off a joint military exercise, 'Bold Kurukshetra-2019', in:
(a) Jhansi (b) Gwalior (c) Ratlam (d) Chandrapur
103. Recently, Election Commission of India invokes powers under _____to prohibit display/exhibit any biopic/publicity material during MCC period.
(a) Article 312 (b) Article 316 (c) Article 320 (d) Article 324
104. Recently, President Jovenel Moise announced Jean Michel Lapin to be the new prime minister of:
(a) Suriname (b) Haiti (c) Panama (d) Bolivia
105. Recently, The United Nation's cultural agency had awarded its annual press freedom prize to two _____reporters jailed in Myanmar over their reporting on the killings of Rohingya Muslims in the country.
(a) BBC (b) New York Times (c) Reuters (d) ANI
106. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is set to win re-election and to be appointed as PM of Israel for the:
(a) Third Term (b) Fourth Term (c) Fifth Term (d) Ninth Term
107. Which is the world's first Islamic bank to launch banking via WhatsApp?
(a) Al-Amanah Islamic Bank (b) Emirates Islamic Bank
(c) Al Rayan Bank (d) Qatar Islamic Bank
108. According to International Monetary Fund (IMF) forecast India is to grow at _____in 2019.
(a) 5.8% (b) 6.1% (c) 6.8% (d) 7.3%
109. Name the two Indian cricketers, who have been named Wisden's Leading Cricketers of the year 2018.
(a) Virat Kohli and Smriti Mandhana (b) Shikhar Dhawan and Shikha Sharma
(c) Rishabh Pant and Harmanpreet Kaur (d) Rohit Sharma and Jhulan Goswami

110. Who has been conferred with the prestigious Saraswati Samman, 2018, for his collection of poems titled Pakkaki Ottigilite (Turning Aside While Lying Down)?
(a) A. A. Manavalan (b) K. Ayyappa Panicker (c) K Siva Reddy (d) Mahesh Elkunchwar
111. Which of the following Lok Sabha constituency may make it in the Guinness World Records for the maximum number of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) used recently?
(a) Nizamabad (b) Hyderabad (c) Baghpat (d) Muzaffarnagar
112. Recently, The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) was awarded the distinction of “Public Water Agency of the Year” by Global Water Intelligence at the Global Water Summit in:
(a) London (b) Sydney (c) Zurich (d) Wellington
113. Recently, The first bi-annual Commanders’ Conference of IAF for the year 2019 began in:
(a) Vizag (b) New Delhi (c) Mumbai (d) Kolkata
114. Recently, UAE has announced that _____ will be the Guest of Honour country at the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair, ADIBF 2019.
(a) Pakistan (b) Bangladesh (c) Nepal (d) India
115. Which of the following countries army ousted and arrested President Omar al-Bashir?
(a) Sudan (b) Morocco (c) Egypt (d) Liberia
116. Recently, WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange was arrested in:
(a) Paris (b) Quito (c) London (d) Munich
117. Name the new open platform from Google Cloud, which allows users can run applications from anywhere.
(a) Methos (b) Zeroth (c) Anthos (d) Veroth
118. Name the Indian paralympian, who has been named as the recipient of the New Zealand Prime Minister’s Sir Edmund Hillary Fellowship for 2019 in recognition of her “inspiring achievements”.
(a) Mariyappan Thangavelu (b) Farman Basha
(c) Devendra Jhaharia (d) Deepa Malik
119. With over 43.5 million likes on his personal Page and 13.7 million likes on his official Page on Facebook, who is the most popular world leader on the social network?
(a) Donald Trump (b) Vladimir Putin (c) Narendra Modi (d) Xi Jinping
120. Recently, Two schemes of _____ government for skill development and distribution of bicycles to students have won the prestigious World Summit on the Information Society awards of the United Nations.
(a) West Bengal (b) Odisha (c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Uttar Pradesh
121. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been honoured with _____ highest state decoration, the Order of St Andrew the Apostle, for his role in promoting close ties between the two countries.
(a) Denmark (b) Russia (c) Italy (d) Norway
122. Which of the following cities in India is ranked third on the WHO’s list of 15 most polluted cities?
(a) Varanasi (b) Patna (c) New Delhi (d) Mumbai
123. Who has been honoured with the Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Nobel Award by International Human Rights Council?
(a) Gautam Navlakha (b) Rajeev Dhavan (c) Sudhanshu Kumar (d) Bezwada Wilson

124. The Hong Kong city's equity market has overtaken _____ to be the world's third largest in value, behind only the U.S. and mainland China.
(a) Japan (b) India (c) France (d) UK
125. Forbes has compiled a first-ever list of the World's Best Bank 2019 in terms of customer services and technological advancements. Which of the following banks from India has topped the rankings?
(a) HDFC Bank (b) ICICI Bank (c) State Bank of India (d) Andhra Bank
126. The Chairman and Managing Director of the General Insurance Corporation (GIC) of India, the country's reinsurance major, has been awarded the Freedom of the City of _____ in recognition of her work to promote insurance ties.
(a) London (b) Paris (c) Tokyo (d) Beijing
127. Scientists from _____ have implanted human brain genes into monkeys, in a study on evolution of human intelligence.
(a) USA (b) Israel (c) China (d) Japan
128. In new research, Researchers from _____ have developed a technique to study the movement of cells without using labels or dyes.
(a) USA (b) Israel (c) China (d) Japan
129. Cosmonautics Day is an anniversary celebrated in Russia and some other former USSR countries on:
(a) 10 April (b) 11 April (c) 12 April (d) 13 April
130. The haunting image of a little girl crying helplessly as she and her mother are taken into custody by _____ border officials won the prestigious World Press Photo Award.
(a) Pakistan (b) USA (c) India (d) Iraq
131. India's first-of-its-kind 'Voter Park' was inaugurated in _____, which is aimed at increasing voter awareness and educating people about the electoral process.
(a) Gurugram (b) Bhopal (c) Pune (d) Mumbai
132. The 21st ASEAN-India Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) was held in:
(a) New Delhi (b) Jakarta (c) Bangkok (d) Mumbai
133. Which of the following countries is set to host the world's foremost Artificial Intelligence (AI) Summit to empower global dialogue on the future of government, business and society?
(a) India (b) China (c) USA (d) UAE
134. Abdel Fattah Abdelrahman Burhan is currently serving as de facto Head of State of:
(a) Sudan (b) Syria (c) Iraq (d) Iran
135. Paisalo Digital signed the first co-origination loan agreement with _____, the first agreement of its kind in the country that State Bank of India has signed.
(a) HDFC Bank (b) ICICI Bank (c) State Bank of India (d) Andhra Bank
136. Researchers from _____ 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.
(a) USA (b) Israel (c) China (d) Japan

137. In a bid to build resilience against the impact of climate change, premier fisheries research institute CMFRI and the _____ have joined hands to map, validate and protect smaller wetlands by restoring them through coastal livelihood programmes.
(a) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(b) ISRO
(c) NASA
(d) World Wetlands Organization
138. In April 2019, Inzamam-ul-Haq and _____ were inducted as the Honorary Life Members of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC).
(a) Mark Boucher (b) Rahul Dravid (c) Sourav Ganguly (d) Anil Kumble
139. Gelete Burka (women's race) and Abreha Milaw (men's race) won the 43rd edition of the Paris Marathon. These two athletes are hail from:
(a) Canada (b) UK (c) Ethiopia (d) Kenya
140. Indians across the country paid tribute to those who lost their lives in the Jallianwala Bagh massacre on:
(a) 11 April, 1919 (b) 12 April, 1919 (c) 13 April, 1919 (d) 14 April, 1919
141. Recently, President Ramnath Kovind launched "Veer Parivar App" for assistance to the next of kin of:
(a) Indian Air Force martyrs (b) BSF martyrs
(c) RPF martyrs (d) CRPF martyrs
142. Who is the first appointed woman Vice-Chancellor of "Jamia Millia Islamia"?
(a) Sameena Asar (b) Shahida Parveen (c) Najma Akhtar (d) Shabana Rizvi
143. The world's largest aero plane with two fuselages and six Boeing 747 engines made its first test flight in:
(a) Tokyo (b) California (c) Shanghai (d) Ontario
144. The Indian railway station to become a 1600th RailWire Wi-Fi zone is:
(a) Tilak Bridge railway station (b) Santacruz railway station
(c) Gorakhpur railway station (d) Kurla railway station
145. Name the telecom operator, which has launched a safety app "My Circle" for women which has been designed to help in the event of any distress or panic situation.
(a) Reliance Jio (b) BSNL (c) Bharti Airtel (d) Vodafone Idea Limite
146. The only known female member of _____ one of the world's rarest turtle species has died at a zoo in southern China?
(a) Leatherback (b) Yangtze giant softshell
(c) Loggerhead (d) Green turtle
147. Recently, Scientists have discovered a unique oil eating bacteria in:
(a) Mariana Trench (b) Puerto Rico Trench (c) Philippine Trench (d) South Sandwich Trench
148. Name the golfer, who recently clinched his fifth Masters and a 15th major title.
(a) Phil Mickelson (b) Jordan Spieth (c) Rory McIlroy (d) Tiger Woods
149. Recently, the Cologne Boxing World Cup is concluded in:
(a) France (b) Germany (c) India (d) Iran

150. Who won the Chinese Grand Prix Formula One for a record sixth time recently?
(a) Lewis Hamilton (b) Sebastian Vettel (c) Max Verstappen (d) Nico Hulkenberg
151. Which of the following countries has successfully tested the world's first armed amphibious drone boat recently?
(a) Japan (b) China (c) USA (d) Canada
152. The first Indian to be inducted into the National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) is:
(a) Deepak Chandra (b) Sanjay Kumar
(c) Narendra Singh Rawat (d) Amar Singh Rathore
153. Recently, World Health Organization (WHO) has raised alarm over a _____ percent increase in the case of measles globally in the first quarter of 2019 compared with last year.
(a) 100 (b) 200 (c) 300 (d) 500
154. Recently, the fourth Asia Pacific Forum on Urban Resilience and Adaptation-Resilient Cities 2019 was organized in:
(a) Jaipur (b) New Delhi (c) Lucknow (d) Pune
155. Recently, India's first foreign interactive and exotic world park was inaugurated in:
(a) Panaji (b) Mumbai (c) Chandigarh (d) Bhopal
156. Recently, Cabinet has approved cooperation agreement between India and _____ in the field of renewable energy with focus on offshore wind energy.
(a) Denmark (b) Finland (c) Ireland (d) Sweden
157. Recently, Scientists in _____ unveiled a 3D print of a heart with human tissue and vessels calling it a first and a "major medical breakthrough" that advances possibilities for transplants.
(a) USA (b) France (c) Israel (d) Germany
158. Recently, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test fired indigenously designed and developed Long Range Sub-Sonic Cruise Missile _____ from the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur Odisha.
(a) Nirbhay (b) Pinak (c) Ajeya (d) Nidar
159. Who clinched the Singapore Open 2019 title?
(a) Anthony Sinisuka Ginting (b) Mento Kinshua
(c) Kento Momota (d) Gentier Honda
160. Name the first Chilean, who won an ATP Tour title in 10 years.
(a) Christian Garin (b) Casper Ruud (c) Douglas Hondo (d) Gabriel Maspati
161. Which is the first public sector bank to shift to EMV chip and PIN for card present transactions across the country's vast ATM network?
(a) Union Bank of India (b) Punjab National Bank (c) Canara Bank (d) Indian Overseas Bank
162. The _____ and Indian Navy have concluded a two-week long bilateral maritime exercise code-named AUSINDEX in:
(a) Austrian (b) Australian (c) Albania (d) Armenia
163. Who has been named the goodwill ambassador of Team India at the Street Child Cricket World Cup (SCCWC) recently?
(a) Harmanpreet Kaur (b) Smiriti Mandhana (c) Jemima Rodrigues (d) Mithali Raj

164. Name the small finance bank, which has been awarded the prestigious Celent Model Bank 2019 Award in the category of Financial Inclusion, for 'Redesigning Lending to Reach Small Businesses'.
(a) Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (b) Fincare Small Finance Bank
(c) Janalakshmi Small Finance Bank (d) A U Small Finance Bank
165. Which among the following has emerged as champions of the 2019 Super Cup the main club knockout football competition in India?
(a) Chennaiyin FC (b) FC Goa (c) ATK (d) North East United
166. Which among the following has launched a 5G Use Cases Lab for banking and financial sector in India recently?
(a) Reserve Bank of India (b) SEBI
(c) SIDBI (d) Finance Ministry
167. Recently, Google has opened its first Africa Artificial Intelligence lab in:
(a) South Africa (b) Ghana (c) South Sudan (d) Morocco
168. Who among the following is committed to provide USD 3 billion in sovereign loans to India in 2018, the highest level of assistance since sovereign operations began in the country in 1986?
(a) World Bank (b) IMF (c) AIIB (d) ADB
169. The 8th edition of Home Expo India 2019 began at:
(a) Gurugram (b) Greater Noida (c) Pune (d) Lucknow
170. World Creativity and Innovation Day 2019 is celebrated on:
(a) 10th April (b) 14th April (c) 21st April (d) 24th April
171. Recently, IMF and _____ launched "Learning Coin" to explore blockchain technologies.
(a) World Bank (b) Asian Development Bank
(c) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (d) Reserve Bank of India
172. Which of the following countries will honour late Lt. Gen. J.F.R Jacob, one of the heroes of the 1971 Bangladesh war, who served in a foreign army?
(a) USA (b) Japan (c) Israel (d) Germany
173. The new version of the 50 rupees note has a depiction of _____ on the reverse.
(a) Konark Sun temple, Hampi (b) Mount Harriet, Port Blair
(c) Sanchi Stupa (d) Hampi with Chariot
174. World Haemophilia Day is recognised worldwide to increase awareness of haemophilia and other inherited bleeding disorders on:
(a) April 17 (b) April 18 (c) April 19 (d) April 20
175. Recently, the second edition of the bilateral maritime exercise between Indian Navy and Vietnam Peoples took place at:
(a) Panaji (b) Champawat (c) Cam Ranh Bay (d) Hoi An
176. Recently, Gelete Burka (women's race) and Abrha Milaw (men's race) won the 43rd edition of the Paris Marathon. They both belong to:
(a) Egypt (b) Morocco (c) Ethiopia (d) Ghana

177. Name the Indian, who clinched the Dutch International badminton title in Wateringen, The Netherlands recently.
(a) Mahesh Baranwal (b) John Matthew (c) Harsheel Dani (d) Anand Ropal
178. Name the Chinese social media platform, which was removed by Google and Apple from their app stores after the Supreme Court refused to stay a Madras High Court order.
(a) WeChat (b) TikTok (c) RenRen (d) DouBan
179. Who is the first Indian to be appointed Chair of International Hockey Federation (FIH) Health and Safety Committee by the world governing body?
(a) Bibhu Kalyan Nayak (b) Chandrashekar Singh (c) Gopal Ranjan Negi (d) Anand Rawat
180. Name the Indian American student, who has been chosen by NASA to have their CubeSat -- a mini research satellite to detect cosmic rays -- flown into space on future missions.
(a) Keshav Raghavan (b) Amit Ranjan (c) Raghav Mathare (d) Deepak Chagez
181. Which of the following countries topped the "World Press Freedom Index 2019"?
(a) Sweden (b) Iceland (c) Norway (d) Finland
182. Recently, Alan Garcia killed himself to avoid arrest. Alan Garcia was the former president of:
(a) Bolivia (b) Peru (c) Italy (d) Argentina
183. Which country is to host the 15th annual Summit of Group 20 leaders in November 2020?
(a) Israel (b) India (c) Saudi Arabia (d) Egypt
184. Recently, A total of 150 Indian peacekeepers serving with the UN Mission in _____ have received medals of honour for their dedicated service and sacrifice.
(a) South Sudan (b) Syria (c) Libya (d) Iraq
185. What is the present rank of India at World Press Freedom Index?
(a) 122nd (b) 127th (c) 135th (d) 140th
186. Which of the following countries first satellite 'Raavana-1' was launched into space from NASA's Flight Facility on Virginia's east shore recently?
(a) Seychelles (b) Maldives (c) Sri Lanka (d) Pakistan
187. Name the South Asian country, which successfully launched its first satellite into space from the US recently?
(a) Nepal (b) Bangladesh (c) Maldives (d) Bhutan
188. Name the Indian wrestler, who has recently regained the world number one spot in the men's 65-kilogram freestyle category rankings.
(a) Yogeshwar Dutt (b) Bajrang Punia (c) Sushil Kumar (d) Deepak Rana
189. Name the Indian scientist, who is among the host of Indian-origin experts honoured in the 2019 list of new fellows of the U.K.'s Royal Society.
(a) Yusuf Hamied (b) Govind Nikunj
(c) Mohammad Bilal Ahmed (d) Amarjeet Rawat
190. International Day for Monuments and Sites 2019 was observed on:
(a) 11th April (b) 14th April (c) 16th April (d) 18th April

191. Recently, who has become the first Indian woman to be inducted as a Fellow of the Royal Society (FRS) in London?
(a) Gagandeep Kang (b) Shyama Ahuja (c) Deepika Lulla (d) Anita Lakhmani
192. Which of the following two countries is to hold their largest Naval Exercise 'VARUNA' powered by aircraft carriers, jets and destroyers?
(a) India and Israel (b) India and Japan (c) India and France (d) India and Nepal
193. Who has been named as the new Israeli Prime Minister recently?
(a) Benjamin Netanyahu (b) Benny Gantz (c) Reuven Rivlin (d) Avigdor Lieberman
194. Recently, India has rebuilt Chhyoiphel Kundeling Monastery in:
(a) Bhutan (b) Nepal (c) Sri Lanka (d) Mauritius
195. Recently, Asian Tea Alliance (ATA), a union of five tea-growing and consuming countries, was launched in:
(a) India (b) Indonesia (c) Sri Lanka (d) China
196. Recently, World Health Organisation (WHO) has released new recommendations on _____ ways that countries can use digital health technology, accessible via mobile phones and computers, to improve people's health and essential services.
(a) 5 (b) 7 (c) 10 (d) 15
197. Name the country, which recently observed Mujibnagar Day to mark formation of first government.
(a) Pakistan (b) Bangladesh (c) Afghanistan (d) Maldives
198. Name the America's first female astronaut candidate, who pushed for equality in space has died recently?
(a) Alexandra Sputin (b) Steffanie Gols (c) Niter Nefgier (d) Jerrie Cobb
199. Recently, Book on Jallianwala Bagh poem Khooni Vaisakhi is released in:
(a) Britain (b) UAE (c) Germany (d) France
200. World Liver Day 2019 is observed on:
(a) April 15 (b) April 17 (c) April 19 (d) April 20
201. Who has been inducted into the prestigious Cleveland International Hall of fame for his contribution in applications in systems biology, global issues and sustainable development?
(a) Prof Sree Sreenath (b) Prof M. S. Swaminathan
(c) Prof A. Nageswararao (d) Prof N. Someswararao
202. How many states have joined a pan-India network of single emergency helpline number '112' so far?
(a) 10 (b) 15 (c) 20 (d) 25
203. Which of the following countries has issued a formal order increasing the Haj quota of India to two lakhs from one lakh seventy five-thousand?
(a) Iran (b) Iraq (c) UAE (d) Saudi Arabia
204. According to data released by StartupBlink, India moved up to _____ position in 2018 from 37th spot last year in the Startup Ecosystem Ranking for 2019.
(a) 10th (b) 17th (c) 20th (d) 25th

205. Scientists from _____ used HIV to make a gene therapy that cured eight infants of severe combined immunodeficiency, or "bubble boy" disease.
(a) India (b) USA (c) China (d) UK
206. Who has been appointed as the Ras Al Khaimah Economic Zone (RAKEZ) exclusive Corporate Ambassador to the Indian Business Community?
(a) Sachin Tendulkar (b) Kapil Dev (c) Rahul Dravid (d) Ravi Shastri
207. Former Olympic and three-time world champion Asbel Kiprop of _____ was banned for four years for testing positive for the blood-boosting drug EPO.
(a) Zambia (b) Kenya (c) Ethiopia (d) South Africa
208. The Intellectual Property Rights Cell (IPR Cell) of _____ Agricultural University (KAU) has been selected for the National Intellectual Property Award 2019.
(a) Kerala (b) Andhra Pradesh (c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Sikkim
209. Which of the following films won the best cinematography award at the Beijing International Film Festival?
(a) Zero (b) Bhayanakam (Fear) (c) Rangasthalam (d) K.G.F: Chapter 1
210. The Civil Service Day is celebrated every year on:
(a) 19 April (b) 20 April (c) 21 April (d) 22 April
211. According to the latest report by the United Nations, Bhopal gas tragedy which killed thousands of people is among the world's "major industrial accidents" of the 20th century. This tragedy took place in:
(a) 1981 (b) 1984 (c) 1989 (d) 1990
212. Navy chief Admiral Sunil Lanba launched the third ship of Project 15B, a guided missile destroyer Imphal, at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders in:
(a) Mumbai (b) Chennai (c) Kolkata (d) Vishakapatnam
213. Volodymyr Zelensky was won the Presidential election of:
(a) Tajikistan (b) Ukraine (c) Canada (d) Greece
214. Saudi Arabia and the UAE announced financial support of three billion dollars for the people of _____ following the overthrow of longtime leader Omar al-Bashir.
(a) Sudan (b) South Korea (c) Iran (d) Iraq
215. Which of the following countries has adopted the National Artificial Intelligence Strategy 2031?
(a) India (b) China (c) UAE (d) Saudi Arabia
216. Manish Maheshwari has been appointed as the Managing Director of:
(a) Google India (b) Twitter India (c) Facebook India (d) Tata India
217. Christina Koch is going to have her mission on the International Space Station (ISS) extended to 328 days, which would set a record for the longest single spaceflight by a woman. She is an astronaut from:
(a) CERN (b) JAXA (c) NASA (d) CSA
218. Indian athletes won five medals on the opening day of the Asian Athletics Championships held in:
(a) New Delhi (b) Doha (c) Jakarta (d) Beijing

219. In Football, Santosh Trophy 2019 won by:
(a) Services (b) Punjab (c) Karnataka (d) North East
220. The World Creativity and Innovation Day (WCID) is celebrated on:
(a) 19 April (b) 20 April (c) 21 April (d) 22 April
221. In April 2019, Indian and the _____ Navies have held a joint submarine-hunting exercise in the Indian Ocean, aiming to lay the groundwork for coordinating maritime patrol and reconnaissance.
(a) USA (b) Canada (c) Japan (d) Indonesia
222. An exhibition displaying secret official documents of British India government related to Jallianwala Bagh massacre of 1919, its aftermath and the Martial law (that was imposed by the British in Punjab banning public assemblies to suppress agitations against them) opened in:
(a) New Delhi (b) Karachi (c) Amritsar (d) Lahore
223. Which of the following countries has imposed state of emergency in the country in April 2019?
(a) Pakistan (b) Nepal (c) Bhutan (d) Sri Lanka
224. The world's first 5G communications hardware for the automotive industry launched by:
(a) India (b) China (c) USA (d) Japan
225. Flipkart's second data centre was launched in:
(a) Mumbai (b) Chennai (c) Hyderabad (d) New Delhi
226. Who has become the first Indian batsman to hit 200 sixes in the Indian Premier League (IPL)?
(a) Virat Kohli (b) Rohit Sharma (c) KL Rahul (d) MS Dhoni
227. Fabio Fognini became the first _____ to win an ATP Masters 1000 title at the Rolex Monte-Carlo Masters.
(a) Italian (b) Australian (c) Serbian (d) Mexican
228. World Earth Day is an annual activity which is celebrated on:
(a) 19 April (b) 20 April (c) 21 April (d) 22 April
229. The former deputy Election Commissioner Vinod Zutshi has been appointed as special observer for _____.
(a) Tripura (b) Goa (c) Sikkim (d) Kerala
230. The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) has announced the creation of the Amartya Sen Chair in Inequality Studies, named in honour of the India-born economist, philosopher and Nobel laureate, who was Professor of Economics at LSE from:
(a) 1981-91 (b) 1971-82 (c) 1990-99 (d) 1986-91
231. The first edition of Naval Commanders' Conference of 2019 begins in:
(a) Mumbai (b) Chennai (c) Kolkata (d) New Delhi
232. Which of the following countries has released a special commemorative stamp on the theme of Ramayana to mark the 70th anniversary of the establishment of its diplomatic ties with India?
(a) USA (b) Canada (c) Japan (d) Indonesia
233. The USA has decided to end exemptions from sanctions for countries still buying oil from which of the following countries?
(a) Russia (b) North Korea (c) Iran (d) Iraq

234. According to the report by Bank of America Merrill Lynch (BofAML), the excess reserves that RBI holds could be up to _____ or 1.5% of the GDP (Gross Domestic Product).
(a) Rs.1 lakh crore (b) Rs.2 lakh crore (c) Rs.3 lakh crore (d) Rs.4 lakh crore
235. According to the latest Stanford study, Global warming has caused the Indian economy to be _____ per cent smaller than it would otherwise.
(a) 21 (b) 31 (c) 41 (d) 50
236. Which of the following companies has created the World's Biggest EPostal Network and the largest SAP implementations worldwide?
(a) APPLE (b) TCS (c) Reliance (d) Wipro
237. The total deposits in bank accounts opened under the Jan Dhan scheme are set to cross Rs 1 lakh crore soon. Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) was launched in:
(a) 2014 (b) 2015 (c) 2016 (d) 2017
238. According to the NASA, which of the following smallest planets in the solar system has a massive solid inner core?
(a) Venus (b) Mercury (c) Saturn (d) Mars
239. Bajrang Punia is associated with which of the following sports?
(a) Wrestling (b) Cricket (c) Football (d) Badminton
240. Which of the following countries has been nominated as the "Guest of Honour" country at the 29th edition of the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair (ADIBF)?
(a) China (b) India (c) USA (d) Russia
241. A Konkani translation of the Indian Constitution has been released by the:
(a) Prime Minister of India (b) Peter Paul Saldanha
(c) President of India (d) Vice President of India
242. North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and Russian President Vladimir Putin will meet for their first summit talks in the Pacific port city of:
(a) Vladivostok (b) Pyongyang (c) Nampo (d) Moscow
243. Which of the following banks becomes the first Destination Bank to go live with Net Banking and Debit Card-based e-mandate authentication?
(a) Kotak Mahindra Bank (b) SBI Bank
(c) Axis Bank (d) HDFC Bank
244. Karnam Sekar is set to take over as the new Managing Director and CEO of _____ from July 1, 2019:
(a) Dena Bank (b) Indian Overseas Bank (c) Axis Bank (d) Andhra Bank
245. Uday Kumar Varma has resigned as Secretary General of:
(a) NASSCOM (b) The Confederation of Indian Industry
(c) Assocham (d) FICCI
246. Which is the first central bank in the Asia-Pacific region to begin an explicit interest rate easing cycle buoyed by benign food inflation and easier global financial condition?
(a) People's Bank of China (b) Reserve Bank of India
(c) National Bank of Cambodia (d) National Bank of Pakistan

247. Researchers at the _____ have discovered how lifestyle affects genes and disease development in a human body in a new study called 'Epigenetic Mechanisms'.
- (a) Lund University Diabetes Centre (b) Harvard University
(c) California University (d) London University
248. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), Malawi has launched world's first malaria vaccine known as:
- (a) ATS,S (b) MTS,S (c) RTS,S (d) VTS,S
249. India bagged four medals, including a Gold, on the final day of the Asian Athletics Championships at Doha in Qatar. India ended at the _____ spot in the medals tally.
- (a) First (b) Second (c) Third (d) Fourth
250. The first-ever International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace is observed on:
- (a) 22 April (b) 23 April (c) 24 April (d) 25 April
251. Which of the following banks launched India's first 'Green Car Loan' (Electric Vehicle), on the occasion of World Earth Day on April 22?
- (a) Punjab National Bank (b) State Bank of India
(c) Canara Bank (d) Indian Overseas Bank
252. Who has been appointed to hold an inquiry into the allegations of a larger conspiracy to frame Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi and fixing of benches in the top court?
- (a) Justice Dibakar Bannerjee (b) Justice A K Patnaik
(c) Justice Deepak Raheja (d) Justice Amiya Patnaik
253. The world's only floating nuclear power unit is ready to start commercial operations in:
- (a) Germany (b) France (c) USA (d) Russia
254. Recently, International Press Institute declared _____ as the recipient of its 71st World Press Freedom Hero award.
- (a) Gul Muhammad (b) Thamas Buchanan (c) Cyril Almeida (d) Amerti Destres
255. Which is the first airline in the Gulf region to operate a flight without any single-use plastics on board, in a bid to raise awareness about pollution on Earth Day?
- (a) Etihad Airways (b) Emirates (c) Air Arabia (d) Flydubai
256. Recently, The American space agency's InSight lander appears to have detected its first seismic event on:
- (a) Jupiter (b) Mars (c) Saturn (d) Neptune
257. Which of the following countries scientists recently have been succeeded in creating what they called the first-ever artificial crater on an asteroid?
- (a) China (b) Japan (c) Russia (d) Germany
258. Who is the first woman to referee a Ligue 1 football match?
- (a) Gabriela Beluski (b) Ano Betries (c) Anatolie Hanns (d) Stephanie Frappart
259. In 2019, World Malaria Day is observed on:
- (a) 21st April (b) 22nd April (c) 24th April (d) 25th April

260. Who among the following is not among the persons who were honoured with the prestigious Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Award this year?
(a) Salim Khan (b) Helen (c) Sharmila Tagore (d) Madhur Bhandarkar
261. Name the Indian business school, whose post graduate programme in Enterprise Management (PGPEM) has been ranked 12th in Asia-Pacific region (APAC) and 61st globally in the QS Executive MBA rankings 2019.
(a) IIM Calcutta (b) IIM Bangalore (c) IIM Ahmedabad (d) IIM Lucknow
262. According to report from Cloud delivery network provider Akamai Technologies, with over 120 crore account takeover attacks in 2018, India came _____ among top destinations for hacking attempts in the world.
(a) First (b) Second (c) Third (d) Fifth
263. Recently, Russia's Vladimir Putin and North Korea's Kim Jong Un met face-to-face for the first time in:
(a) North Korea (b) China (c) Russia (d) Canada
264. The 5th Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) Media Summit on Climate Action and Disaster Preparedness began in:
(a) Kathmandu (b) Chandigarh (c) Pokhara (d) Colombo
265. Name the third company, which has reached a valuation of one trillion dollars for the first time.
(a) Amazon (b) Microsoft (c) Apple (d) Exxon Mobil
266. Name the first overseas player from India, who signed for Hampshire and will feature in County Championship matches.
(a) Rohit Sharma (b) Hardik Pandya (c) Cheteshwar Pujara (d) Ajinkya Rahane
267. Who among the following claimed the inaugural Asian Snooker Tour title recently?
(a) Ehsan Heydari Nezhad (b) Pankaj Advani (c) Siripaporn Nuanthakhamjan (d) Aung Phy
268. The Asian Boxing Championships was held recently in:
(a) Bangkok (b) New Delhi (c) Singapore (d) Jakarta
269. Recently, The second edition of Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize was awarded to:
(a) Arundhati Roy (b) Amish Tripathi (c) Deepak Luthra (d) Rana Dasgupta
270. World Intellectual Property Day is observed every year on:
(a) 23rd April (b) 24th April (c) 25th April (d) 26th April
271. Name the Indian, who has made it to Fortune magazine's 2019 list of the world's greatest leaders.
(a) Ravindran Kupuswamy (b) Arunachalam Muruganantham (c) Amit Ranjan Dwivedi (d) Saggurthi Ramrajan
272. How many member committee having representatives from GST Network (GSTN), central and state governments have been formed to examine the electronic tax invoice system of South Korea, Latin America and other countries and suggest a model for India?
(a) 7 (b) 8 (c) 11 (d) 13
273. Recently, IRDAI forms panel to review micro insurance framework. Who has been made the chairman of the 13-member panel?
(a) Deepak Talwar (b) Suresh Mathur (c) Amar Ranjan (d) Mahesh Baranwal

274. Recently, _____ and UNICEF India signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) to provide an open platform to promote participation, skilling and empowerment among young children across different communities.
(a) NITI Aayog (b) Women and Child Development Ministry
(c) CBSE (d) AICTE
275. Which of the following countries is set to abolish its controversial exit visa system for all foreign workers by the end of 2019?
(a) Saudi Arabia (b) Qatar (c) Egypt (d) South Sudan
276. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced that it will issue new Rs 20 denomination banknotes. The new note will have a motif of:
(a) Ellora caves (b) Qutub Minar
(c) Swaminarayan Temple (d) Lotus Temple
277. Which of the following India's leading private sector banks announced the launch of 'digital first' propositions for the bank's 40+ million customers?
(a) Yes Bank (b) HDFC Bank (c) ICICI Bank (d) RBL Bank
278. Who among the following has been appointed as India's High Commissioner to Seychelles recently?
(a) Vishwa Nath Sharma (b) Bipin Chandra Joshi
(c) Kodandera Subayya Thimayya (d) Dalbir Singh Suhag
279. Recently, Derek C Lalchhanhima received PETA Award For Gesture. Derek C Lalchhanhima belongs to:
(a) Manipur (b) Mizoram (c) Nagaland (d) Arunachal Pradesh
280. Who is the first woman umpire ever to stand in a men's One-Day International?
(a) Claire Polosak (b) Annbele Johnson (c) Clarke Belinda (d) Derikes Mert

ANSWER KEY AND EXPLANATION

1. b For the first time, Meghalaya will witness Braille-enabled ballot papers at all polling booths to ensure wider participation of voters in Lok Sabha elections
2. b Shanghai claimed to have the world's first district with 5G coverage and a broadband gigabit network.
3. b In Slovakia, the government critic and anti-corruption activist Zuzana Caputova is set to become the first female President.
4. d Unified Payments Interface (UPI), which has been leading the digital payments push since demonetisation, will no longer be free to use for peer-to-peer (P2P) transactions as Kotak Mahindra Bank has become the first lender to charge beyond a monthly limit of 30 transactions from May.
5. b Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank will merge with Bank of Baroda (BoB) to create the third-largest lender of the country.
6. c Former champion Kidambi Srikanth lost in straight games to former world champion Viktor Axelsen of Denmark at the Yonex-Sunrise India Open badminton tournament in New Delhi.
7. b National Award-winning filmmaker Rima Das has been named the Toronto International Film Festival's Share Her Journey programme as an official ambassador
8. d Around 92% of the population in the Asia Pacific region are exposed to levels of air pollution that pose a significant risk to their health, according to UN Environment. Some of the Asian countries have taken steps to limit its effects.
9. c RUJ Group's founder and chairman, Dr. Rajendra Kumar Joshi, has been awarded with the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award for his contributions in the field of science, education and medicine, promoting the honour and prestige of India.
10. d Utkala Divasa/ Utkala Utsava is celebrated every year on 1 April all over Odisha.
11. a A village that is home to 660 households in Manipur is using its lush community-managed forest to develop itself as India's first carbon-positive settlement.
12. d Odisha's Kandhamal Haldi (turmeric) named after central Odisha district of Kandhamal, where it is organically grown by tribals, received the GI tag.
13. b The Reserve Bank of India, RBI said it will inject long-term liquidity worth 5 billion US Dollars into the banking system through a dollar-rupee buy-sell swap for tenure of three years on April 23.
14. c Media professional Manu Sawhney took charge as chief executive of the International Cricket Council and will work alongside Dave Richardson, who will step down after the World Cup in July.
15. a The hump-backed mahseer-a large freshwater fish also called the tiger of the water and found only in the Cauvery river basin (including Kerala's Pambar, Kabini and Bhavani rivers)-is now "Critically Endangered": more threatened than the tiger is, as per the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species.

16. d India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C45) successfully launched EMISAT and 28 international customer satellites from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR in Sriharikota.
17. c Batman, who turned 80 years old, got a birthday gift with the fictional character being announced as the first entrant to the Comic-Con Museum's Character Hall of Fame.
18. b India's top-ranked squash player Saurav Ghosal stormed into the record books when he became the first Indian male to enter the top-10 list in the world.
19. c In tennis, Roger Federer lifted his fourth ATP Miami Open title with an emphatic 6-1, 6-4 win over defending champion John Isner.
20. d India finished with 16 gold, five silver and four bronze medals.
21. d The third edition of AUSINDEX, an acronym for Australia India Exercise is scheduled to commence with the arrival of HMAS Canberra (L02), a Landing Helicopter Dock, HMAS New Castle(06) and HMAS Paramatta(154), both frigates; HMAS Collins, a conventional submarine and HMAS Success(OR 304), a Durance-class multi-product replenishment oiler at Visakhapatnam on 02 April 19.
22. a Japan has announced that the name of its new imperial era, set to begin on 1 May, will be "Reiwa" - signifying order and harmony.
23. b New Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport is India's best but ranks 59th globally.
24. c Facebook Inc banned praise, support and representation of white nationalism and white separatism, a move that drew qualified approval from New Zealand where a massacre of 50 people in mosques was live streamed earlier this month.
25. d BNP Paribas Cardif sold 5 crore shares of SBI Life Insurance through a block deal for Rs 2,889 crore, which saw shares skidding over 6 per cent on the local bourses.
26. a Delhi in April 2018 became the first city in the country to leapfrog from Euro-IV grade petrol and diesel to Euro-VI fuels, cities in the 12 contiguous districts of Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh as well as the city of Agra switched over to the cleaner fuel.
27. b The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced India have won the ICC Test Championship mace and a prize money of \$1 million after finishing as the No. 1 Test team on the cut-off date of April 1.
28. d India signed an agreement with a development bank for setting up India-Africa Institute of Agriculture and Rural Development (IAIARD) in Malawi.
29. c The Ultimate Kho Kho League, featuring eight teams consisting of national and international players and played on a double round-robin league format, has been proposed to be staged in two cities in September-October this year.
30. a Vikram Patel, a psychiatrist and professor of global health at Harvard Medical School, has won the prestigious John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Award.
31. c South Korea launched the world's first fully-fledged 5G mobile networks.
32. c The International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT) is organizing a NuGen Mobility Summit, 2019, at Manesar, NCR, from 27th to 29th November 2019.

- 33. a Indian Army built the longest suspension bridge over Indus River in Leh in just 40 days, making a record of its own.
- 34. b Chicago has created history by electing an African-American woman as its mayor for the first time.
- 35. d Asian Development Bank, ADB, says India's growth is set to pick up. In its report released, ADB said India is expected to grow at 7.2 per cent in the current fiscal on strengthening consumption.
- 36. b NASA has discovered a planet which has about 60 times the mass of Earth in a habitable area in space called Goldilocks.
- 37. d Dr Pawan Munjal, Chairman, Hero MotoCorp - the world's largest manufacturer of motorcycles and scooters - was felicitated by the Asian Tour with a Special Achievement Award for his contributions to Asian Golf.
- 38. c Former Pakistan captain Shahid Afridi has promised his fans a no-holds barred account of his life in his upcoming biography Game Changer, which will hit the stands on April 30.
- 39. a Paytm Money - India's largest online platform for mutual fund investments and the wholly owned subsidiary of One97 Communications Limited that owns & operates Paytm, announced that it has received approval from SEBI (Securities & Exchange Board of India) to offer Stock Broking service to its users.
- 40. b On 8 December 2005, the General Assembly declared that 4 April of each year shall be observed as the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action.
- 41. d The United Arab Emirates has conferred the prestigious Zayed Medal on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the highest decoration awarded to kings, presidents and heads of states.
- 42. c Nepal-India Franchise Investment Expo and Conclave will be held in Kathmandu from 15th to 16th May, 2019.
- 43. b The Tianlian II-01 satellite was launched by a Long March-3B carrier rocket from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in southwest China's Sichuan Province.
- 44. a The Centre has set up a tribunal, headed by Justice Chander Shekhar of the Delhi High Court, to adjudicate if there exists sufficient cause to ban the Jamaat-e-Islami Jammu and Kashmir (JeI) and the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front-Yasin Malik (JKLF-Y) faction.
- 45. b Vipin Anand took charge as the Managing Director of the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).
- 46. a The 90s actress Mayoore Kango, who many might remember as the "Ghar Se Nikalte Hi, Kuch Door Chalte Hi" girl is now industry head in Google India.
- 47. d More than 113 million people across 53 countries experienced acute hunger last year, with conflict, climate-related disasters and economic turbulence mainly driving the food insecurity crisis, according to a new joint UN and European Union (EU) report.
- 48. a The levels of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the atmosphere are higher than ever before in the past three million years, according to a study.

49. c This year's Earth Hour theme is #Connect2Earth. "Earth Hour 2019 with its campaign '#Connect2Earth' aims to build mass awareness on why nature is important and create an unstoppable movement for nature similar to when the world came together to tackle climate change,".
50. d Vadodra-based artist Raju Baraiya has been chosen as the Glenfiddich's Emerging Artist of the Year 2019.
51. d 'Sahulat', a mobile app aimed to facilitate voting by elders was launched in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district.
52. b BSE and India INX are the first Indian exchanges to enter into the MoU with Moscow exchange.
53. c The Micromax has started a new enterprise called Revolt Intellicorp Pvt. Ltd, with plans to launch an artificial intelligence (AI) based motorcycle.
54. c Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu is visited Lucknow where he was the chief guest at National Cardiology Conference 2019 being held at Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of medical sciences.
55. b Amal Clooney has been appointed the U.K.'s special envoy on media freedom, as the U.K. prepares to host an international conference this July in the wake of attacks on journalists across the world.
56. c IT industry body Nasscom had appointed WNS Global Services Group CEO Keshav Murugesh as its chairman for 2019-20.
57. b Senior US Treasury official David Malpass has been selected as President of the World Bank.
58. a Vikram Kirloskar, CMD of Kirloskar Systems Ltd., and vice-chairman of Toyota Kirloskar Motor, has assumed office as president of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for 2019-20.
59. c A group of jumping spiders that mostly occurs in Eurasia and Africa, has been spotted for the first time in Ernakulam's Illithodu forests by arachnologists from Kochi's Sacred Heart College, Thevara.
60. b After the honorary doctorates from The University of Bedfordshire and The University of Edinburgh, superstar Shah Rukh Khan has received an honorary doctorate in Philanthropy by The University of Law, London.
61. a Justice T B N Radhakrishnan was sworn-in as the new Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court.
62. b The U.K. and European Council president Donald Tusk appeared to be nearing a consensus on a further Brexit extension. Prime Minister Theresa May has written to Mr. Tusk, asking for an extension till at least June 30 this year.
63. a Thailand began rituals for the coronation of King Maha Vajiralongkorn next month, with officials collecting water in ceremonies across the country for use in purification rites. The elaborate coronation for King Vajiralongkorn will take place over three days, from May 4 to 6, in the capital Bangkok with many Buddhist and Brahmin rituals performed in the month leading up to the event.
64. b National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) and PSP Investment owned ROADIS will together create a platform to invest \$2 billion in road projects.
65. a In a bid to further improve the cash position of banks, the RBI provided additional 2 per cent liquidity window to the lenders by tweaking liquidity coverage ratio (LCR) norms.

66. c The first-ever global coalition on clean and efficient cooling was launched at the First Global Conference on Synergies between the 2030 Agenda and Paris Agreement which concluded in Copenhagen, Denmark.
67. c Scientists from USA are expected to unveil the first-ever photograph of a black hole, a breakthrough in astrophysics, providing insight into celestial monsters with gravitational fields so intense no matter or light can escape.
68. b Sheikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa was re-elected unopposed to the position as president of the Asian Football Confederation after the regional body's congress confirmed a new four-year term for the Bahraini by acclamation.
69. d Into the fourth month of the 2019 season, it appears PV Sindhu, winner of Sportsperson of the Year (Female) at the ESPN India Awards for 2018 is struggling for momentum -- with only a single semifinal to show for her efforts so far.
70. c The General Assembly of the United Nations decided to proclaim on 6 April as International Day of Sport for Development and Peace.
71. b Justice Pradeep Nandrajog took oath as the new Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court.
72. b The Morocco-US sponsored exercise “African Lion 2019” took place from March 16 to April 7, 2019, in the region of Agadir, Tifnit, Tan-Tan, Tata and Ben Guerir, with the participation of thousands of military personnel.
73. c The biannual Army Commanders’ Conference began in New Delhi.
74. b The Tamil Nadu government released an official notification that Chennai Central railway Station has been officially named after former state chief minister and ruling All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam(AIADMK) founder MG Ramachandran.
75. c Tens of thousands of people demonstrated in several Swiss cities against climate change.
76. c Developing economies across Asia are among the most vulnerable to natural disasters and have suffered damages estimated at 644 billion dollars since 2000, according to Asian Development Bank (ADB).
77. b Chinese badminton ace Lin Dan clinched the Malaysia Open in Kuala Lumpur.
78. a The sector celebrated with craft and textile exhibitions, and fashion shows held across the country. Cut to mid-April 2019, and there’s barely any activity ahead of National Handloom Week (April 7-14).
79. c The World Health Day is a global health awareness day celebrated every year on 7 April, under the sponsorship of the World Health Organization, as well as other related organizations.
80. c Tata Steel has been named as the ‘Global Slag Company of the Year’ at the 14th Global Slag Conference and Exhibition 2019.
81. d The Guwahati Railway Station became the first ever railway station in Indian Railways to get ISO certification from National Green Tribunal (NGT) for “providing passenger amenities in a clean and green environment.”
82. b The Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore (IIMB) was ranked number one in the management category, National Law School of India University, Bengaluru (NLSIU) in the law category, and Indian Institute of Science (IISc.) in the university category.

83. a Maldives President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih's party is leading in the vote count in the parliamentary election and has already declared a landslide victory that could give him a free hand in efforts to restore political freedoms and tackle corruption.
84. c Mount Everest's official height is 8,848 metres (29,029 feet), first recorded by an Indian survey in 1954.
85. b The Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) handed over the first batch of six Dhanush artillery guns to the Army. Dhanush is the indigenously upgraded version of the Swedish Bofors gun procured in the 1980s.
86. b India retained its position as the world's top recipient of remittances with its diaspora sending a whopping USD 79 billion back home in 2018, the World Bank said in a report.
87. b State Bank of India (SBI) invited bids from strategic and financial investors for stake sale in the cash-strapped Jet Airways.
88. d India's GDP growth is expected to accelerate moderately to 7.5% in fiscal year 2019-20, driven by continued investment strengthening - particularly private - improved export performance and resilient consumption.
89. a Chinese scientists have discovered a possible "death switch" mechanism in plant's immune system that triggers infected cells to self-destruct, thus limiting the spread of the disease and keeping other parts of the plant healthy.
90. c Every 21 March the United Nations raises awareness of the importance of all types of forests. This year the International Day of Forests promotes education to Learn to Love Forests.
91. c London became the first city in the world to implement a special Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) that would charge an entry fee for older vehicles if they do not meet the emission standards
92. c The United States has designated Iran's Revolutionary Guard (IRGC) as a foreign terrorist organization.
93. d Lawmakers named Abdelkader Bensalah, the Speaker of the upper house, as Algeria's first new President in two decades, after the resignation of Abdelaziz Bouteflika following mass protests.
94. c SUN Group Chairman Vikramjit Singh Sahney elected as the new president of International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) - India.
95. b The BSE has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with HDFC Bank with an objective to strengthen the BSE Startups platform.
96. d The World Economic Forum (WEF) on the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) 2019 kicked off in Jordan with over 1,000 participants from more than 50 countries.
97. c With substantial growth in India's internet coverage and data growth, the country has become YouTube's largest and fastest growing market with 265 million Indians watching the video-sharing website every month.
98. d The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has projected that global growth will be 3.3% in 2019, down from 3.6% in 2018 and 4% in 2017.
99. c India's population grew at 1.2% a year between 2010 and 2019, marginally higher than the global average of 1.1% a year in this period, but more than double China's 0.5% a year, according to the United Nations Population Fund's (UNFPA) State of the World Population 2018.

100. d World Homeopathy Day is observed on 10th April to commemorate the birth anniversary of the founder of Homeopathy, Dr Christian Fredrich Samuel Hahnemann.
101. b Senior judge of Allahabad high court, Justice Vikram Nath, was appointed as the first Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh High Court.
102. a Armed forces of India and Singapore kicked off a joint military exercise, 'Bold Kurukshetra-2019', in Jhansi's Babina Cantonment.
103. d ECI invokes powers under Article 324 to prohibit display/exhibit any biopic/publicity material during MCC period.
104. b President Jovenel Moise announced Jean Michel Lapin, who once served as a courier in the public administration, to be the new prime minister of Haiti.
105. c The United Nations's cultural agency had awarded its annual press freedom prize to two Reuters reporters jailed in Myanmar over their reporting on the killings of Rohingya Muslims in the country.
106. c Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu set for fifth term.
107. b Emirates Islamic have announced the launch of Chat Banking services for customers via WhatsApp, marking a global first in the Islamic banking sector.
108. d India to grow at 7.3% in 2019 and 7.5% in 2020: IMF.
109. a Virat Kohli and Smriti Mandhana, the top scorer in women's One-day Internationals (ODIs) and Twenty20 Internationals (T20Is) since the start of last year, have been named Wisden's Leading Cricketers of the year 2018.
110. c Telugu poet K Siva Reddy is to be conferred the prestigious Saraswati Samman, 2018, for his collection of poems titled Pakkaki Ottigilite (Turning Aside While Lying Down).
111. a The Nizamabad Lok Sabha constituency, where polling was underway along with 16 other constituencies in Telangana, may make it the Guinness World Records for the maximum number of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) used.
112. a The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) was awarded the distinction of "Public Water Agency of the Year" by Global Water Intelligence at the Global Water Summit in London.
113. b The first bi-annual Commanders' Conference of IAF for the year 2019 began at the Air Headquarters (Vayu Bhawan) in New Delhi.
114. d UAE has announced that India will be the Guest of Honour country at the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair, ADIBF 2019, to be held from 24th to 30th of this month.
115. a Sudan's army ousted and arrested President Omar al-Bashir.
116. c WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange was arrested in London.
117. c Google launched Anthos, a new open platform from Google Cloud, that lets users run applications from anywhere.

118. d Rio Paralympics silver medallist Deepa Malik named as the recipient of the New Zealand Prime Minister's Sir Edmund Hillary Fellowship for 2019 in recognition of her "inspiring achievements".
119. c Prime Minister Narendra Modi, with over 43.5 million likes on his personal Page and 13.7 million likes on his official Page on Facebook, is the most popular world leader on the social network as more world leaders are now paying to promote their posts
120. a Two schemes of the West Bengal government for skill development and distribution of bicycles to students have won the prestigious World Summit on the Information Society awards of the United Nations.
121. b Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been honoured with Russia's highest state decoration, the Order of St Andrew the Apostle, for his role in promoting close ties between the two countries.
122. a The air quality in Varanasi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Lok Sabha constituency, is ranked third on the WHO's list of 15 most polluted cities and the situation is "deteriorating" as its MP has focused on beautification and infrastructure, a Delhi-based environment body claimed.
123. c Digital Sukoon founder, Sudhanshu Kumar was honoured with the Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Nobel Award by International Human Rights Council.
124. a The city's equity market has overtaken Japan to be the world's third largest in value, behind only the U.S. and mainland China, courtesy of a rebound in Hong Kong stocks after their worst year since 2011.
125. a Forbes has compiled a first-ever list of the World's Best Bank 2019 in terms of customer services and technological advancements. The private lender, HDFC Bank, was ranked at the top of the list.
126. a The Chairman and Managing Director of the General Insurance Corporation (GIC) of India, the country's reinsurance major, has been awarded the Freedom of the City of London in recognition of her work to promote insurance ties between India and the UK.
127. c Chinese scientists have implanted human brain genes into monkeys, in a study on evolution of human intelligence.
128. a In new research, Researchers from USA have developed a technique to study the movement of cells without using labels or dyes. The method also revealed an undiscovered phenomenon that may play a role in the earliest stages of cell death.
129. c Cosmonautics Day is an anniversary celebrated in Russia and some other former USSR countries on 12 April.
130. b The haunting image of a little girl crying helplessly as she and her mother are taken into custody by US border officials won the prestigious World Press Photo Award.
131. a India's first-of-its-kind 'Voter Park' was inaugurated in Gurugram aimed at increasing voter awareness and educating people about the electoral process.
132. a India and ASEAN have resolved to strengthen ties by deepening cooperation in the maritime sector and boosting connectivity. The two sides made the affirmations at the 21st ASEAN-India Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) held in New Delhi.

133. d UAE is set to host the world's foremost Artificial Intelligence, AI Summit to empower global dialogue on the future of government, business and society. The inaugural 'AI Everything', AIE will take place at the Dubai World Trade Centre, between 30th of this month and 1st of next month.
134. a Sudan's military council removed defence minister Awad Ibn Auf from his role and appointed a new intelligence chief. Abdel Fattah Abdelrahman Burhan is currently serving as de facto Head of State of Sudan after former Chairman Ahmed Awad Ibn Auf resigned and transferred control.
135. c Paisalo Digital signed the first co-origination loan agreement with State Bank of India, the first agreement of its kind in the country that State Bank of India has signed.
136. a Researchers at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the US 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.
137. b In a bid to build resilience against the impact of climate change, premier fisheries research institute CMFRI and the ISRO have joined hands to map, validate and protect smaller wetlands by restoring them through coastal livelihood programmes.
138. a Inzamam-ul-Haq and Mark Boucher were inducted as the Honorary Life Members of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC).
139. c Ethiopian athletes Gelete Burka (women's race) and Abrha Milaw (men's race) won the 43rd edition of the Paris Marathon.
140. c Indians across the country paid tribute to those who lost their lives in the Jallianwala Bagh massacre on 13 April, 1919.
141. d The President also launched Veer Parivar App for assistance to the next of kin of the CRPF martyrs.
142. c Najma Akhtar, who has spent nearly four decades in academic planning and administration, took over as the first woman Vice-Chancellor of Jamia Millia Islamia as it heads towards marking its centenary year in 2020.
143. b The world's largest aeroplane with two fuselages and six Boeing 747 engines made its first test flight in California. The mega jet, called Stratolaunch, carried out its maiden voyage over the Mojave Desert.
144. b RailWire Wi-Fi by RailTel is now live at 1600 railway stations across the country, with Santacruz railway station in Mumbai becoming the 1600th station to become a RailWire Wi-Fi zone.
145. c India's second largest telecom operator Bharti Airtel and the FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) has launched a safety app My Circle for women which has been designed to help in the event of any distress or panic situation.
146. b The animal was one of four Yangtze giant softshell turtles known to be remaining in the world. The Suzhou zoo, where the female turtle lived, also houses a male Yangtze giant softshell turtle.
147. a Scientists have discovered a unique oil eating bacteria in the Mariana Trench, the deepest part of the earth's oceans, a finding that may pave way for sustainable ways to clean up oils spills.
148. d Golfer Tiger Woods clinched his fifth Masters and a 15th major title, ending 11-year wait for a major title after overcoming career-threatening back problems.

149. b India finished with 5 medals in the Boxing World Cup which concluded at Cologne, Germany.
150. a In motor racing, Lewis Hamilton won the Chinese Grand Prix for a record sixth time.
151. b China has successfully tested the world's first armed amphibious drone boat which the Chinese military analysts claimed could be used in land assault operations and is capable of forming a combat triad with aerial drones and other drone ships.
152. b Delhi-based Sanjay Kumar, CEO of Geospatial Media and Communications and Secretary General of World Geospatial Industry Council, is the first Indian to be inducted to NGAC.
153. c World Health Organization (WHO) has raised alarm over a 300 percent increase in the case of measles globally in the first quarter of 2019 compared with last year.
154. b South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) kicked off the fourth Asia Pacific Forum on Urban Resilience and Adaptation-Resilient Cities 2019 in New Delhi hosted in association with the United Nations.
155. b India's first foreign interactive and exotic world park was inaugurated in Mumbai. Bird lovers are up for a treat with this interactive bird park in Mumbai.
156. a Cabinet has approved cooperation agreement between India and Denmark in the field of renewable energy with focus on offshore wind energy.
157. c Scientists in Israel unveiled a 3D print of a heart with human tissue and vessels calling it a first and a "major medical breakthrough" that advances possibilities for transplants.
158. a Defence Research and Development Organisation, DRDO, successfully test fired indigenously designed and developed Long Range Sub-Sonic Cruise Missile - Nirbhay from the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur Odisha.
159. c Japan's Kento Momota withstood a barrage of smashes from Indonesia's Anthony Sinisuka Ginting to rally for a thrilling victory in the Singapore Open final.
160. a Christian Garin became the first Chilean to win an ATP Tour title in 10 years when he beat Norway's Casper Ruud at the U.S. Men's Clay Court Championship in Houston.
161. c Canara Bank, one of India's largest public sector banks with nearly 6,300 branches and a network of more than 10,000 ATMs, is the first public sector bank to shift to EMV chip and PIN for card present transactions across the country's vast ATM network.
162. b The Australian and Indian Navy have concluded a two-week long bilateral maritime exercise code-named AUSINDEX.
163. d Indian women's cricket team captain Mithali Raj has been named the goodwill ambassador of Team India at the Street Child Cricket World Cup (SCCWC).
164. b Fincare Small Finance Bank (SFB) has been awarded the prestigious Celent Model Bank 2019 Award in the category of Financial Inclusion, for 'Redesigning Lending to Reach Small Businesses'.
165. b FC Goa emerged as champions of the 2019 Super Cup as they pipped Chennaiyin FC 2-1 at the Kalinga Stadium.
166. a The Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT), an arm of Reserve Bank of India, has launched a 5G Use Cases Lab for banking and financial sector.

167. b Google has opened its first Africa Artificial Intelligence lab in Ghana.
168. d ADB committed to provide USD 3 billion in sovereign loans to India in 2018, the highest level of assistance since sovereign operations began in the country in 1986, said the annual report of multilateral lending agency.
169. b The 8th edition of Home Expo India 2019 began at India Expo Centre and Mart in Greater Noida.
170. c The first World Creativity and Innovation Day (WCID), as announced by the United Nations, was celebrated on April 21, 2018.
171. a The IMF and World Bank launches "Learning Coin" to explore blockchain technologies.
172. c Israel will honour late Lt. Gen. J.F.R Jacob, one of the heroes of the 1971 Bangladesh war, as a Jewish soldier who served in a foreign army. "Lt. Gen. Jacob will be honoured by unveiling of a wall plaque on the Wall of Honour at Jerusalem for soldiers who served with distinction in foreign armies,".
173. d The new version of the note has a depiction of Hampi with Chariot on the reverse, depicting the country's cultural heritage. The base colour of the note is Fluorescent blue.
174. a Every April 17 World Haemophilia Day is recognised worldwide to increase awareness of haemophilia and other inherited bleeding disorders.
175. c In the backdrop of the growing maritime engagement between India and Vietnam, the Indian Navy undertook the second edition of the bilateral maritime exercise between Indian Navy and Vietnam Peoples' Navy at/ off Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam.
176. c Ethiopian athletes Gelete Burka (women's race) and Abrha Milaw (men's race) won the 43rd edition of the Paris Marathon.
177. c India's Harsheel Dani recovered from a game down to get the better of Denmark's Mads Christophersen to clinch the Dutch International badminton title in Wateringen, The Netherlands.
178. b Tech giants Google and Apple have removed TikTok from their app stores after the Supreme Court refused to stay a Madras High Court order asking the Centre to prohibit the download of the Chinese social media platform.
179. a Bibhu Kalyan Nayak became the first Indian to be appointed Chair of International Hockey Federation (FIH) Health and Safety Committee by the world governing body.
180. a The researchers from the Yale Undergraduate Aerospace Association (YUAA), led by 21-year-old Keshav Raghavan, are among the 16 teams across the country whose CubeSats will be flown into space on missions planned to launch in 2020, 2021 and 2022.
181. c The World Press Freedom Index 2019', topped by Norway, finds an increased sense of hostility towards journalists across the world.
182. b Peru's Garcia, former president kills himself to avoid arrest.
183. c Saudi Arabia will host the 15th annual Summit of Group 20 leaders in November next year.

184. a
185. d India has dropped two places on a global press freedom index to be ranked 140th out of 180 countries in the annual Reporters without Borders analysis, with the lead up to the ongoing Indian general elections flagged as a particularly dangerous time for journalists.
186. c Sri Lanka's first satellite 'Raavana-1' was launched into space from NASA's Flight Facility on Virginia's east shore. 'Raavana 1' weighs around 1.05 kg and the lifespan of the satellite is around one and a half years.
187. a Nepal successfully launched its first satellite into space from the US to gather detailed geographical information of the Himalayan nation, evoking unbridled excitement among the people and scientists.
188. b India's Bajrang Punia has regained the world number one spot in the men's 65-kilogram freestyle category rankings.
189. a Scientist and businessman Yusuf Hamied is among a host of Indian-origin experts honoured in the 2019 list of new fellows of the U.K.'s Royal Society.
190. d The International Day for Monuments and Sites also known as World Heritage Day is an international observance held on 18 April each year around the world with different types of activities, including visits to monuments and heritage sites, conferences, round tables and newspaper articles.
191. a Scientist Dr Gagandeep Kang has become the first Indian woman to be inducted as a Fellow of the Royal Society (FRS) in London.
192. c India and France to hold their largest Naval Exercise 'VARUNA' Powered By Aircraft Carriers, Jets and Destroyers.
193. a Israeli President Reuven Rivlin formally handed Benjamin Netanyahu his letter of appointment to start building a coalition government following last week's general election.
194. b India has rebuilt Chhyoiphel Kundeling Monastery in Nepal.
195. d The Asian Tea Alliance (ATA), a union of five tea-growing and consuming countries, was launched in Guizhou in China.
196. c World Health Organisation (WHO) has released new recommendations on 10 ways that countries can use digital health technology, accessible via mobile phones, tablets and computers, to improve people's health and essential services.
197. b Bangladesh observes Mujibnagar Day to mark formation of first government.
198. d America's first female astronaut candidate, pilot Jerrie Cobb, who pushed for equality in space but never reached its heights, has died.
199. b India's Ambassador to the UAE Navdeep Singh Suri has commended the launch of a book containing English translation of the Punjabi poem, Khooni Vaisakhi, saying the 100-year old classic ballad about the Jallianwala Bagh massacre is now reaching a global audience.
200. c World Liver Day 2019 is observed on April 19.

201. a An Indian-American scientist and social activist, Prof Sree Sreenath has been inducted into the prestigious Cleveland International Hall of fame for his contribution in applications in systems biology, global issues and sustainable development.
202. c Twenty states and Union Territories have so far joined a pan-India network of single emergency helpline number '112' on which immediate assistance can be sought by anyone in distress, officials said.
203. d Saudi Arabia has issued a formal order increasing the Haj quota of India to two lakhs from one lakh seventy five-thousand.
204. b According to data released by StartupBlink, India moved up to 17th position in 2018 from 37th spot last year in the Startup Ecosystem Ranking for 2019.
205. b US scientists say they used HIV to make a gene therapy that cured eight infants of severe combined immunodeficiency, or "bubble boy" disease.
206. d "Champion of Champions", Former Cricketer Ravi Shastri appointed as Ras Al Khaimah Economic Zone (RAKEZ) exclusive Corporate Ambassador to the Indian Business Community.
207. b Former Olympic and three-time world champion Asbel Kiprop of Kenya was banned for four years for testing positive for the blood-boosting drug EPO after his claim that urine samples might have been tampered with by disreputable doping control officers was rejected.
208. a The Intellectual Property Rights Cell (IPR Cell) of Kerala Agricultural University (KAU) has been selected for the National Intellectual Property Award 2019.
209. b Malayalam film Bhayanakam (Fear) directed by Jayaraj won the best cinematography award at the Beijing International Film Festival. The cinematography was done by Nikihil S Praveen. The film had also won the best cinematography award at the 65th National Film Awards.
210. c The Civil Service Day is celebrated on 21 April every year. The purpose for this day is to rededicate and recommit themselves to the cause of the people. It is observed by all Civil Services.
211. b The 1984 Bhopal gas tragedy which killed thousands of people is among the world's "major industrial accidents" of the 20th century, a UN report has said, warning that 2.78 million workers die from occupational accidents and work-related diseases each year.
212. a Navy chief Admiral Sunil Lanba launched the third ship of Project 15B, a guided missile destroyer Imphal, at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders, Mumbai.
213. b In Ukraine, comedian and political newcomer Volodymyr Zelensky has apparently secured a landslide victory in the Presidential election. Exit polls indicated that he is going to take 73 per cent of the votes while incumbent Petro Poroshenko securing 25 per cent.
214. a Saudi Arabia and the UAE announced financial support of three billion dollars for the people of Sudan following the overthrow of longtime leader Omar al-Bashir.
215. c The UAE Cabinet has adopted the National Artificial Intelligence Strategy 2031. The Cabinet adopted it during a meeting, chaired by Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai at the Presidential Palace in Abu Dhabi.

216. b Twitter said that it has appointed Manish Maheshwari as the Managing Director of its India operations.
217. c NASA astronaut Christina Koch is going to have her mission on the International Space Station (ISS) extended to 328 days, which would set a record for the longest single spaceflight by a woman, the US space agency said. Koch, who arrived at the space station on March 14, and now is scheduled to remain in orbit until February 2020, will eclipse the record of 288 days set by former NASA astronaut Peggy Whitson in 2016-17.
218. b Indian athletes won five medals on the opening day of the Asian Athletics Championships in Doha. Javelin thrower Annu Rani and 3000-meter steeple chaser Avinash Sable won the silver medals.
219. a In Football, the Services lifted the Santosh Trophy, beating Punjab 1-nil in the final at Ludhiana. In the first half, both the teams were goal-less. In the second half, Services scored the lone goal and held on till the final whistle.
220. c The first World Creativity and Innovation Day (WCID), as announced by the United Nations, was celebrated on April 21, 2018.
221. a Indian and the US Navies have held a joint submarine-hunting exercise in the Indian Ocean, aiming to lay the groundwork for coordinating maritime patrol and reconnaissance, according to the US Navy.
222. d An exhibition displaying secret official documents of British India government related to Jallianwala Bagh massacre of 1919, its aftermath and the Martial law (that was imposed by the British in Punjab banning public assemblies to suppress agitations against them) opened in Pakistan's Lahore.
223. d Sri Lankan Government imposed emergency in the country following bomb attacks on churches and hotels.
224. b China's Huawei Technologies launched what it said was the world's first 5G communications hardware for the automotive industry, in a sign of its growing ambitions to become a key supplier to the sector for self-driving technology.
225. c Flipkart, the country's largest e-commerce entity, announced the launch of a data centre in the city, besides investment in the Telangana state to strengthen its technology infrastructure.
226. d Chennai Super Kings (CSK) captain MS Dhoni has become the first Indian batsman to hit 200 sixes in the Indian Premier League (IPL).
227. a Fabio Fognini became the first Italian to win an ATP Masters 1000 title at the Rolex Monte-Carlo Masters, defeating Dusan Lajovic 6-3, 6-4 in one hour and 38 minutes.
228. d World Earth Day is an annual activity which is celebrated on 22nd April worldwide. This day is celebrated to make people aware of the environmental degradation and the steps to be taken towards environmental protection.
229. a Former deputy Election Commissioner Vinod Zutshi has been appointed as special observer for Tripura where the Lok Sabha polls to one of the seats were postponed in view of the law and order situation.
230. b The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) has announced the creation of the Amartya Sen Chair in Inequality Studies, named in honour of the India-born economist, philosopher and Nobel laureate, who was Professor of Economics at LSE from 1971-82.
231. d The first edition of Naval Commanders' Conference of 2019 begins in New Delhi from April 23. The themes of 'Functional Reorganisation of Indian Navy towards improving Operational Efficiency' and 'Optimal Manning' would form the core of discussions towards finalising long term road map for the Indian Navy.

232. d Indonesia has released a special commemorative stamp on the theme of Ramayana to mark the 70th anniversary of the establishment of its diplomatic ties with India.
233. c The USA has decided to end exemptions from sanctions for countries still buying oil from Iran. In a statement, White House said that five countries - India, China, Japan, South Korea and Turkey will no longer be exempt from US sanctions if they continue to import oil from Iran after their waivers end on May 2.
234. c 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 (Gross Domestic Product). This also includes the excess capital in contingency reserves and revaluation reserves.
235. b Global warming has caused the Indian economy to be 31 per cent smaller than it would otherwise have been, according to a Stanford study which shows how Earth's temperature changes have increased inequalities.
236. b India's largest IT services company Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has helped modernise a network of more than 1.5 lakh post offices in the country, thus creating World's Biggest EPostal Network and the largest SAP implementations worldwide.
237. a The total deposits in bank accounts opened under the Jan Dhan scheme are set to cross Rs 1 lakh crore soon. The Modi government launched the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) on August 28, 2014, with universal banking access in focus.
238. b NASA has revealed that Mercury, the smallest planet in the solar system has a massive solid inner core. The final trip around Mercury before crash-landing in 2015 was made by NASA's 'MESSENGER'. The spacecraft orbited Mercury for around 2011 to 2015 and it was its second mission to Mercury.
239. a India clinched one gold, one silver and bronze at the Asian Wrestling Championship in China's Xian. World number one Bajrang Punia logged 10 points in a row in the gold medal bout to reclaim his Asian Championship crown.
240. b India has been nominated as the "Guest of Honour" country at the 29th edition of the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair (ADIBF) which begins on 23rd April 2019.
241. b A Konkani translation of the Indian Constitution has been released by the Mangaluru Bishop Peter Paul Saldanha at the Rosario cathedral, Mangalore. The translation has been done by Prof Stephen Quadros Permude, who has authored several books in Konkani.
242. a North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and Russian President Vladimir Putin will meet for their first summit talks in the Pacific port city of Vladivostok on 25th April 2019.
243. a Kotak Mahindra Bank becomes the first Destination Bank to go live with Net Banking and Debit Card-based e-mandate authentication, the bank said in a statement adding that the capability will enable its customers to create electronic mandates (similar to the erstwhile eNACH with Aadhaar + OTP) via both the Debit Card and Net Banking channels.
244. b Former Dena Bank MD Karnam Sekar is set to take over as the new Managing Director and CEO of Indian Overseas Bank from July 1, 2019.

245. c Uday Kumar Varma, a former bureaucrat who took over as the Secretary General of Assocham in August last year, has resigned from the post.
246. b The Reserve Bank of India is the first central bank in the Asia-Pacific region to begin an explicit interest rate easing cycle buoyed by benign food inflation and easier global financial condition, Fitch Ratings said.
247. a Researchers at the Lund University Diabetes Centre have discovered how lifestyle affects genes and disease development in a human body in a new study called 'Epigenetic Mechanisms'.
248. c According to the World Health Organization (WHO), Malawi has launched world's first malaria vaccine RTS,S, on in a landmark large-scale pilot programme to immunise young children and give them partial protection against the disease.
249. d India bagged four medals, including a Gold, on the final day of the Asian Athletics Championships at Doha in Qatar. India ended at the fourth spot in the medals tally with 3 Gold, 7 Silver and 7 Bronze. Bahrain topped the table with 11 Gold, 7 Silver and 4 Bronze.
250. c The International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace "underscores the value of international cooperation for the common good", according to United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres marking its first-ever observance on 24 April.
251. b In an effort to encourage customers to buy electric vehicle, the country's largest lender, State Bank of India (SBI) launched India's first 'Green Car Loan' (Electric Vehicle), on the occasion of World Earth Day on April 22.
252. b The Supreme Court constituted a one-man panel of former apex court judge Justice A K Patnaik to hold an inquiry into the allegations of a larger conspiracy to frame Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi and fixing of benches in the top court.
253. d The world's only floating nuclear power unit is ready to start commercial operations in Russia.
254. c The International Press Institute declared Dawn editor and columnist Cyril Almeida in Pakistan the recipient of its 71st World Press Freedom Hero award.
255. a The UAE's flag carrier Etihad Airways has become the first airline in the Gulf region to operate a flight without any single-use plastics on board, in a bid to raise awareness about pollution on Earth Day.
256. b The American space agency's InSight lander appears to have detected its first seismic event on Mars.
257. b Japanese scientists have succeeded in creating what they called the first-ever artificial crater on an asteroid, a step towards shedding light on how the solar system evolved.
258. d French official Stephanie Frappart will become the first woman to referee a Ligue 1 match when Amiens hosts Strasbourg.
259. d This year's World Malaria Day, being observed on April 25, has the theme 'Zero malaria starts with me'.
260. c National Award-winning filmmaker Madhur Bhandarkar, popular scriptwriter Salim Khan and yesteryears dancing diva Helen were honoured with the prestigious Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Award.

261. b After being ranked number 1 in the NIRF Rankings 2019, under the Management category, IIM-Bangalore has added another feather to its cap. The B-school's post graduate programme in Enterprise Management (PGPEM) has been ranked 12th in Asia-Pacific region (APAC) and 61st globally in the QS Executive MBA rankings 2019.
262. b With over 120 crore account takeover attacks in 2018, India came only second to the US among top destinations for hacking attempts in the world.
263. c Russia's Vladimir Putin and North Korea's Kim Jong Un met face-to-face for the first time and vowed to seek closer ties.
264. a 5th Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) Media Summit on Climate Action and Disaster Preparedness began in Kathmandu.
265. b Microsoft has reached a valuation of one trillion dollars for the first time after posting a 19pc increase in profits.
266. d Ajinkya Rahane became the first overseas player from India to sign for Hampshire and he will feature in County Championship matches throughout May, June and the start of July, subject to visa clearance.
267. b India's ace cueist Pankaj Advani defeated Ehsan Heydari Nezhad of Iran 6-4 to claim the inaugural Asian Snooker Tour title.
268. a India bagged gold and two silver medals at the Asian Boxing Championships in Bangkok.
269. d The second edition of Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize was awarded to author Rana Dasgupta for his 2010 novel 'Solo', a tale of estrangement and the ultimate failure of material existence.
270. d World Intellectual Property Day is being observed on 26th April across the globe.
271. b Arunachalam Muruganantham, known as the maker of low-cost sanitary napkins in India with his invention of cellulose-based pads, has made it to Fortune magazine's 2019 list of the world's greatest leaders.
272. d A 13-member committee having representatives from GST Network (GSTN), central and state governments has been formed to examine the electronic tax invoice system of South Korea, Latin America and other countries and suggest a model for India.
273. b With IRDAI Executive Director Suresh Mathur as the chairman, the 13-member panel has been tasked with suggesting product designs with customer-friendly underwriting, including easy premium payment methods and simple claims settlement procedures.
274. a Niti Aayogs Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and Unicef India signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) to provide an open platform to promote participation, skilling and empowerment among young children across different communities.
275. b Qatar is set to abolish its controversial exit visa system for all foreign workers by the end of 2019.
276. a In contrast to the old red-orange colored Rs 20 note of size 143 X 63 mm, which has a motif of Mount Harriet, the new note will have a motif of Ellora caves on the back side, depicting India's cultural heritage.
277. b Max Bupa, one of India's leading standalone health insurance players, and HDFC Bank, one of India's leading private sector banks announced the launch of 'digital first' propositions for the bank's 40+ million customers, spread across its 5,000+ branches.

278. d In a move that is likely to be a significant move in India's effort to increase its security presence in the Indian Ocean region, former Indian Army chief Dalbir Singh Suhag was appointed as India's High Commissioner to Seychelles.
279. b Mizoram Boy Who Tried to Save Chicken Receives PETA Award For Gesture.
280. a Australia's Claire Polosak created the history by becoming the first woman umpire ever to stand in a men's One-Day International when she takes the field in the final of the ICC World Cricket League Division 2.

