

## Current Affairs Weekly PDF - April 2019 First Week (1-7)

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### INDIAN AFFAIRS

#### **Prime Minister of Republic of Guinea visited India**

Prime Minister of Guinea, Dr Ibrahima Kassory Fofana arrived in New Delhi along with his delegation on 16th March 2019 to improve the bilateral ties between India and Guinea. He addressed the inaugural session of the 14th CII-EXIM Bank conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership, held in New Delhi.

#### **AUSINDEX 19: Largest Australian defence joint task force to visit India for military exercise**

The Third iteration of India-Australia bilateral exercise, AUSINDEX 19 will be held from 2nd April to 16th April 2019 at Vishakhapatnam. The bilateral exercise will deepen defence and strategic relationship between the two countries. The Focus of the exercise will be on anti-Submarine warfare.

#### **Govt has constituted a panel to review a ban imposed on Jamaat-e-Islami & JKLF**

The Ministry of Home Affairs has constituted Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Tribunal, to determine the sufficient cause to ban Jamaat-e-Islami, and Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) faction. It will be headed by Justice Chander Shekhar of the Delhi High Court. The tribunal has been formed by Government after exercising its powers conferred by the sub-section (1) of section 5 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

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

India and the US have structured the first reliable communication link between the Indian Navy & US Central as well as Pacific Naval Commands under the COMCASA pact at New Delhi, India. The Indo-US military-information sharing pact, COMCASA was signed at the 2+2 bilateral summit on 6th September, 2018.

#### **4th Session of India-Ukraine working group on Trade and Economic Cooperation**

India and Ukraine have discussed bilateral trade featuring the importance of exports and imports between the 2 countries. The deliberation was part of the 4th Meeting of India-Ukraine Working Group on Trade and Economic Cooperation (IU-WGTEC) held in New Delhi.

## **Indian Army Constructs The Longest Suspension Bridge 'Maitri' Over River Indus In Leh-Ladakh in just 40 days**

The Indian Army has achieved a record-breaking feat by constructing 'Maitri', the 260-feet longest suspension bridge over the Indus river in the Leh-Ladakh region in just 40 days. The combat engineers belonging to 'Sahas aur Yogyata' regiment of 'Fire and Fury Corps' of the Indian Army undertook the construction of 'Maitri'.

## **High-level discussions on "Fiscal Relations across levels of Government" by 15th Finance Commission held in New Delhi**

High-level discussion on "Fiscal Relations across levels of Government" was held by 15th Finance Commission under the chairmanship of Shri N. K. Singh in New Delhi. This discussion was organized in partnership with the World Bank, OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development), and ADB (Asian Development Bank).

## **3-day National Cardiology Conference started in Lucknow**

The 3-day National Cardiology Conference 2019 has been started at Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of medical sciences in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu was the chief guest of this conference.

## **Indian Navy inked a pact with CSIR**

Indian Navy and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) have signed Memorandum of understanding to tackle joint research and development of advanced technologies for the Indian Navy. The agreement will facilitate a formal framework for interaction between Indian Navy and CSIR.

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

Under the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles II (FAME II) scheme, the NITI Aayog and Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) have released a report titled 'India's Electric Mobility Transformation: Progress to Date and Future Opportunities'. The report is based on opportunities for the automobile sector and government. The objective of the FAME II scheme is to enhance the government's commitment to a clean mobility future with a major focus on electric automobiles.

# **INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

## **Australia launched 7 Nation Military exercise in Indian Ocean**

Australia is conducting 7 nation Indian Ocean military exercises along with Sri Lanka, India, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia and Singapore. The exercise is aimed to counter the growing Chinese influence in the India Ocean.

## **Japan has unveiled its New Imperial Era name called "Reiwa"**

Following the 1400 years old tradition, Japan's government has unveiled an era name, "Reiwa," or "pursuing harmony," for soon-to-be Emperor Naruhito. The names change occurs when a new emperor takes the throne. The new era to begin on May 1, will succeed the "Heisei" era (1989-2019) of Emperor Akihito.

## **Ram Nath Kovind's 3-Day Visit To Bolivia**

President Ram Nath Kovind was on a visit of Bolivia from 28th to 30th March, 2019. He reached Santa Cruz, Bolivia on the second leg of his three nation visit to Croatia, Bolivia and Chile. This is the first visit by an Indian President to Bolivia. India and Bolivia signed 8 MoUs in Various Fields. Read full details of his visit here: <https://www.affairscloud.com/ram-nath-kovinds-3-day-visit-to-bolivia/>

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

As per the State of Global Air 2019 report, released by Health Effects Institute (HEI), over 1.2 million people died in India due to air pollution in 2017. Air pollution is the third highest cause of death among all health risks in India.

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

India has signed an agreement with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Consultancy Service (NABCONS) for setting up India-Africa Institute of Agriculture and Rural Development (IAIARD) in Malawi to enhance capacity in the areas of agro-financing and entrepreneurship development for African countries.

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

In accordance with the annual 2019 Global Report on Food Crises, around 113 million people across 53 countries faced severe hunger in 2018. In comparison to the figures of 2017, the number is reduced from 124 million but it requires urgent humanitarian assistance. The report prepared by 15 leading global and regional organizations was led by UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP) and International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). It was released by Food Security Information Network (FSIN).

### **President Ram Nath Kovind visit to Chile**

President Shri Ram Nath Kovind, reached Santiago, Chile in the evening of 30th March, 2019. This was the final leg of his visit to three nations – Croatia, Bolivia and Chile. There he addressed India-Chile Business Forum. Read full details of his visit here: <https://www.affairscloud.com/president-ram-nath-kovind-visit-to-chile/>

### **Morocco –US Joint Exercise AFRICAN LION 2019 started in Morocco**

The 15th edition of the Morocco- US sponsored exercise "African Lion 2019", took place in Morocco. It was conducted from March 16 to April 7, 2019. The annual Military exercise materialized in the region of Agadir, Tifnit, Tan-Tan, Tata and Ben Guerir with the participation of thousands of military personnel.

### **To build disaster-resilient infrastructure in Asia, around \$1.7 trillion needed per year: ADB**

According to a recent Asian Development Bank's (ADB) report titled 'Asian Development Outlook 2019: Strengthening Disaster Resilience', around 26 trillion dollars from 2016 to 2030, or 1.7 trillion dollars investment needed per year to build disaster-resilient infrastructure in Asia. This is because Developing economies across Asia are among the most vulnerable to natural disasters and have suffered damages of around 644 billion dollars since 2000.

### **First Global Conference on Synergies between the 2030 Agenda and Paris Agreement in Copenhagen, Denmark**

The first global multi-stakeholder conference on synergies is summoned by (UN DESA) the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the (UN FCCC) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change, was held in Copenhagen, Denmark. It was hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Energy, Utilities and Climate.

## **BANKING & FINANCE**

### **Bank of Baroda becomes the 3rd largest bank after its merger with Dena Bank & Vijaya Bank**

On April 1, 2019, the merger of Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank into Bank of Baroda has come into effect. With this amalgamation, Bank of Baroda becomes the India's second largest public sector bank and third largest commercial bank after State Bank of India (SBI) and HDFC Bank. It was India's first ever three-way merger of banks.

### **Reliance Mutual Fund partnering with Google, becomes the first Indian company to launch voice-based financial transactions**

Reliance Nippon Life Asset Management (RNAM) has joined hands with Google to enable the customers of Reliance Mutual Fund to carry out voice-based financial transactions. With this, RNAM becomes the first company in India, to provide conversational interface.

### **Government infused Rs 205 crore into Bank of Maharashtra**

Government infused a capital of Rs. 205 crore into the state owned Bank of Maharashtra in lieu of preferential allotment of shares. In this regard, the bank has issued and allotted its 15,47,16,981 equity shares at an issue price of Rs 13.25 per share to the govt.

### **One97 Communications-owned Paytm Money Gets SEBI Approval for Stock Broking**

One97 Communications-owned Paytm Money, the wealth management arm of Paytm, has got approval from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to start offering a stock broking service such as the ability to trade in equities and cash segments, derivatives, and exchange-traded funds (ETFs) among other exchange-traded products.

### **Kotak Mahindra Bank Becomes The First Lender To Impose Charges On UPI Transactions, Namely, Paytm, Google Pay, PhonePe among others**

For Kotak Mahindra Bank's account holders, the first 30 peer-to-peer UPI fund transfer would be free of cost. Once a person exceeds 30 UPI transactions, he will be charged Rs. 2.50 per transaction for of Rs. 1000 or less. For transfers exceeding Rs. 1000, the bank will charge Rs. 5 plus 18% GST. Read full detail here: <https://www.affairsccloud.com/kotak-mahindra-bank-becomes-the-first-lender-to-impose-charges-on-upi-transactions-namely-paytm-google-pay-phonepe/>

### **Fitch kept India's rating unchanged at BBB- with Stable outlook**

Fitch Rating affirms India's sovereign rating at the lowest investment grade of BBB-with a stable outlook. The growth rate of India forecasted by Fitch is 6.8% in financial year 2019-20 and 7.1% in FY 2020-21. Since 2006, this is the 13th year in a row that India is getting "BBB" ranking from Fitch.

### **RBI makes NPA divergence rule easier for banks**

The RBI brought leniency in its rule on 1st April, 2019 by asking banks to disclose bad loan divergences in their financial statements on the condition if divergence exceeds 10% of profit prior to provision and contingencies.

### **First Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement for 2019-20-RBI cuts repo rate by 25 basis points**

Reserve Bank of India's six-member monetary policy committee chaired by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das released its 1st Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy for 2019-20. RBI has reduced 0.25 basis points in the Policy Rates under liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) with immediate effect. The Change in Policy rates are as follows:

- Repo Rate 6.00 %
- Reverse Repo Rate 5.75 %
- Marginal Standing Facility Rate 6.25 %
- Bank Rate 6.25 %

### **RBI Sets WMA Limit For Government At Rs 75000 Crore For The First Half Of The FY 2019-20**

The Reserve Bank of India has set the limits for Ways and Means Advances (WMA) to Rs. 75000 crore for the first half of the financial year 2019-20. As and when the government of India utilises 75% of the WMA limit, the central bank would activate fresh floatation of market loans. The rate of interest issued on the Ways and Means Advances (WMA) will be Repo Rate while the overdraft will exceed the Repo Rate by flat 2%.

### **Karnataka Bank Signs agreement With Bharti AXA For Insurance Products**

Karnataka Bank has signed a pact with Bharti Axa Life Insurance Company Ltd to distribute the latter's life insurance products to provide insurance solutions to the customers of Karnataka Bank. This collaboration will facilitate wide choices of life insurance products to its customers across all its 836 branches of bank supported by the customer centric products of the insurance company.

### **UPI transaction charges have been reduced by NPCI for promoting the uses**

For promoting the adoption of Unified Payments Interface (UPI), the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has reduced the transaction fees up to Rs 1,000 by 60%. For UPI transactions up to Rs.1,000, the charge has been cut to 10 paise from 25 paise, and for transactions above Rs.1,000 has been retained at 50 paise.

### **For the first time, SEBI agrees to create 'Airport Specific Fund' worth Rs. 10,000 crore**

Under "Category II Alternate Investment Fund" (AIF), for the first time SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India) has approved an "airport" specific fund". The name of the fund is "Taking Off To the Future Airport Fund". It can raise a capital amounting to 1.5\$bn (Rs. 10,000 crore). The Sponsor and Investment Manager of the fund is based in Chennai and is termed as 'Taking Off To The Future Investment Management LLP'.

### **RBI alters LCR norms to enhance cash position of banks**

RBI has altered the LCR (Liquidity Coverage Ratio) norms to offer an additional 2% window to lenders. The central bank has brought in this alteration in order to improve the cash position of banks by harmonising liquidity requirements and giving away extra money to lenders.

## **BUSINESS & ECONOMY**

### **Anti-Dumping Duty has been imposed on the import of Solar Components from four nations**

In order to safeguard domestic players against cheap shipments, Department of Revenue, Government of India has imposed anti-dumping duty up to USD 1559 (Rs 1,07,844) per tonne on the import of certain solar cell components (Ethylene Vinyl Acetate Sheet for Solar Module) from China, Malaysia, Saudia Arabia and Thailand for a period of 5 years.

### **GST Revenue collection for March, 2019 recorded Highest Collection in the FY 2018-19**

Total Gross GST revenue collected in the month of March, 2019 has crossed the Rupees One Lakh Crore mark as it has recorded the collection of Rs.1,06,577 crore of which CGST is Rs. 20,353 crore, SGST is Rs.27,520 crore, IGST is Rs.50,418 crore (including Rs. 23,521crore collected on imports) and Cess is Rs. 8,286 crore (including Rs. 891crore collected on imports).

### **BNP Paribas Cardif sold 5 crore shares in SBI Life Insurance for 2,889 crore**

The foreign partner of SBI Life Insurance, BNP Paribas Cardif has sold 5 crore shares of the company for Rs 2,889 crore to increase its public shareholding to 25% of its paid-up equity share capital on or before October 2, 2020. The average price of equity share during the sale was Rs 577.93 per equity share.

### **ADB cuts India's growth rate from 7.6% 7.2% in 2019-20, as global risks to Brexit surge**

As global risks from trade tensions to Brexit surge, the ADB (Asia Development Bank) in its publication Asian Development Outlook 2019, has demoted growth forecasts for India and Southeast Asia for 2019. For India, it has been downgraded by 40 basis points to 7.2% in fiscal year 2019-20 while for Southeast Asia's growth estimate was lowered to 4.9% by 0.2 percentage point.

### **Tata Power joined hands with Indraprastha Gas ink pact for rooftop solar projects**

Tata Power has signed an agreement with Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) for green energy solutions including rooftop solar projects, setting up of commercial-scale EV charging/battery swapping stations.

### **US has consented the sale of 24 "MH-60R Seahawk" helicopters to India for \$2.6 bn**

US has consented the sale of 24 "MH-60R Seahawk" helicopters to India for \$2.6 bnAt an estimated cost of \$2.6 billion, the United States has approved the sale of 24 multi-mission Lockheed Martin-built MH-60 "Romeo" Seahawk helicopters to India. These choppers designed for targeting ships, hunting submarines and conducting search-and-rescue operations at sea, would replenish the age-old fleet of British-made Sea King helicopters, used by India.

### **Micromax Co-founder unveils India's first AI-enabled e-motorcycle brand**

Micromax co-founder Rahul Sharma has announced his incursion into smart mobility with the launching of an AI (Artificial intelligence) enabled electric motorcycle. This launch is expected to hit the roads by June this year. He has set up Revolt Intellicorp Pvt Ltd, headquartered at Gurugram.



### **BSNL has received the In-Flight Connectivity License from the Department of Telecommunications (DoT)**

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has received the In-Flight Connectivity license from the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) for enabling in-flight and maritime connectivity (IFMC) within Indian airspace. BSNL and Inmarsat, which is the satellite partner of BSNL, also operates the GX Aviation service will be able to offer in-flight connectivity to airlines.

### **Indian APA regime steps forward as CBDT signs 18 APAs in March 2019**

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has entered into 18 APAs (Advance Pricing Agreements) inclusive of 03 Bilateral APAs (BAPAs) during the month of March 2019. The total number of APAs entered into by the CBDT in 2018-19 is 52, which is inclusive of 11 BAPAs. As of now, the number of APAs entered into by the CBDT is 271, which includes 31 BAPAs.

### **BSE, India INX- the first ever Indian exchanges to sign MoU with MOEX on 3rd April, 2019**

BSE (earlier called Bombay Stock Exchange) and INX (India International Exchange) are the first Indian exchanges to sign MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) with MOEX (Moscow Exchange) in order to allow capital formation platform and connect investor community and companies in both India and Russia.

### **A new seller-funding programme named "Amazon Wings" was launched by Amazon India**

A new seller-funding programme named "Amazon Wings" has been launched by Amazon India in partnership with Mumbai based Ketto, a crowd-funding platform to help the small businesses and entrepreneurs to raise funds through latter. Also, it launches a dedicated microsite to feature fundraisers initiated by sellers by which they can raise small ticket funds starting from as little as Rs 50,000

### **NIIF and ROADIS on a joint venture to invest \$2 billion in Road Projects**

The National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) and global private infrastructure operator ROADIS (owned by Public Sector Pension Investment board abbreviated as PSP investment) have jointly set up a platform for investing up to \$2 billion in road projects in India. ROADIS is the largest European highway concession manager in India with 710 km of highways within its ownership and management.

## **AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS**

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

On his 80th Birthday, Batman will become the first Inductee of Comic-Con Museum's Character Hall of Fame in a ceremony at 50th Annual Comic-Con International in San Diego, USA on 17th July 2019. The Character of Batman was created by artist Bob Kane and writer Bill Finger.

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

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

### **Vikram Patel to be honoured with the prestigious John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Award**

Vikram patel, a psychiatrist and professor of global health at Harvard Medical school, has been honoured with prestigious John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health award with prize money of \$100,000 by The Gairdner Foundation.

### **Hero Chairman Pawan Munjal honoured with the Asian Tour with a 'Special Achievement Award'**

Hero MotoCorp Chairman, Dr. Pawan Munjal has been honoured by the Asian Tour with a "Special Achievement Award" for his contributions to Asian Golf, at the concluding ceremony of Hero Indian Open Golf tournament, held at Gurugram, Haryana.

### **UAE honours PM Modi with the highest civilian honour, Zayed Medal**

UAE honoured PM Narendra Modi with its highest civilian award, the Zayed Medal for boosting the bilateral ties between both of the nations. United Arab Emirates's highest civilian decoration,

the Order of Zayed, awarded to those who contribute to international leadership in strengthening relations with the country.

### **Shah Rukh Khan conferred with Honorary Doctorate from University of Law, London**

Eminent Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan was conferred with an honorary doctorate in Philanthropy by the University of Law, London. He was awarded this for his efforts to give back to society.

### **Indian Astrologer Dr. Sohini Sastri Felicitated By D. Litt in Astrology**

Indian Astrologer Dr. Sohini Sastri has been honoured with 'D. Litt in Astrology' (Doctor of Letters) by National American University, USA at an event held in Mumbai at Classique Club for her immense knowledge and contribution towards Astrology.

### **"Global Slag Company of the Year" award was won by Tata Steel**

Tata Steel bagged the "Global Slag Company of the Year" award at the 14th Global Slag Conference and Exhibition 2019, for its innovative practices in the development of new applications for Steel by-products (Slag).

### **Pali Scholar Dr Gyanaditya Shakya honoured with Presidential Award of Maharshi Badrayan Vyas Samman 2019**

A Scholar of Pali, Dr. Gyanaditya Shakya, has been honoured with the Presidential Award of Maharshi Badrayan Vyas Samman 2019 with prize money of INR 1,00,000 and a certificate. He accepts award from Vice- President of India M Venkaiah Naidu. He was conferred the award for his outstanding contribution in the field of Pali language and literature.

### **An Overview of ESPN India Awards 2018**

The Indian subsidiary of ESPN (Entertainment and Sports Programming Network), India (espn.in) declared the ESPN India awards for 2018 in which PV Sindhu was conferred with the sportsperson of year award in female category and Neeraj Chopra was conferred with the sportsperson of the year award in Male category.

## **APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNS**

### **Former ESPN Star Sports MD Manu Sawhney took his ICC Chief Executive charge**

Former ESPN Star Sports MD, Manu Sawhney has formally joined International Cricket Council (ICC) as its Chief Executive Officer (CEO). appointment has been confirmed in January 2019 but he was working with outgoing CEO David Richardson for the last six weeks to make smooth change over.

### **Google India Head Rajan Anandan resigns**

Vice president for Google India and South East Asia, Rajan Anandan is quitting from the company after an 8 year stint. He was responsible for driving growth at Google India. He will stay until the end of this month. Vikas Agnihotri, will take on the interim responsibility until the company finds a new managing director.

### **Algeria's president Abdelaziz Bouteflika resigns after 20 years in power**

The 82-year-old Algerian president Abdelaziz Bouteflika who was in power for the last 20 years (since 1999) has resigned after prolonged weeks of mass protest. Until elections, Abdelkader Bensalah, the chairman of the upper house of the Parliament is expected to become the caretaker president for three months.

### **Air Marshal D Choudhury AVSM VM VSM to be designated as Senior Air Staff Officer, Western Air Command**

Air Marshal D Choudhury AVSM VM VSM has been appointed as Senior Air Staff Officer, Western Air Command. He has experience as a Commanding officer in 15 Sqn, Tactics and Air Combat Development Establishment (TACDE) and two frontline bases as the AOC.

### **Former Bollywood Actress, Mayoori Kango has appointed the Industry Head of Google India**

Ex-Bollywood actress and Managing Director of Performics (A Performance Marketing Agency), Mayoori Kango has been appointed as the Industry head of Google India. She will lead Google engagement with Publicis (Parent Company of Performics) and DAN.

### **Rakesh became next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Cameroon**

Shri Rakesh Malhotra, currently serving as Consul General, Consulate General of India, Melbourne has been appointed as the High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Cameroon.

### **Vipin Anand has been appointed as the new Managing Director of LIC**

Vipin Anand has assumed the charge of Managing Director of the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC). In March 2019, he was appointed by Centre as the LIC MD. He will succeed interim chairman, Hemant Bhargava.

### **Vinod Dasari was appointed as Royal Enfield CEO**

Vinod K. Dasari has been appointed as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Royal Enfield and also he became an executive director in the board of Eicher Motors, parent organization of Royal Enfield. He will succeed Siddhartha Lal for CEO post.

### **Anwar Haleem appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan**

Shri Anwar Haleem, IFS (Indian Foreign Service, batch of 1991) is appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. He will succeed Mrs. Shubhdarshini Tripathi.

### **Lori Lightfoot elected as first Black Women Mayor of Chicago**

Lori Lightfoot, a 56 year old former federal Prosecutor and practicing lawyer has been elected as Chicago's first Black Women Mayor. She is also the first lesbian Leader for the City. She will succeed Rahm Emanuel.

### **AIFF President, Praful Patel elected as member of FIFA Executive Council**

Praful Patel, President of All India Football Federation (AIFF) has been designated to be the FIFA Executive Council member. He has become the first Indian to enter the elite panel of the game's global governing body.

### **Sheikh Salman designated to be president of Asian Football Confederation**

Gianni Infantino, President of FIFA (Federation Internationale de Football Association) hailed the re-election of Sheikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa, Asian football chief to help the region move forward in stability. Sheikh Salman will extend his term as president until at least 2023.

### **Keshav Murugesh takes over as Nasscom Chairman**

NASSCOM (National Association of Software and services companies), an IT industry body has appointed Keshav Murugesh, CEO of WNS Global Services Group as its Chairman for 2019-20. Nasscom also designated Pravin Rao, Infosys COO UB as its Vice Chairman for 2019-20.

### **Vikram Kirloskar was designated as president of Confederation of Indian Industry(CII)**

Chairman and Managing Director of Kirloskar Systems Ltd, and Vice Chairman of Toyota Kirloskar Motor, Vikram Kirloskar was appointed as the president of Confederation of Indian Industry(CII) for the period 2019-20. He succeeded Rakesh Bharti Mittal who is Vice Chairman of Bharti Enterprises.

### **David Malpass has been elected as World bank President**

Davis Malpass senior Treasury official and staunch supporter of President Donald Trump, was unanimously chosen as the next president of the World bank. He will succeed Jim Yong-Kim.

## **ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS**

### **Consulting arm of Infosys will buy 75% stake in Dutch Bank Subsidiary**

Consulting arm of Global IT Services major, Infosys will buy 75% stake in Starter NV which is a subsidiary of Dutch based ABN AMRO Bank for \$144 million (approx. Rs 999 crore) in an all-cash deal. This move is aimed at strategic partnership in Netherlands.

### **Project75I, the Indian Navy's Rs. 50,000-crore venture to build 6 lethal submarines**

Under the ambitious Project75-India, the Indian Navy desires to build 6 standard diesel-electric submarines. These submarines would be 50% massive in size than the Scorpene class submarines which are under-construction at the Mazagon Dockyards Limited. This would incur an overall cost of Rs. 50,000 crore. Project 75I-class submarine is a follow-on of the Project 75 Kalvari-class submarines.



## **L&T's Proposal to Acquire Majority Stake in Mindtree approved by Competition Commission of India**

Larsen and Toubro (L&T) has received the approval to acquire up to 66.15 percent stake in the Bengaluru-based IT services firm Mindtree from Competition Commission of India (CCI). Around Rs 10,800 crore is the estimated total deal value.

## **SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

### **India's defense satellite EMISAT successfully launched by ISRO**

ISRO's workhorse launch vehicle Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV C-45), in its 47th mission, has successfully launched the 436 kg EMISAT and 28 co-passenger satellites into their designated orbits from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. This was the 71st launch vehicle mission for Sriharikota. The foreign satellites consisted of 24 from the US, two from Lithuania and one each from Spain and Switzerland.

### **China launched its 2nd Generational data relay satellite, Tianlian II-01**

China successfully launched its first second generational data relay satellite named Tianlian II-01 with the help of a Long March-3B Carrier rocket from Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in Sichuan Province. China Academy of Space Technology which is under China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation has developed this satellite.

### **New exoplanet named TOI-197.0 has been discovered by NASA's TESS**

Astronomers have discovered a new exoplanet using NASA's exoplanet-hunting space telescope, TESS. The exoplanet is said to be 60 times bigger than our planet and is five-billion-year-old planet. The exoplanet is dubbed TOI-197.0 or "hot Saturn". It completes its orbit in 14 days, because the planet is very close to its host star.

### **CCMB scientists discovered a new enzyme "Murein EndopeptidaseK" to break the bacteria cell wall**

The Center for Cell and Molecular Biology (CCMB) scientists have discovered a new enzyme called "Murein EndopeptidaseK" while studying the cell growth in bacteria. This new discovery has paved the way for a new drug treatment that prevents anti-bacterial resistance by existing antibiotics.

### **Messaging app WhatsApp unveiled 'Checkpoint Tipline' to check authenticity of news**

In order to check the authenticity of information during Lok Sabha Election, Messaging app WhatsApp unveiled a platform named "Checkpoint Tipline", which can review the content in the form of pictures, video links or text. This tipline is unveiled by an India-based media skilling start-up, Proto.

### **The magnetic field of the Sun is ten times stronger than previously believed by a recent study**

According to a new study by the Queen's University Belfast and Aberystwyth University, sun's corona extends millions of kilometers above the surface about 1,400,000 kilometers across and 150,000,000 kilometers from Earth. For this research, the researchers use the Swedish 1-m Solar Telescope at Roque de los Muchachos Observatory, La Palma in the Canary Islands.

### **Japan's Hayabusa2 spacecraft drops explosive on asteroid to make crater**

Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, or JAXA has dropped an explosive from its Hayabusa2 spacecraft. It has successfully blasted the surface of an asteroid for the first time to form a crater. The mission has paved the way for the collection of underground samples for clues to the origin of the solar system.

### **South Korea unveils 5G networks early to secure world first**

South Korea has unveiled the world's first nationwide 5G mobile networks. This has made South Korea to be the first providers of the super-fast wireless technology. Top 3 telecom providers namely SK Telecom, KT, and LG Uplus have begun their 5G services on 3rd April.

### **Indian Army patrol found wreckage of World War II US aircraft**

A 12-member patrol team of the Indian Army along with a police official has discovered the wreckage of a World War II vintage US Air Force aircraft in Roing district of Arunachal Pradesh

The wreckage was located in a remote location at a distance of 30km from Roing and was covered by thick undergrowth and buried under five feet of snow.

## ENVIRONMENT

### India's "Hump-backed mahseer", freshwater fish added in "Critically Endangered" list

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species added hump-backed mahseer, also known as 'Tor remadevii' or 'tiger of water' in critically endangered species list. It is freshwater fish endemic to the Western Ghats of South India and only found in Kaveri River basins.

### Two new birds spotted in North Kerala's Aralam sanctuary during a recent bird survey

The Woolly-necked Stork and White-bellied Drongo, both dry-land species of birds have been spotted in North Kerala's Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary during The 19th bird survey. The survey was conducted jointly by the forest and wildlife department and the Malabar Natural History Society (MNHS).

### Prehistoric fossil of a 40 million-year-old whale found in Peru

A 40 million-year-old fossil of a whale-with-four-legs, webbed feet and hooves has been excavated by palaeontologists from the marine sediments inland from Peru's Pacific coast at Playa Media Luna. The 13 feet long mammal has been named as "Peregocetus pacificus". The findings have been published in the scientific journal Current Biology.

### Phayeng Village of Manipur tagged as India's first carbon-positive settlement

Phayeng, a scheduled caste village of the Chakpa community in Imphal West district of Manipur has been tagged as India's first carbon-positive settlement. Also, it has been revived from the funding under National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC), which is a central scheme launched in 2015-16 to support adaptation for climate change impact in various states.

### Earth's CO2 levels reached 410 ppm, highest in 3 million years

Germany scientists have warned that there is more Carbon dioxide (CO2) in our atmosphere than in the past three million years. The amount of CO2 in the atmosphere has gone "unnatural". Research was made by using a new computer simulation at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research in Germany.

## SPORTS

### 2019 India open (Badminton) held New Delhi from 26th March to 31st March 2019

2019 India Open which is officially known as YONEX-SUNRISE India Open 2019 was organized by the Badminton Association of India at the K.D. Jadhav Indoor hall in New Delhi from 26th March to 31 March 2019. Viktor Axelsen of Denmark grabbed Men's Single while Ratchanok Intanon (Thailand) clinched Women's Singles.

### Lewis Hamilton grabs Bahrain Grand Prix 2019

Five times world champion Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes captured Bahrain Grand Prix 2019 title by beating Mercedes's Valtteri Bottas of Finland who secured second position. Charles Leclerc, F1 drive of Ferrari was finished at third position, becoming Ferrari's youngest ever race winner at the age of 21.

### 2019 Miami Open held in Florida from 18th March to 31st March 2019

2019 Miami Open which was the 35th edition of Miami Open, held at Miami Gardens in Florida, USA from 18th March to 31st March 2019. It was a part of Masters 1000 category of 2019 ATP (Association of Tennis Professionals) Tour and Premier mandatory Category of 2019 WTA (Women Tennis Association) Tour. Roger Federer won his 4th ATP Miami title in Men's Single Category. Former Australian Cricketer, Ashleigh Barty became the first ever Australian winner of the tournament.

### **India wins ICC Test Championship Mace for 3rd straight year**

India has retained ICC Test Championship mace for the third year in a row after finishing at the top of ICC Test team rankings on the cut-off date of April 1. It has also won the purse of USD 1 million. India has been followed by New Zealand and South Africa.

### **India Clinches 25 Medals In 12th Asian Airgun Championship 2019 Held In Chinese Taipei**

From 25th March to 2nd April 2019, 12th Asian Airgun Championship 10m, Rifle/Pistol took place at the National Sports Training Center, Gongxi Shooting Range in Taoyuan City, Chinese Taipei. India topped the medal tally by winning 25 medals viz, 16 gold, 5 silver and 4 bronze medals. Republic of Korea followed the India by winning 16 medals while Chinese Taipei won 11 medals and attained 3rd spot. Read full details of 12th Asian Airgun Championship 2019 here: <https://www.affairscloud.com/india-clinches-25-medals-in-12th-asian-airgun-championship-2019-held-in-chinese-taipei/>

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

Saurav Ghosal moved up two places to become the first Indian male squash player to break into the top 10 of the latest PSA (Professional Squash Association) world ranking. He is ranked at 10th Place which is his career best ranking. At Present, Joshna Chinappa is India's best female squash player (Ranked 15th).

### **FIFA Rankings: Belgium stayed on top spot**

In the latest release of FIFA world football rankings, Belgium has edged the World Cup winners France to retain at the first rank. Meanwhile, the Indian football team also mounted two places to rank at 101. Belgium has been followed by France and Brazil.

### **Udhampur based Northern Command wins air weapon championship for the fourth time in a row**

For the 4th consecutive time, the Northern Command based in Udhampur has won the 15th edition of General J J Singh air weapon championship, held at Army Marksmanship Unit, Mhow in Madhya Pradesh. The winning team bagged the overall inter command championship by clinching "Burma Shell Trophy" after competing against 9 other teams.

## **BOOKS & AUTHORS**

### **Garuda Prakashan launched 'Modi Again' and 'Saffron Swords'**

The Indian Publishing company, Garuda Prakashan Private Limited, launched its two books "#Modi Again: Why Modi is right for India, An Ex-Communist's Manifesto" authored by Aabhas Maldahiyar and "Saffron Swords: Centuries of Indic Resistance to Invaders" written by Manoshi Sinha Rawal.

### **A book named "Kundan: Saigal's Life & Music", authored by documentary filmmaker and former DDG of Doordarshan Sharad Dutt released**

"Kundan: Saigal's Life & Music", book authored by documentary filmmaker and former DDG of Doordarshan Sharad Dutt was released on 4th April, on the 115th birth anniversary of Saigal. Kundanlal Saigal was an Indian singer and actor who is considered the first superstar of the Hindi film industry.

## **OBITUARY**

### **Tamil Director, J Mahendran passed away at the age of 79**

Famous Tamil Director, Screenwriter and actor, J. Mahendran passed away following a brief hospitalization at the age of 79. Mahendran was born on 25th July 1939 in Ilaiyangudi, Madurai.

### **Biologist, Sydney Brenner Passed Away at the age of 92**

South African Born biologist, Sydney Brenner passed away at the age of 92. He was born in Gauteng, South Africa. Brenner made contributions to work on the nature of genetic code and other areas of molecular biology.

## **Padma Shri awardee Viharidas Gopaldas Patel, noted economist and 'Father of Entrepreneurship Movement' passed away at the age of 79 in Ahmedabad, Gujarat**

Dr. Viharidas Gopaldas Patel was the Founder & Director of Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII) and was honoured with the Padma Shri in 2017 for his contribution to development of entrepreneurship in India.

## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

### **84th Foundation Day of Odisha celebrated on 1st April**

Odisha celebrates its Foundation day on 1st April every year to commemorate the sacrifices of people for the formation of Odisha province in 1936. The Odisha Day is also known as "Utkal Divas".

### **World Autism Awareness Day observed on April 2**

World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD) is observed annually on April 2 to raise awareness about people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), globally. The theme for 2019 was "Assistive Technologies, Active Participation".

### **Prevention of Blindness Week observed from 1st to 7th April 2019**

The Government of India organizes "Prevention of Blindness Week" annually from 1st to 7th April to raise awareness regarding the precautions to be taken to prevent blindness. The target of the day is on detection, cure and treatment of eye diseases. Initiated in 1960, Prevention of Blindness Week was launched by Jawaharlal Nehru and Raj Kumari Amrit Kaur, under Societies Registration Act of 1860.

### **International Mine Awareness Day - 4th April**

United Nations' International Mine Awareness Day is observed on 4th April every year to raise awareness about landmines and the actions that need to be taken towards their eradication. The Theme for International Mine Awareness Day 2019 is "United nations promotes SDGs -Safe Ground -Safe Home" (SDG -Sustainable Development Goals).

### **India celebrated National Maritime Day on 5th April**

India celebrated 56th edition of National Maritime day to support the global economy as the most well-organized, safe and sound environmentally responsive approach of transporting goods from one corner to another corner of the world. The theme of the National Maritime Day 2019 celebrations is "Indian Ocean- An Ocean of Opportunity".

### **World Health Day observed on April 7**

World Health Day is observed annually on April 7, under the sponsorship of World Health Organization (WHO), to spread awareness about equal healthcare facilities worldwide, the importance of Health and Wellness and to kill the myths around Health. The Theme of World Health Day 2019 was "Universal health Coverage: Everyone, Everywhere" under the WHO slogan "Health for All".

### **National Handloom Week observed from 7th April to 14th April**

The National Handloom week is being observed from 7th April to 14th April this year. On this occasion, a book named 'The Indian textile Sourcebook' authored by Avalon Fotheringham and published by Thames and Hudson will launch on 9th April.

## **STATE NEWS**

### **Senior Tripura BJP leader Dilip Sarkar passed away**

Dilip Sarkar, Senior Tripura Bhartiya Janta Party leader and five-time MLA, passed away on 1st April, 2019, at a private hospital in Delhi after prolonged acute liver illness. He was 61. He hailed from Tripura.



### **Eminent dramatist and theatre organiser Kartik Chandra Rath passed away at the age of 70 in Odisha**

Kartik Chandra Rath, a veteran dramatist, theatre organiser and Economics teacher passed away at the age of 70 in Cuttack, Odisha due to heart attack. He was born in 1949 in Odisha.

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

Telangana has secured the first rank for the second year in a row in the e-Learning training programme of Department of Personal and Training (DoPT), Government of India. The training is being imparted to 20,000 field staff in different districts of Telangana by Dr MCR HRD Institute to achieve the goal of "training for all".

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

An Android-based application named "Sahulat" was launched to facilitate and to encourage the elder voters for participating in the elections in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district. The app has been developed by the district unit of the National Informatics Centre.

### **Former Miss India runner up Sana Dua has been designated as the brand ambassador for elections in J&K**

Femina Miss India 2017 runner up Sana Dua has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Jammu and Kashmir election department for general polls. She is an advocate and an enthusiastic social activist.

### **Justice Pradeep Nandrajog sworn in as Chief justice of Bombay High Court**

Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court, Justice Pradeep Nandrajog was sworn in as the Chief Justice of Bombay High Court. He will succeed Justice Naresh Patel, who retires from his services.

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

Chennai Central railway station has been renamed by the Tamil Nadu State Government as Puratchi Thalaivar Dr MG Ramachandran Central Railway Station after its late Chief Minister and founder of Chennai's ruling govt, All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK), Dr. MG Ramachandran. He was posthumously honoured with Bharat Ratna, the highest civilian award, by the Government of India in 1988.

### **Eminent Tamil scholar and orator Silamboli Su. Chellappan passed away at the age of 91 in Thiruvananthapuram, Tamil Nadu**

Veteran Tamil Scholar and orator Silamboli Su. Chellappan passed away at the age of 91 in Thiruvananthapuram, Tamil Nadu. He was the founder-director of World Tamil Research Centre. He was given the title as Silamboli by the Tamil scholar R.P. Sethupillai.

### **T B N Radhakrishnan to be new Chief Justice of Calcutta**

Justice Thottathil Bhaskaran Nair Radhakrishnan sworn-in as the new Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court. He was transferred from Telangana high court to Calcutta High court. He succeeded Biswanath Somadde.

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