

May 2019

BOLT

Monthly Current Affairs



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IBPS, SSC, SBI, RAILWAYS & RBI EXAMS IN ONE PLACE

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Banking

News: Most Important

1. RBI releases 'Vision 2021' for payment systems for 'cash-lite' society

RBI released a vision document, 'Payment and Settlement Systems in India: Vision 2019 - 2021', for ensuring a safe & affordable e-payment system as it expects the number of digital transactions to increase more than 4 times to **8,707** Crore in future.

2. BharatPe launches India's first UPI BahiKhata (Digital Ledger) for merchants

BharatPe has launches India's first UPI ,which allows merchants to record their cash/credit sales customer wise, request accounts receivable from customers via SMS payment links, and keep track of accounts payable to suppliers. It serves as a networking platform for merchants.

3. Bank Credit Grows 13.2% In FY19

Bank credit grew by 13.2% in FY19 as compared to 10.3% in the previous FY, mainly aided by loans to services and retail sector. Deposit growth also gained momentum, growing by 10% as compared to 6.7% a year ago.

4. Paytm launches cash-back driven credit card with Citi Bank

Paytm First Card to offer unlimited 1% cash-back on purchases. To target new credit customers and expand its monthly active user base, digital wallet major, Paytm, has launched a credit card in partnership with Citi Bank.

5. Corporation Bank launches 'Corp SME Suvidha' for MSMEs

Corporation Bank has launched '**Corp SME Suvidha**' for GST-registered MSMEs. The product has been designed as part of the bank's efforts to provide the best products to the MSME sector.

6. RBI allows modern currency chests to hike service charges

RBI has allowed large modern currency chests to increase the service charges on cash deposited by non-chest bank branches from the existing rate of ₹5 per packet of 100 pieces to a higher rate subject to a maximum of ₹8 per packet.

7. Karnataka Bank launches Savings Bank product for salaried class

Karnataka Bank has launched a new S/B product, **KBL SB Salary**, for the salaried class with 3 variants: SB Salary Executive, SB Salary Prime & SB Salary Classic – to cater to financial needs of the 'employer-employee ecosystem'.

8. *Paytm launches recurring payments service for merchants*

Paytm has launched recurring payment (auto pay) service for merchants that are working on a digital subscription model. The move will allow the subscription-based businesses to collect payments from their subscribers effortlessly.

9. *RBI asks NBFCs to appoint Risk Officers*

RBI notifies Non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) with asset size of more than Rs 5,000 cr should appoint a chief risk officer in a move to tighten regulation after a series of defaults at top lender Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services' (IL&FS).

10. *HDFC partners with IMGC to provide mortgage-guarantee-backed home loan*

HDFC has partnered with IMGC for a mortgage guarantee-backed home loan. With this partnership, HDFC will be able to access an enlarged customer base. This will help customers to avail loans beyond their retirement period.

11. *SBI Card raises 700 Crore as funding for its growth*

SBI Card has acquired ₹100 crore from ICICI Securities Primary, ₹250 crore from SBI, ₹50 crore from Canara Bank and ₹50 crore from Axis Bank by issuing NCDs at 9.15% coupon. It has raised ₹250 crore from Axis Bank in the form of NCDs at a coupon of 9.55%.

12. *SEBI Fines NSE ₹625 Crore in Co-Location Facility Case*

Markets regulator SEBI has directed National Stock Exchange to pay ₹625 crore for lapses in checking on brokers gaining unfair access through co-location servers placed at the site of exchange and prohibited NSE from accessing the securities market for 6 months.

13. *Nabventures, a subsidiary of NABARD announced Rs 700-cr venture capital fund for Agri, rural start-ups*

NABARD announced a **Rs 700-cr** venture capital fund for equity investments in agri. & rural-focused start-ups. This is the 1st time that NABARD has launched a fund of its own. It has been launched by Nabventures, a subsidiary of NABARD.

14. *Indian Overseas Bank launches 'Bank on Wheels' facility*

Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) has launched 'Bank on Wheels' facility in 14 of its lead districts in Tamil Nadu and Kerala, besides Vijayawada. The mobile van facility will enable the public, conveniently get door-step banking facility.

15. *RBI forms committee to review existing state of mortgage securitisation*

RBI has formed a committee to develop the housing finance securitisation market in India & review the existing state of mortgage securitisation by suggesting ways to develop the market under the chairmanship of Harsh Vardhan, senior advisor, Bain & Co.

News: Others

1. *RBI imposes fines on PPIs for violating norms*

Reserve Bank of India imposed penalties on five prepaid payment instrument (PPI) issuers i.e. Vodafone m-pesa, PhonePe, Western Union Financial Services Inc, MoneyGram Payment Systems & Y-Cash Software Solutions for violation of regulatory norms.

2. *ICICI Bank joins hands with travel portal Goibibo to launch multi-currency card*

ICICI Bank announced the launch of a co-branded multi-currency card with online travel booking portal Goibibo. The card can be loaded with up to 15 currencies. It offers travel insurance between ₹2 lakh and ₹10 lakh.

3. *Banks must turn towards global trade-finance instruments: RBI*

According to RBI, Banks need to expand their global banking relationship and shift towards globally accepted trade finance instruments instead of indigenous instruments (such as LoU/ LoC).

4. *RBI releases draft liquidity framework guidelines for ailing NBFCs*

RBI released draft guidelines on liquidity risk management framework for NBFCs and CICs, due to rating downgrades and debt defaults in the NBFC sector and the need for a stronger asset liability management (ALM) framework.

5. *RBI to create regulatory cadre to monitor banks*

The board of directors of RBI has decided to create a specialized supervisory and regulatory cadre within the RBI to strengthen the supervision and regulation of commercial banks, urban cooperative banks and non-banking financial companies.

6. *RBI Imposes Rs 1-crore Fine on Nainital Bank*

RBI has imposed a monetary penalty of Rs.1 crore on Nainital Bank for its failure to fully automate the NPA identification process, despite specific directions issued. This penalty has been imposed under the provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

7. Mastercard to invest \$1 bn in India

Global card payments company, Mastercard to invest USD 1 bn ,about Rs 7,000 crore in India in the next 5 years and plans to make it a global technology node for its platforms. It has already invested USD 1 bn in the Indian market in the last 5 years.

8. RBI updates KYC requirements, permits Aadhaar only for DBT accounts

Banks can now accept the Aadhaar no. as part of a customer's original document for completing KYC guidelines. In an amendment to the KYC norms, the RBI said banks can carry out Aadhaar authentication, or offline verification, for individuals who opt for it.

Policy/Exchange rate & Reserve ratio	Percentage
Repo rate	5.75%
Reverse Repo rate	5.50%
Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate	6.00%
Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)	4 %
Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)	19.00%
Bank Rate	6.00%

Insurance

News: Most Important

1. LIC HFL Launches Udyam centre

LIC Housing Finance (LIC HFL) has launched skilling centre, 'Udyam' in Bengaluru. It was launched in association with Lok Bharti Education Society. Udyam will provide training to marginalised youth in the BFSI, retail, and IT/ ITES sectors.

2. HDFC ERGO collaborates with IBM Services to co-create AI-based solutions

IBM and HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company announced a collaboration to co-create new Artificial Intelligence based solutions on IBM Cloud, that will redefine customer experience in India. It would help to better address customer queries.

3. Bharti Airtel and HDFC Life tied up to offer insurance for prepaid customers

Bharti Airtel and HDFC Life Insurance have tied up to offer life cover for customers who get a prepaid recharge done. It will be available to all customers aged between 18-54 and requires no paperwork or medical examination.

4. *Bharti AXA Life Insurance bags Claims Excellence Award*

Bharti AXA Life Insurance, a private life insurer, has been conferred with the FICCI Claims Excellence Award. The recognition comes for its customer-friendly claims services in the life insurance sector.

5. *Genetic diseases, mental illness NOT be excluded from health insurance coverage: IRDAI*

Insurance regulator IRDAI notified that genetic disorders, menopause, mental illnesses among several such health issues are not to be excluded from health insurance coverage. All existing health insurance products need to comply by April 1, 2020.

News: Others

1. *HDFC ERGO launches cover for vector borne diseases*

HDFC ERGO has launched the 'Mosquito Disease Protection Policy'. It will cover hospitalisation expenses incurred during the treatment of any mosquito-borne disease. It is available for individuals between the age group of 91 days to 65 years.

2. *Max Life Insurance to mark 6th of every month as Protection Day*

Max Life Insurance decides to mark 6th day of every calendar month as 'Protection Day' towards driving awareness around the concept of financial protection. Also, Max Life India launched Protection Quotient survey conducted in association with Kantar IMRB.

Economy

News: Most Important

1. *India's economy to grow 7.5% by 2020 amid slowing global growth: OECD*

Organization for Economic Co-operation & Development projected India's Gross Domestic Product to 7.25% in FY19 & 7.5% in FY20. The report suggested that the collection of GST & personal income tax will help reduce the high public debt-to-GDP ratio.

2. *India to grow at 7.1% in FY-20 :UN*

According to UN, India's economy is projected to grow at 7.1% in FY 2020 due to strong domestic consumption and investment. According to WESP 2019 Mid-year Update, the Indian economy, which generates two-thirds regional output in South Asia, grew by 7.2% in 2018.

3. *India Ratings Lowers India's GDP Growth Projection to 7.3% For 2019-20*

India Ratings & Research has lowered the country's growth forecast for the current fiscal to 7.3 %, from the earlier projection of 7.5 % for the fiscal year 2019-2020.

4. *Asia-Pacific to grow 5.7% this year: ADB*

According to Takehiko Nakao, President and Chairperson, Asian Development Bank. The Asia-Pacific region is expected to power ahead growing at 5.7% this year but escalating trade tensions are a source of worry.

5. *HDFC Group overtakes Tata Group as India's most valuable by way of m-cap*

The HDFC Group has emerged as the country's most valuable brand by way of market capitalization , displacing the Tata Group. Five listed companies of HDFC have a combined market value of Rs 11.66 lakh crore.

6. *India's retail inflation picks up to 2.92% in April*

As per the data from the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, Retail inflation rose marginally to 2.92% in April 2019 due to the rise in food prices. The inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) was 2.86%.

7. *FICCI survey forecasts India's GDP growth at 7.1% for FY20*

According to a survey by FICCI, the country's median GDP is forecast at 7.1% for FY20 and 7.2% for FY21. Inflation is expected to remain moderate and the WPI based inflation rate is projected at 3.1% in FY19-20.

8. *SEBI issues show cause notices to HDFC, Kotak mutual fund over FMP woes*

SEBI has issued show cause notices to HDFC AMC Ltd and Kotak Mutual Fund over the FMP woes. The FMPs of these asset management companies were impacted due to their investment in Essel Group papers.

News: Others

1. *April GST Collections Highest Since Rollout*

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection in April touched **₹1.13 lakh crore**, the highest since the nationwide levy was rolled out in July 2017. The revenue in April is 16% higher than the monthly average GST revenue of ₹98,114 crore in 2018-19.

2. *E-filing of tax returns saw 19% growth in AY 19: Finance Ministry*

Acc. To the Finance Ministry, there was growth of 19 per cent in income-tax returns electronically filed for the assessment year 2018-19, compared to those in 2017-18. A total of 66.8 mn returns were e-filed in FY19, which included 64.9 mn for AY19.

3. *Government launches Website of Lokpal*

Government launched Website, <http://lokpal.gov> developed by NIC, it provides the basic information with respect to the working & functioning of the Lokpal. It is mandated to inquire & investigate into allegations of the corruption against public functionaries.

Quick revision

Organization/Parameters	Rate/Figures
OECD	7.25% (FY 19), 7.5% (FY 20)
UN	7.1% (FY 20)
India Ratings & Research	7.3% (FY 2019-20)
FICCI	7.1% (FY 20), 7.2% (FY 21)
Asian Development Bank	5.7% (Asia-Pacific)
Retail Inflation	2.92% (April)

State

News: Most Important

1. *Naveen Patnaik all set for record fifth term as Odisha CM*

In Odisha, Biju Janata Dal Legislature Party has elected Naveen Patnaik its leader. He will take oath as Chief Minister for the fifth consecutive term. BJD has bagged 112 of the 146 assembly seats.

2. *BJP leader Pema Khandu to be sworn in as Arunachal Pradesh chief minister*

Bharatiya Janata Party leader Pema Khandu took oath as the chief minister of Arunachal Pradesh for the 2nd term, after his party won 41 seats in the 60-member Assembly in the recently concluded elections.

3. *Jaganmohan Reddy sworn in as chief minister of Andhra Pradesh*

YSR Congress chief Yeduguri Sandinti Jaganmohan Reddy has taken oath as the **2nd CM** of Andhra Pradesh post its bifurcation. He defeated N Chandrababu Naidu, who became the first CM of the state after it was bifurcated to carve out Telangana.

4. *Prem Singh Tamang sworn in as Sikkim Chief Minister*

Sikkim Krantikari Morcha (SKM) president Prem Singh Tamang, popularly known as P.S. Golay took oath as the Chief Minister of Sikkim. He was administered the oath by Governor Ganga Prasad at Paljor Stadium .

5. *Kerala became first state to list Masala Bond in overseas market*

Kerala became the first state to tap into masala bond market by listing the KIIFB masala bond amounting USD 312 million in London Stock Exchange (LSE)'s International Securities Market (ISM). The masala bond has tenor of 5-year.

6. *Indian Navy's Service Selection Board Inaugurated at Kolkata*

Admiral Sunil Lanba, the Chief of Naval Staff inaugurated Indian Navy's first full-fledged SSB at Diamond Harbour, near Kolkata. It will boost the induction of officers, both men and women, into the Indian Navy.

7. *Chennai to get its first unmanned substation*

Tangedco will upgrade an unmanned 33KV/11 KV substation in Chennai— the first of its kind in the city. The unmanned substation concept is like the successful working model of the Power Grid Corporation India Limited (PGCIL).

8. *Chhattisgarh cops deploy first ever anti-Naxal women's commando unit*

The Chhattisgarh police for the 1st time has inducted women commandos in the District Reserve Guard, it's frontline anti-Naxal force. The 30-women squad called, 'Danteshwari Ladake', was inducted in the state's Naxal-hit Dantewada district.

9. *Mangaluru City Police Launched an All-Women Police Patrol Unit "Rani Abbakka Force"*

Mangaluru City Police launched an all-women police patrol unit "Rani Abbakka Force" in the city. It has been named after the 16th-century warrior of coastal Karnataka, Queen Abbakka of Ullal, who fought with the Portuguese.

10. *Tree Ambulance' service launched in Chennai*

A unique 'Tree Ambulance' service - an initiative to provide care to trees beside the spread green cover, was launched by VP M. Venkaiah Naidu in Chennai. It was proposed by the Green Man of India, Dr. K Abdul Ghani & is sponsored by the SASA group.

11. *Telangana government releases draft block-chain policy*

The Telangana government has released a draft block-chain policy under the overall IT policy, focussing on attracting firms and encouraging start-ups working in block-chain and using the technology in government processes.

News: Others

1. *Meghalaya approved setting up of a commission to investigate the problems faced by farmers*

The Meghalaya govt. approved setting up of a commission to investigate the problems faced by farmers. The 'farmers' parliament', for the 1st time, was organised to discuss issues related to the agri situation in the state.

2. *Ajoy Mehta appointed as the Chief Secretary of Maharashtra*

The Maharashtra government appointed Ajoy Kumar Mehta, the municipal commissioner of Mumbai, as the new chief secretary of the state. The previous chief secretary U. P. S. Madan had sought voluntary retirement.

3. *Gujarat to use laser guns to check over-speeding*

The Gujarat Government has decided to equip its traffic police with 'laser guns' for detection of over-speeding by vehicles. The state police's traffic branch has purchased 39 such high-tech guns at a cost of ₹ 3.9 Crore.

4. *Cyclone Fani Hits Odisha Coast*

The India Meteorological Department issued a "yellow alert" for the Odisha coast, predicting heavy rainfall at some places due to Cyclone Fani. Yellow alert indicates severely bad weather, warning people who are at risk to take preventive action.

National

News: Most Important

1. *Narendra Modi took oath with 57 Ministers at Rashtrapati Bhavan*

PM Narendra Modi, along with 57 Ministers, took oath of office at a grand swearing-in ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhawan. Women accounted for 6 out of the 58 berths, with three Cabinet nods for Nirmala Sitharaman, Harsimrat Badal and Smriti Irani.

2. *ADB to provide \$750 mn loan to India for railway track electrification project*

Asian Development Bank has signed an agreement to provide \$750 mn equivalent in INR long-term financing to electrify railway tracks in India. It is the largest single non-sovereign loan committed by India to Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC).

3. *BSNL partnered with Google for expanding WiFi footprint*

State-run telecom major BSNL has partnered with Google to increase access to its WiFi footprint in India. Henceforth, Indians can use BSNL's free WiFi services. This initiative will allow customers to use BSNL's high-speed internet services on WiFi.

4. *Amazon launches flight booking service in India*

Amazon has partnered with Cleartrip to launch the flight booking service. It would not levy any additional charges in case customers cancel the ticket. They would only have to pay the airline cancellation penalty.

5. *e-Governance Services ties up with IIT-Kanpur to upscale Unnat Bharat Abhiyan*

Common Service Centre's (CSC) e-Governance Services India Limited, a special purpose unit under the Ministry of Electronics & IT, has tied up with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Kanpur to upscale 'Unnat Bharat Abhiyan'.

6. *BSNL launches 'Bharat Fibre' in Pulwama*

BSNL has become the first operator to begin optical fibre-based high-speed broadband service in Pulwama with launch of 'Bharat Fibre'. It is the first such FTTH (Fibre-to-the-home) service set up in the Kashmir Valley under this unique revenue share model.

7. *Green Number Plates Made Mandatory for Electric Cars*

The central government has asked the state transport departments to make it mandatory for all Electric Vehicles (EVs) to use the green number plates, irrespective of the year in which they were bought. 2nd phase of FAME scheme for EV was launched in February 2019.

8. *India re-elected as an Observer to Arctic Council*

At 11th Arctic Council ministerial meeting held at **Rovaniemi in Finland**. India was re-elected as an observer to intergovernmental forum Arctic Council. Russia, Sweden, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Denmark, Canada & United States are its members.

9. *India to co-chair Consultative Group of Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery*

India has been unanimously chosen as co-chair of the Consultative Group of Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) for the fiscal year 2020. The decision was taken during the meeting of GFDRR held in Geneva, Switzerland.

10. *India elected to Executive Board of first UN-Habitat Assembly*

According to Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, India has been elected to the Exec. Board of the 1st UN-Habitat Assembly being held in Nairobi, Kenya. The theme for the UN-Habitat Assembly - "Innovation for Better Quality of Life in Cities and Communities"

11. *Government plans to merge NSSO and CSO*

To avoid duplication of work and strengthen the statistical system, the government has decided to merge the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) and the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) to form a National Statistical Office (NSO).

12. *High-level committee proposes higher gas price for existing/new discoveries*

A committee appointed by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas has recommended a higher natural gas price for producers from existing discoveries among measures to bring down India's dependence on crude oil imports. It was headed by Anil Kakodkar.

News: Others

1. *Nuclear test ban body offers India observer status*

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organisation (CTBTO) has offered India an 'Observer' status & access to the International Monitoring System (IMS) data. IMS monitors the planet for nuclear explosions & shares findings with its member states.

2. *Ministry of New & Renewable Energy held a 'Chintan Baithak' with the stakeholders of Renewable Energy sector*

The 'Chintan Baithak' was held to review the progress made in the New & Renewable Energy sector and to deliberate upon new and innovative ideas for catalysing the growth of the sector.

3. *NSG Commandos summit Mount Everest in first attempt*

NSG commandos created history as they scaled the Mount Everest, the world's highest peak (8848 m), in their maiden attempt. The 7-member team was led by **Lt Col J P Kumar**. The team took the south-eastern approach via South Col in Solukhumbhu region of Nepal.

International

News: Most Important

1. *UK Parliament becomes the first to declare Climate Emergency*

The UK parliament became the first national legislative body in the world to declare a "climate change emergency". This move is in response to Extinction Rebellion protests that blocked traffic in key parts of central London for a week in April.

2. *Ireland Becomes Second Country to Declare Climate Emergency*

The Republic of Ireland became the second country in the world to declare a climate emergency. Both the government and opposition parties agreed to an amendment to a climate action report. **Wales** and **Scotland** have also declared climate emergencies.

3. *Saudi Arabia approves scheme for permanent residency*

Saudi government has approved for the first time a scheme- "Privileged Iqama" which would give permanent residency to certain expatriates, allowing them to own real estate in the kingdom and reside with their families without a Saudi sponsor.

4. *US launched new 'Merit-Based Immigration System'*

US has launched a merit-based immigration system from which foreigners, waiting to get Green Cards or permanent legal residency stand to benefit. The reform proposals significantly increase the quota for skilled workers from existing nearly 12% to 57%.

5. *WHO declares Algeria, Argentina malaria free*

WHO declared Algeria and Argentina as malaria free. Efforts such as improved surveillance, allowed for every case of malaria to be rapidly identified and treated.

6. *Iraq Remains Top Oil Supplier to India*

Iraq for the second year in a row, become India's top crude oil supplier, meeting more than a fifth of the country's oil needs in 2018-19 fiscal year according to data sourced from the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics.

7. *Nepal banned the use of Chinese Digital Wallets-WeChat Pay & AliPay*

Nepal Rastra Bank, the central bank of Nepal, banned the use of Chinese digital wallets WeChat Pay and Alipay, in Nepal, stating that the country was losing foreign income due to illegal use of those payment applications by Chinese tourists.

8. *Taiwan approves same-sex marriage in a first for Asia*

Taiwan's legislature legalizes same-sex marriage. It makes Taiwan the first place in Asia with a comprehensive law both allowing and laying out the terms of same-sex marriage. Thailand is also exploring the legalization of same-sex civil partnerships.

9. *Facebook chooses London as base for WhatsApp payments*

Facebook has chosen London as the centre for the global roll-out of WhatsApp pay before it launches its digital payments service on the mobile messaging platform in India. UK was chosen because WhatsApp is more popular there than in the US.

10. *NASA unveils schedule for 'Artemis' 2024 Moon mission*

NASA unveiled the calendar for the "Artemis" programme that will return astronauts to the Moon for the 1st time in half a century, including 8 scheduled launches and a mini station in lunar orbit by 2024.

11. *Australian airlines, Qantas operated world's first zero-waste flight*

Qantas has operated world's 1st zero waste commercial flight named QF739 from Sydney to Adelaide which disposed all waste through compost/recycle. It planned to eliminate 100 million single-use plastics by the end of 2020 & to reduce 75% of waste by 2021.

12. *World Bank and CBA Partner to enable Secondary Bond Trading recorded on Blockchain*

IBRD (World Bank) and Commonwealth Bank have enabled secondary market trading recorded on the blockchain for bond-i (blockchain operated new debt instrument), making it the first bond whose issuance and trading are recorded using distributed ledger tech.

13. *World Bank Scales up Support for Cyclone Idai Hit Nations to \$700 Million*

The World Bank increased emergency support for the three southern African countries, **Mozambique**, **Zimbabwe** and **Malawi** affected by a devastating cyclone that killed hundreds in March to \$700 million.

14. *NASA Spacecraft to Collide a Small Moonlet in 2022*

NASA revealed details about its plan to hit a small moonlet target in a double asteroid system with a spacecraft in 2022, its first mission to demonstrate a planetary defence technique. The asteroid, called Didymoon or Didymos B.

News: Others

1. *Pakistan to remember Feb 27 Strike against India as 'Operation Swift Retort'*

The Pakistan Air Force (PAF) has announced to celebrate the February 27 strike against India as 'Operation Swift Retort'. Relations between India & Pakistan aggravated after Pulwama attack in Kashmir.

2. *Facebook building Cryptocurrency-based Payments System*

Facebook Inc. is recruiting dozens of financial firms and online merchants to help launch a cryptocurrency-based payments system on the back of its gigantic social network. It is also working to tie online purchases more closely to ads.

3. *U.S., Japan, S.Korea, Australia hold first naval drills in Western Pacific*

U.S. Navy ships conducted joint drills with warships from Japan, Australia and South Korea in their first combined exercise in the Western Pacific. 3,000 sailors will participate in this 6-day exercise.

4. *Singapore, Canada seek to join WTO consultations over India's ICT products tariff*

Singapore and Canada are set to join consultations in a case filed by Japan in the WTO's dispute settlement body against India's import duties on certain information and communication technology products, including mobile phones.

5. *Singapore passes 'fake news' law despite fierce criticism*

Singapore's parliament passed laws targeting "fake news" that will allow authorities to order social media sites to put warnings next to posts, the former consider false, and even get them taken down. Such companies can face judicial action.

India & world

News: Most Important

1. *Israel proposes India to be the focus country in Jerusalem Film Festival, 2020*

Israel proposed India to be the focus country in Jerusalem Film Festival, 2020. Israel also proposed the idea of making concept-based films in India, with a focus on regional and small budget films.

2. *India signs protocol for export of chilli meal to China*

India and China signed a protocol for the export of Indian chilli meal to China. This is the 4th protocol signed between the two nations over the past year allowing the export of farm commodities from India.

3. *India, Australia agree to further deepen counter-terrorism co-operation*

India and Australia agreed to further **deepen counter-terrorism** co-operation through regular exchange of information and sharing of best practices on countering extremism and radicalization.

4. *Konkan Railways signs contract agreement with Nepal to supply two 1600 HP DEMU train sets*

Konkan Railways Corporation Ltd has signed a contract agreement with Nepal's Department of Railways to supply two 1600 HP DEMU train sets. These trains will be used to operationalise railway link between Jayanagar in India and Kurtha in Nepal.

5. *India, Australia to adopt classified communications*

Australia and India decided to move forward towards a classified-level communications environment. At the present juncture, communication in an unclassified environment is part of an age-old tradition of ships meeting on the high seas.

6. *India-France to hold anti-submarine drills off Djibouti*

Under the 17th edition of bilateral Varuna Exercise, India and France will hold anti-submarine warfare games off the coast of Djibouti near the Horn of Africa.

7. *India has ended Iranian oil imports to comply with US sanctions*

India has ended all imports of oil from Iran and becomes the latest country to comply with the US sanctions. India has also ended all imports from Venezuela because it considered itself a partner of the United States.

8. *India extends full support for economic development, sustainable peace in Afghanistan*

India has expressed its full support for economic development and stability in Afghanistan. Both sides discussed India's role in Regional Peace Consensus with regards to Afghanistan, progress in peace talks and bilateral relations.

9. *Vice -President embark on a 4 day visit to Vietnam*

The Vice President of India Venkaiah Naidu will embark on a four-day official visit to Vietnam. His visit is expected to enhance India's comprehensive strategic partnership with the Southeast Asian Nation.

10. *Adani Ports to set up 1st container terminal outside India in Myanmar*

Adani Ports & Special Economic Zone will set up its 1st container terminal outside India in Myanmar at an estimated cost of **USD 290 million**. The company signed an agreement, to develop and operate a container terminal at Yangon Port in Myanmar.

11. *US Removes India From Its Currency Monitoring List*

USA removed India from its currency monitoring list of major trading partners. For the first time, the US placed India in its currency monitoring list of countries in May 2018 with potentially questionable foreign exchange policies.

News: Others

1. *Kumar Tuhin appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Bosnia & Herzegovina*

Shri Kumar Tuhin, IFS-batch1991, currently Ambassador of India to the Republic of Hungary, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Bosnia & Herzegovina.

2. *Radha Venkataraman appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the Kingdom of Eswatini*

Ms. Radha Venkataraman, presently Director in the Ministry of External Affairs, has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the Kingdom of Eswatini. She succeeds Rudra Gaurav Shresth.

3. *Subhash Chand appointed Ambassador of India to the State of Eritrea*

Subhash Chand, presently Deputy High Commissioner in the High Commission of India, Abuja, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the State of Eritrea.

4. *Saudi Arabia lifts export ban on fruits and vegetable from Kerala*

Kerala's fruits and vegetable exporters have heaved a sigh of relief following the lifting of the export ban by Saudi Arabia after the Nipah virus attack. Kerala ships around 150 tonnes of fruits and vegetables daily to various gulf countries.

Quick Revision: Facts

Country	Capital	Head of State /Govt.	Currency
Israel	Jerusalem	Reuven Rivlin	New Shekel
China	Beijing	Xi Jinping	Renminbi
Australia	Canberra	Scott Morrison	Dollar
Nepal	Kathmandu	Bidhya Devi Bhandari	Rupee
France	Paris	Emmanuel Macron	Euro
Afghanistan	Kabul	Ashraf Ghani	Afghani
Iran	Tehran	Hassan Rouhani	Rial
Vietnam	Hanoi	Nguyen Phu Trong	Dong
Myanmar	Naypyidaw	Win Myint	Kyat
Eritrea	Asmara	Isaias Afwerki	Nakfa
Saudi Arabia	Riyadh	Salman	Riyal
USA	Washington DC	Donald Trump	Dollar

Appointments & Resignations

News: Most Important

1. *Krishnamurthy Subramanian appointed as member of Advisory Council of 15th Finance Commission*

The Chief Economic Advisor to Central government, Dr. Krishnamurthy Subramanian has been included as the member of the Advisory Council of the Fifteenth Finance Commission. He will be the twelfth Member of the Council.

2. *British PM , Theresa May announces her resignation*

British Prime Minister, Theresa May announced her resignation after a 3-year tenure. She has set the date as 7th of June. She was a Conservative leader. Her leadership had been turbulent.

3. *South Africa: Cyril Ramaphosa re-elected as president*

South African lawmakers have re-elected Cyril Ramaphosa as the president of the country. He will serve his first full five-year term. He is a trade unionist who played a prominent part in the struggle against white minority rule.

4. *Dinesh Pangtey appointed as CEO of LIC Mutual Fund*

Dinesh Pangtey has been appointed as CEO of LIC Mutual Fund. Earlier, he was Director and CEO at LIC HFL AMC. He has served as Regional Manager Marketing channel in Western Zone spanning the states of Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Goa.

5. *Ujjivan Small Finance Bank appoints Nitin Chugh as next MD and CEO*

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank has appointed Nitin Chugh as Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer from Dec 1, 2019. He will replace the current MD Samit Ghosh. He will join the bank by Aug 2019 as President & will take over as MD after retirement of Ghosh.

6. *Joko Widodo has been re-elected as Indonesia's president.*

Joko Widodo has been elected as Indonesia's president for a second term, defeating former general Prabowo Subianto. The capital of Indonesia is Jakarta. Its currency is Indonesian Rupiah.

7. *India's GS Lakshmi Becomes 1st Ever Female ICC Match Referee*

Former Indian women cricketer GS Lakshmi became the 1st female to be appointed to the ICC International Panel of Match Referees. Laxmi's appointment follows Claire Polosak, who became the 1st ever woman umpire to stand in a men's ODI.

8. *RBI appoints R. Gandhi on board of Yes Bank*

RBI has appointed former deputy governor Rama Subramaniam Gandhi as an additional director on the board of Yes Bank for two years. The appointment has been made under sub-section (1) of Section 36 AB of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

9. *Croatia's Igor Stimac to be appointed Indian Football Team Coach*

Croatia's Igor Stimac will be appointed as the Indian men's team coach after the All India Football Federation's (AIFF) technical committee recommended him for the post.

10. *Karnataka Bank appoints COO & CBO*

Karnataka Bank has promoted its General Managers Balachandra Y V and Gokuldas Pai as Chief Operating Officer and Chief Business Officer, respectively. The previous COO of Karnataka Bank was Raghavendra Bhat M.

11. *Paytm President Bhushan Patil quits*

Paytm, India's mobile payment and commerce platform's President, Bhushan Patil, has quit the company. He joined Paytm in March 2016 after serving five years at the Chinese company Alibaba.com.

12. *BSE Appointed M Jayshree Vyas as First Independent Woman Director*

BSE has appointed M Jayshree Vyas its first independent woman Director to its board. It is mandated to all top 500 listed companies based on their market capitalisation for appointing an independent woman Director on their board.

13. *Dragan Mihailovic appointed as new coach of Indian Volleyball team*

The Volleyball Federation of India appointed Serbia's Dragan Mihailovic as head coach of the Indian men's national team. Pryemyslaw Gaszyoski (Poland) and Valadimir Radosevic (Serbia) will be the team's physio and physiotherapist respectively.

14. *Sanjiv Puri appointed as New Chairman of ITC*

The country's largest cigarette maker ITC, informed exchanges that its board of directors has appointed MD Sanjiv Puri as its Chairman with immediate effect following the death of YC Deveshwar, who was the former chairman.

15. *A K Sikri appointed as the chairperson of the News Broadcasting Standards Authority*

Former Supreme Court Judge Justice A. K. Sikri has been appointed as the Chairperson of the NBSA. He will succeed Justice R. V. Raveendran. NBSA, stands for News Broadcasting Standards Authority.

16. *Panama Electoral Tribunal declares Laurentino Cortizo winner*

Laurentino "Nito" Cortizo has been declared, winner of the presidential election. This was the 6th presidential election in Panama, since a US invasion removed strongman Manuel Noriega in 1989.

17. *Stevo Pendarovski wins North Macedonian Presidential run-off*

The ruling coalition candidate Stevo Pendarovski has won Macedonia's presidential election. The pro-Western candidate won 51.7% of votes, with 99.5% votes counted. Gordana Siljanovska-Davkova, from the nationalist VMRO-DPMNE got 44.7% of the votes.

18. *Justice Madan B Lokur Appointed Judge of Supreme Court of Fiji*

Justice (retired) Madan B Lokur has been appointed to the Supreme Court of Fiji as a judge for a period of three years of its non-resident panel. He demitted office as a Supreme Court justice on December 31, 2018.

19. *A K Dhingra appointed as the first Special Operations Division Commander*

Ace Special Forces operative and Sri Lanka war veteran, AK Dhingra has been appointed as the first head of country's first tri-services Special Operations Division comprising commandos from all three services.

20. *Benjamin Netanyahu sworn-in as Israel's PM*

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was among the 120 newly elected members who were sworn-into country's new Parliament.

21. *Akihito 1st Japanese Emperor to Step Down from Throne in 200 Years*

Akihito became the first Japanese Emperor to step down from the throne in more than 200 years. His son, Crown Prince Naruhito, will ascend the Chrysanthemum throne . 30 April was the last day of the Heisei imperial era.

22. *Indian Army Man to Head UN Peacekeeping Operations in South Sudan*

The commandant of the Indian Army Infantry School, Shailesh Tinaikar has been appointed as the commander of the UN Mission in South Sudan. He is the recipient of the Sena Medal and the Vishisht Seva Medal for Distinguished Service.

23. *Professor, Tijjani Bande, appointed as the President of UN General Assembly*

TIJJANI Muhammad-Bande, a professor and former vice chancellor of Usman Danfodiyo University, Sokoto, has been appointed the president of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

24. *KS Radhakrishnan appointed member of Commonwealth Secretariat Arbitral Tribunal*

K S Radhakrishnan, former Supreme Court Judge, has been appointed as a member of the Commonwealth Secretariat Arbitral Tribunal, London. He will render his services as a member of the Tribunal for a period of four years from 2019-2023.

25. *PM of Papua New Guinea resigned*

The PM of Papua New Guinea, Peter O'Neill resigned, after some political conditions threatened his leadership. He had been in power since 2011 and handed over the reins to Julius Chan, who has twice been prime minister.

26. *Walmart hires former Google, Microsoft & Amazon exec Suresh Kumar as new CTO & CDO*

Walmart announced that it has hired former Google, Microsoft and Amazon veteran Suresh Kumar as CTO and CDO — a role that will report directly to Walmart CEO Doug McMillon. The CTO position was previously held by Jeremy King.

27. *Nigerian President Buhari sworn in for second term*

Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari took the reins of leadership for another term against a tense backdrop of insecurity and economic uncertainty. Nigeria is Africa's most populous country.

28. *James Marape elected as new PM of Papua New Guinea*

Papua New Guinea has appointed James Marape as its new PM. He succeeds Peter O'Neill. Marape, the member for Tari-Pori in New Hela province was a key minister in O'Neill's government. He was elected by MPs who voted 101 to 8, to make him the next leader.

News: Others

1. *Vice Admiral Atul Kumar Jain takes charge as Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Eastern Naval Command*

Vice Admiral Atul Kumar Jain assumed charge as the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command. He has commanded INS Nirghat (Missile Boat), INS Khukri (Missile Corvette), INS Rajput (Destroyer) and INS Mysore.

2. *Jeffrey Rosen appointed as US deputy attorney general*

United States Senate voted to confirm Jeffrey Rosen as the new Deputy attorney general, the second-ranking official at the Justice Department. Rosen is a long-time litigator who served as deputy transportation secretary in the Trump administration.

3. *Kumar Sangakkara Appointed as First Non-British President of MCC*

Former Sri Lanka captain Kumar Sangakkara has been named as the next President of Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), becoming the first non-British President of the club. Sangakkara will take up the post on October 1.

4. *Gates Foundation Appoints Sanjay Ubale As India Policy Head*

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has appointed Sanjay Ubale, former head of the infrastructure and urban solutions at Tata Sons, as its policy head for India. Ubale, was previously the CEO of Tata Realty & Infrastructure.

5. *Neelendra Singh appointed new General Manager of Adidas India*

Adidas India has appointed Neelendra Singh as the general manager of the company. He will report to Dave Thomas, managing director of Emerging Markets at Adidas. He first joined Adidas in India in 2005.

6. *India's Jagjit Pavadia re-elected to the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)*

India's Jagjit Pavadia was re-elected to the INCB for another term, from 2020-2025. INCB endeavours, in cooperating with Govts, to ensure that proper supplies of drugs are available for medical & scientific uses. INCB consists of 13 members who are elected by the ECOSOC.

7. *Dilip Kumar appointed as Officer on Special Duty in office of Lokpal*

Dilip Kumar was appointed as the Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in the office of Lokpal. He is at present joint secretary, National Human Rights Commission. He has been appointed for a period of six months.

8. *IMF economist Dr Reza Baqir appointed SBP governor for 3 years*

President Arif Alvi has approved the appointment of Dr Reza Baqir, a long-time economist with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), as the governor of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) for a period of three years.

9. *L.V. Navaneeth appointed next CEO of 'The Hindu'*

L.V. Navaneeth will take over as the new CEO of 'The Hindu', news daily, on completion of the term of the incumbent CEO and Managing Director, Rajiv C. Lochan. Previously, Mr. Navaneeth served the organisation in the sector of Advertising and Marketing.

10. *Ola Electric appoints former Vodafone CEO Arun Sarin as independent director*

Ola Electric Mobility Private Ltd., appointed Arun Sarin as an independent director. Sarin also serves on the boards of Cisco Systems, Accenture, Charles Schwab and Ola's parent company, ANI Technologies.

11. *Truecaller appoints Flipkart's Sandeep Patil as MD*

Truecaller had appointed Sandeep Patil as the managing director of its India operations. Patil will also be a part of the company's global management team. He is the former head of Flipkart's consumer and commercial lending vertical.

Quick Revision

Appointment/Resignation	Post
Krishnamurthy Subramanian	Advisory Council Member – Finance Commission
Theresa May (Resignation)	Prime Minister, UK
Cyril Ramaphosa	President, South Africa
Dinesh Pangtey	CEO, LIC Mutual Fund
Nitin Chugh	MD & CEO, Ujjivan SFB
Joko Widodo	President, Indonesia
GS Lakshmi	ICC Match Referee
Rama Subramaniam Gandhi	Director, YES Bank
Igor Stimac	Football Team Coach, India
Balachandra Y V	COO, Karnataka Bank
Gokuldas Pai	CBO, Karnataka Bank
Bhushan Patil (Resignation)	President, Paytm
M Jayshree Vyas	Independent Director, BSE
Dragan Mihailovic	Head coach, Volleyball men's national team
MD Sanjiv Puri	Chairman, ITC
A. K. Sikri has	Chairman, NBSA
Laurentino Cortizo	President, Panama
Stevo Pendarovski	President, Macedonia
Madan B Lokur	Supreme Court Judge of Fiji
AK Dhingra	Special Operation Division Commander
Benjamin Netanyahu	Prime Minister, Israel
Akihito (Resignation)	Japanese Emperor
Shailesh Tinaikar	Head, UN Peacekeeping Operations in Sudan
TIJJANI Muhammad-Bande	President, UN General Assembly
K S Radhakrishnan	Member, Commonwealth Secretariat Arbitral Tribunal
Peter O'Neill (Resignation)	Prime Minister, Papua New Guinea
Suresh Kumar	CTO, CDO of Walmart
Muhammadu Buhari	President, Nigeria
James Marape	Prime Minister, Papua New Guinea
Atul Kumar Jain	Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command
Jeffrey Rosen	US deputy attorney General
Kumar Sangakkara	President, MCC
Sujatha V Kumar	Head of Marketing for India & South Asia, Visa
Sanjay Ubale	India Head, The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Neelendra Singh	General Manager, Adidas India
Jagjit Pavadia	Member, International Narcotics Control Board
Dilip Kumar	Special Duty Officer in Lokpal office
Dr Reza Baqir	Governor, State Bank of Pakistan
L.V. Navaneeth	CEO, The Hindu
AS Oka	Chief Justice of Karnataka HC
Arun Sarin	Independent Director, Ola Electric Mobility Private Ltd
Sandeep Patil	Managing Director, True Caller

Ranks & Reports

News: Most Important

1. *Singapore Dethrones U.S. as World's Most Competitive Economy*

According to IMD World Competitiveness Rankings, Singapore has ranked as the world's most competitive economy for the first time since 2010, as the United States slipped from the top spot. India has improved its rank to one place to rank 43rd.

2. *India World's 4th Biggest Military Spender in 2018*

India was the world's fourth biggest military spender in 2018 behind the US, China, and Saudi Arabia, according to Swedish arms watchdog SIPRI. India, which was the fifth largest military spender in 2017, spent \$66.5 billion in 2018.

3. *Mumbai most vulnerable to cyberattacks: Annual Threat Report*

Acc. to , Quick Heal Security Labs, Mumbai is the most vulnerable city to cyberattacks in 2019, followed by Delhi, Bengaluru and Kolkata. The 'Annual Threat Report 2019' put Maharashtra, Delhi and West Bengal as the top 3 states at most risk.

4. *Hyderabad's Rajiv Gandhi International Airport ranked among top 10 in the World-Air Help*

In a survey conducted by Air Help, Rajiv Gandhi International Airport of Hyderabad has been ranked as the world's 8th Best Airport. The airports were rated based on time performance, service quality and food & shopping options.

5. *SpiceJet becomes 4th domestic carrier to grow fleet size to 100 aircrafts*

No-frills airline SpiceJet announced the induction of a Boeing 737, taking its fleet size to 100 aircraft. SpiceJet is the 4th domestic airline to achieve the feat after national carrier Air India, now defunct Jet Airways and IndiGo.

News: Others

1. *Discom debt to swing back to pre-UDAY level of ₹2.6 lakh crore in FY20: Crisil*

The external debt of state-owned electricity discoms is set to increase to pre-UDAY levels of ₹2.6 lakh crore by the end of this fiscal. Crisil's report is based on an analysis of discoms in 15 states that account for 85% of the aggregate losses.

2. Air traffic growth hits 5-yr low in FY19 at 11.6%; Cargo at 6%

The growth rate in air traffic hit a 5-year low, affected by low growth of 3.9 percent in the March quarter as against 14.9 percent in the first three quarters. Cargo traffic growth also fell to 6 percent, as against double-digit growth in the past 2 years.

Important days

News: Most Important

1. International Labour Day 2019

International Labour Day or International Workers Day or May Day is celebrated on 1 May every year. The theme for 2019 is **"Sustainable Pension for all: The Role of Social Partners"**. The day honours the sacrifices of workers during the 19th century.

2. World Tuna Day 2019 – May 2

World Tuna Day is celebrated on 2 May every year. The United Nations celebrates this day to recognize the cultural, ecological, and economic significance of tuna. It was first observed on 2 May 2017.

3. World Press Freedom Day 2019 – May 3

The 26th celebration of World Press Freedom Day is jointly organized by UNESCO, the African Union Commission & the Ethiopian. This year's theme is **"Media for Democracy: Journalism and Elections in Times of Disinformation"**.

4. World Red Cross Day celebrated worldwide on 8th May

World Red Cross Day (Red Crescent Day) is celebrated all over the world, on 8th May. The theme for 2019 is #Love. It aims to broaden the public's understanding of society by highlighting the diversity and universality of its work and approach.

5. International Nurses Day celebrated around the world: May 12

On the anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth, Int'l Council of Nurses commemorates this important day each year with the production and distribution of the International Nurses' Day (IND) resources and evidence.

6. 5th United Nations Global Road Safety Week (6-12 May 2019) being celebrated

The 5th edition of the UN Global Road Safety Week (6-12 May 2019) highlights the need for strong leadership for road safety. The theme of the Road Safety Week 2019 is 'Leadership for Road Safety'.

7. *International Day of Families - 15 May*

The Day of Families is observed on the 15th of May every year to promote awareness of issues relating to families and to increase knowledge of the social, economic and demographic processes affecting them. 2019 Theme was '**Families and Climate Action: Focus on SDG 13**'.

8. *17 May: World Telecommunication and Information Society Day*

17 May marks the anniversary of signing of the 1st International Telegraph Convention & the creation of the International Telecommunication Union. Purpose is to help raise awareness of the possibilities of use of the Internet & other information services. 2019 Theme: '**Bridging the standardization gap**'.

9. *International Day for Biological Diversity – May 22*

The International Day for Biological Diversity is observed on May 22 to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues. 2019 theme of the day was '**Our Biodiversity, Our Food, Our Health**'.

10. *International Commonwealth Day – May 24*

The Day is observed by Commonwealth countries in Africa, Asia, Caribbean & Americas, the Pacific & Europe. 2019 Theme is '**A Connected Commonwealth**', which offers opportunities to connect & work together via deep-rooted networks of friendship & goodwill.

11. *May 28 is World Hunger Day*

World Hunger Day is an initiative by The Hunger Project. This year's theme for World Hunger Day is Sustainability. The level of hunger in the world has decreased by 27% since 1992 Global Hunger Index ranks India as 100 out of 119 countries.

12. *International Day of UN Peacekeepers - 29 May*

The Day offers a chance to pay tribute to the uniformed and civilians' personnel's invaluable contribution to the work of the Organization. '**Protecting Civilians, Protecting Peace**' is the 2019 theme of the day.

13. *World No Tobacco Day celebrated on 31st May*

Every year, on 31 May, the World Health Organization (WHO) and global partners celebrate World No Tobacco Day (WNTD). It raises awareness on the harmful and deadly effects of tobacco use and second-hand smoke exposure. The focus for 2019 is "tobacco and lung health."

News: Others

1. *World Laughter Day observed worldwide*

World Laughter Day is observed on the first Sunday of May of every year. In 2019, it is being celebrated on May 5. The day began considering how positive and powerful emotion can change people and in fact the world.

2. *World Asthma Day 2019*

The day is observed on the first Tuesday in May to increase the awareness among public worldwide about the precautions and preventions of the asthma. 2019 theme is "STOP for Asthma". The STOP stands for Symptom evaluation, Test response, Observe and assess and proceed to adjust treatment.

3. *National Technology Day 2019 – May 11*

National Technology Day is observed on May 11 to mark India's technological advancements and to promote the development of technology in various fields. The day acts as a reminder of the anniversary of Shakti, the Pokhran nuclear test which was held on 11, 1998.

4. *National Dengue Day – May 16*

National Dengue Day is celebrated on May 16 aims to spread awareness about dengue and to increase preventive measures as well as find out ways to prevent and control the disease across the country.

5. *May 21 celebrated as Anti-terrorism day*

May 21 is chosen as Anti-terrorism day in India to commemorate the death Anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi died in a terrorist attack. On this day Anti-Terrorism pledge is taken in all the government offices and other public institutions.

6. *World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development – May 21*

World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development is annually held on May 21 to help people learn about the importance of cultural diversity and harmony.

7. *International Missing Children Day – May 25*

International Missing Children's Day is an awareness event that is observed every year on 25th May. The aims of the day are to place a spotlight on the issue of child abduction, educate parents on safeguarding measures to protect their children.

Quick Revision

Date	Day	Theme
May 1	International Labour Day	Sustainable Pension for all: The Role of Social Partners
May 2	World Tuna Day	NA
May 3	World Press Freedom Day	Media for Democracy: Journalism and Elections in Times of Disinformation
May 8	World Red Cross Day	#Love
May 11	National Technology Day	NA
May 12	International Nurses' Day	NA
May 15	International Day of Families	Families and Climate Action: Focus on SDG 13
May 16	National Dengue Day	NA
May 17	World Telecommunication and Information Society Day	Bridging the standardization gap
May 21	Anti-terrorism day	NA
May 21	World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development	NA
May 22	The International Day for Biological Diversity	Our Biodiversity, Our Food, Our Health
May 24	International Commonwealth Day	A Connected Commonwealth'
May 25	International Missing Children's Day	NA
May 28	World Hunger Day	Sustainability
May 29	International Day of UN Peacekeepers	Protecting Civilians, Protecting Peace
May 31	World No Tobacco Day	Tobacco and lung health
1 st Sunday of May	World Laughter Day	NA
1 st Tuesday of May	World Asthma Day	STOP for Asthma

Sports

News: Most Important

1. *India bagged 57 medals at India Open International tournament in Guwahati, Assam*

India bagged a total of 57 medals including 12 Gold, 18 Silver and 27 Bronze at India Open International Boxing tournament in Guwahati, Assam. MC Mary Kom, Shiva Thapa, L Sarita Devi and Naman Tanwar won gold in their respective finals.

2. *Zverev outlasts Jarry in thrilling final to clinch Geneva Open title*

Germany's Alexander Zverev has defeated Chile's Nicolas Jarry in the finals of the Geneva Open title. He clinched his first ATP Tour title this season by winning his third consecutive three-setter against Jarry.

3. *Dominic Thiem Becomes 2nd Austrian to Win Barcelona Open*

Austria's Dominic Thiem has defeated Daniil Medvedev of Russia to clinch Barcelona Open 2019. He became just the fourth player in the past 15 years to lift the title in Barcelona, joining Rafael Nadal, Kei Nishikori and Fernando Verdasco.

4. *Jaipur to Host Asian Youth Women Handball Championship*

Jaipur will host the 8th Asian Youth Women Handball Championship from August 21 to 30 in which 10 teams, including defending champions South Korea, will be participating.

5. *China to host 2023 Asian Cup Football Tournament*

China will host Asian Cup Football Tournament in 2023 after South Korea has withdrawn its bid to stage football's Asian Cup. Korea Football Association stated that it had pulled out to focus on joint bid with North Korea to host Women's World Cup in 2023.

6. *IAAF World Relays 2019 held in Yokohoma, Japan*

The IAAF World Relays 2019 was held in Yokohama, Japan. 43 nations participated in it. The top 10 finishers in men's and women's 4×400 m relays event & top 12 finishers in mixed 4×400 m relays event have qualified for the IAAF World Athletics Championship.

7. *Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton wins the Spanish Grand Prix*

Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton won the Spanish Grand Prix in Barcelona, Spain and rose to the top of the Formula One world championship. Mercedes' V. Bottas finished second, while Red Bulls' M. Verstappen finished third.

8. *World number 1, Novak Djokovic beat Stefanos Tsitsipas to win the Madrid Open for a third time*

Djokovic's 74th Tour title came after having made just one quarter-final in 3 tournaments since lifting the trophy at the Australian Open for a 7th time. Djokovic wins Madrid open, while Tsitsipas becomes runner up.

9. *Amul to sponsor Afghanistan in Cricket World Cup 2019*

Amul will be the principal sponsor of Afghanistan cricket team in the coming ICC World Cup. This is the third time that Amul is sponsoring a cricket team in the World Cup. It had associated with New Zealand and Holland teams in earlier World Cup tournaments.

10. *Indian boxers won 6 medals at 36th Feliks Stamm International Boxing*

Indian boxers won 6 medals, i.e. 2 gold, 1 silver and 3 bronze at the 36th Feliks Stamm International Boxing Tournament in Warsaw, Poland. Gaurav Solanki and Manish Kaushik bagged 1 gold each in 52 kg and 60 kg category respectively.

11. *Saurav Ghosal and Joshna Chinappa win the Asian squash championship*

Saurav Ghosal and Joshna Chinappa emerged champions in the Asian squash championship in Malaysia. This is the first time two Indians have finished on top in the same tournament.

12. *Apurvi Chandela Attains World Number 1 Spot in Women's 10m Air Rifle Event*

Indian shooting ace Apurvi Chandela attained the world number one position in the women's 10 metres air rifle event while compatriot Anjum Moudgil rose to number two after consistent performances in recent years.

13. *Bajrang Punia Bags Gold in Ali Aliyev Wrestling Tournament*

World number one Bajrang Punia won the gold medal as he defeated Viktor Rassadin in the finals of men's 65kg freestyle in the Ali Aliyev wrestling tournament in Kaspiisk, Russia.

14. *Sudirman Cup kick starts in China*

Sudirman Cup will kick start in Nanning, China. It is a mixed team Badminton Championship held every two years. There are 12 teams that will take part in the tournament. Korea is the defending Champions as they defeated China in the 2017 edition.

15. *Indian Para-Athletes Clinch Medals at Asian Road Para-Cycling Championships*

Indian para-athlete Divij Shah secured a silver while Gurlal Singh and Hand cyclist Sudhakar Marathe won bronze medals at the Asian Road Para-cycling championships 2019 at Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

16. *Star golfer Gaganjeet Bhullar wins outstanding achievement as player award*

Arjuna awardee and star Indian golfer Gaganjeet Bhullar won the outstanding achievement as a player award at the fourth edition of the annual India Golf Industry Association (GIA) awards at the Delhi Golf Club.

17. *Sana Mir becomes highest wicket-taking spinner in ODIs*

Pakistan off-spinner Sana Mir has become the most successful women's highest wicket taking spinner in One-day International cricket. Currently, Mir is placed on the third position in the ICC's ODI bowling ranking, which is topped by Indian pacer Jhulan Goswami.

18. *Mumbai Indians beat Chennai Super Kings to win 4th title*

Mumbai Indians defeated defending champions Chennai Super Kings by 1 run in Hyderabad and became the 1st team to win the Indian Premier League 4 times.

19. *Rafael Nadal Beats Novak Djokovic To Win Italian Open*

Rafael Nadal, the No. 2 player in the world, beat world No. 1 Novak Djokovic to win the Italian Open in Rome for his first win of the season and his ninth title at the event. It was Nadal's first clay court final win over Djokovic since the 2014 French Open.

20. *ISSF World Cup- Rahi Sarnobat & Saurabh Chaudhary Bag Gold Medals*

Rahi Sarnobat won the gold medal in 25m- Air Pistol Category at the ISSF World Cup 2019, going on in Munich, Germany. Saurabh Chaudhary, the 17-year-old shooter, made the country proud once again as he bagged a gold in the 10 m Air Pistol category.

21. *Lewis Hamilton wins Monaco Grand Prix*

Mercedes driver, Lewis Hamilton won the Monaco Grand Prix after close competition with Red Bull driver, Max Verstappen. Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel came second while his teammate, Valtteri Bottas came third.

News: Others

1. India's Mahesh Mungaonkar wins Sekisui Open

In squash, India's Mahesh Mungaonkar triumphed for the second time in the Sekisui Open in Kriens, Switzerland. Three years back he had won it for the first time. Sekisui Open is a Challenger tour event of the Professional Squash Association (PSA)

2. Raheem Sterling named FWA Footballer of the Year

Raheem Sterling is the winner of the 2019 Football Writers' Association Footballer of the Year award. He has been recognized for a sensational season for City which already seen him win the League Cup.

3. International Shooting: Esha-Akull pair strikes silver

India's Esha Singh & Akull Kumar were defeated by the German pair of Jan Luca Karstedt & Vanessa Seeger and Secured Silver medal in junior mixed air pistol event at the International Shooting Competition.

4. ITF men's Future's tennis Title won by Anirudh & Niki

In the double's final of the ITF men's Futures in Uganda, Anirudh Chandrasekar & Niki Poonacha defeated Simon Carr & Ryan James Storrie. While it was the 5th doubles title for Poonacha, it was the 1st title in the international circuit for Anirudh.

5. Sethu FC crowned Indian Women's league champions

Sethu FC from Madurai emerged champions of the third edition of the Indian Women's League in Ludhiana. Sethu FC defeated Manipur Police SC 3-1 in the final. The title cements Tamil Nadu's position as the leading force in women's football in India.

6. Helo becomes team Sponsor of Indian Wheelchair Cricket Association for Asia Cup 2019

Helo, India's social media platform, has announced its partnership with the Indian Wheelchair Cricket Association as the team sponsor for Team India during the Asia Cup 2019, which is to be held in Nepal.

7. Koepka returns to world No. 1 after fourth major golf title

Brooks Koepka returned to the top of the world golf rankings, after his US PGA Championship victory at Bethpage Black. He has now won 4 major titles in his last 8 starts and is the 1st man to ever hold back-to-back titles in two majors at the same time.

Awards

News: Most Important

1. *Nalini Malani becomes first Indian to win Joan Miro Prize*

Indian contemporary artist Nalini Malani has won the seventh edition of Joan Miro Prize 2019 for her impressive body of work that gave a voice to 'the silenced and the dispossessed all over the world, most particularly women'.

2. *Dr. Ankur Patwardhan from Pune has been conferred with German Chemistry Prize*

In an international competition 'Elsevier Foundation-ISC3 Green and Sustainable Chemistry Challenge', a project idea by Ankur Patwardhan from Pune has bagged the second prize. His project is named 'Butterfly attractant for pollination and ecosystem health'.

3. *Omani writer Jokha Alharthi wins Man Booker literature prize*

Jokha Alharthi, became the 1st Arabic author to win the Man Booker International prize, for her novel "Celestial Bodies" which reveals her Omani homeland's post-colonial transformation.

4. *UNDRR confers Dr P.K. Mishra with the prestigious Sasakawa Award 2019*

UNDRR has conferred Pramod Kumar Mishra with the Sasakawa Award 2019 in recognition of his long-term dedication to improve the resilience of communities most exposed to disaster & his commitment to social inclusion to reduce inequality & poverty.

5. *CEAT International Cricket Awards 2019*

Kohli has been named as the International Cricketer of the year in the CEAT ICA 2019, while Smriti Mandhana got the International women cricketer of the year award. 1983 World Cup-winner Mohinder Amarnath got the lifetime achievement award at the ceremony. CEAT awarded Afghanistan leg-spinner Rashid Khan for outstanding bowling and Australian batsman Aaron Finch for his exceptional performance in T20.

6. *G D 'Robert' Govender honoured with V K Krishna Menon Award posthumously*

Indian -origin journalist G D 'Robert' Govender was given V K Krishna Menon Award 2019 in UK for his contribution in decolonised journalism. Govender is the first person who has been given this award posthumously.

7. *Former ISRO Chairman given France's Highest Civilian Honour*

Former ISRO chairman A S Kiran Kumar was conferred with France's highest civilian honour, Chevalier de l'Ordre national de la Legion d'Honneur, for his contribution to India-France space cooperation.

8. *Indian peacekeeper honoured posthumously with UN medal*

Indian peacekeeper, Police Officer Jitender Kumar made the supreme sacrifice while serving in the UNO Stabilisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo. He will be honoured with the Dag Hammarskjold Medal on the Int. Day of UN Peacekeepers.

9. *US President Trump Presents Tiger Woods with the Presidential Medal of Freedom*

US President Trump presented Tiger Woods with the Presidential Medal of Freedom. He received the presidential honor following his win of the 2019 Masters tournament in April.

10. *Shyam Saran to be conferred with Japan's 'Order of the Rising Sun' award*

Former Indian foreign secretary Shyam Saran will be conferred with Japan's 2nd highest national award, 'the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star', for strengthening the strategic ties and enhancing mutual understanding between India and Japan.

11. *Acharya Balkrishna receives 'UNSDG 10 Most Influential People in Healthcare award'*

Patanjali Ayurved Limited's Managing Director, Acharya Balkrishna received the 'UNSDG 10 Most Influential People in Healthcare Award' on behalf of Patanjali Group of Institutions in Geneva. Yoga guru Baba Ramdev co-founded the company along with him.

12. *Horticulture award conferred on Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Vice-Chancellor*

N Kumar, VC of TNAU, has been conferred the lifetime recognition award by the Confederation of Horticulture Association of India, for his outstanding contribution in the field of horticulture & academic leadership focussed on HRD in agriculture.

News: Others

1. Indian short film wins Nespresso Talents award in Cannes

Achyutanand Dwivedi's film 'Seed Mother' won the 3rd prize in the international section of Nespresso Talents 2019. The 1st prize was won by New Zealand's Josh Morrice for 'Subak' & the 2nd prize went to Mexican filmmaker Marco Aurelio Celis' 'Ruffo'.

2. PC Chandra Purashkaar 2019 awarded to Padma Bhushan Dr. Devi Prasad Shetty

P. C. Chandra Puraskaar, the annual national award from the P. C. Chandra Group was awarded to one of India's reputed cardiac surgeons and humanitarians Dr. Devi Prasad Shetty at the Biswa Bangla Convention Centre.

3. IPS officer who oversaw Nirbhaya rape case receives McCain Institute Award

IPS officer Chhaya Sharma, who led the investigation team of the infamous Nirbhaya gang-rape and murder case, has been awarded the 2019 McCain Institute Award for Courage and Leadership, in Arizona, U.S.

4. Bengaluru doctor Hema Divakar gets Global Asian award

Bengaluru-based doctor Hema Divakar was honoured with the 'Global Asian of the Year 2018-19' award in Dubai , for her yeomen services and contributions to the women's healthcare ecosystem, in India.

5. Playwright and journalist Annie Zaidi wins Nine Dots Prize

Indian playwright & journalist Annie Zaidi was announced the winner of the 2019 Nine Dots Prize for her essay Bread, Cement, Cactus. The winner writes a short book expanding on the essay's idea. The question of 2019 was "Is there still no place like home?"

Quick Revision

Winner	Award
Nalini Malani	Joan Miro Prize
Ankur Patwardhan	German Chemistry Prize
Jokha Alharthi	Man Booker Literature Prize
Pramod Kumar Mishra	Sasakawa Award 2019 (UNDRR)
Virat Kohli	International Cricketer of the year (CEAT ICA 2019)
Smriti Mandhana	International women cricketer
Mohinder Amarnath	Lifetime achievement award
Rashid Khan	International T20 Bowler of the Year
Aaron Finch	International T20 Player of the year
AS Kiran Kumar	Chevalier de l'Ordre national de la Legion d'Honneur
G D 'Robert' Govender	V K Krishna Menon Award 2019
Jitender Kumar	Dag Hammarskjold Medal
Tiger Woods	Presidential Medal of Freedom
Shyam Saran	Japan's 'the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star' award
Acharya Balkrishna	UNSDG 10 Most Influential People in Healthcare Award
N Kumar, VC of TNAU	Lifetime recognition award by the Confederation of Horticulture Association of India
Seed Mother	3rd prize in the international section of Nespresso Talents 2019
Dr. Devi Prasad Shetty	P. C. Chandra Puraskaar
Chhaya Sharma	2019 McCain Institute Award for Courage and Leadership
Hema Divakar	Global Asian of the Year 2018-19 award
Annie Zaidi	Nine Dots Prize

Obituaries

News: Most Important

1. *Niki Lauda, 3-time Formula 1 Champion, dies at 70*

Niki Lauda, an Austrian & one of the best-known figures in motor racing, took the title for Ferrari in 1975 and 1977 and McLaren in 1984. He will be remembered for his remarkable recovery and return to racing after an accident in the 1976 German Grand Prix.

2. *ITC chairman YC Deveshwar passed away*

Yogesh Chander Deveshwar, one of India's longest-serving top executives and the chairman of conglomerate ITC, died after a brief illness at the age of 72 years.

3. *British Actor Clement von Franckenstein dies at 74*

Clement von Franckenstein, the British actor who played the part of President of France opposite Michael Douglas and Annette Bening in *The American President*, has died. He was 74. He also performed in *Lionheart*, *Death Becomes Her*, *The Evening*, etc.

4. *Bhojpuri Vocal artist, Padma Shri awardee Hiralal Yadav passes away at 93 in Varanasi*

Padma Shri awardee Bhojpuri vocal artist Hiralal Yadav passed away, at the age of 93. He was a famous Bhojpuri folk singer from the 'Birha' genre and had received a Padma Shri award (2019) & Yash Bharti award for his work in the field of music (2015).

5. *Renowned Sikh historian and first chronicler of partition Kirpal Singh passes away at 95*

Renowned Sikh historian & the first chronicler of India's partition Kirpal Singh passed away at the age of 95 in Chandigarh. His last work was aimed at "fixing the responsibility" of the Indo-Pak partition tragedy.

6. *NR Madhava Menon, father of modern legal education in India, passes away*

Professor NR Madhava Menon, father of modern Indian legal education, passed away at the age of 84. He founded the National Law School of India in Bengaluru, National University of Judicial Sciences in Kolkata & the National Judicial Academy in Bhopal.

7. *Prominent academician Maramraju Satyanarayana Rao passed away*

Eminent writer and academician, Maramraju Satyanarayana Rao (84) passed away at a hospital in Hyderabad following a cardiac arrest. Born at Jayyaram village in Mahabubabad district, he had worked as professor of political science and authored several books.

8. *Actor, Peter Mayhew passes away*

"Star Wars" actor Peter Mayhew, who played 'Chewbacca' died in Texas at the age of 74. He played Chewbacca in *Star Wars* (1977), *The Empire Strikes Back* (1980), *Return of the Jedi* (1983), *Revenge of the Sith* (2005) and *The Force Awakens* (2015).

9. *CPM leader and former finance minister, V Viswanatha Menon passes away*

CPM leader and former finance minister, V Viswanatha Menon passed away at the age of 92 in Kochi, Kerala. He was also known as "Ambadi Viswam". He served as the Finance Minister in 1987 during the Left Democratic Front government led by E.K. Nayanar.

10. *Youngest Best Director Oscar nominee John Singleton Passed Away*

Filmmaker John Singleton, the youngest-ever person as well as the first African American to be nominated for the Best Director Oscar, has passed away at age 51 years. John earned two Oscar nominations for his film 'Boyz N the Hood' in 1992.

11. *Former Malaysian King Sultan Ahmad Shah passes away*

Malaysia's seventh King and football veteran Sultan Ahmad Shah passed away. He was 88. He was also the fifth Sultan of Malaysia's central Pahang state. He was the President of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) from 1994 to 2002.

12. *Architect of Louvre Pyramid, Ieoh Ming Pei passed away at 102 in New York*

The world-famous architect IM Pei, best known for his remarkable work, the Louvre pyramid in Paris, passed away at the age of 102. He was also the mastermind behind the landmark 72-story Bank of China tower in Hong Kong and Athens' Museum of Modern Art.

13. *Godfather actor Carmine Caridi dies aged 85*

Carmine Caridi, who played Carmine Rosato in The Godfather: Part II and Albert Volpe in The Godfather: Part III, died at the age of 85. He was known for big screen turns in The Gambler, Prince of the City, The Money Pit and Brewster's Millions & Bugsy.

News: Others

1. *Assam: Noted artist Benu Mishra passes away aged 80 years*

Assam's noted artist & former senior art adviser & deputy director of state Directorate of Information and Public Relations, Benu Mishra passed away in Guwahati. Mishra was the founder president of Guwahati Artists' Guild.

2. *Hollywood actress Doris Day has died aged 97*

The singer turned actress, Doris Day worked in films such as Calamity Jane and Pillow Talk. She had a hit in 1956 with Que Sera, Sera (Whatever Will Be, Will Be). She received the Presidential Medal of Freedom and a lifetime achievement Grammy as awards.

3. *Justice Subhashan Reddy Passes Away*

The former chief justice of the Kerala and Madras High Courts B. Subhashan Reddy passed away following a brief illness. He was 76 years. Justice Reddy was the first chairman of the Andhra Pradesh (AP) State Human Rights Commission.

4. *Former billiards player Derek Sippy Passed Away*

Former Indian Cue sports Player, Coach and administrator Derek Sippy, who was in his 60s, died due to a massive heart attack in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

5. *Documentary filmmaker Vijaya Mulay passed away at 98*

Vijaya Mulay, best known for her film, 'Ek Anek Aur Ekta' has passed away. She had won National Award for the film in the Best Education Film category. Her 1st film was called 'The Tidal Bore' which was selected by the government for Manheim Film Festival.

6. *Former South Asian Games swimming gold medallist MB Balakrishnan dies*

Former South Asian Games swimming gold medallist MB Balakrishnan died in a road accident. He won a gold in the National Games in Guwahati in 2007 & rewrote the 50m backstroke national record in July 2010 at the Senior National Championships in New Delhi.

7. *Veteran Telugu actor Rallapalli Venkata Narasimha Rao passes away*

Veteran Telugu actor Rallapalli Venkata Narasimha Rao passed away. He was 74. He had worked as a staff artiste in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. His well-known films including Thoorpu Velle Railu, Srivariki Prema Lekha & Rendu Rellu Aaru.

8. *Tamil novelist and Sahitya Akademi Awardee Thoppil Mohamed Meeran dies aged 74*

Noted Tamil novelist and Sahitya Akademi Awardee Thoppil Mohamed Meeran passed away in Pettai, aged 74. He authored many Tamil & Malayalam novels. His novel "Saaivu Naarkkali" (The Reclining Chair) won the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1997.

9. *Veteran Action Director, Veeru Devgan passed away*

Bollywood's famous action director Veeru Devgan, father of actor Ajay Devgan, passed away. He was 85. His work includes Mr. Natwarlal (1979), Kranti (1981), Himmatwala (1983), Shahenshah (1988) and Tridev (1989) and Phool Aur Kaante (1991), among others.

10. *Kalpana Dash, the 1st woman mountaineer from Odisha passed away*

Kalpana Dash, Odisha's 1st woman mountaineer died after scaling the Mt. Everest. She had 1st scaled it in 2008. During her decade and half-old career, she had trekked many mountains conquering peaks in Europe, America and Australia, besides India.

Quick Revision

Obituary (Name)	Related Field
Niki Lauda	Formula 1 Driver
Yogesh Chander Deveshwar	ITC Chairman
Clement von Franckenstein	British actor
Hiralal Yadav	Bhojpuri vocal artist
Kirpal Singh	Sikh historian & the first chronicler of India's partition
NR Madhava Menon	Father of modern Indian legal education
Maramraju Satyanarayana Rao	Writer and Academician
V Viswanatha Menon	Former Finance Minister of Kerala
Peter Mayhew	Actor
John Singleton	Filmmaker
Sultan Ahmad Shah	Malaysia's seventh King and football player
Ieoh Ming Pei	Architect of Louvre Pyramid
Carmine Caridi	Actor
Benu Mishra	Artist
Doris Day	Actress
B. Subhashan Reddy	Former chief justice of the Kerala and Madras HC
Derek Sippy	Billiards Player
Vijaya Mulay	Filmmaker
MB Balakrishnan	Swimmer
Rallapalli Venkata Narasimha Rao	Telugu Actor
Thoppil Mohamed Meeran	Tamil Novelist
Veeru Devgan	Director
Kalpana Dash	Mountaineer

Person in News

News: Most Important

1. *Bhawana Kanth becomes India's First Woman Pilot to Qualify for Combat Missions*

Scripting history, Flight Lieutenant Bhawana Kanth, became the first woman pilot of the Indian Air Force (IAF) to qualify to undertake combat missions on a fighter jet.

2. *BharatPe announced Salman Khan as its Brand Ambassador*

Merchant service and UPI payments app BharatPe, announced Bollywood actor Salman Khan as its brand ambassador. The fintech start-up has also tied-up with the actor for outdoor campaigns, radio, social media and in-app education initiatives.

3. *Myntra appoints Virat Kohli, Anushka Sharma as first brand ambassadors*

Myntra announced the launch of 'Go Myntra-la-la', a brand campaign, with Cricketer Virat Kohli and Bollywood actor Anushka Sharma been chosen as its first official brand ambassadors.

4. *Manchester City, Barcelona Football Star Yaya Toure Retires*

According to his agent, Former Manchester City and Barcelona midfielder Yaya Toure has retired and plans to move into coaching or management, He played as a mid-fielder for both the teams.

5. *Aarohi Pandit became 1st woman in the world to cross the Atlantic Ocean solo in an LSA*

Captain Aarohi Pandit, a 23-year-old pilot from Mumbai, India became the world's 1st woman to cross the Atlantic Ocean solo in a Light Sports Aircraft (LSA), thrilling her family, friends and aviation circles.

6. *Sherpa climber Kami Rita reached the top of Mount Everest ,for a 23rd time*

Sherpa climber Kami Rita reached the top of Mount Everest, for a 23rd time, thus breaking his own record for the most successful climbs of the world's highest summit. He climbed Everest from the Nepal side.

7. *FIFA Appeal Committee confirms ban imposed on Marco Polo Del Nero*

The FIFA Appeal Committee has confirmed the decision taken by the independent Ethics Committee to ban Mr Marco Polo Del Nero for life from all football-related activities at national & international level & to order him to pay a fine of CHF 1 million.

News: Others

1. *Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin unveiled Lunar Lander*

Billionaire entrepreneur Jeff Bezos unveiled a mock-up of a lunar lander being built by his Blue Origin rocket company and touted his moon goals in a strategy aimed at establishing a lunar outpost in next 5 years.

2. *Actress Dia Mirza among 17 new 'SDG Advocates' of UN*

Indian actress Dia Mirza and Alibaba chief Jack Ma are among the 17 public figures appointed by UN Secretary-General as the new advocates to drive action and consolidate global political will for the ambitious Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

3. *Germany's Double Olympic biathlon champion Laura Dahlmeier retires aged 25*

Germany's Double Olympic biathlon champion Laura Dahlmeier retires at the age of 25 owing to health issues. In the Winter Olympics 2018, she became the first female biathlete to win sprint as well as the pursuit at the same Olympics.

4. *Indra Nooyi Presented with Honorary Doctorate at Yale University*

Indra Nooyi, the long-time chairman and CEO of PepsiCo, was presented with an honorary doctorate of humane letters at Yale. Under her, PepsiCo launched the Performance with Purpose initiative, incorporating impact on health, society, etc into its strategy.

Summits & Conference

News: Most Important

1. UN To Hold 2020 Ocean Conference in Lisbon

United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) decided to hold its 2020 high-level conference early June in Portugal's Lisbon to support the sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources

2. India to attend G-7 meet in France

India will be attending the Group of 7 industrialised nations meet organised by France in Biarritz in August along with Australia, Chile and South Africa, in a sign of the recognition of India's growing economic heft in the international arena.

3. 16th Ministerial Meeting of Asia Cooperation Dialogue

The 16th Ministerial Meeting of Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) was held in Doha, Qatar. Gen. (Dr) V.K. Singh (Retd), Minister of State for External Affairs led the Indian delegation. The theme of the meeting was "Partners in Progress".

4. Nirmala Sitharaman Attends SCO Conclave in Kyrgyzstan

Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman attended a key conclave of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan and held bilateral meetings on its side-lines.

5. IBSA Sherpas meet concluded in Cochin

India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) Sherpas meeting were held in Cochin, Kerala. The Indian delegation was led by T.S. Tirumurti, Secretary (Economic Relations) in Ministry of External Affairs.

6. WTO Ministerial Meeting of Developing Countries in New Delhi

WTO Ministerial meeting of developing countries is being hosted by New Delhi, India. 16 developing countries and 6 LDCs are participating in the meeting. It is an effort to bring both on a platform for sharing common concerns on issues affecting the WTO.

7. 6th Session of Global Platform for DRR will be held in Geneva, Switzerland 2019

The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction was first held in 2007. It is a biennial event. Its sixth session will take place in Geneva, Switzerland. The theme for 2019 is, "Resilience Dividend: Towards Sustainable and Inclusive Societies."

8. Sweden will host international conference against anti-Semitism in 2020

The gathering of international leaders will be held in Malmö, southern Sweden, in October 2020 – 20 years after the Declaration of the Stockholm International Forum on the Holocaust & 75 years after the liberation of the Auschwitz concentration camp.

News: Others

1. CBIC organised meeting of Regional Heads of Customs Administration of Asia Pacific Region of the WCO in Kochi

CBIC organized a meeting of the Regional Heads of the CAAPR of WCO in Kochi. The meeting took stock of the progress being made in carrying out the programmes of WCO to promote, facilitate and secure the cross-border trade in the region.

2. TAPI gas pipeline meet held in Turkmenistan

Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline meeting was held in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan. The ADB is acting as the facilitator for the TAPI project. The project is expected to be completed by 2022 in Pakistan.

3. Senior officials of RCEP countries met in Bangkok

Senior officials of the 16-member RCEP group held meetings in Bangkok to solve issues pertaining to the goods and services sector. It was an inter-sessional meeting, where senior officials held detailed discussions on issues of the proposed RCEP agreement.

Quick Revision

Summit/Conference	Venue
UN's Ocean Conference	Lisbon, Portugal
G7 Summit	France
16th Ministerial Meeting of Asia Cooperation Dialogue	Doha, Qatar
Shanghai Cooperation Organisation	Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
G7 Environment Ministers Meet	Metz, France
IBSA Sherpas meet	Kochi, Kerala
WTO Ministerial meeting of developing countries	New Delhi
6 th edition of Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction	Geneva, Switzerland
International conference against anti-Semitism, 2020	Sweden
Meet of the Regional Heads of the CAAPR of WCO	Kochi
TAPI Gas pipeline Meet	Ashgabat, Turkmenistan
RCEP group meet	Bangkok

Defence

News: Most Important

1. *India successfully test-fires Brahmos supersonic cruise missile*

India has test-fired the Indo-Russian joint venture Brahmos supersonic cruise missile from a test range along the Odisha coast. The trial was conducted to validate its life extension technologies developed for the 1st time in India by DRDO and team.

2. *New version of Akash missile test-fired successfully*

The DRDO successfully test-fired the new version of the Akash surface-to-air defence missile system with a new indigenously developed seeker in Balasore off the Odisha coast. It has a range of around 25 km and up to the altitude of 18,000 metres.

3. *DRDO test fires guided bomb from Sukhoi combat jet*

Defence Research and Development Organisation has test-fired an indigenously developed 500 kg class guided bomb from a Sukhoi combat jet at Pokhran, Rajasthan. The guided bomb achieved the desired range and hit the target with high precision.

4. *Indian Army is commemorating '2019' as the 'Year of Next of Kin'*

Indian Army is observing 2019, as the 'Year of Next of Kin' & plans to reach out to relatives of battle casualties, ex-servicemen & serving soldiers to inform them of entitled financial benefits, welfare schemes & help resolve pension related issues.

5. *Indian Navy launches 4th Scorpene class submarine*

The 4th of Indian Navy's stealth Scorpene class Submarines of Project 75 has been launched at the Kanhoji Angre Wet Basin of Mazagon Dock Ltd. in Mumbai. The submarine has been named 'Vela' after a previous submarine.

6. *Chandrayaan-2 to be Launched in July*

India's second lunar mission Chandrayaan-2 will be launched on a day between 9 and 16 July this year. Its lander will touch down near the Moon's south pole on 6th September. It will have 3 modules in it- an orbiter, a lander "Vikram" and a rover "Pragyan". It will be launched by India's most powerful rocket GSLV-Mark-3.

7. *Missile destroyer INS Ranjit decommissioned*

The Indian Navy's frontline missile destroyer INS Ranjit was decommissioned after 36 years of service. It was commissioned on September 15, 1983, with Captain Vishnu Bhagwat in command.

8. *DRDO Successfully Conducts Flight Test of ABHYAS*

DRDO conducted successful flight test of **ABHYAS -HEAT** at Chandipur in Odisha. The test was tracked by RADARS & Electro Optic Systems. It demonstrated the capability of ABHYAS to meet the mission requirement for a cost-effective HEAT.

9. *Young Scientist Programme 'Yuvika2019' inaugurated in Bengaluru*

'Yuvika2019' was inaugurated by ISRO Chairman Dr K Sivan, via video mode in Bengaluru. This residential summer vacation programme spread over 4 ISRO centres in Bengaluru, Thiruvananthapuram, Ahmedabad and Shillong is attended by 110 students.

10. *Indian forces hold joint exercise in Andaman and Nicobar*

All 3 Indian armed forces took part in the joint exercise, off the Campbell Bay coast, in Andaman & Nicobar. The Marine Commando (MARCO) unit of the Indian Navy and specialist platoon (GHATAK) of the Indian Army displayed their operational capabilities.

11. *Indian Coast Guard Ship Vigraha decommissioned*

ICGS Vigraha was decommissioned after 29 years of service. It was the **seventh** offshore patrol vessel built by the Mazagaon Dock Limited, Mumbai. The ship was later based at Visakhapatnam and has been instrumental in protecting the east coast.

12. *Indian Navy successfully test-fires MRSAM missile*

Indian Navy test-fired a Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM) to enhance its anti-air warfare capability. It was undertaken on the western seaboard by INS Kochi & Chennai. DRDO has developed the missile in alliance with Israel Aerospace Industries.

13. *Naval drill , SIMBEX conducted by Navies of India and Singapore*

The navies of India and Singapore conducted their bilateral naval drill SIMBEX in the South China Sea. Indian Navy ships Kolkata and Shakti took part in the exercise with Singapore, along with long-range maritime patrol aircraft Poseidon-8I (P8I).

14. *ISRO successfully launches earth observation satellite RISAT-2B*

RISAT 2B Satellite has been launched successfully from the Sriharikota's, Satish Dhawan Space Centre. PSLV-C46 lifted-off from the First Launch Pad and injected RISAT-2B into an orbit of 556 km. It is a radar imaging earth observation satellite.

15. *Isro's new commercial arm NewSpace India (NSIL) officially inaugurated in Bengaluru*

Isro's new commercial arm NSIL was inaugurated by K. Kasturirangan (ISRO's honorary adviser). It is responsible for manufacturing & production of Small Satellite Launch Vehicle & Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle via technology transfer mechanisms.

16. *First All-Women IAF Crew Fly Mi-17 Helicopter in Battle Training Mission*

Three women IAF officers were part of the country's 1st all-women crew to fly a medium lift helicopter Mi-17 V5. Flight. Lt. Parul Bhardwaj (Capt.), Flying Officer Aman Nidhi and Flight Lt. Hina Jaiswal flew the chopper, which took off from SW air command.

News: Others

1. *8th Indo – Myanmar Coordinated Patrol(IMCOR) at Andaman & Nicobar*

Myanmar Navy Ships participated in the 8th Indo-Myanmar coordinated patrol (IMCOR), at Port Blair Andaman & Nicobar. The CORPAT initiative between the two navies is meant to address issues of terrorism & other illegal activities harmful to both nations

2. *Chinese navy launches two new guided missile destroyers*

China has commissioned two more guided missile destroyers. 2 Type 052D guided missile destroyers were launched. Destroyers are fast, highly manoeuvrable long-distance warships which are also used to accompany the aircraft carriers.

3. *1st Apache Helicopter handed over to IAF*

Indian Air Force formally received its first Apache Guardian attack helicopter at a Boeing production facility in the United States. The chopper was handed over to Air Marshal AS Butola, representing the IAF, in a ceremony at the facility in Arizona.

4. *Two Mi-24 helicopters handed over to Afghanistan by India*

India handed over a pair of Mi-24 helicopters to Afghanistan with the aim of strengthening the Afghan air force for battling the Taliban insurgency against the backdrop of the US looking to exit the war-torn country after a 17-year stay.

5. *Rafale Aircraft: IAF chief's squadron to be first Rafale combat aircraft unit*

The first Rafale combat aircraft would be inducted into the IAF's 'Golden Arrows' 17 Squadron which was commanded by Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa during the Kargil war in 1999. The first unit to receive the Rafale combat aircraft would be the 17 Squadron.

Agreements

News: Most Important

1. *NHA to collaborate with cancer grid*

National Health Authority and National Cancer Grid have signed an MoU under the Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana to bring in uniform standards of patient care to battle cancer.

2. *Vodafone Idea Signs Multi-Million Dollar IT Deal With IBM*

India's largest telecom operator Vodafone Idea Ltd announced a five-year multi-million-dollar IT outsourcing deal with tech giant IBM. This engagement will also contribute to Vodafone Idea's merger co-operation by reducing its IT-related costs.

3. *Tech Mahindra signs Rs 300 crore defence contract with Indian Navy*

Tech Mahindra announced a defence order worth over Rs 300 crore with the Indian Navy. As part of the 'Armed Forces Secure Access Card' (AFSAC) Project, Tech Mahindra will implement RFID based Access Control System across all naval bases and ships.

4. *CBDT and GSTN Sign Pact to Nab Tax Evaders*

To nab tax evaders and reduce black money generation, the income tax department Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) and Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) signed an agreement to facilitate the exchange of data between the two.

News: Others

1. *NIOS, NHMPH of Maharashtra inks a MoU to offer vocational Programmes*

The National Institute of Open Schooling, MHRD & National Health Mission of Public Health Department of Maharashtra Govt. signed an MoU. It focused on offering Vocational programmes to the Health Service Providers of National Health Mission through NIOS.

2. *TAFE, Petroleum Conservation Research Association sign MoU*

Tractor-manufacturer Tractors and Farm Equipment (TAFE) Ltd has signed an MoU with Petroleum Conservation Research Association to aid conservation of resources. Under this, the association plans to jointly conduct agricultural workshops.

Books & Authors

News: Most Important

1. *World's 1st exclusive women's cricket magazine 'Criczone' released*

Inaugural issue of world's first exclusive women's cricket magazine 'Criczone' was released with Indian team vice-captain Smriti Mandhana featuring as the cover story.

2. *Pakistani cricketer Shahid Afridi released his autobiography 'Game Changer'*

Focusing on the life of Shahid Afridi, Emmy nominated journalist Wajahat S. Khan, has written Shahid Afridi's biography, after years of working alongside the Pakistani cricketer.

News: Others

1. *Lamar Odom launches a new book 'Darkness to light'*

Lamar Odom released a new book titled 'Darkness to light', which reportedly will reveal dark secrets of his life. He is the former professional basketball player.

2. *Sudeep Nagarkar's new book "The Secrets We Keep" launched in Bhubaneswar*

Kalinga Literary Festival's monthly community meet KLF Corner hosted the launch of the book "The Secrets We Keep" of the nationally acclaimed author Sudeep Nagarkar in association with Penguin Publications, India and Oxford Bookstores, India.

Books	Authored By/Launched By/Published By
Criczone	Yash Lahoti
Game Changer	Shahid Afridi
Darkness to light	Lamar Odom
The Secrets We Keep	Sudeep Nagarkar

Science & Technology

News: Most Important

1. IIT-Bombay develops AJIT, 'made in India' microprocessor

IIT-Bombay have developed 'AJIT', a microprocessor conceptualised, designed, developed and manufactured in India. The project was funded by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and IIT-Bombay. AJIT marks the first time in the country's history where industry, academia and the government have come together.

2. World gets the redefined units of measurement of kilogram, Kelvin, mole and ampere

World's scientific and technical community, in a historic decision taken in the CGPM at BIPM has decided to redefine 4 of the 7 base units, the Kg (weight), Kelvin (temperature), mole (amount of substance), and ampere (current).

3. IIT-Madras launches integrated database on infra projects

IIT Madras launched an Integrated Database on Infrastructure Projects (IDIP), a data platform aimed at enhancing the efficiency of infrastructure development and enable effective decision-making among different stakeholders involved in the sector.

4. "ElectionGuard", an open source software unveiled by Microsoft for secure voting

To help nations ensure secure voting, Microsoft unveiled "ElectionGuard". It will enable end-to-end verification of elections, open results to 3rd party organisations for validation, and allow individual voters to confirm their votes were correctly counted.

5. SpaceX launches first satellites for Elon Musk's Starlink internet service

Elon Musk's SpaceX company launched a Falcon 9 rocket from Florida on a mission to carry the first batch of 5 dozen small satellites into low-Earth orbit for Starlink internet service. It aimed at generating cash for Elon Musk's larger ambitions in space.

6. Airtel & Hughes to combine India VSAT operations

Telecom company Bharti Airtel and Hughes Communications India (HCIL) have decided to combine their VSAT (Very Small Aperture Terminal) satellite communications operations in India. The transaction is subject to approvals by relevant authorities.

News: Others

1. *Japan's First Private Rocket 'Momo-3' Reached Outer Space*

According to Interstellar Technology Inc., the unmanned Momo-3 launched from its test site in Hokkaido and reached about 110 kilometres in altitude before falling into the Pacific Ocean after 10 minutes of flight time.

2. *SpaceX launches Falcon 9 rocket with Dragon spacecraft*

Elon Musk's Space Exploration Technologies Corp. launched its 17th commercial resupply mission to the International Space Station for long-time customer NASA. SpaceX will attempt to recover Falcon 9's first stage on a drone ship in the Atlantic Ocean.

Environment

News: Most Important

1. *MoU Signed for Rudraksh Plantation in Ganga Basin*

MoU was signed between NMCG, HCL Foundation and INTACH for the project, 'Plantation of Rudraksh Trees in Uttarakhand' under the 'Namami Gange' Programme. The project aims at planting 10,000 Rudraksh trees in the catchment area of Ganga in Uttarakhand.

2. *Govt & IIT-Delhi signs MoU to set up a Centre of Excellence for Waste to Wealth Technologies*

IIT Delhi signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in a move to come together and to bring best of science and technology to implement waste management by setting up a Centre of Excellence for waste to wealth technologies in India.

News: Others

1. *ADB Launches \$5 Billion Healthy Oceans Action Plan*

At the 52nd Annual Meeting of ADB's Board of Governors in Fiji. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) launched the Action Plan for Healthy Oceans and Sustainable Blue Economies for the Asia and Pacific region.

2. *G7 environment ministers meet to discuss climate crisis*

Ministers from G7 countries, i.e. Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the US, gathered for a two-day meeting in Metz, France. Discussion ranged from measures to tackle deforestation, plastic pollution and the degradation of coral reefs.

Apps & Portals

News: Most Important

1. BSE launches BSE StAR MF app

Bombay Stock Exchange launched its mobile app BSE StAR MF. The app will help distributors execute transactions, create a mandate for SIPs, and track & analyze the business. It will help the distributor & IFA to register clients on a real-time basis.

2. OLA launches Visa-Powered OLA Money SBI credit card

Ola has launched Ola Money SBI Credit Card in alliance with SBI Card. Ola aims to provide a flexible and convenient payment system to its customers. Its users will be able to apply, view and manage their credit card directly on the app.

3. Airtel Launches Audio Video Streaming App Wynk Tube

Bharti Airtel announced the launch of new over-the-top streaming service Wynk Tube that would combine audio and video content. Wynk Tube is an extension of Wynk Music that allows users to stream audio and video of popular tracks within the same interface.

News: Others

1. Twitter Announces Premium Live-Streaming Video Content

Twitter has announced premium content deals with Univision, The Wall Street Journal, NFL, ESPN, and Viacom for live-streaming videos on its platform. The deals were announced at Twitter's "Digital Content NewFronts" event.

2. HDFC Capital launches 'HeART' to mentor real estate technology companies

HDFC Capital Advisors launched an initiative called '**HDFC Affordable Real Estate & Technology**' Program. It aims to mentor, partner & invest in real estate technology companies that drive innovation & efficiencies within the affordable housing ecosystem.

3. NITI Aayog pushes for Rs7500 crore proposal for AI platform

NITI Aayog has circulated a cabinet note to provide Rs 7,500 crore for the establishment of **AIRAWAT**, a cloud computing platform along with research institutes. This is to create an institutional framework for AI in the country.

Quick Revision

App/Portal/Platform	Launched By
BSE StAR MF	Bombay Stock Exchange
Ola Money SBI Credit Card	Ola
Wynk Tube	Bharti Airtel

Acquisitions & Mergers

News: Most Important

1. *L&T becomes single-largest shareholder in Mindtree*

L&T crossed the critical stake holding mark of 26% in Mindtree, making it the single-largest shareholder in the Bengaluru-headquartered IT services firm. L&T purchased more than 0.88 million shares worth around Rs 87 cr through OMO.

News: Others

1. *Standard Life sells 1.78% in HDFC Life Insurance*

Standard Life has divested 1.78% of its stake in HDFC Life Insurance. The divestment was done through the offer for sale route and the issue sailed through successfully with both qualified institutional investors and retail investor quotas.

2. *Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway buys Amazon share*

Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway(BRKA) buys Amazon share, the exact amount will be disclosed in Berkshire's quarterly report to the United States Securities and Exchange Commission later this month.

Complete List of Union Ministers

Union Minister	Portfolio
Narendra Modi	Ministry of personnel, public grievances and pensions
Rajnath Singh	Ministry of Defence
Amit Shah	Ministry of Home Affairs
Nitin Gadkari	Ministry of Road Transport and Highways & Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium enterprises
DV Sadananda Gowda	Ministry of Chemical and Fertilizers
Nirmala Sitharaman	Ministry of Finance & Ministry of Corporate Affairs
Ram Vilas Paswan	Ministry of Consumer affairs, food and public distribution
Narendra Singh Tomar	Ministry of agriculture and farmers welfare, Ministry of Rural Development & Ministry of Panchayati Raj
Ravi Shankar Prasad	Ministry of Law and Justice, Ministry of communications & Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
Harsimrat Kaur Badal	Ministry of Food Processing Industries
Thaawar Chand Gehlot	Ministry of Social justice and empowerment
Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar	Ministry of External Affairs
Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'	Ministry of Human Resource Development
Arjun Munda	Ministry of Tribal Affairs
Smriti Zubin Irani	Ministry of Women and child Development & Ministry of Textiles
Dr Harsh Vardhan	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Science and Technology & Ministry of Earth Sciences
Prakash Javadekar	Ministry of environment, forest and climate change & Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
Piyush Goyal	Ministry of Railways & Ministry of Commerce and Industry
Dharmendra Pradhan	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Ministry of Steel
Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi	Ministry of Minority Affairs
Pralhad Joshi	Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Ministry of coal & Ministry of Mines
Dr Mahendra Nath Pandey	Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
Arvind Ganpat Sawant	Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprise
Giriraj Singh	Ministry of Animal Husbandry, dairying and fisheries
Gajendra Singh Shekhawat	Ministry of Jal Shakti

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