

April 2019

BOLT

Monthly Current Affairs



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Banking

News: Most Important

1. *Bank of Baroda is now 3rd largest lender as Dena, Vijaya merger take effect*

Branches of Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank started to function as Bank of Baroda outlets from April 1, following the amalgamation of the two lenders with the latter making Bank of Baroda the 3rd largest lender after **SBI & HDFC Bank**.

2. *Kotak Bank becomes 1st bank to levy charges on UPI transactions*

Kotak Mahindra Bank notified that after providing for first, 30 UPI transaction as free of cost, the amount charged after 30 free UPI fund transfers will be Rs. 2.50 per transaction for below or equal to Rs. 1,000 and so on.

3. *RBI dilutes NPA divergence rules for banks*

RBI mandated banks to disclose divergence when the additional provisioning for NPAs assessed by RBI exceeds **10% instead** of the earlier rule of 15% of the reported profit before provisions & contingencies for the reference period.

4. *RBI Issues Norms for Banks to Set Up Currency Chests*

Reserve Bank of India came out with guidelines for banks to set up new currency chests in which minimum area of 1500 sq ft for strong room & for those situated in hilly/ inaccessible places, the strong room/ vault area of at least 600 sq ft.

5. *Emirates Islamic Becomes World's 1st Islamic Bank to Launch Banking Via WhatsApp*

Emirates Islamic has announced the launch of Chat Banking services for customers via WhatsApp, marking it the world's first in the Islamic banking sector. It allows customers to check account balances & temporarily blocking or unblocking the existing card.

6. *BSE Ties Up with HDFC Bank to Give Boost to Start-ups Platform*

BSE signed an MoU with HDFC Bank to spread awareness about the benefits of listing on BSE Start-up's platform. BSE also has a dedicated platform for trading in equities of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) that have been highly successful.

7. *DBS Bank India Launches the First Edition of Hack2hire In Bengaluru*

DBS Bank India Limited has announced the 1st edition of its Hack2Hire programme in Bengaluru to hire over 100 brightest minds in emerging technologies such as Cloud Computing, AI etc. The programme will focus on the theme of '**intelligent banking**'.

8. *HDFC Bank named India's No. 1 bank: Forbes Magazine*

In Forbes magazines' 'World's Best Bank' survey, HDFC Bank emerged as India's No 1 bank. The survey was done in partnership with market research firm Statista. Customers were asked to rate banks on overall recommendation and satisfaction.

9. *Canara Bank is now the 1st public sector bank meeting RBI's EMV mandate*

Canara Bank has successfully rolled out major new functionality to support EMV card acquiring across its ATM network and Aadhaar Authentication. It is the 1st public sector bank to shift to EMV chip & PIN for card transactions.

10. *Punjab National Bank's 125th Foundation Day*

Punjab National Bank celebrates its 125th foundation day on 12 April 2019 that marks the 125th year of the establishment of PNB on 12 April 1894 at Lahore. Vice president M. Venkaiah Naidu was the Guest of Honour.

11. *ADB Committed to Provide \$3 Billion In Sovereign Loans to India*

ADB committed to providing \$3 billion in sovereign loans to India in 2018, the highest level of assistance since sovereign operations began in the country in 1986. ADB will invest over \$1 trillion into solar energy by 2030.

News: Others

1. *Paperless account facility for NRIs launched by IDBI Bank*

IDBI Bank has launched 'NRI-Insta-Online' account opening process for NRIs residing in Financial Action Task Force (FATF) member countries. The facility would allow for NRIs to open an account without furnishing physical documents/KYC proofs.

2. *Fincare Small Finance Bank bagged Celent Model Bank 2019 Award*

Fincare Small Finance Bank (SFB) has been awarded the prestigious Celent Model Bank 2019 Award in the category of Financial Inclusion, for 'Redesigning Lending to Reach Small Businesses' for instant underwriting of loans against property targeted at MSEs.

3. *Bank of Baroda Join Hands with Srei Equipment Finance*

Bank of Baroda and non-bank lender Srei Equipment Finance announced a co-lending for infrastructure equipment finance. Equipo, a CSR platform started by Srei's promoters, will facilitate the sourcing of loans.

4. **HDFC Bank and Max Bupa Launch AnyTimeHealth Machines**

HDFC Bank & Max Bupa launch the 'digital first' propositions to provide services to HDFC Bank's customers through digital touchpoints like AnyTimeHealth (ATH) machines, deep integration with Bank's Net banking & digital seller apps like InstaInsure.

5. **Government Raises Authorised Capital of Allahabad Bank to ₹8,000 crore**

The government has increased the authorised capital of Allahabad Bank by ₹5,000 crore to ₹8,000 crore. The increase in authorised capital will help enable the bank to raise further fund up to a maximum ceiling of ₹8,000 crore.

Policy/Exchange rate & Reserve ratio	Percentage
Repo rate	6.00%
Reverse Repo rate	5.75%
Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate	6.25%
Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)	4 %
Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)	19.00 %
Bank Rate	6.25%

Insurance

News: Most Important

1. **IRDAI Forms Panel to Review Microinsurance Framework**

Insurance Regulatory & Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has set up a 13-member committee under IRDAI Executive Director Suresh Mathur to review the regulatory framework on microinsurance & recommend measures to increase the demand for such products.

2. **HDFC AMC Ranks First in Terms of Assets**

HDFC Asset Management Co. Ltd was ranked first in terms of assets with an average AUM of ₹3.42 trillion, overtaking ICICI Prudential Asset Management Co. Ltd according to data released by the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI).

3. **Airtel Payments Bank Ties up with Bharti AXA General Insurance**

Airtel Payments Bank today launched a new two-wheeler insurance product in partnership with Bharti AXA General Insurance. This two-wheeler insurance product offers 70 per cent savings on annual premium.

News: Others

1. Indiabulls General Insurance gets Preliminary Nod from IRDAI

Indiabulls General Insurance, a subsidiary of Indiabulls Integrated Services has received preliminary approval from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) to start non-life insurance.

2. SBI General Insurance Launches Cyber Defence Insurance

SBI General Insurance has launched Cyber Defence Insurance to protect businesses from financial and reputational losses due to cyber-attacks. In the initial phase, the focus will be on SMEs and mid-market businesses.

Economy

News: Most Important

1. RBI Cuts Policy Repo Rate to 6 %

RBI reduced the repo rate under (Liquidity Adjustment Facility) by 25 basis points to 6% from 6.25% in the 1st Bimonthly Policy of FY 2019. Consequently, reverse repo rate adjusted to 5.75% and the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate & Bank Rate to 6.25%.

2. Reserve Bank to Inject USD 5 Billion Liquidity into Banking System

In a bid to further ease liquidity ahead of upcoming general elections, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced the second round of dollar-rupee swap auction in less than a month to inject another \$5 billion (about Rs 34,500 crore) into the banking system.

3. World Bank Projects India's GDP to Grow at 7.5% in FY20

The World Bank has said it expects India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to accelerate to 7.5% in the fiscal year 2019-20. The real GDP growth is estimated at 7.2% in FY 2018-19.

4. IMF Cuts India Growth Forecast from 7.5% to 7.3%

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has cut India's growth forecast for 2019-20 from 7.5% to 7.3%. It has further projected the country to grow at 7.5% in 2020-21, supported by the continued recovery of investment & robust consumption.

5. *India Tops Recipient List With \$79 Billion as Remittances in 2018*

India has retained its top spot on remittances with its diaspora sending USD 79 billion back home in 2018, according to the latest edition of the World Bank's Migration and Development Brief. Remittances grew by more than 14% in India.

6. *Retail inflation inches up to 2.86% in March*

According to the data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Retail inflation saw a marginal rise of 2.86% in Mar 2019 account of increase in prices of food articles & fuel. On a yearly basis, it was 4.28% in Mar 2018.

7. *RBI issues ₹50 notes bearing New Governor's signature*

Reserve Bank of India recently issued ₹50 denomination banknotes bearing the signature of New RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das in the new Mahatma Gandhi series of currency notes. He replaced Urjit Patel to head the country's Central Bank in December 2018.

8. *RBI Divests its Entire Stake in NABARD and NHB*

Based on the recommendation of second Narasimham Committee, the Reserve Bank has divested its entire stake worth Rs 1450 crores in National Housing Bank (NHB) and Rs 20 crores in National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

9. *RBI Becomes The 1st APAC (Asia-Pacific) Central Bank to Begin Interest Rate Easing Cycle*

The Reserve Bank of India is the first central bank in the Asia-Pacific region to begin an explicit interest rate easing cycle buoyed by benign food inflation and easier global financial condition as per the rating agency Fitch.

10. *RBI to Issue New Rs 20 Denomination Banknotes*

RBI will shortly issue Rs 20 denomination banknotes, in the Mahatma Gandhi (New) series, the signature of the Governor Shaktikanta Das. It will be **greenish-yellow** in colour and will have the motif of **Ellora Caves** on the reverse side.

11. *ADB cuts India's GDP Growth Rate to 7.2% from 7.6%*

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) downgraded economic growth forecasts for India for 2019. GDP in India will increase 7.2 percent in FY 2019, down from a December forecast of 7.6 percent, according to the ADB's latest Asian Development Outlook report.

12. *India Ratings lowers GDP growth projection for FY20 to 7.3%*

India Ratings and Research marginally lowered country's GDP growth projection for 2019-20 fiscal to 7.3 per cent mainly due to below normal monsoon prediction and loss of momentum in industrial output.

News: Others

1. *Highest recorded collection of GST Revenue for FY 2018-19*

The collection of Rs 1,06,577 crore GST revenue during March 2019 has been the highest recorded since introduction of GST. The revenue in March 2018 was Rs. 92,167 crore, hence a growth of 15.6% over last year same month has been recorded.

2. *BuyUcoin Introduces First Indian Platform for Wholesale Cryptocurrency Trading*

BuyUcoin which is the second oldest cryptocurrency exchange in India introduces the first Indian platform for wholesale cryptocurrency trading also known as OTC desk and will be operated as a zero-fee based model.

3. *Rs 1,150 cr 'enemy' Wipro shares sold by Government*

Government recently sold "enemy" shares worth Rs 1,150 crore in IT major Wipro with the aim of transferring the proceeds to its disinvestment kitty. The buyers include Life Insurance Corporation of India , New India Assurance & GIC.

4. *Rs 10,000 crore 'Airport Fund' gets nod from SEBI*

Markets regulator SEBI has approved an 'Airport' specific fund- 'Taking Off to The Future Airport Fund' to raise a capital of up to Rs 10,000 crore (\$1.5 billion) 'Category II Alternative Investment Fund' (AIF).

5. *Finance Ministry Approves EPF Interest Rate Hike*

The finance ministry has ratified the hike of the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) interest rate to 8.65% as approved by retirement fund manager EPFO. This was a 10-basis point increase from the 8.55% EPF interest rate announced by the for 2017-18.

6. *NPCI cuts UPI usage fees to promote wider adoption*

The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), which runs the UPI network, slashed usage fees for small transactions to expand the system's adoption among banks and payment service providers (PSPs). For UPI transactions up to ₹1,000, the charge has been cut to 10 paise from 25 paise.

7. RBI Announces ₹25,000 crore OMO in May

The Reserve Bank announced a ₹25,000-crore liquidity injection through OMOs in May that will be undertaken in two equal tranches. RBI repurchased bonds of over ₹2.8 lakh crore during the last fiscal year.

Quick revision

Organization/Parameters	Rate/Figures
World Bank, GDP forecast	7.2 % (2018-19), 7.5 % (2019-20)
Retail inflation	2.86 % (march)
IMF, GDP forecast	7.3 %
Provident Fund, Interest rate	8 %
GST Revenue	Rs 1,06,577 crore
ADB, GDP forecast	7.2%
Airport Fund	Rs. 10,000 crore
India Ratings and Research ,GDP forecast	7.3 %

State

News: Most Important

1. *Telangana tops in eLearning training for field staff: DoPT*

In eLearning training, Telangana state was ranked number one by reaching to 20,000 field staff during 2018-19, a feat achieved for second time by the state for over training over 40, 000 field staff belonging to different departments in Telangana state.

2. *Odisha Receives GI Tag for 'Kandhamal Haldi'*

'Kandhamal Haldi', a variety of turmeric indigenous to southern Odisha, has earned the Geographical indication (GI) tag from Intellectual Property India, an organisation functioning under the auspices of the Union ministry of commerce & industry.

3. *FAC gives final clearance to North Koel dam project in Jharkhand*

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change's (MoEF&CC's) Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) gave Stage II clearance for the construction of the North Koel Dam in core area of Palamau Tiger Reserve in Latehar and Garhwa districts of Jharkhand.

News: Others

1. *Sana Dua to be Brand Ambassador for Elections in Jammu & Kashmir*

Lawyer-turned-fashion model Sana Dua will be the brand ambassador for the Lok Sabha elections in Jammu and Kashmir. Sana has actively been engaged in promoting girl child education and "Save Water" campaign in the state.

2. *Maharashtra Has Highest Number of Polluted Rivers in India*

Maharashtra has the highest number of polluted rivers stretches in the country according to the National Green Tribunal (NGT). Maharashtra also has the greatest number of polluted cities and towns.

National

News: Most Important

1. *Next Census of India to be Carried Out in 2021*

Home Ministry announced that the next census of India will be carried out in 2021 with March 1 of that year as the reference date. For J&K & snow bound non-synchronous areas of Himachal Pradesh & Uttarakhand, the reference date shall be the 1 October 2020.

2. *India Hikes Wheat Import Duty to 40% to Support Local Farmers*

The government raised import duty on wheat to 40% from 30% in a bid to support local farmers. Indian flour millers imported 1.65 million tonnes of wheat in 2017-18 fiscal year, down from 5.7 million tonnes the year before.

3. *CRPF Celebrates its 54th Valour Day*

President Ram Nath Kovind paid homage to the martyrs of police at National Police Memorial in New Delhi today on 54th Valour Day of Central Reserve Police Force, CRPF. He also presented Gallantry medals to six Jawans posthumously.

News: Others

1. *Govt Extends Date for Linking PAN with Aadhaar by 6 Months*

The Central Board Direct Taxes (CBDT) extended the last date for intimating the Aadhaar number and linking it with Permanent Account Number (PAN) by six months to 30 September 2019.

2. *India's First Voter Park Inaugurated in Gurugram*

India's first 'Voter Park' was inaugurated in Gurugram aimed at increasing voter awareness and educating people about the electoral process. Haryana Chief Electoral Officer Rajeev Ranjan inaugurated the park in Vikas Sadan building complex.

3. *BSNL Received Licence To Provide Internet & Mobile Services on Flights*

Bhartiya Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has received the license from the Department of Telecommunications to provide Internet and mobile services on flights. BSNL and its satellite partner **Inmarsat** to offer in-flight connectivity to airlines.

International

News: Most Important

1. *Russia Successfully Tests World's 1st Floating Nuclear Power Plant "Akademik Lomonosov"*

Russia successfully tests the world's first floating nuclear power plant Akademik Lomonosov also known as "Chernobyl on ice". It is ready to begin electricity supply in Russia. China is also constructing a floating nuclear power plant.

2. *Nepal, Sri Lanka Launch their First-Ever Satellites*

Nepal and Sri Lanka successfully launched 'NepaliSat-1' and 'Raavana-1', their respective first-ever satellites, into space from the US. Both the satellites were developed under the '**BIRDS-3 Satellite Project**'.

3. *IMF & WB have launched Learning Coin for Its In-House Purposes*

IMF and World Bank have together launched a private blockchain with a pseudo-token called "Learning Coin" & only accessible within the IMF & World Bank with a purpose to teach relevant individuals within the organizations about blockchain.

4. *London Becomes First City to Implement 24x7 Pollution Charge Zone*

London became the first city in the world to implement a special Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) that would charge an entry fee for older vehicles if they do not meet the emission standards.

News: Others

1. *Hong Kong Overtakes Japan To Be World's Third Biggest Stock Market*

Hong Kong's equity market has overtaken Japan to be the world's third largest in value, behind only the USA and China. Hong Kong's market cap was \$5.78 trillion last week as compared with \$5.76 trillion for Japan.

2. *Amazon launched a new initiative- 'Amazon Wings'*

Amazon India recently launched a new initiative- 'Amazon Wings' to help its sellers raise funds through the crowdfunding platform Ketto. The aim is to help small sellers with early-stage ideas raise funds for product development.

3. *South Korea Launches World's First 5G Networks*

South Korea launched the world's first nationwide 5G mobile networks two days early, its top mobile carriers said on 4 April 2019, to be the first providers of the super-fast wireless technology.

India & world

News: Most Important

1. *India & Bolivia Sign 8 MoUs in Various Fields*

India and Bolivia signed 8 MoUs in the fields of culture, Visa waiver arrangement for diplomats, the exchange between diplomatic academies, mining, space, traditional medicine, the establishment of Centre of Excellence in IT and Bi-Oceanic Railway project.

2. *UNICEF, NITI Aayog Tie up for Children Empowerment*

NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and Unicef India signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) to provide an open platform to promote participation, skilling and empowerment among young children across different communities.

3. *Indian Navy-Vietnam Peoples' Navy Bilateral Exercise (IN - VPN BILAT EX) Concludes*

The 2nd edition of bilateral maritime exercise between Indian Navy & Vietnam Peoples' Navy "IN-VPN BILAT EX) concludes at **Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam**. The exercise was a part of the ongoing Overseas Deployment of Eastern Fleet ships to South East Asian countries.

4. *India - Sweden Ink Pact to Collaborate Solutions for Smart Cities & Clean Tech*

India & Sweden launched a joint programme that will work towards addressing a range of challenges around smart cities & clean technologies. The programme was co-founded by the Indian Department of Science and Technology (DST) and Swedish agency Vinnova.

5. *Maritime Exercise AUSINDEX-19*

The third edition of bilateral maritime exercise between Royal Australian and Indian Navies AUSINDEX-19 commenced on 2 April 2019 at **Visakhapatnam**. The maiden edition of the exercise was also held at Visakhapatnam in September 2015.

6. *India, Chile sign MOU on counter-terrorism*

India and Chile recently agreed to work together to strengthen the global response to defeat and destroy terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. MOUs were also signed for cooperation in the fields of mining & culture.

News: Others

1. *Secure Communication link set up b/w India, US navies*

Under the landmark Indo-US COMCASA pact, Indian and US Navies have successfully set up the 1st ever secure communication link between their respective naval headquarters which would allow both sides to share real-time operational intelligence.

2. *IN Ships to Participate in International Fleet Review at Qingdao, China*

Indian Navy Ships Kolkata & Shakti participated in the International Fleet Review (IFR) at Qingdao, China as part of 70th Anniversary celebrations of PLA (Navy). IFR is a parade of naval ships, aircraft and submarines.

3. *India Join Hands with Japan & UAE to Set Up 2 Projects in Africa*

India will build a cancer hospital in Kenya in collaboration with Japan & will partner with the UAE to set up an Information & Communications Technology (ICT) centre in Ethiopia to extend its footprint on the African continent.

4. *India-Singapore Joint Military Exercise 'Bold Kurukshetra-2019'*

Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) and the Indian Army joined hands to conduct a three-day joint exercise 'Bold Kurukshetra 2019' in India between April 8 and April 11 at Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh.

Quick Revision: Facts

Country	Capital	Head of State / Govt.	Currency
Bolivia	Sucre	Evo Morales	Boliviano
United States	Washington DC	Donald Trump	Dollar
China	Beijing	Xi Jinping	Renminbi
Japan	Tokyo	Shinzo Abe	Yen
UAE	Abu Dhabi	Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum (PM)	Dirham
Kenya	Nairobi	Uhuru Kenyatta	Shilling
Vietnam	Hanoi	Nguyen Phu Trọng	Dong
Sweden	Stockholm	Stefan Lofven	Krona
Singapore	Singapore city	Halimah Yacob, Lee Hsien Loong (PM)	Dollar
Australia	Canberra	Scott Morrison	Dollar
Chile	Santiago	Sebastian Pinera	Peso

Appointments & Resignations

News: Most Important

1. *Manu Sawhney takes charge as ICC Chief Executive*

Media professional and former ESPN Star Sports Managing Director Manu Sawhney took charge as Chief Executive of the International Cricket Council (ICC) and will work alongside Dave Richardson, who will step down after the World Cup in July.

2. *CS Rajan named Managing Director of IL&FS*

IL&FS has announced the appointment of CS Rajan, who is a Director on the IL&FS board, as the group's Managing Director. He has taken over the position from Vineet Nayyar, who continues to serve as the group's Executive Vice Chairman.

3. *David Malpass named new World Bank President*

The World Bank's 25-member executive board has unanimously approved David Malpass as the next President, continuing the 73-year tradition of an American leading the bank. He was the only nominated candidate for the job.

4. *Graham Reid Appointed as India's Men's Hockey Team Coach*

Hockey India named Australia's Graham Reid as the new chief coach of the Indian men's hockey team till the end of 2020. He was part of the silver-medal winning Australian team at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics.

5. *Vikramjit Sahney appointed new President of International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) India*

SUN Group Founder and Chairman Vikramjit Singh Sahney elected as the new president of International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) – India while Murtaza Khorakiwala is appointed as the Vice President of ICC India.

6. *Abdelkader Bensalah Appointed as Algeria's New President*

Algeria's parliament named the 76-year-old Abdelkader Bensalah, leader of the upper house, as interim president. This appointment comes after former President **Abdelaziz Bouteflika** ended his 20-year reign following mass protests.

7. *Vikram Nath Appointed as The Chief Justice Of Andhra Pradesh High Court*

Justice Vikram Nath, senior most judge of the Allahabad High Court, has been appointed Chief Justice of the Andhra Pradesh High Court. He succeeds acting Chief Justice Praveen Kumar.

8. *Benjamin Netanyahu Re-Elected as Israel's Prime Minister*

Benjamin Netanyahu was elected as Israel's Prime Minister for the record fifth time and become Israel's longest service Prime Minister. Benjamin Netanyahu belongs to Likud party of Israel.

9. *Gargi Kaul Appointed as the Defence Finance Secretary*

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has appointed Gargi Kaul as Defence Finance Secretary. Kaul was earlier Financial Advisor, Defence Services in the Defence Ministry.

10. *Jean-Michel Lapin Appointed as the Prime Minister of Haiti*

President of Haiti, Jovenel Moise announced that Jean Michel Lapin will be the new prime minister of Haiti. The installation of a new government is an IMF pre-requisite for the disbursement of US\$229 million loans to Haiti.

11. *Mohammed Ishtayeh Appointed as the Prime Minister of Palestine*

The Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has appointed Mohammed Ishtayeh as the new Prime Minister. Mohammed Ishtayeh will succeed Rami Hamdallah.

12. *Ravinder Kumar Passi Appointed Chairman of EPCH*

Ravinder Kumar Passi has been appointed as the Chairman of the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH). He was previously the Vice-Chairman of the council & has taken charge as the chairman from his predecessor OP Prahladka.

13. *Paytm Payments Bank appoints Sairee Chahal to board of directors*

Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPB) appointed entrepreneur Sairee Chahal to its board of directors. Sairee Chahal is the founder and CEO of **Sheroos** — a community platform for women. PPB has 4.4 crore savings bank accounts with deposits of over ₹400 crore.

14. *SoftBank Group International CFO Alok Sama to step down*

SoftBank Group International Chief Financial Officer Alok Sama is set to step down from his post. He will remain as a Softbank representative on boards including SB Energy and SoFi. His departure comes against the backdrop of management upheaval at the firm.

15. *Ukrainian Comedian Volodymyr Zelenskiy Wins Ukraine Presidency*

Ukrainian comedian Volodymyr Zelenskiy, who played the president in a TV series, won the country's presidential election. Incumbent President Petro Poroshenko, who was running for his second five-year term, has admitted defeat.

16. *Rajendra Kumar Nayak Took Over as 52nd CGDA*

Rajendra Kumar Nayak took over as the 52nd Controller General of Defence Accounts. He was Additional Controller General of Defence Accounts, Defence Accounts Department in the Ministry of Defence before taking over as the CGDA.

17. *Rajesh Kumar Yaduvanshi appointed as Punjab National Bank Executive Director*

PNB appointed Rajesh Kumar Yaduvanshi as the Executive Director of the bank with effect from April 15. He joined PNB as a management trainee in 1985. With his joining, PNB now has three Executive Directors, the others being **L V Prabhakar** and **A K Azad**.

18. *Mali's PM Soumeylou Boubeye Maiga Resigns*

Mali's Prime Minister Soumeylou Boubeye Maiga has resigned along with his whole government, following a motion of no confidence over its failure to handle violence in the West African country. President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita accepted his resignation.

19. *Vipin Anand Took Charge as MD of LIC*

Vipin Anand took charge as the Managing Director of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC). He was instrumental in setting up LIC's operations in Singapore and Bangladesh.

News: Others

1. *Najma Akhtar Appointed as First Woman VC Of Jamia Millia Islamia University*

National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration Professor Najma Akhtar was appointed Vice-Chancellor (VC) of New Delhi's Jamia Millia Islamia, becoming the first woman to head the 99-year-old university.

2. *BK Nayak appointed FIH Health and Safety Committee Chair*

Bibhu Kalyan Nayak from Odisha became the first Indian to be appointed Chair of International Hockey Federation (FIH) Health and Safety Committee by the world governing body.

3. *McAfee Appointed Sanjay Manohar as Managing Director for India*

McAfee announced the appointment of Sanjay Manohar as managing director for its Indian operations. McAfee is a US-based device-to-cloud cybersecurity company. He will report directly to Craig Nielsen, vice president, APAC, McAfee.

4. *Deutsche Bank appoints Kaushik Shaparia as new India Head*

Deutsche Bank AG has appointed Kaushik Shaparia as the chief country officer for India after its former head Ravneet Singh Gill joined Yes Bank last month. He will take charge as India's head with effect from May 2019.

5. *Vinod Zutshi Appointed as Special Observer for Tripura*

Former deputy Election Commissioner Vinod has been appointed as special observer for Tripura where the Lok Sabha polls in Tripura (East) seat was postponed in view of the law and order situation.

6. *Manish Maheshwari appointed as Twitter India MD*

Microblogging platform Twitter has appointed Manish Maheshwari as its new Managing Director for the India market effective April 29. Before joining Twitter, Maheshwari served as the Chief Executive Officer of the media firm Network18 Digital.

7. *Shiv Das Meena appointed as NBCC Chairman and Managing Director*

Shiv Das Meena, Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has been appointed as the Chairman cum Managing Director (CMD) of National Buildings Construction Corporation (NBCC), a Navaratna CPSE.

8. Air Marshal RKS Bhadauria to take over as IAF Vice Chief

Air Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria will take over as the Vice Chief of Indian Air Force (IAF) on May 1. He will be succeeding Air Marshal Anil Khosla who is superannuating on April 30.

Quick Revision

Appointment/Resignation	Post
Manu Sawhney	Chief Executive, ICC
CS Rajan	Managing Director, IL&FS
David Malpass	President, World Bank
Graham Reid	Chief coach, Hockey India
Vikramjit Sahney	President, International Chamber of Commerce
Abdelkader Bensalah	President, Algeria
Vikram Nath	Chief Justice ,Andhra Pradesh High Court
Benjamin Netanyahu	Prime Minister, Israel
Gargi Kaul	Defence Finance Secretary
Jean Michel Lapin	Prime Minister, Haiti
Najma Akhtar	VC, Jamia Millia Islamia University
Bibhu Kalyan Nayak	Chair ,International Hockey Federation (FIH)
Mohammed Ishtayeh	Prime Minister, Palestine
Sanjay Manohar	Managing director-India, McAfee
Ravinder Kumar Passi	Chairman, Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH).
Kaushik Shaparia	India Head, Deutsche Bank AG
Sairee Chahal	Board of directors, Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPB)
Alok Sama (resignation)	Chief Financial Officer ,SoftBank Group International
Vinod Zutshi	Special Observer ,Tripura (elections)
Volodymyr Zelenskiy	President ,Ukraine
Manish Maheshwari	MD India, Twitter
Vipin Anand	Managing Director, LIC
Soumeylou Boubeye Maiga (resignation)	Prime Minister, Mali
Rajesh Kumar Yaduvanshi	Executive Director ,Punjab National Bank
Shiv Das Meena	Chairman and Managing Director, NBCC
Rajendra Kumar Nayak	52 nd Controller General of Defence Accounts

Ranks & Reports

News: Most Important

1. *IIM-Bangalore Becomes only Indian institute to feature in QS EMBA Rankings 2019*

The Indian Institute of Management-Bangalore's (IIM-B) post-graduate programme in Enterprise Management (PGPEM) has secured the 12th rank in APAC listing and came 61st globally in the QS Executive MBA Rankings 2019.

2. *India Ranks 80 in Global Talent Competitiveness Index 2019*

India was ranked 80 out of 125 countries in the Global Talent Competitiveness Index (GTCI) 2019. The theme of this year's report was 'Entrepreneurial Talent and Global Competitiveness'.

3. *India Ranked 17th In Global Startup Ecosystem In 2019*

According to data released by StartupBlink, India moved up to the 17th position in 2018 from 37th spot last year in the Global Startup Ecosystem Ranking for 2019. India ranks 17 globally among 100 countries, based on the strength of its start-up ecosystem.

4. *National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) is all set to declare India Rankings 2019*

President Ram Nath Kovind released the India Rankings 2019 & presented the India Rankings awards to the top eight institutions in different categories at a function held in New Delhi.

Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru topped the universities list.

News: Others

1. *World Press Freedom Index 2019*

India has dropped two places in the 2019 World Press Freedom Index released by Reporters Without Borders, ranking 140 out of 180 countries. At least six Indian journalists were killed in connection with their work in 2018.

2. *India's Population Grew at 1.2 % Average Annual Rate Between 2010-2019*

India's population rose at an average annual rate of 1.2% between 2010 and 2019 to 1.36 billion, according to the State of World Population 2019 report by the United Nations Population Fund (UNPFA). China's population stood at 1.42 billion in 2019.

3. *Global Report on Food Crises 2019*

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Food Programme (WFP) and EU 'Global Report on Food Crises 2019', shows that more than 113 million people across 53 countries experienced acute hunger in 2018.

Important days

News: Most Important

1. *World Autism Awareness Day: 2 April*

In 2008, The United Nations General Assembly unanimously declared 2 April as World Autism Awareness Day. Theme for 2019 is "**Assistive Technologies, Active Participation**" focussing on leveraging the use of assistive technologies for persons with autism.

2. *International Day of Mine Awareness*

4 April of each year is observed as the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action. The theme for 2019 is "**United Nations Promotes SDGs – Safe Ground – Safe Home**".

3. *April 6, International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (IDSDP) celebrated*

The International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (IDSDP) is an annual celebration of the power of sport to drive social change, community development and to foster peace and understanding.

4. *World Health Day 2019 observed across globe: 7 April*

Objective is to spread awareness about equal health care facilities all over the world and to dispel all the myths that are there regarding health-related matters. Theme for 2019 is "**Universal Health Coverage**".

5. *World Homoeopathy Day 2019: April 10*

World Homoeopathy Day is observed on 10 April every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of the founder of Homoeopathy, Dr. Christian Fredrich Samuel Hahnemann. The theme for 2019 is "**Linking research with education and clinical practice**".

6. *World Haemophilia Day 2019: April 17*

World Haemophilia Day is celebrated each year on 17 April. This year marks the 29th edition of this day with the theme "**Outreach And Identification**". Haemophilia is an inherited bleeding disorder where the blood doesn't clot properly.

7. *April 18, World Heritage Day 2019*

World Heritage Day is celebrated every year on 18 April to promote the cultural heritage across the world. The theme for this year is Rural Landscapes. As of 2018, India has 36 World Heritage Sites (WHS).

8. *World Liver Day 2019: April 19*

World Liver Day is observed every year on 19 April to create awareness and understand the importance of the liver. According to WHO, liver diseases are the 10th most common cause of death in India.

9. *April 23, United Nations English Language Day 2019*

English Language Day at the United Nations (UN) is celebrated on 23 April. As it marked both the birth and death day of William Shakespeare. English is often referred to as a "world language", or the lingua franca of the modern era.

10. *National Panchayati Raj Day 2019: April 24*

National Panchayati Raj Day is celebrated every year on 24 April. This day commemorates the 73rd Amendment Act, 1992 that came into force with effect from 24th April 1993 that vested constitutional status on Panchayati Raj institutions.

11. *World Immunization Week 2019: 24 April to 30 April*

To promote the importance of vaccination and immunization, the World Health Organisation (WHO) is organising World Immunisation Week from 24 April to 30 April.

12. *April 25, World Malaria Day 2019 observed worldwide*

World Malaria Day is observed every year on 25th April. The theme for this year is '**Zero malaria starts with me**'. Nigeria, Congo, Mozambique, India & Uganda are among the 5 countries with nearly half of all malaria cases.

13. *April 26 observed as World Intellectual Property Day*

April 26 is celebrated as World Intellectual Property Day to learn about the role that intellectual property (IP) rights play in encouraging innovation and creativity. The 2019 theme is **Reach for Gold: IP and Sports which examines the world of sports**.

14. *International Jazz Day 2019*

International Jazz Day is celebrated every year on 30 April in order to highlight jazz and its diplomatic role of uniting people in all corners of the globe. The 2019 edition would be launched in Melbourne, Australia by UNESCO.

News: Others

1. *April 12, International Day of Human Space Flight*

In 2011, the United Nations declared April 12 as the 'International Day of Human Space Flight'. On this day in 1961, Yuri Gagarin of the Soviet Union took the first space flight, opening the doors of space exploration to humankind.

2. *Civil Services Day 2019: April 21*

The Civil Services Day is celebrated on April 21 every year. It was on this day that Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel addressed the 1st batch of civil servants in Independent India. This year the day was not celebrated due to the general elections.

3. *World Creativity and Innovation Day -21 April*

Observed six days after Leonardo da Vinci's birthday and one day before International Mother Earth Day, World Creativity and Innovation Day is well positioned to encourage creative multidisciplinary thinking to help us achieve the sustainable future we want.

4. *April 23, World Book and Copyright Day 2019*

World Book and Copyright Day is celebrated every year on 23 April as it marks the birth or death of many prominent writers like William Shakespeare, Josep Pla etc. This year, UNESCO selected Sharjah as the World Book Capital for the 1-year period.

5. *International Day of Multilateralism & Diplomacy for Peace: April 24*

On April 24 2019, the first official International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace was celebrated, and the General Assembly convened a high-level plenary meeting to commemorate and promote the day.

Quick Revision

Date	Observed Day	Theme/ Campaign
2 nd April	World Autism Awareness Day	Assistive Technologies, Active Participation
4 th April	International Day for Mine Awareness	"United Nations Promotes SDGs – Safe Ground – Safe Home".
6 th April	International Day of Sport for Development and Peace	N A
7 th April	World Health Day 2019	Universal Health Coverage
10 th April	World Homoeopathy Day	Linking research with education and clinical practice
12 th April	International Day of Human Space Flight	N A
17 th April	World Haemophilia Day	Outreach And Identification
18 th April	World Heritage Day	Rural Landscapes
19 th April	World Liver Day	N A
21 st April	Civil Services Day	N A
21 st April	World Creativity and Innovation Day	N A
23 rd April	United Nations English Language Day	N A
23 rd April	World Book and Copyright Day	
24 th April	National Panchayati Raj Day	N A
24 th April	International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy	N A
24 April to 30 April	World Immunisation Week	N A
26 th April	World Intellectual Property Day	Reach for Gold: IP and Sports which examines the world of sports.
30 April	International Jazz Day 2019	N A

Sports

News: Most Important

1. Roger Federer beat John Isner to win Miami Open 2019

Roger Federer of Switzerland defeated John Isner to grab his 101st career title at the Miami Open 2019. Ashleigh Barty of Australia won the Women Singles Title by defeating Karolina Pliskova in the final.

2. Indian shooters clinch 16 gold medals at Asian Airgun Champs

India team of contingent with 16 shooters finished with 16 gold, 5 silver and 4 bronze medals at the Asian Airgun Championships held in **Taoyuan, Taipei**. The total medal tally thus stood at 25. It was the 12th edition of championships.

3. *Viktor Axelsen beats Srikanth to win India Open 2019*

Viktor Axelsen beats Kidambi Srikanth to win India Open 2019 badminton tournament. In women's singles, Thailand's Ratchanok Intanon created history by becoming the first women's singles shuttler to win the title three times beating He Bingjiao.

4. *Lin Dan clinches Malaysia Open title*

Chinese badminton ace Lin Dan clinched the Malaysia Open 2019 title in Kuala Lumpur after an electric performance beating his fellow countryman Chen Long in the finals. It is Lin's first win in the year 2019.

5. *Kento Momota and Tai Tzu-ying Shines in Singapore Open 2019*

Japan's Kento Momota beats Indonesia's Anthony Sinisuka Ginting in men singles final while Taiwanese Tai Tzu-ying defeated Japan's Nozomi Okuhara in women singles final to clinch Singapore Open Title 2019.

6. *Harsheel Dani clinches Dutch Open International Badminton Tournament*

India's shuttler Harsheel Dani clinched the Dutch Open International badminton title in Wateringen, Netherlands after defeating Denmark's **Mads Christophersen**. He also won the Ghana International & finished runner-up at Polish International last year.

7. *Bajrang Punia Wins Gold in Asian Wrestling Championship*

Indian wrestler Bajrang Punia opened India's medal tally at the Asian Wrestling Championships with a gold medal in the 65 kg freestyle category. Praveen Rana settled for silver and Satyavart Kadian won bronze in 97 kg category.

8. *Vinesh, Sakshi Win Bronze at Asian Wrestling Championships*

Asian Games gold medallist Vinesh Phogat clinched a bronze medal in the 53kg category, while Rio Olympic medallist Sakshi Malik also won a bronze medal in the 62kg category at the Asian Wrestling Championships in **Xi'an, China**.

9. *Japan's Kento Momota clinches Badminton Asia Championship men's title*

World number one Kento Momota retained his Badminton Asia Championships title in Shanghai. He defeated Shi Yuqi of China. In women singles, Japan's Akane Yamaguchi won the title with a victory over China's He Bingjiao.

10. *India Wins 3 Golds, 1 Silver at ISSF World Cup 2019*

India **topped** the standings at the International Shooting Sport Federation, ISSF World Cup on the final day in Beijing bagging four medals comprising 3 Gold and a Silver. In the last edition in New Delhi, India had jointly topped the standings with Hungary.

11. *India clinched two Golds in the 10m Air Pistol mixed team event: ISSF World Cup 2019*

India's 16-year-old Saurabh Chaudhary and 17-year-old Manu Bhaker won gold in the 10m Air Pistol mixed team event at the ISSF World Cup in Beijing. Bhaker and Chaudhary outshot Jiang Ranxin and Pang Wei of China 16-6 in the final.

News: Others

1. *Lewis Hamilton Won Bahrain Grand Prix 2019*

British racing driver Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes won the Bahrain Grand Prix 2019. Five-time world champion Hamilton's win was the 74th of his career. He is now 17 wins short of Michael Schumacher's record of 91.

2. *Tiger Woods clinches his fifth Masters*

American Golfer Tiger Woods clinched his fifth master's and a 15th major title. It was the 43-year-old's first major title victory in 11 years and his first master's win since 2005. He is now just three major titles behind all-time leader Jack Nicklaus.

3. *Pankaj Advani Wins Inaugural Asian Snooker Tour Title*

India's ace cueist Pankaj Advani defeated Ehsan Heydari Nezhad of Iran 6-4 to claim the inaugural Asian Snooker Tour title in Bengaluru. He had earlier won the second leg of the Tour in China.

4. *Abhishek Verma wins gold at Beijing World Cup*

India's Abhishek Verma won gold in the 10m air pistol event after shooting a score of 242.7 in the final at the Beijing World Cup assuring India of a second berth in the event at next year's Tokyo Olympics.

5. *Valtteri Bottas Beats Lewis Hamilton to Win Azerbaijan Grand Prix*

Mercedes' Finnish driver Valtteri Bottas beat his English teammate Lewis Hamilton by 1.5 seconds to win Azerbaijan Grand Prix. Mercedes became the first team to win the opening four races of an F1 season with one-two finishes.

6. *Services Defeated Punjab to Win Santosh Trophy 2019*

The Services lifted the 73rd Santosh Trophy after beating Punjab (1-0) in the final at Ludhiana. Bikash Thapa scored the winning goal. This is their 6th title win. Services is an Indian football team representing armed forces personnel.

Awards

News: Most Important

1. *Alice G. Vaidyan Wins 'Woman CEO Of The Year' Award*

Alice G. Vaidyan, Chairman and Managing Director, General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) received 'CEO of the Year' award at the inaugural edition of ETPrime Women Leadership Awards (ETPWLA) in Mumbai.

2. *Vikram Patel Awarded Global Health Award*

Vikram Patel has become the 1st Indian to be awarded 2019 John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Award for his research in global mental health, generating knowledge on the burden & determinants of mental health problems in low- & middle-income countries.

3. *Indian Oil Bags AIMA Managing India Award for Outstanding PSU*

Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has bagged the prestigious AIMA Managing India Award 2019 for outstanding PSU of the year. The award was presented by former President Pranab Mukherjee to Sanjiv Singh, Chairman, Indian Oil.

4. *Image of Crying Toddler on US-Mexico Border has Won World Press Photo Award*

The haunting image of a little girl crying helplessly as she and her mother are taken into custody by US border officials won the prestigious World Press Photo Award. The picture was taken by veteran Getty photographer John Moore.

5. *Malayalam Film Bhayanakam Won The Best Cinematography Award at Beijing International Film Festival*

Malayalam film Bhayanakam (Fear) directed by Jayaraj won the best cinematography award at the Beijing International Film Festival. The cinematography was done by Nikhil S Praveen.

6. *AIR, Publication Division & Children's Film Society of India Win Swacchta Pakhwada Awards-2019*

All India Radio, Publication Division and Children's Film Society of India were given Swacchta Pakhwada Awards-2019 in New Delhi. Secretary in the Information and Broadcasting Ministry Amit Khare gave away the awards.

News: Others

1. *Scientist Dr A K Singh conferred with Lifetime Achievement Award*

Dr A K Singh was conferred with Lifetime Achievement Award during 4th APJ Abdul Kalam Innovation Conclave. He was honoured for his rich contribution in the field of life sciences, aerospace and aeronautics.

2. *Teena Thacker Wins Citi Journalistic Excellence Award*

Mint's deputy editor Teena Thacker has been selected by Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism as the winner of the 2019 Citi Journalistic Excellence Awards for her story on Johnson and Johnson (J&J's) faulty hip implants in India.

3. *India's EdTech Startup 'Dost Education' Won The Next Billion EdTech Prize 2019*

India's education technology start up 'Dost Education' has bagged a \$25,000 Next Billion EdTech prize along with two other winners from Tanzania and Egypt. The prize is run by the United Kingdom-based Varkey Foundation.

Quick Revision

Winner	Award
Alice G. Vaidyan	CEO of the year award, ETPWLA
Vikram Patel	Global Health Award
AIMA Managing India Award 2019	Indian Oil Corporation
Dr A K Singh	Lifetime Achievement Award at 4 th APJ Abdul Kalam Innovation Conclave
John Moore	World Press Photo Award
Tina Thacker	Citi Journalistic Excellence Award
Malayalam Film Bhayanakam	Best cinematography award, Beijing International Film Festival
All India Radio, Publication Division and Children's Film Society of India	Swacchta Pakhwada Awards-2019
Dost Education	Next Billion EdTech Prize 2019

Obituaries

News: Most Important

1. *Former Indian Footballer Pungam Kannan Passed Away*

Former India footballer Pungam Kannan passes away at age 80 years. Kannan played 14 matches for India & was the former Mohun Bagan & East Bengal forward. He won Santosh Trophy for Bengal twice in a row (1971-73) and was the top-scorer.

2. *Renowned Dramatist Kartik Rath Passed Away*

Eminent theatre organiser and playwright Kartik Chandra Rath passed away at the age of 70 years. He has penned over a hundred plays and directed over 500 plays in his career as a dramatist.

3. *Economist Dr. Viharidas Gopaldas Patel Passed Away*

Padma Shri Dr. Viharidas Gopaldas Patel, fondly known as VG, a noted economist and hailed as the 'Father of Entrepreneurship Movement' in the country, passed away at Ahmedabad after a brief illness. He was 79 years.

4. *Former ISRO Scientist & Director SK Shivakumar Passed Away*

SK Shivakumar, a former director of the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) UR Rao Satellite Centre (URSC) passed away due to jaundice. He was 66 years old. He was a part of the team that developed India's first moon mission Chandrayaan-1.

5. *Former Politician, Freedom Fighter & Journalist Paripooranand Painuli Passed Away*

Former Congress politician and freedom fighter Paripooranand Painuli who participated in the Quit India Movement passed away. He was 94 years old. He was the former MP from Tehri Garhwal district and former journalist of Times of India.

6. *Master chronicler of Madras S Muthiah passes away*

Renowned chronicler and writer-journalist S Muthiah, 89 passed away in Chennai. He kept Madras history and heritage alive for decades. His seminal book on the city's rich history and heritage was published in 1981, titled Madras Discovered.

7. *America's 1st female astronaut candidate, Jerrie Cobb passed away*

America's first female astronaut candidate, pilot Jerrie Cobb passed away at the age of 88. In 1961, she became the first woman to pass astronaut testing. She served for decades as a humanitarian aid pilot in the Amazon jungle.

8. *Legendary Bengali Folk Singer Amar Paul Passed Away*

Legendary Bengali folk singer Amar Paul passed away at age 96 years following a cerebral haemorrhage. He published books on folk music such as Banglar Lok sangeet and Banglaar Nadir Gaan. He was a recipient of the **Sangeet Natak Akademi Award**.

9. *Nobel laureate Sydney Brenner passed away*

Nobel Prize-winning biologist Sydney Brenner who helped decipher the genetic code and eventually published an outstanding research on roundworms & human disease research recently passed away at the age of 92.

10. *Noted Tamil movie director J. Mahendran passed away*

Influential director of Tamil film industry, J. Mahendran recently passed away after brief hospitalisation. He headed the filmmaking and direction course in Blue Ocean Film and Television Academy(BOFTA) in Chennai.

News: Others

1. *Veteran Communist leader Drupad Borgohain passed away*

Veteran communist leader and former Rajya Sabha MP and an MLA from Nazira constituency Drupad Borgohain passed away in Dibrugarh, Assam. He served as the Joint Secretary of the Assam State Council & also the president of the Assam State Council.

2. *Renowned Hindi Poet Pradeep Choubey Passed Away*

Renowned Hindi poet Pradeep Choubey passed away due to cardiac arrest. His age was 70 and he was the younger brother of celebrated humorist, satirist and poet Shail Chaturvedi. He quit his job at Dena Bank to pursue his passion for poetry.

3. *Mountaineer Rama Sengupta Paul Passed Away*

Mountaineer Rama Sengupta Paul who led the **first successful-women expedition to Kedarnath Dome** in Garhwal Himalaya passed away following a cardiac arrest. She was 66 years old. She was part of Indian women climbing delegation to Japan by IMF.

4. *Mark Medoff an acclaimed author passed away*

Mark Medoff, whose acclaimed play "Children of a Lesser God," which won the Tony Award for best play in 1980 and was turned into a 1986 movie that won an Oscar for its female lead, Marlee Matlin, recently passed away at the age of 79.

5. *Veteran Kerala Politician K M Mani Passed Away*

Veteran Kerala politician K M Mani passed away at Kochi, Kerala. His age was 86 years. He had been serving as the founder chairman of Kerala Congress (M) party, was a sitting MLA over the last 54 years & also served as a minister in Kerala for 25 years.

6. Former Ethiopian President Negasso Gidada Passed Away

The former Ethiopian president, Dr. Negasso Gidada passed away in Germany where he was undergoing medical treatment. He was 75 & was the president between 1995 and 2001.

Quick Revision

Obituary (Name)	Related(to) Field
Pungam Kannan	Footballer
Kartik Chandra Rath	Dramatist
Dr. Viharidas Gopaldas Patel	Economist
SK Shivakumar	Former ISRO Scientist & Director
Paripooranand Painuli	Politician, Freedom Fighter & Journalist
S Muthiah	Writer-journalist
Jerrie Cobb	Astronaut
Amar Paul	Bengali folk singer
Sydney Brenner	Nobel Prize laureate
J. Mahendran	Tamil movie director
Drupad Borgohain	Communist leader
Pradeep Choubey	Hindi Poet
Rama Sengupta Paul	Mountaineer
Mark Medoff	Author
K M Mani	Politician
Negasso Gidada	President

Schemes

News: Most Important

1. Two West Bengal Govt Schemes Win UN Awards

Two schemes of the West Bengal government namely "Utkarsh Bangla" and "Sabooj Sathi" have won the prestigious World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) awards of the United Nations. Schemes are based on skill development and distribution of bi-cycles to students respectively.

2. SBI Launches India's First Green Car Loan scheme

State Bank of India announced the country's first 'Green Car Loan' scheme to encourage customers to buy electric vehicles. The new scheme will offer loan at 20 basis points lesser than the interest rate on the existing car loan schemes.

3. *Phayeng village, the first carbon-positive tagged village in India: NAFCC Scheme*

Under National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC), a central scheme to support adaptation to climate change impact in various states. Phayeng village in Imphal West district of Manipur has become India's first carbon-positive tagged village.

News: Others

1. *Canara Bank and its life insurance partner Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance* announced the launch of 'Webassurance' under which 4 life insurance products of Canara HSBC OBC Life would be made available to customers of Canara Bank online. on the Information Society (WSIS) awards of the United Nations.

2. *Govt retains interest for Provident Fund at 8%*

Department of Economic Affairs recently announced Government's decision to retain the interest rate for General Provident Fund (GPF), Contributory Provident Fund and other related schemes at 8% for the first quarter of current financial year.

Person in News

News: Most Important

1. *Rana Dasgupta bags 2019 Tagore Literary Prize*

The 2nd edition of Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize was awarded to Rana Dasgupta for his 2010 novel "Solo", a tale of estrangement and the ultimate failure of material existence. An amount of \$10,000, a Tagore statue and a certificate were given to him.

2. *Derek C Lalchhanhima receives PETA India's 'Compassionate Kid' Award*

Mizoram's Derek C Lalchhanhima who became an internet sensation for rushing his neighbor's chicken to the hospital after accidentally running over it with his bicycle. He has been awarded 'Compassionate Kid' Award by PETA India.

3. *Gangandeep Kang Becomes First Indian Woman Scientist to be Elected Royal Society Fellow*

Dr Gagandeep Kang becomes the first Indian woman to be elected to the Fellow of the Royal Society (FRS). The Royal Society of London has announced a list of 51 eminent scientists elected to its fellowship in the year 2019.

4. *Telugu Poet K Siva Reddy Selected for Prestigious Saraswati Samman 2018*

Telugu poet K Siva Reddy has been selected for the prestigious Saraswati Samman, 2018 for his collection of poetry titled **Pakkaki Ottigilite**. The award carries a cash prize of 15 lakh rupees, a citation and a plaque.

5. *Indonesian Eni Nuraeni Named Best Athletic Coach in Asia*

Indonesian Eni Nuraeni was named by Asian Athletic Association (AAA) as the best athletic coach in Asia for the short-haul run category. This year she coached sprinter Lalu Muhammad Zohri to win 100m gold in 2019 Grand Prix Malaysia Open championships.

6. *Presidential Award of Maharshi Badrayan Vyas Samman 2019*

Dr. Gyanaditya Shakya was recently honoured with the Presidential Award of Maharshi Badrayan Vyas Samman 2019 with prize money of 1 lakh by Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu for his outstanding contribution in the field of Pali language and literature.

7. *Ex-Actress Mayoore Kango now Google India Industry Head - Agency Business*

Former actress Mayoore Kango joined Google India as its industry head – agency business. Mayoore, who chose films over joining IIT Kanpur, left acting in the 2000s. Before Google, she was working as the Managing Director at Performics.

8. *Ram Nath Kovind Conferred Highest State Honour of Bolivia*

Bolivian's President Evo Morales conferred the highest State Honour of Bolivia – 'Condor de los Andes en el Grado de Gran Collar' on India's President Ram Nath Kovind . The President dedicated the award to the friendship between India and Bolivia.

9. *Raheem Sterling named 2019 FWA Footballer of the Year*

Raheem Sterling has been named the 2019 footballer of the year by the Football Writers' Association (FWA). Liverpool defender **Virgil Van Dijk** was announced as the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) young player of the year.

News: Others

1. *Mithali Raj Named as Goodwill Ambassador of Street Child Cricket World Cup 2019*

Captain of India's woman ODI team, Mithali Raj has been named as the goodwill ambassador of the Indian team for the Street Child Cricket World Cup 2019 which is scheduled to be held in London, England before the ODI World Cup 2019.

2. **redBus Appoints Mahendra Singh Dhoni as Brand Ambassador**

Bus ticketing platform redBus appointed cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni as its brand ambassador. Currently, he endorses Dream11, Colgate, MasterCard, Orient Fans, BharatMatrimony, Indigo Paints, SRMB Steel, and Revital H etc.

3. **Meena Kumari Maisnam clinches gold in Boxing World Cup**

Meena Kumari Maisnam claimed the gold medal in the 54 kg category at the Boxing World Cup at Cologne in Germany. She defeated Thailand's Machai Bunyanut in the Final. Sakshi in 57 kgs and Pwilao Basumatary in 64 kgs had to settle for Silver medals.

4. **Smriti Mandhana named Wisden's Leading Women's Cricketer of the Year**

Team India opener Smriti Mandhana has been named as the Wisden Almanack's 'Leading Women's Cricketer of the Year'. The 22-year-old is currently the top-ranked player in women's ODI and third in T20Is.

5. **Micromax Co-founder Rahul Sharma launches AI-enabled e-motorcycle brand**

Rahul Sharma, Co-founder of Indian phone maker Micromax, has launched his new enterprise Revolt Intellicorp with a personal investment of nearly ₹500 crore. The proposed AI-enabled e-motorcycle will have a range of 156.8 km and a top speed of 85 kmph.

Summits & Conference

News: Most Important

1. **UAE Hosts World's First Artificial Intelligence Summit**

World's first Artificial Intelligence (AI) Summit to empower global dialogue on the future of government, business and society held at Dubai World Trade Centre, starting April 30. The inaugural 'AI Everything', will commence till May 1.

2. **HOME EXPO INDIA 2019 organised in Greater Noida**

8th edition of HOME EXPO INDIA 2019- a 3-day exhibition organized by Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts at Greater Noida. Buyers from more than 50 countries including USA, Europe, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, UAE etc. are expected to visit.

3. Saudi Arabia to Host G20 Summit in 2020

Saudi Arabia will host the 15th annual G20 Leaders' Summit in 2020 on November 21-22, in its capital Riyadh. This will be the first G20 Summit to be hosted in the Arab world. G20 is an international forum containing 19 countries and the European Union.

4. NuGen Mobility Summit 2019

The International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT) will be organizing a NuGen Mobility Summit, 2019, at Manesar, NCR, from 27th to 29th November 2019. The event will help in building a platform for bringing together all stakeholders in the automotive industry to understand global advancements in technologies.

5. ABU Media Summit on Climate Action and Disaster Preparedness

5th Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) Media Summit on Climate Action & Disaster Preparedness was held at Kathmandu, Nepal. The theme of the two-day summit was "Media Solutions for Sustainable Future: Saving Lives, Building Resilient Communities".

6. India to be Guest of Honour country at ADIBF 2019

UAE announced that India will be the Guest of Honour country at the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair (ADIBF 2019) to be held from 24 to 30 April. The book fair will celebrate India's arts, heritage and knowledge-based traditions.

News: Others

1. India to Host World Trade Organization Meeting in New Delhi

India will hold an informal ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organization (WTO) from May 13-14. New Delhi organised such a meet of select nations in March last year. This year's meeting is expected to be attended by about 25 developing nations.

2. Namami Gange Got Public Water Agency of The Year Award at Global Water Summit

The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) was awarded the distinction of "Public Water Agency of the Year" by Global Water Intelligence at the Global Water Summit in London for Namami Gange project.

3. *ITBP Organised First National Sky Running Championship*

ITBP along with Sky Running Association of India organised the National Sky Running Championship at Mountaineering & Skiing Institute of ITBP at Auli, Uttarakhand. This is the 1st time such championship was organised at a high altitude of up to 4000 m.

Summit /Conference	Venue
First Artificial Intelligence (AI) Summit	UAE, Dubai
HOME EXPO INDIA 2019 (8 th edition)	Greater Noida, India
G20 Summit ,2020	Saudi Arabia
NuGen Mobility Summit, 2019	Manesar, NCR
5 th Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) Media Summit	Kathmandu, Nepal
Abu Dhabi International Book Fair (ADIBF 2019)	UAE
WTO Ministerial Meeting (Informal)	New Delhi
Global Water Summit	London
National Sky Running Championship	Auli, Uttarakhand

Defence

News: Most Important

1. *Indian Navy launches guided missile destroyer INS Imphal*

Indian Navy launched its third guided missile destroyer at Mazgaon Docks as part of its Project 15B, which is aimed at adding state-of-the-art warships to the naval fleet. It has been designed by the Indian Navy's Directorate of Naval Design, New Delhi.

2. *Army Gets 6 indigenous, Long-Range Artillery Guns 'Dhanush'*

The Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) handed over six indigenously built Dhanush artillery guns to the Army. Dhanush is the first indigenously built 155mm x 45mm calibre long-range artillery gun with a strike range of 38-kilometre.

3. *India Successfully Test Fires Sub-Sonic Cruise Missile Nirbhay*

India successfully test-fired first indigenously designed and developed long-range sub-sonic cruise missile 'Nirbhay' from a test range in Odisha. The all-weather missile, with 1,000-kilometre strike range, can be launched from multiple platforms.

News: Others

1. *Coast Guard patrol ship Veera commissioned*

Chief of Army Staff General Bipin Rawat commissioned the Indian Coast Guard Ship Veera. Veera, third in the series of offshore patrol vessels of the Coast Guard, was built by L&T at its shipbuilding facility at Kattupalli in Chennai.

2. *ISRO Launched Enemy Radar-Spotting Satellite EMISAT*

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched Defence Research and Development Organisation's (DRDO) defence intelligence satellite EMISAT along with 28 foreign satellites aboard PSLV-C45.

Agreements

News: Most Important

1. *NTPC signed ₹2,000 crore term loan pact with Canara Bank*

Government run NTPC recently inked a term-loan agreement with Canara Bank to raise ₹2,000 crore, which will be used to part finance its capital expenditure. Interest rate for the loan is linked to 3-Month MCLR of the Bank.

2. *PAISALO signs up with SBI to disburse 2 lakh MSME loans in FY20*

PAISALO Digital signed an agreement with State Bank of India to empower the agriculture and MSME segment. Under the agreement, a platform would be introduced where the MSME loan ticket is designed at Rs 10,000 to Rs 2 lakh.

3. *CMFRI signs agreement with ISRO to save coastal wetlands*

The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute and ISRO have joined hands to map, validate and protect smaller wetlands in coastal regions. The programme is aimed at restoring them through coastal livelihood programmes.

4. *Bureau of Indian Standards inks an MoU with IIT, Delhi*

BIS has inked an MoU with the IIT Delhi to collaborate in the field of standardisation and conformity assessment. They will also set up a Centre of Excellence in the field of standardization, testing and conformity assessment.

5. *Indian Navy signs MoU with CSIR*

Indian Navy and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) underwent a MoU to undertake joint research and development of advanced technologies for the Indian Navy facilitating joint R&D activities in diverse fields.

News: Others

1. *BEML Signs MoU with the Syndicate Bank*

Syndicate Bank and Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML), a 'Miniratna' Public Sector Undertaking, have signed an MOU for financing Earth Moving and Construction Equipment manufactured by BEML.

2. *BSE Inks MoU with Network Intelligence to Provide Cyber Security Services*

BSE entered a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Network Intelligence, a global cybersecurity services provider & CERT-IN empanelled vendor to provide cybersecurity services to its members in line with the cybersecurity framework set by SEBI.

3. *MOU signed between Ministry of AYUSH and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research*

MOU was signed between the Ministry of AYUSH and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), New Delhi for cooperation in research and education in areas of traditional systems of medicine and its integration with modern science.

Books & Authors

News: Most Important

1. *Garuda Prakashan launches '#Modi Again' and 'Saffron Swords' books*

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

2. *Rushdie's new novel inspired by Spanish 'Don Quixote'*

Man Booker Prize-winning author Salman Rushdie new novel "Quichotte" will be published in August, 2019. The novel is inspired by Spanish classic "Don Quixote", which remains the most-translated book in the world after the **Bible**.

News: Others

1. *Book on Jallianwala Bagh poem Khooni Vaisakhi released in UAE*

India's Ambassador to the UAE Navdeep Singh Suri launches the book containing English translation of the Punjabi poem, Khooni Vaisakhi. The poem was translated by Suri whose grandfather Nanak Singh wrote it after witnessing the massacre on April 13, 1919.

2. *Shahid Afridi' biography 'Game Changer' hit stands*

Former Pakistan captain and all-rounder Shahid Afridi released his upcoming biography "Game Changer", on April 30. The biography is written by well-known TV anchor and broadcaster, Wajahat S Khan.

Books	Authored by/brought by/Edited by
'#Modi Again' and 'Saffron Swords'	Garuda Prakashan
Quichotte	Salman Rushdie
English Translation of Khooni Vaisakhi(Poem)	Navdeep Singh Suri
Game Changer	Wajahat S Khan

Science & Technology

News: Most Important

1. *Astronomers Take First Ever Image of Black Hole*

Astronomers have taken the first-ever image of a black hole, which is in a distant galaxy. The image which has been captured by a network of 8 telescopes across the world, shows an intensely bright 'ring of fire' surrounding a perfectly circular dark hole.

2. *SpaceX carries out first commercial launch of Falcon Heavy*

SpaceX carried out its first commercial launch with its Falcon Heavy rocket easing a Saudi telecoms satellite into orbit. The satellite is designed to provide television, internet, telephone, and secure communications to customers in the Middle East.

3. *First 3D Print of Heart with Human Tissue, Vessels Unveiled*

Scientists in Israel unveiled the first 3D print of a heart with human tissue and vessels, that advances possibilities for transplants. The heart produced by researchers at Tel Aviv University is about the size of a rabbit.

4. *NASA's InSight lander detects first likely 'quake' on Mars*

NASA's robotic Mars InSight lander recently recorded a likely mars quake for the first time ever. According to NASA, it is the first recorded trembling that appears to have come from inside the planet.

News: Others

1. *Tech Mahindra & i2Chain collaborate to leverage next gen technologies*

Tech Mahindra Ltd. announced a strategic collaboration with i2Chain Inc., a San Francisco-based start-up, leveraging next gen technologies to secure customer information and data assets.

2. *TCS, Google to Build Industry-Specific Cloud Solutions Together*

India's largest software services firm TCS collaborated with tech giant Google to build industry-specific cloud solutions. TCS is a primary partner of Google Anthos which is a platform that simplifies building, running & managing services in the cloud.

3. *World's First Malaria Vaccine Launched in Malawi*

The world's first-ever malaria vaccine was launched in a pilot project in Africa's Malawi. It took 30 years to make the 'RTS,S' vaccine. About 93% of the world's malaria-related deaths in 2017 occurred in Africa.

4. *Indian scientists develop new salt-tolerant transgenic rice plant*

Indian scientists led by Arun Lahiri Majumder of Bose Institute; Kolkata developed a new salt-tolerant transgenic rice plant by over-expressing a gene from a wild rice called *Porteresia coarctata* (PC) into the commonly used IR 64 Indica rice variety.

Environment

News: Most Important

1. *State of Global Air Report 2019*

State of Global Air report 2019 revealed that of the total 49 lakh deaths due to diseases caused by exposure to air pollution in 2017, India & China accounted for the most with 12 lakh deaths each. South Asia (Ban, Ind, Nep & Pak) is the most polluted region.

2. *ONGC gets permission to drill in Tripura Gaur Sanctuary*

The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change gave the go-ahead to the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) to drill in the Trishna Wildlife Sanctuary in south Tripura. Spread over 163.08 kilometres, Trishna was established in 1988.

3. *Great Indian Hornbill spotted in Coonoor town in the Nilgiris*

The rare Great Indian Hornbill documented probably for the first time within Coonoor town in the Nilgiri Hills of Tamil Nadu on April 10. The Great Indian Hornbill is the largest of the four hornbill species seen in the Nilgiris.

News: Others

1. *India & Nepal to sign transboundary agreement for conserving tigers, rhinos & elephants*

India is expected to sign a MoU with its neighbour Nepal for cooperation on conserving species like tigers, rhinos and elephants. The Indo-Nepalese border stretches over 1,850 kilometres and touches the states of Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

2. *Caffeine gives solar cells an energy boost*

Scientists from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and Solargiga Energy in China discovered that caffeine can help make a promising alternative to traditional solar cells more efficient at converting light to electricity.

Apps & Portals

News: Most Important

1. *Oyo launches OPEN initiative for transparency among asset owner community*

Budget hotel chain Oyo Hotels and Homes launched the Oyo Partner Engagement Network (OPEN), an initiative For stronger interaction and engagement among the asset owner community in India.

2. *Airtel & FICCI Ladies Organisation Launched " My Circle " Women's Safety App*

Airtel and FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) have collaborated to launch a new women's safety app " My Circle ". The new app is aimed at enabling and empowering women in any distressing situation as it can be used to send SOS alerts.

News: Others

1. *"Sahulat" App Launched to Facilitate Elderly Voters*

'Sahulat', a mobile app aimed to facilitate voting by elders above 90 years launched in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district. The voters can request for the facilities like wheelchair, transportation & any helper through the app.

2. *Reliance Mutual Fund Launched Voice-Based Financial Transactions*

Reliance Nippon Life Asset Management (RNAM) partnered with Google to launch India's first voice-based financial transactions. Customers of Reliance Mutual Fund can now carry out voice-based financial transactions.

Quick Revision:

App/Platform/Portal	Launched by
Oyo Partner Engagement Network (OPEN)	OYO
My Circle	Airtel & FICCI Ladies Organisation
Sahulat	Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district, officials
Voice-Based Financial Transactions	Reliance Mutual Fund

Acquisitions & Mergers

News: Most Important

1. *Reliance Jio Acquires Chatbot Making Startup Haptik*

Reliance Jio has acquired **87%** stake in Mumbai-based Haptik to build India's largest AI assistant company across chat, voice and vernacular languages. In the ₹700-crore deal, ₹230 crore will go for business transfer & ₹470 crore will go towards expansion.

2. *Bandhan Bank gets CCI Approval for Gruh Finance Merger*

Bandhan Bank Ltd has received approval of the Competition Commission of India (CCI) for the proposed acquisition of Gruh Finance. Gruh Finance, the affordable housing finance arm of HDFC Ltd, was taken over by Bandhan Bank in a share-swap deal in January.

3. *Lakshmi Vilas Bank to Amalgamate with Indiabulls Housing Finance*

Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB) approved an amalgamation with Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd (IBH). The merged entity would be the **8th largest private sector bank** by size & profitability. The merged entity will be known as **Indiabulls Laxmi Vilas Bank**.

News: Others

1. *PayU acquires digital payments security firm Wibmo for \$70 million*

Naspers' fintech arm, PayU acquired Wibmo that operates in digital payment security for **\$70 million**. The partnership would focus on accelerating its credit business in India and offline digital payment space.

2. *Department of Telecom Approved the Merger of Tata Teleservices with Bharti Airtel*

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has approved the merger of Tata Teleservices with Bharti Airtel Ltd., subject to the condition that it furnishes a Rs 7200 crore bank guarantee. **Telecom Minister Manoj Sinha** gave his conditional nod for the merger.

Quick Takeaways-

Bank	Achievement
Kotak Mahindra Bank	1 st bank to levy charges on UPI transactions
Emirates Islamic	1 st Islamic Bank to Launch Banking Via WhatsApp
DBS Bank (India)	First Edition of Hack2hire In Bengaluru
Canara Bank	1 st public sector bank meeting RBI's EMV mandate
HDFC Bank	India's No. 1 Bank
IDBI Bank	Launched 'NRI-Insta-Online' account opening process
Fincare Small Finance Bank	Bagged Celent Model Bank 2019 Award
State Bank of India	Launched First Green Car Loan
Bank of Baroda	Becomes 3 rd largest lender after SBI & HDFC Bank

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