

**March 2019**

# **BOLT**

***Monthly Current Affairs***



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## Banking

### News: Most Important

#### 1. **SBI launches cardless ATM withdrawal with YONO Cash**

State Bank of India launched cardless ATM withdrawals with YONO Cash. The feature on YONO is designed to help users withdraw cash without a physical debit card. SBI will enable all its 60000 ATMs in the next 6 months which will be called **YONO Cash Point**.

#### 2. **India and World Bank Sign \$250 M Agreement for NRETP**

The World Bank and the GoI signed a \$250 Million Agreement for the National Rural Economic Transformation Project (NRETP) ,which will help women of 13 states living in rural households shift to a new generation of economic initiatives.

#### 3. **India signs Loan Agreement with the World Bank for \$96 M for Uttarakhand**

The World Bank, GoI & Government of Uttarakhand (GoUK) signed a \$96 Million Loan Agreement to provide additional funds to the State of Uttarakhand in its recovery plans, ongoing since floods of 2013 & strengthen its capacity for **Disaster Risk Management**.

#### 4. **Indian Bank receives Best Bank Award**

Public sector Indian Bank bagged the Best Bank Award from b for meeting the needs of women's self-help groups (SHGs). Chief Minister K Palaniswami handed over the award to the executive director of the bank M K Bhattacharya.

#### 5. **Bank of Baroda launches Daycare Facility for Children**

Bank of Baroda has become the 1<sup>st</sup> public sector bank to launch a Child Daycare facility for children of its employees at its Mumbai corporate office which has more than 1500 employees. Bank of Baroda will bear 60 % of cost every month for each employee.

#### 6. **SBI links Savings A/C, Short Term Loans to Repo rate**

India's largest lender State Bank of India will be India's 1<sup>st</sup> bank to link its interest rate on savings bank deposits with a balance above ₹1 lakh & short-term loans to RBI's repo rate. The new system will come into effect from May 1.

#### 7. **SBI launches doorstep banking service for senior citizens**

SBI has launched doorstep banking service for senior citizens over **70 years & differently-abled** customers. Doorstep banking services are available to KYC compliant account holders residing within 5 km radius from their home branch.

### **8. RBI re-categorizes IDBI Bank as Private Sector Bank**

Reserve Bank of India has categorized IDBI Bank as a 'Private Sector Bank' for regulatory purposes with effect from 21 January 2019. Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) acquired 51% of the total paid-up equity share capital of IDBI bank.

### **9. Bandhan Bank gets RBI nod for acquiring Gruh Finance**

Bandhan Bank has received no objection from the Reserve Bank of India for the proposed acquisition of Gruh Finance. Gruh Finance, the affordable housing finance arm of HDFC Ltd, was taken over in January by Kolkata-based Bandhan Bank in a share-swap deal.

### **10. Bank of Baroda to Develop Agri-Digital Platform 'Baroda Kisan'**

Bank of Baroda to develop an agri-digital platform called 'Baroda Kisan' in order to provide solutions for all major agricultural requirements. Six companies have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the bank for this project.

### **11. Govt to infuse Rs 5,042 crore into Bank of Baroda**

The government has announced a capital infusion of ₹5,042 crore ahead of the merger of Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank with Bank of Baroda. The capital infusion will be by way of preferential allotment of equity shares of the bank during FY2018-19

### **12. India and ADB sign \$26 Million Loan Agreement for Assam**

The Government of India & the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$26 Million Loan Agreement to provide additional financing for improving drainage infrastructure in Dibrugarh town of Assam under the ongoing **Assam Urban Infrastructure Investment Program**.

## **News: Others**

### **1. Korean Exim Bank set to give 4100 cr loan for Vizag Metro**

Korea Exim Bank (KEXIM) will give a Rs 4,100 crore loan for Visakhapatnam Metro Rail project. The revised project is expected to cost ₹17000 crore for which funding is being tied up with German & French development banks **KfW** and **AFD** respectively.

### **2. 14<sup>th</sup> CII-EXIM Bank Conclave organized**

Ministry of Commerce & Industry organised the 14<sup>th</sup> edition of CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnerships, in association with Confederation of Indian Industry and EXIM Bank of India in New Delhi from March 17-19.

### **3. World Bank provided \$137 million to Modernise Dams**

The World Bank has provided additional financing of \$137 million (nearly ₹960 crore) for the Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) to rehabilitate and modernise over 220 selected large dams in six states.

#### 4. *White label ATMs to source cash directly from RBI*

The Reserve Bank relaxed norms for White Label ATM (WLA) operators & allowed them to buy wholesale cash directly from RBI. It also permitted WLA operators to source cash from any bank, including cooperatives and regional rural banks.

#### 5. *SBI forms Payment Joint venture with Hitachi*

State Bank of India (SBI) and Hitachi Payment Services Pvt Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Hitachi Ltd, launched their merchant-acquiring joint venture, **SBI Payment Services Pvt Ltd** (SBIPSPL) in Mumbai. SBI has a 74% stake & 26% is with Hitachi.

#### 6. *RBI imposes Rs 11 crore fine on 4 banks*

RBI imposed a Rs 4 cr penalty on **Karnataka Bank**, it slapped a fine of Rs 3 cr each on **United Bank** and **Indian Overseas Bank**. Besides, the regulator has also levied Rs 1 cr fine on Karur Vysya Bank for non-compliance of directions on Swift messaging software.

#### 7. *RBI imposes penalties worth Rs 3 crore on IDBI, Dena Bank*

RBI has imposed a monetary penalty of **Rs 2 crore** on Dena Bank. **Rs 1 crore** penalty was imposed on IDBI Bank for non-compliance of its regulatory directions on time-bound implementation and strengthening of SWIFT related operational controls.

#### 8. *Reserve Bank of India (RBI) signs a Bilateral Swap Arrangement (BSA) with Bank of Japan*

Bank of Japan & Reserve Bank of India signed a Bilateral Swap Arrangement. The BSA enables both countries to swap their local currencies against **USD 75 bn**. It will contribute to the stability of financial markets to develop the economic & trade ties b/w them.

#### 9. *PNB sells stake in PNB Housing Fin for Rs 1,851.60 crore*

Punjab National Bank (PNB) sold its stake in PNB Housing Finance to General Atlantic and Varde Partners for Rs 1,851.60 crore. They bought 1.09 crore shares each. Now, PNB hold a strategic stake of **19.78 per cent** in PNB Housing.

#### 10. *RBI sets NBFC-MFIs' average base rate at 9.21% for April-June*

The Reserve Bank set the average base rate to be charged from borrowers by non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and micro-finance institutions (MFIs) at 9.21 per cent for the first quarter of the next fiscal.

#### 11. *RBI levies ₹71 cr fine on 36 banks*

The RBI levied penalties totalling ₹71 cr on 36 banks for not complying with directions on linking SWIFT financial messaging platform to their CBS in PNB scam. PNB employees had exploited this loophole for facilitating fraudulent transactions worth \$2 billion.

Policy/Exchange rate & Reserve ratio	Percentage
Repo rate	6%
Reverse Repo rate	5.75%
Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate	6.25%
Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)	4%
Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)	19%
Bank Rate	6.25%

## Insurance

### News: Most Important

#### 1. *Bharti AXA General launches service for fast vehicle claim settlement*

Private insurer Bharti AXA General Insurance introduced a technology-led service that allows customers and partner garages to raise instant vehicle claims and get quicker claim settlement.

#### 2. *ICICI Lombard, MobiKwik join hands to provide cyber-insurance cover of Rs 50,000*

ICICI Lombard & Mobikwik announced a partnership to offer cyber-insurance against unauthorized & fraudulent transactions online across bank accounts, debit/credit cards & mobile wallets. It can be availed via app at ₹ 99/month & with sum insured of ₹ 50000.

#### 3. *Bharti AXA becomes 'Non-Life Insurer of The Year Award 2019' by the ASSOCHAM*

Bharti AXA General Insurance has been conferred with the 'Non-Life Insurer of The Year Award 2019' by the Assocham for its excellence and contribution to the non-life insurance sector.

#### 4. *Aviva Life Insurance launches Wings to empower women at workplace*

Aviva Life Insurance has announced to launch a specially designed mentorship program to empower the female workforce 'Wings.' It is an initiative of the **SHE division** of the company, for mentoring all the women employees.

### News: Others

#### 1. *ACKO General Insurance wins 'Golden Peacock Innovative Product Award - 2019'*

ACKO General Insurance was awarded the coveted Golden Peacock Innovative Product Award - 2019, for their contextual microinsurance product - "**Ola Ride Insurance**".

## 2. *United Bank of India signs Bancassurance deal with HDFC Life*

United Bank of India has signed a bancassurance deal with private life insurer HDFC Life Insurance Company. United Bank's customers will be able to take advantage of HDFC Life's expertise in life insurance products, distribution and customer service.

## Economy

### News: Most Important

#### 1. *Moody's puts India's growth at 7.3% in 2019, 2020*

As per Moody's report, Indian economy is expected to grow at 7.3 per cent in calendar year 2019 and 2020. In 2018-19 fiscal Indian economy is estimated to have grown 7%, lower than 7.2% in 2017-18.

#### 2. *India's unemployment rate at 7.2%*

India's unemployment rate climbed to **7.2%** in February according to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE). CMIE estimated the number of employed persons in India at 40 crores in February compared with 40.6 cr a year ago.

#### 3. *Govt gets ₹700 Crore through First Ever Sale of 'Enemy Shares'*

The government has yielded ₹700 cr through the first-ever sale of 'enemy shares'. Enemy property refers to the assets left behind by people who migrated to Pakistan or China and are no longer citizens of India.

#### 4. *Fitch cuts India's GDP growth forecast to 6.8%*

Fitch Ratings cut India's economic growth forecast for the next financial year starting April 1, to **6.8%** from its previous estimate of **7%** and Fitch also estimated for FY21 to be 7.1%. Earlier on December 6, Fitch Ratings cut India's FY19 forecast to 7.2%.

#### 5. *India's April-February Fiscal Deficit at 134% of FY Target*

The country's fiscal deficit touched **134.2%** of the full-year revised budgeted estimate at the end of February 2019, mainly due to tepid growth in revenue collections. Govt is committed to restrict the fiscal deficit at 3.4% of the GDP.

#### 6. *India's current account deficit narrows to 2.5% of GDP, fiscal deficit widens*

India's external risks showed signs of waning with the current account deficit (CAD) narrowing to 2.5% of gross domestic product (GDP) sequentially in the December quarter.

## News: Others

### 1. *GST Revenue collection of ₹ 97,247 cr for February, 2019*

Total gross GST revenue collected in the month of February 2019 is ₹ 97,247 crore of which CGST is ₹ **17,626 crore**, SGST is ₹ **24,192 crore**, IGST is ₹ **46,953 crore** & cess is ₹ **8,476 crore**. Revenue in February 2018 was ₹ 85,962 crore.

### 2. *India Inc's foreign borrowings fall 9% to \$2.81 bn in February*

Acc. to RBI data, India Inc's borrowings from foreign markets fell to USD 2.81 billion in February, down by 9 per cent as compared to the year-ago month. The entire fund mop-up during the month was done through the automatic route of ECB.

### 3. *New Coins of Rs 1, 2, 5, 10 & 20 Issued*

The government released new Re 1, Rs 2, Rs 5, Rs 10 with refreshed design and attention towards the visually impaired citizens. The government also introduced new Rs 20 coins. Coins in this new series have been designed by the **National Institute of Design**.

### 4. *Govt to borrow Rs 4.42 lakh crore in H1FY20*

Government will raise Rs 4.42 lakh crore through gilts in the first half of FY20. The borrowing for the second half is set at Rs 2.68 lakh crore. The Centre will auction Rs 17,000 crore of gilts per week during April-September.

## Quick revision

Organization/Parameters	Rate
Moody's	7.3% CY 2019, 2020
Unemployment Rate	7.2% (Feb)
Fitch Ratings	6.8% FY 2019-20
Fiscal Deficit	134% (April-February)
Current Account Deficit	2.5%

## State

### News: Most Important

#### 1. *India's first monorail in Mumbai*

Devendra Fadnavis inaugurated the 11.28 km second phase of the monorail. The full route of the monorail is 19.54 km long and now fully operational. The network was developed and is being implemented by the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority.



## **2. PM launches One Nation, One Card in Ahmedabad**

Narendra Modi launched One Nation, One Card for transport mobility in Ahmedabad named **National Common Mobility Card (NCMC)** issued by banks. A single card can be used for payments across all segments including metro, bus, suburban railways, toll, parking etc.

## **3. Bongaigaon dist of Assam admin develops 'Sankalp' app to reach out to 1st-time voter**

In Assam, the Bongaigaon district administration has developed a mobile app Sankalp to particularly reach out to the voters. The messages would be sent to the first-time voters on their mobile phones, requesting them to download the 'Sankalp' app.

## **4. Tripura has second-highest number of child marriages: Report**

According to the National Family Health Survey, Tripura ranks second in the list of states where child marriages among girls between the age of 15 and 19 are performed. It found that more than 80% of child marriages were registered in three districts of the state.

## **5. Tashigang in Himachal Pradesh becomes World's Highest Polling Station**

Tashigang, a Himachal Pradesh (HP) village at an altitude of 15,256 feet, is now the highest polling station in the world. Situated about 29 km from the India-China border, the polling station covers two villages, Tashigang and Gete.

## **6. Ola signs MoU with Telangana govt**

Ola has signed an MoU with Telangana to support the efforts in strengthening traffic infrastructure in the city. The partnership would see Ola 'share intelligent insights' that enable the Govt to implement smart solutions to enhance mobility experience.

### **News: Others**

#### **1. Arecanut gets its First GI tag for 'Sirsi Supari'**

Arecanut (also known as supari or betel nut) is the latest entrant in the list of agricultural produce with a Geographical Indication (GI) tag. 'Sirsi Supari' is grown in Sirsi, Siddpaur and Yellapur taluks of Uttara Kannada district in Karnataka.

#### **2. Erode turmeric receives Geographical Indication tag**

Turmeric grown in the Erode region, Tamil Nadu was conferred the Geographical Indication tag enabling the farmers and traders from the region to claim sole rights over the famous 'Erode Manjal'.

## National

### News: Most Important

#### 1. ***NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant to head transformative mobility panel***

Amitabh Kant will head National Mission on Transformative Mobility & Battery Storage which is being set up to promote clean and sustainable mobility initiatives. The panel will recommend policy guidelines for holistic, sustainable energy storage in India.

#### 2. ***Maneka Gandhi felicitates 'Web Wonder Women'***

The Ministry of Women & Child Development hosted a felicitation event for 'Web Wonder Women', a campaign organized in collaboration with Twitter India & Breakthrough India to celebrate exceptional achievements of women via social media.

#### 3. ***Microsoft launched Project 'Sangam' to boost India's Swachh Bharat Mission***

Microsoft has partnered with The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs to promote its Project '**Sangam**' which is developed to accelerate Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) in India. It is one of the world's largest Cleanliness Programme.

#### 4. ***Centre for Disability Sports at Gwalior***

The Government has approved the proposal regarding setting up of a Centre for Disability Sports at Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh, to be registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 with an estimated cost of Rs 170.99 crore.

#### 5. ***India's first oil museum is set to come up in Guwahati , Assam***

India's first Oil Museum is set to come up in Guwahati . The oil and gas PSUs such as ONGC, IOCL, HPCL, BPCL and EIL are coming together for the project. The oil museum will be named after **KD Malaviya** called the father of India's hydrocarbon industry.

#### 6. ***India's Integral Coach Factory became the World's largest rail coach manufacturer***

The Integral Coach Factory (ICF) of the Indian Railways has become the World's largest rail coach manufacturer. It has surpassed the top Chinese manufacturers after creating a 40% record increase in its production.

#### 7. ***Namaste Thailand festival aims to strengthen bilateral ties***

The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of Namaste Thailand festival started in New Delhi aimed at strengthening bilateral ties and increasing cultural exchange between India and Thailand. The festival features stage performances including Thai folk-jazz band Asia-7.

## **News: Others**

### ***1. 7<sup>th</sup> March 2019 to be celebrated as 'JanaushadhiDiwas'***

For creating awareness about use of generic medicines, 7<sup>th</sup> March 2019 will be celebrated as JanaushadhiDiwas. Government has taken important steps to make affordable generic medicines popular among people through **Pradhan MantriBhartiyaJanaushadhiPariyojana**.

### ***2. Mahesh Sharma Inaugurates 'Azaadi Ke Diwane' Museum***

Dr. Mahesh Sharma inaugurated 'AzaadikeDiwane' museum at Red Fort, Delhi. Created by Archaeological Survey of India, the museum within the Red Fort complex pays homage to all the unsung heroes of freedom struggle of the nation.

### ***3. President's nod to ordinance for voluntary use of Aadhaar as ID proof for bank a/c***

President Ram Nath Kovind gave his assent to an ordinance that allows voluntary use of Aadhaar as ID proof for obtaining mobile SIM cards and opening bank accounts. The ordinance will omit the **Section 57** of the Aadhaar Act.

### ***4. PM Narendra Modi chairs National Security Council meet***

Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a meeting of the National Security Council following heightened tensions with Pakistan. NSA Ajit Doval and Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhle also attended meeting along with union ministers.

### ***5. Govt approves Adani Power's ₹14,000 crore Jharkhand SEZ project***

The government approved a Rs.14,000 crore special economic zone (SEZ) project of Adani Power in Jharkhand, which will export entire power generated to Bangladesh. It will be ready by the end of 2022.

### ***6. 50<sup>th</sup> Raising Day celebrations of CISF***

Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the 50<sup>th</sup> Raising Day celebrations of Central Industrial Security Forces (CISF) at Indirapuram in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. He presented the service medals for distinguished and meritorious services.

### ***8. India's First Coffee gets GI Tag***

GI tag was granted to Coorg Arabica Coffee (Karnataka), Wayanad Robusta Coffee (Kerala), Chikmagalur Arabica Coffee (Karnataka), Araku Valley Arabica Coffee (Andhra Pradesh) & Bababudangiris Arabica Coffee (India's First Coffee grown in Chikmagalur, Karnataka).

### ***9. Festival of Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Gandhinagar***

President of India Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the Festival of Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. He also presented the 10<sup>th</sup> Biennial **National Grassroots Innovation Awards**.

## 10. *Prime Minister inaugurates Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Institute of Archaeology*

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Institute of Archaeology at Greater Noida in Uttar Pradesh which is built at an estimated cost Rs289 cr. He also unveiled a statue of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya at the campus.

## International

### News: Most Important

#### 1. *Kazakhstan renames capital Astana as 'Nursultan'*

Kazakhstan's Parliament has voted to rename the country's capital Astana as 'Nursultan', in honor of former President **Nursultan Nazarbayev**. Nursultan Nazarbayev announced his retirement after 29 years in power.

#### 2. *Marshall Islands to launch digital currency "SOV"*

Marshall Islands became the 1<sup>st</sup> country ever to launch decentralized national digital currency SOV & accepted it as national legal tender. This cryptocurrency is co-developed by Neema, an Israel based company.

#### 3. *World's largest e-waste recycling hub opens in Dubai*

The world's largest e-waste recycling facility opened in Dubai. It has a processing capacity of **100000 T** of total integrated waste per year, of which 39000 T is e-waste. It can process the WEEE from consumer & industrial to commercial & military.

#### 4. *Norway to Put World's First Wireless E-Cab Charging Stations*

Norway's capital **Oslo** is set to become the world's first city to install wireless induction-based fast-charging systems for electric taxis. Charging plates will connect with receivers in taxis and allow them to charge for up to 75 kilowatts.

### News: Others

#### 1. *Kazakhstan's First & Only President Resigns*

Nursultan Nazarbayev, Kazakhstan's first and only President announced his resignation after 29 years in power. He has been Kazakhstan's President since 1990 and was formally elected in 1991 after the fall of the Soviet Union.

#### 2. *Apple launches Apple Card with Goldman Mastercard*

Apple Inc & Goldman Sachs Group Inc jointly launched the Apple Card credit card for **iPhones**. The card is tied to Apple Pay, a service that allows people to load banking information and pay in store or use it for purchases online.

### 3. *Argentina & Colombia Will Co-Host Copa America 2020*

Argentina and Colombia are set to co-host the 2020 Copa America. It's the first time that the tournament will be split between 2 countries in the modern Copa America era.

### 4. *Malaysia become 124<sup>th</sup> member of the International Criminal Court (ICC)*

Malaysia has become a member of the International Criminal Court. The ICC is the world's only permanent war crimes court and aims to prosecute the worst abuses when national courts are unable or unwilling.

## India & world

### News: Most Important

#### 1. *India, Maldives sign three agreements*

India and Maldives signed three agreements on visa facilitation for **diplomatic and official passport holders, development cooperation** and **renewable energy**. It sets the framework for strengthening and deepening of the relationship between two nations.

#### 2. *India & Afghanistan Signed an MOU On Digital Education Initiatives*

The Ministry of Human Resource Development has signed an MoU with the Afghanistan government to work on digital education initiatives, which include many prominent programs developed by Indian Institutes of Technology. The MoU was signed at IIT-Madras.

#### 3. *MoU between India and Croatia, South Korea*

The Union Cabinet has given its ex-post facto approval on the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Croatia in the field of tourism. Another MoU was approved between India and South Korea on start-up cooperation.

#### 4. *MoU between India and Morocco on youth matters*

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved an MoU on youth matters between India and Morocco. Cabinet also approved MoU to promote the exchange of information and technical cooperation in the field of housing and human settlement.

#### 5. *India signs MoUs with UK, Germany & Austria*

The Union cabinet chaired by the Narendra Modi has approved the Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) with 3 countries- UK (Cancer Research Initiative), Germany (Occupational Safety and Health) & Austria (Road Infrastructure Sector).

## News: Others

### 1. *India & US to Build 6 American Nuclear Power Plants in India*

The US and India have agreed to strengthen security and civil nuclear cooperation, deciding to build six US nuclear power plants in India, the two countries said in a joint statement. India plans to triple its nuclear capacity by 2024.

### 2. *M. Venkaiah Naidu visited Paraguay and Costa Rica*

Venkaiah Naidu visited two nations Paraguay and Costa Rica . The visit provided an opportunity to provide impetus to our bilateral relations in trade and investment, ICT, renewable energy including hydel, education, healthcare, space and people to people linkages.

### 3. *Sushma Swaraj embarks two-day visit to Maldives*

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj embarked two-day visit to the Maldives. Both govts will discuss ongoing & future collaboration arrangements and development cooperation, cooperation in the field of health, and enhancing people-to-people contact.

## Quick Revision: Facts

Country	Capital	Head of State / Govt.	Currency
Maldives	Male	Ibrahim Mohamed Solih	Rufiyaa
Afghanistan	Kabul	Ashraf Ghani	Afghani
Thailand	Bangkok	Prayuth Chan-ocha	Bhat
USA	Washington D.C	Donald Trump	Dollar
UK	London	Theresa May	Pound Sterling
Germany	Berlin	Frank-Walter Steinmeier	Euro
Austria	Vienna	Alexander Van der Bellen	Euro
Paraguay	Asuncion	Mario Abdo Benitez	Guarani
Costa Rica	San Jose	Carlos Alvarado	Colon
Croatia	Zagreb	Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic	Kuna
Morocco	Rabat	Saadeddine Othmani	Dirham

## Appointments & Resignations

### News: Most Important

#### 1. *Pramod Sawant sworn-in as new Goa CM*

Pramod Sawant was sworn-in as the new Chief Minister of Goa. He succeeds **Manohar Parrikar**, who passed away recently. He is the former speaker of Goa Legislative Assembly. Goa Governor Mridula Sinha administered the oath of office and secrecy to Sawant.

## 2. *Pinaki Chandra Ghose to be India's First Lokpal*

Former Supreme Court judge & current member of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), Pinaki Chandra Ghose will be India's first anti-corruption ombudsman (Lokpal) after his name was cleared & recommended by the high-level selection committee.

## 3. *Karambir Singh to be next Chief of Naval Staff*

Vice Admiral Karambir Singh was appointed as the next chief of naval staff, succeeding **Admiral Sunil Lanba** who retires on May 30. Presently, he is serving as the Flag Officer Commanding in Chief of the Eastern Naval Command in Visakhapatnam.

## 4. *MR Kumar appointed as LIC Chairman*

The government appointed MR Kumar as the Chairman of Life Insurance Corporation, **Vipin Anand** & **TC Suseel Kumar** as the Managing Directors (MDs). This is the first time an interview for the top position of LIC was conducted by the Banks Board Bureau (BBB).

## 5. *Zuzana Caputova Elected Slovakia's First Female President*

Zuzana Caputova a 45-year-old lawyer, activist and political newcomer elected as the nation's first female president. She vowed to return a sense of decency to Slovakia's often toxic political climate.

## 6. *Ajay Narayan Jha joins as Member Finance Commission*

Ajay Narayan Jha joined the **15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission** as its Member. He joins in place of Shaktikanta Das who resigned after being appointed as Governor, RBI. The Commission was created by Presidential Order in Nov 2017 under the Chairmanship of N. K. Singh.

## 7. *Hasmukh Adhia appointed Non-Executive Chairman of BoB*

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has appointed former finance secretary Hasmukh Adhia as a part-time non-official director as well as non-executive chairman on the board of Bank of Baroda for a period of three years.

## 8. *Sheikh Ahmad al-Fahad al-Sabah re-elected Asian Olympic chief*

Kuwait's Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah re-elected president of the powerful Olympic Council of Asia despite forgery charges that forced him to step aside from the International Olympic Committee and other duties.

## 9. *Subhash Chandra Garg appointed as Finance Secretary*

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved Subhash Chandra Garg as the new Finance Secretary who is also the Economic Affairs Secretary. He will replace Ajay Narayan Jha who is now the member of the 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission.

### **10. *Kummanam Rajasekharan quits as Mizoram governor***

President Ram Nath Kovind has accepted the resignation of Governor of Mizoram Kummanam Rajasekharan. The president has appointed **Jagdish Mukhi** as the Governor of Mizoram, in addition to his duties of Assam Governor.

### **11. *Soumya Swaminathan named Chief Scientist at WHO***

Soumya Swaminathan, a Deputy Director-General of the World Health Organisation (WHO) has been named as the Chief Scientist of the WHO. She was one of the 3 DDGs assisting WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

### **12. *Mohammad Shtayyeh elected as Prime Minister of Palestine***

Mohammad Shtayyeh was named as the Prime Minister of Palestine by the President of Palestine Mahmoud Abbas. He replaced **Rami Hamdallah** who was Prime Minister since 2014.

### **13. *Axis Bank Appoints Rakesh Makhija as Non-Executive Chairman***

Axis Bank appointed Rakesh Makhija as its non-executive chairman for a term of 3 years with effect from 18 July. He will replace Sanjiv Misra whose term will expire on 17 July. Rakesh Makhija is an independent director on the board of Axis bank.

### **14. *Ashu Khullar appointed as CEO of CITI Bank India***

Ashu Khullar is set to replace Pramit Jhaveri as CEO of CITI Bank India from April 1. In January, the RBI imposed a Rs 3 crore fine on the bank for shortcomings in regulatory compliance. CITI bank's NPA was only 0.55% as on 31 March 2018.

### **15. *Azali Assoumani re-elected as President of Comoros***

Comoros President Azali Assoumani was re-elected. He first took office in 2016. The Comoros is a volcanic archipelago off Africa's east coast, in the warm Indian Ocean waters of the Mozambique Channel.

### **16. *Karur Vysya Bank appoints N S Srinath as non-executive chairman***

Karur Vysya Bank has appointed N S Srinath as non-executive chairman for a period of three years. He was the non-executive independent director on the board of the private sector lender.

## **News: Others**

### **1. *Rahul Bajaj Resigns as Bajaj Finserv Chairman***

Chairman & Non-Executive Director of Bajaj Finserv Rahul Bajaj resigned from Bajaj Finserv. Board of directors has appointed Nanoo Pamnani as Independent Non-Executive Chairman of the company in place of Rahul Bajaj w.e.f 17 May 2019.



## **2. *C Lalsawta. Appointed Mizoram's first Lokayukta chairman***

C. Lalsawta was sworn in as the first Chairman of the newly constituted Lokayukta in Mizoram. He was the Principal Secretary of the Finance department in the State from 2008 to 2011. Governor Jagdish Mukhi administered the oath of office to Mr. Lalsawta.

## **3. *Vijay Chandok appointed as MD and CEO of ICICI Securities***

ICICI Securities appointed Vijay Chandok as an additional director, Managing Director and CEO of the company with effect from May 7, 2019. He is presently Executive Director of the ICICI Bank.

## **4. *Hitachi Payments appoints Rustom Irani as managing director***

Hitachi Payment Services (Hitachi Payments) appointed Rustom Irani as the new managing director (MD) of the company. His role is in addition to his responsibilities as the CEO of cash business. He will also be inducted into the company's board.

## **5. *DK Jain appointed BCCI's ad-hoc Ethics Officer***

In addition to BCCI Ombudsman, Committee of Administrators has appointed Justice (Retd.) DK Jain as an Ethics Officer for looking into the matters of Conflict of Interest. He is appointed on an ad-hoc basis until a permanent appointment takes place.

## **6. *Hasmukh Adhia appointed as chancellor of Gujarat Central University***

Former Finance Secretary Hasmukh Adhia was appointed as the chancellor of Gujarat Central University for 5 years. The appointment was approved by President Ram Nath Kovind. He succeeds **Yoginder K Alagh**.

## **7. *Sanjeev Ranjan Road Transport Secy, NN Sinha NHAH Chief***

The government appointed Sanjeev Ranjan as Secretary of Road Transport & Highways Ministry. Nagendra Nath Sinha, who is currently the MD of National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation (NHIDCL), will take additional charge as NHAH Chairman.

## **8. *Ajit Singh appointed as 1<sup>st</sup> Lokayukta of Odisha***

Former Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court Ajit Singh is appointed as the 1st Lokayukta of Odisha. Odisha Governor Ganeshi Lal has approved his name following the recommendation of selection committee headed by CM Naveen Patnaik.

## **9. *Scientist Ajit Kumar Mohanty appointed as BARC Director***

The Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) has appointed scientist Ajit Kumar Mohanty as its Director for a period of three years according to a Personnel Ministry order. He is currently the Director of Physics Group in BARC.

### 10. Anup Kumar Dubey, Sushil Kumar Appointed Special Directors in ED

Anup Kumar Dubey and Sushil Kumar were appointed special directors in the Enforcement Directorate (ED). Anup Kumar Dubey has been appointed as Special Director, ED in Delhi and Sushil Kumar in Chennai.

### 11. K. Govindaraj re-elected BFI president

K. Govindaraj was unanimously re-elected as president of the Basketball Federation of India (BFI). **Veselin Matic** of Serbia will be India's new Basketball Head Coach.

### 12. Naresh Goyal steps down as Jet Airways Chairman

Jet Airways Founders Naresh Goyal (also Chairman) and wife Anita Goyal have stepped down from the board of Jet Airways. Joint venture partner Etihad's stake will be brought down to 12 percent from 25 percent and Naresh Goyal will now hold 25 percent.

### Quick Revision

Appointment/Resignation	Post
Pramod Sawant	Chief Minister of Goa
Pinaki Chandra Ghose	India's First Lokpal
Karambir Singh	Chief of Naval Staff
MR Kumar	Chairman of LIC
Vipin Anand & TC Suseel Kumar	Managing Directors of LIC
Zuzana Caputova	President of Slovakia
Ajay Narayan Jha	Member of 15 <sup>th</sup> finance commission
Hasmukh Adhia	Non-Executive Chairman of Bank of Baroda
Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah	President of Olympic Council of Asia
Subhash Chandra Garg	Finance Secretary
Kummanam Rajasekharan (Resignation)	Governor of Mizoram
Jagdish Mukhi	Governor of Mizoram and Assam
Soumya Swaminathan	Chief Scientist of the WHO
Mohammad Shtayyeh	Prime Minister of Palestine
Rakesh Makhija	Non-Executive Chairman of Axis Bank
Ashu Khullar	CEO of CITI Bank India
Rahul Bajaj (Resignation)	Chairman of Bajaj Finserv
C. Lalsawta	Mizoram's Lokayukta Chairman
Vijay Chandok	Managing Director and CEO of ICICI Securities
Rustom Irani	Managing Director of Hitachi Payment Services
DK Jain	BCCI Ombudsman & Ethics Officer
Hasmukh Adhia	chancellor of Gujarat Central University
Sanjeev Ranjan	Secretary of Road Transport & Highways Ministry
Ajit Singh	1 <sup>st</sup> Lokayukta of Odisha
Ajit Kumar Mohanty	BARC Director
Anup Kumar Dubey and Sushil Kumar	Special directors in the Enforcement Directorate
K. Govindaraj	President, Basketball Federation of India
Naresh Goyal (Resignation)	Chairman of Jet Airways
NS Srinath	Non-Executive Chairman of Karur Vysya Bank
Azali Assoumani	President, Comoros

## Ranks & Reports

### News: Most Important

#### **1. India ranked 140<sup>th</sup> in the World Happiness Report 2019**

India has been ranked 140 out of 156 in the World Happiness Report 2019. Finland topped the list & **South Sudan** was at the bottom. The report is produced by UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network in partnership with the Ernesto Illy Foundation.

#### **2. Hyderabad, Pune Most Liveable Cities**

Mercer's Quality of Living Ranking 2019 has named Hyderabad & Pune as the most liveable city. Globally, the cities occupy the 143<sup>rd</sup> position. Vienna retained the top rank for the 10th year. Chennai is ranked the safest Indian city-105<sup>th</sup> in the world.

#### **3. India ranked 47<sup>th</sup> in the overall "Inclusive Internet Index 2019" (3i)**

According to the Inclusive Internet Index (3i) prepared by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) for Facebook, India has been ranked 47th in the overall "Inclusive Internet Index 2019" score while Sweden topped the chart, followed by Singapore and the US.

#### **4. Global MPI 2018 Report: UNDP**

According to Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2018 Report prepared by UNDP, Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative, India has reduced its poverty rate from 55% to 28% in 10 yrs, with 271 mn people moving out of poverty b/w 2005-06 & 2015-16.

#### **5. India ranks 76<sup>th</sup> on WEF's Global Energy Transition Index**

India ranked 76<sup>th</sup> on World Economic Forum's Global Energy Transition Index 2019. Sweden remained on the top of the list of 115 countries. India has moved up two places from 78<sup>th</sup> last year.

#### **6. Delhi IGI Airport becomes the 12<sup>th</sup> Busiest Airport in the World**

According to the preliminary World Airport Traffic Rankings for 2018 released by the Airports Council International (ACI), New Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) has now become the world's 12<sup>th</sup> busiest airport.

#### **7. Vienna ranked Best City in the World**

Vienna has been ranked the most liveable city in the world for the 10<sup>th</sup> year in a row. The Austrian capital topped the new Mercer Quality of Living Survey, whose 2019 ranking was dominated by European cities.

## News: Others

### **1. India home to 22 of the Top 30 Most Polluted Cities**

India's National Capital Region (NCR) emerged as the most polluted region in the world in 2018, with Gurugram being the most air-polluted city in the world according to IQAir AirVisual 2018 World Air Quality Report & World's most polluted cities ranking.

### **2. Dhanbad scores 95.3% 4G availability, highest among 50 Indian cities**

India's coal capital Dhanbad scored 95.3% in Opensignal's measurements for 4G availability, becoming one of only two cities among India's 50 cities to pass the 95% mark. The other city was Ranchi which scored 95% in 4G availability.

### **3. India is World's Second Largest Arms Importer**

India is the second largest importer of weapons in the world, as per the annual report 'Trends in International Arms Transfers-2018' released by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). **Saudi Arabia** was number **one**.

## **Important days**

### News: Most Important

#### **1. Zero Discrimination Day observed on 1<sup>st</sup> March**

Zero Discrimination Day 2019 was observed on March 1 to raise awareness against the discrimination of patients infected with HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) which causes AIDS. The Zero Discrimination Day 2019 theme was 'Act to Change Laws that Discriminate'.

#### **2. World Wildlife Day 2019 – March 3**

UN General Assembly's 6<sup>th</sup> World Wildlife Day was observed on 3 March. The theme for 2019, "**Life below water: for people and planet**", inspired by 14<sup>th</sup> UN Sustainable Development Goal, which aims to conserve the oceans while sustainably extracting resources.

#### **3. International Women's Day 2019 – March 8**

International Women's Day is a global day celebrated on 8 March that highlights the social, economic, cultural & political achievements of women. The theme for 2019 is "Think equal, build smart, innovate for change" & campaign theme is #BalanceforBetter.

#### **4. World Consumer Rights Day 2019 – March 15**

World Consumer Rights Day is celebrated every year on March 15. It is a day marked to raise global awareness about consumer rights and needs. This year, the theme of promoted World Consumer Rights Day is "**Trusted Smart Products**".

### 5. *World Sleep Day 2019 – March 15*

World Sleep Day is observed annually on March 15 to celebrate the benefits of good and healthy sleep. It is an event organised by the World Sleep Day Committee of the World Sleep Society. The theme for 2019 is “**Healthy Sleep, Healthy Aging**”.

### 6. *Global Recycling Day – March 18*

The day is celebrated every year on March 18 to mark the importance of recycling & making the world think resource not waste. The theme of the day is ‘**Recycling into the Future**’ would focus on the power of youth & education in ensuring a brighter future.

### 7. *World Sparrow Day 2019 – March 20*

World Sparrow Day is celebrated on 20th March every year. The theme for World Sparrow Day 2019 is “**I LOVE Sparrows**”. It is an initiative by the Nature Forever Society (NFS) of India in collaboration with the Eco-Sys Action Foundation (France).

### 8. *International Day of Happiness 2019 – March 20*

The United Nations International Day of Happiness is celebrated on March 20 to inspire and spread a global happiness movement. The theme for 2019 is “**Happier together**”. The central theme is “**Share Happiness and be Part of Something Amazing**”.

### 9. *World Down Syndrome Day – March 21*

World Down Syndrome Day is observed on 21 March to raise public awareness and advocate the rights, inclusion and well-being of people with the genetic disorder. The theme for 2019 World Down Syndrome Day is ‘**Leave no one behind**’.

### 10. *International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination – March 21*

The theme of the day 2019 was Mitigating and countering rising nationalist populism and extreme supremacist ideologies. IDERD was celebrated with an aim of fighting racial discrimination in various countries. It focused on increasing unity & brotherhood among people irrespective of their caste, creed or race.

### 11. *World Water Day 2019 – March 22*

World Water Day is a UN observation day held annually on 22 March. The theme for World Water Day 2019 is ‘**Leaving no one behind,**’ which is the central promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

### 12. *World Meteorological Day 2019 – March 23*

World Meteorological Day is celebrated every year on March 23 to mark the formation of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) which came into existence in 1950. The theme for 2019 is “**The Sun, the Earth and the Weather**”.

### 13. World Tuberculosis Day – March 24

24<sup>th</sup> March is observed every year as a Day to raise awareness regarding Tuberculosis. This year's theme is 'It's time'- to focus on urgency to act on the commitments made to scale up access to prevention and treatment of the disease.

### 14. World Theatre Day (WTD) - March 27

World Theatre Day was initiated in 1961 by the International Theatre Institute (ITI). It is celebrated annually on the 27th March by ITI Centres and the international theatre community.

## News: Others

### 1. World Kidney Day 2019

World Kidney Day (WKD) is celebrated every year on 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of March. Theme for 2019 is '**Kidney Health for Everyone Everywhere**'. World Kidney Day is an initiative of International Society of Nephrology & International Federation of Kidney Foundations.

### 2. Ordnance Factories Day 2019

Ordnance Factories Day is observed all over India on 18 March every year. The production of the oldest Ordnance Factory of India, which is located at Cossipore, Kolkata was commenced on 18<sup>th</sup> March 1802.

### 3. World Poetry Day – March 21

World Poetry Day 2019 was observed on March 21. The day is observed to support linguistic diversity through poetic expression and to offer endangered languages the opportunity to be heard within their communities.

## Quick Revision

Date	Observed Day	Theme/ Campaign
March 1	Zero Discrimination Day 2019	Act to Change Laws that Discriminate'
March 3	World Wildlife Day	Life below water: for people and planet
March 8	International Women's Day	Think equal, build smart, innovate for change
March 15	World Consumer Rights Day	Trusted Smart Products
March 15	World Sleep Day	Healthy Sleep, Healthy Aging
March 18	Global Recycling Day	Recycling into the Future'
March 20	World Sparrow Day	I LOVE Sparrows
March 20	International Day of Happiness	Happier together
March 21	World Down Syndrome Day	Leave No one Behind
March 21	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	Mitigating and countering rising nationalist populism and extreme supremacist ideologies
March 22	World Water Day	Leaving No one Behind
March 23	World Meteorological Day	The Sun, the Earth and the Weather
March 24	World Tuberculosis Day	It's time
March 27	World Theatre Day	NA
2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday of March	World Kidney Day	NA
March 18	Ordnance Factories Day	NA
March 21	World Poetry Day	NA

## Sports

### News: Most Important

#### **1. India beat Nepal to win 5<sup>th</sup> SAFF Women's C'ship title**

The Indian women's football team won the SAFF Women's Championship title for the fifth straight time with a 3-1 win over Nepal in the final at Biratnagar, Nepal. With this, India also extended its unbeaten run in the tournament's history to 23 matches.

#### **2. Diksha Dagar Becomes Youngest Indian to Win Ladies European Tour**

Diksha Dagar becomes youngest Indian woman to win on the Ladies European Tour (LET) in Investec Women's South African Open in Capetown. She is a World Deaf Championship winner & also won the 2018 Singapore Amateur title.

#### **3. Yonex Swiss Open 2019**

**Shi Yuqi** of China beat India's B Sai Praneeth to clinch Men's single title in Yonex Swiss Open 2019 held at Basel, Switzerland. Chen Yufei of China won the Women's singles title.

#### **4. Valtteri Bottas wins Australian F1 Grand Prix 2019**

Mercedes' Valtteri Bottas (Finland) beat his world champion teammate Lewis Hamilton to clinch the Australian Formula One Grand Prix 2019. Hamilton finished the race in the second spot, while Red Bull's Max Verstappen finished third.

#### **5. All England Championships 2019**

Kento Momota of Japan became the first Japanese to win men's singles title.

All England Winners list - Women Single- Chen Yufei (China); Men Doubles- Mohammad Ahsan & Hendra Setiawan (Indonesia); Women Doubles- Chen Qing Chen & Jia Yifan (China)

#### **6. South Korea won Azlan Shah Hockey Cup by defeating India**

India has lost to South Korea in the final of Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey tournament at Ipoh in Malaysia. Malaysia secured third position by defeating Canada. Japan stood at 6<sup>th</sup> place by defeating Poland.

#### **7. Manu Bhaker-Saurabh Chaudhary bag Gold Medal at Asian Airgun C'ship**

Manu Bhaker and Saurabh Chaudhary have bagged a Gold medal in the 10-meter Air Pistol Mixed team event at the 12<sup>th</sup> Asian Airgun Championship at Taoyuan in Taipei, Taiwan. They shot a combined score of 784, breaking the record at the European Championships.

### **8. *Saina Nehwal named sportsperson of the year at TSJA awards***

Saina Nehwal was named 'sportsperson of the year' at the annual Telangana Sports Journalists Association awards. **P.V. Sindhu** was named 'outstanding performer' in women's section while **P. Gopichand** was presented the 'coach of the year' award.

### **9. *India to host U-17 Women's Football World Cup in 2020***

India will host the Under-17 Women's Football World Cup in 2020. This was announced by the President of International Football Federation (FIFA) Gianni Infantino after the council meeting in Miami, USA.

## **News: Others**

### **1. *India finishes second in medal tally at Asian Youth Championships***

Indian youth team finished second with a total of 26 medals including 8 gold, 9 silver & 9 bronze medals at Asian Youth Championships, Hongkong. China topped with 31 medals (12 gold, 11 silver, 8 bronze) & Japan finished 3<sup>rd</sup> with 20 medals.

### **2. *India win 368 medals at the Special Olympics World Summer Games***

India won 368 medals, including 85 gold, at the Special Olympics World Summer Games, which was held at UAE's Abu Dhabi from March 14 to 21. The Indian team of 284 athletes also clinched 154 silver and 129 bronze medals at the event.

### **3. *Kavinder Singh Bisht won Gold at GeeBee Boxing Tournament***

Kavinder Singh Bisht (56kg) won gold while Shiva Thapa (60kg), Govind Sahani (49kg), Mohammed Hussamuddin (56kg) & Dinesh Dagar (69kg) won silver medals for India at the 38th GeeBee Boxing Tournament in Helsinki, Finland.

### **4. *IIT Madras Partnered with ESPNcricinfo to Launch 'Superstats'***

ESPNcricinfo, in partnership with the Indian IT Madras, unveiled an AI-powered tech platform called 'Superstats' that will analyse the cricket matches. The platform will use data science for the first time to give a context to every event in a game.

### **5. *Karnataka Won Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy 2019***

Karnataka registered their 14<sup>th</sup> straight win in T20 cricket to clinch the 2018-19 Syed Mushtaq Ali trophy in Indore, Madhya Pradesh. Karnataka beat Maharashtra by 8 wickets in the final to win the tournament for the first time.

### **6. *GoDaddy becomes official sponsor of ICC World Cup 2019***

GoDaddy signed a partnership with the International Cricket Council (ICC) as the official sponsor of the 12<sup>th</sup> ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2019 to be hosted by England and Wales between 30 May and 14 July.



## Awards

### News: Most Important

#### 1. *Abhinandan Varthaman to get Bhagwan Mahavir Ahimsa Puraskar*

Indian Air Force Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman will be the 1<sup>st</sup> recipient of the Bhagwan Mahavir Ahimsa Puraskar instituted by the **Akhil Bharatiya Digambar Jain Mahasamiti**. The award carries a cash prize of Rs 2.51 Lakhs , a memento & a citation.

#### 2. *Marcelo Gleiser Wins Templeton Award*

A Brazilian physicist and astronomer Marcelo Gleiser have won the 2019 Templeton Prize for his work **blending science and spirituality**. Templeton prize is often referred to as "Nobel Prize of Spirituality".

#### 3. *Karen Uhlenbeck becomes First Woman to Win Abel Prize*

Dr. Karen Uhlenbeck won the 2019 Abel Prize, becoming the first woman to ever to receive the award, which is often known as the Nobel Prize of mathematics. Karen Uhlenbeck is referred to as the founder of **modern geometric analysis**.

#### 4. *Japanese architect Arata Isozaki conferred Pritzker Prize 2019*

Japanese architect Arata Isozaki has been named 2019 laureate of the Pritzker Prize, **architecture's most prestigious award**. He is regarded as Japan's most influential postwar architect. He is the 46<sup>th</sup> recipient of the Pritzker Prize.

#### 5. *Dr Rajendra Joshi conferred with 'Pravasi Bhartiya Samman'*

Dr. Rajendra Joshi has been conferred with the Pravasi Bhartiya Samman Award for his outstanding achievement in the field of Science & his contribution in promoting the honour & prestige of India and in fostering the interests of Overseas Indian.

### News: Others

#### 1. *India Bags First Prize at Tourism Awards 2019*

The Ministry of Tourism has won the 1<sup>st</sup> Prize in the category of TV Cinema Spot at the prestigious international Golden City Gate Tourism Awards 2019 for Incredible India 2.0 Campaign. The awards were received by Yogendra Tripathi, Secretary, Tourism.

#### 2. *Seema Mehta bags 'Nari Shakti Puraskar' award*

Kathak dancer Seema Mehta has been conferred the 'Nari Shakti Puraskar' award for her contribution towards women empowerment over the last 15 years. She received the award from President Kovind in New Delhi as part of the Women's Day celebrations.

### 3. *President Presents Swachh Survekshan 2019 Awards*

Indore has been awarded the cleanest city in the country in the Swachh Survekshan 2019 awards while Bhopal has been declared as the cleanest capital. Ujjain has bagged the award for being the cleanest city in the population category of 3 to 10 lakhs.

### Quick Revision

Award	Winner
Bhagwan Mahavir Ahimsa Puraskar	Abhinandan Varthaman
Templeton Award	Marcelo Gleiser
Abel Prize	Karen Uhlenbeck
Pritzker Prize	Arata Isozaki
'Pravasi Bhartiya Samman'	Dr Rajendra Joshi
Nari Shakti Puraskar'	Seema Mehta
Swachh Survekshan 2019 awards	Indore( cleanest city)

## Obituaries

### News: Most Important

#### 1. *Ex-Union Minister V Dhananjay Kumar passed away*

Ex-Union Minister V Dhananjay Kumar passed away at age 67. He was Cabinet minister for civil aviation and tourism in 1996, Union minister of state for finance from 1999 to 2000 and Union minister of state for textiles from 2000 to 2003.

#### 2. *Cycling World Champion Kelly Catlin Passed Away*

USA's cyclist Kelly Catlin passed away at the age of 23. She helped USA to win 3 consecutive world titles between 2016 & 2018 and also silver medal at 2016 Olympics.

#### 3. *Bengali actor Chinmoy Roy passes away*

Veteran Bengali actor Chinmoy Roy passes away at the age of 79. Born in Kumilla district in present-day Bangladesh in 1940, Roy started his career in Bengali films in the 60s & became indispensable to the filmmakers for his portrayal of comic characters.

#### 4. *Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar passed away*

4-time Goa CM & former defence minister Manohar Parrikar (63) died after a prolonged battle with pancreatic cancer. Mr. Parrikar was the first Indian Institute of Technology (Bombay) alumnus to serve as CM of Goa in 2000.

#### 5. *1<sup>st</sup> woman Karnataka Lingayat jagadguru Mahadevi passes away*

First woman Lingayat 'jagadguru' and Basava Dharma Peetha President, Maate Mahadevi passed away at age 73. Mahadevi took part in the protests held for separate religion and grant of minority religious status for Lingayats in Karnataka last month.

## 6. *Nobel laureate Zhores Alferov passed away at 88*

Nobel laureate Zhores Alferov, a Russian physicist passed away at the age of 88. He won the Nobel Prize in Physics together with US scientists Jack Kilby and Herbert Kroemer for developing semiconductor heterostructures used in high-speed-end opto-electronics.

## 7. *Russian cosmonaut Valery Bykovsky dies at age 84*

Acc. to Russian space agency pioneering Soviet-era cosmonaut Valery Bykovsky, who made the first of his three flights to space in 1963, died at the age of 84. He made his second space flight in 1976 and his third in 1978.

### **News: Others**

#### 1. *American actor Luke Perry passed away in California, U.S*

US actor Luke Perry passed away in California at the age of 52, less than a week after suffering a massive stroke. He rose to fame on Beverly Hills, 90210 and had been starring as Fred Andrews on the CW show Riverdale.

#### 2. *Y.S. Vivekananda Reddy Former Member of Parliament passed away*

Former Member of Parliament and State minister Y.S. Vivekananda Reddy passed away in Kadapa. He was the younger brother of former Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy. He won Pulivendula assembly constituency twice (in 1989 and 1994).

#### 3. *Environmental activist Darryl D'Monte passed away*

Senior journalist and environmental activist Darryl D'Monte, who worked with leading English dailies, passed away after a brief illness. He was 74. He had a keen interest in environmental issues and took some initiatives for the cause.

### **Quick Revision**

<b>Obituary (Name)</b>	<b>Related Field</b>
V Dhananjay Kumar	Ex-Union Minister
Kelly Catlin	Cycling World Champion
Chinmoy Roy	Actor
Manohar Parrikar	Goa Chief Minister
Maate Mahadevi	First woman Lingayat
Zhores Alferov	Nobel laureate
Luke Perry	American Actor
Darryl D'Monte	Environmental activist
Valery Bykovsky	Russian cosmonaut

## Schemes

### News: Most Important

#### 1. *President launches Pulse Polio Programme 2019*

President Ram Nath Kovind launched the Pulse Polio Programme for 2019 by administering polio drops to children less than 5 years old at the Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi on the eve of National Immunization Day which is celebrated on 10 March.

#### 2. *Prime Minister Launches PM-SYM in Ahmedabad*

Narendra Modi launched Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan Scheme in Ahmedabad. It is a scheme open to unorganised workers, whose monthly income is Rs 15000 or below & who have an Aadhar number as well as bank account. The minimum is 18 & the maximum is 40.

### News: Others

#### 1. *Young Scientist Programme Launched at ISRO*

Indian Space Research Organisation launched a special programme for School Children called "Young Scientist Programme" "YUva Vigyani KAryakram" (युविका) from this year. Those who are currently studying in 9th standard will be eligible for the programme.

#### 2. *'Jalamrutha' a water conservation scheme inaugurated initiative*

'Jalamrutha' a water conservation scheme was launched by **Karnataka state government**. It is a community-driven movement for water conservation in the state, initiated by Rural Development and Panchayat Raj. The state government has declared 2019 as the Year of Water.

## Person in News

### News: Most Important

#### 1. *Roger Federer clinched his career's 100<sup>th</sup> title*

Roger Federer won the Dubai Championships final beating Stefanos Tsitsipas to make a century of his career's titles. He is a 20-time Grand Slam champion and it was his 8<sup>th</sup> Dubai title. He has a record of winning at least 1 title every season.

#### 2. *DRDO chairman wins missile systems award*

The American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) selected G. Satheesh Reddy, the Secretary of India's Department of Defence R&D and Chairman of the DRDO as the co-winner of the 2019 Missile Systems Award. He will share the prize with **Rondell J. Wilson**.

### **3. *Kavinder Singh Bisht won Gold at GeeBee Boxing Tournament***

Kavinder Singh Bisht (56kg) won gold while Shiva Thapa (60kg), Govind Sahani (49kg), Mohammed Hussamuddin (56kg) & Dinesh Dagar (69kg) won silver medals for India at the 38th GeeBee Boxing Tournament in Helsinki, Finland.

### **4. *Irfan Ramzan Sheikh gets Shaurya Chakra***

Jammu & Kashmir teenager Irfan Ramzan Sheikh was bestowed with the Shaurya Chakra by President Ram Nath Kovind for foiling an attack by three militants on his house in 2017. Irfan was 14 years old then.

### **5. *PhonePe ropes in Aamir Khan as brand ambassador***

PhonePe appointed Bollywood actor Aamir Khan as its brand ambassador to help create awareness about the benefits of digital payments for users across India and PhonePe is also officially co-presenting sponsor for the television broadcast of VIVO IPL 2019.

### **6. *WEF recognize Naresh Lokesh As Young Global Leader For 2019***

Andhra Pradesh IT Minister Naresh Lokesh has been recognised by the World Economic Forum (WEF) as their Young Global Leader for 2019 for next five years. WEF announced 12 persons from South Asia as Young Global Leaders.

### **7. *Padmanaban Gopalan Wins the Commonwealth Youth Award***

Padmanaban Gopalan, the founder of No Food Waste, was named the winner of the Commonwealth Youth Award for the Asian region for his work towards achieving the UN's **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) of zero hunger**.

### **8. *Amartya Sen awarded the prestigious Bodley Medal***

Nobel Prize-winning economist Amartya Sen was awarded the prestigious Bodley Medal, the highest honour bestowed by the University of Oxford's world-famous Bodleian Libraries.

## **News: Others**

### **1. *Suresh Raina First Cricketer to score 5,000 runs in IPL***

Chennai Super Kings' Suresh Raina has become the first ever cricketer to reach 5,000 runs in Indian Premier League. The 32-year-old left-handed batsman achieved the feat after scoring 15 runs in the IPL 2019 opener against Royal Challengers Bangalore.

### **2. *Padma Lakshmi Appointed UNDP's Goodwill Ambassador***

Padma Lakshmi has been appointed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on the eve of International Women's Day as its newest Goodwill Ambassador, supporting the agency's fight against inequality and discrimination around the world.

### **3. *Ritu Beri Appointed as The Cultural & Tourism Ambassador of Uzbekistan In India***

Indian fashion designer Ritu Beri has been appointed as the Cultural & Tourism Ambassador of Uzbekistan in India by the Ministry of Tourism of Uzbekistan. It was officially announced during the Uzbek-Indian joint fashion and music Festival.

### **4. *Gauri Sawant Becomes First Transgender Election Ambassador***

The Election Commission of India has appointed transgender social activist Gauri Sawant, as one of the 12 election ambassadors from Maharashtra. She becomes the first transgender election ambassador of India.

### **5. *MG Motor Signs Benedict Cumberbatch as India Brand Ambassador***

China's SAIC-owned British vehicle manufacturer Morris Garages (MG Motors) signed actor Benedict Cumberbatch as the brand ambassador for its India operations. MG Motors is expected to launch its first car, a sports utility vehicle named Hector in 2019.

## **Summits & Conference**

### **News: Most Important**

#### **1. *Construction Technology India-2019 Expo-cum-Conference***

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Construction Technology India-2019 Expo-cum-Conference in New Delhi on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2019. It is being organized by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs from 2 to 3 March.

#### **2. *SCO's Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) Council Meeting***

34<sup>th</sup> meeting of the SCO's Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) council held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. All the member nations of the SCO will take part in a joint anti-terrorism exercise ' Sary-Arka-Antiterror 2019 ' to be held this year.

#### **3. *34<sup>th</sup> GST Council Meeting***

GST council in its 34<sup>th</sup> meeting approved a transition plan for new rates on residential properties under which developers of under-construction buildings may either opt to shift to the revised lower rates without input tax credit or stick to previous rates.

#### **4. *NITI Aayog's FinTech Conclave***

NITI Aayog is organising FinTech Conclave at Dr. Ambedkar International Center, New Delhi today (25 March). The Conclave will be inaugurated by RBI governor Shaktikanta Das. Conclave will host more than 300 representatives from the financial institutions.

## 5. *Aahar- The International Food and Hospitality Fair*

The 34<sup>th</sup> edition of Aahar- the 5-day International Food and Hospitality Fair commenced in New Delhi organized by India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) featuring a wide range of products from over 560 participants from India & foreign countries.

### News: Others

#### 1. *International Sanskrit Conference 2019*

Nepal is hosting a 3-day International Sanskrit Conference that began on March 19, 2019, jointly organized by The Indian Embassy in Kathmandu, India's Ministry of Culture and the Balmiki campus of Nepal Sanskrit University.

#### 2. *7<sup>th</sup> RCEP Intersessional Ministerial Meeting in Cambodia*

7<sup>th</sup> RCEP Intersessional Ministerial Meeting recently concluded in Cambodia which saw participation of 16 Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership nations, including India's Suresh Prabhu.

<b>Summit /Conference</b>	<b>Venue</b>
Construction Technology India-2019	New Delhi
7 <sup>th</sup> RCEP Intersessional Ministerial Meeting	Cambodia
International Sanskrit Conference 2019	Nepal
International Food and Hospitality Fair( Aahar)	New Delhi
NITI Aayog's FinTech Conclave	New Delhi
SCO's Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) council	Tashkent, Uzbekistan
34th GST Council Meeting	New Delhi

## Defence

### News: Most Important

#### 1. *Indian Army Holds Military Exercise With 17 African Nations*

Indian Army began a 10-day military exercise AFINDEX with armed forces of 17 African nations at Aundh, Maharashtra. The exercise will focus on exchange of practices b/w the nations, team building & tactical level operations in conduct of UN-mandated tasks.

#### 2. *INDO-OMAN Joint Ex Al Nagah 2019*

Indo Oman Joint Exercise Al Nagah III 2019, a two-week joint military exercise between Indian & Royal Army of Oman (RAO), commenced on 13 March at HQ Jabel Regiment, Nizwa, Oman.

#### 3. *DRDO Conducts Guided Pinaka Rocket Test*

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test-fired the multi-barrel rocket system Guided Pinaka from Pokhran range in Rajasthan for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time. The maximum range is of 40 km for Mark-I & 75 km for Mark-II.

## News: Others

### **1. *Vijit becomes the first Indian Coast Guard ship to visit Indonesia***

ICGS 'Vijit' became the first-ever Coast Guard ship to visit Sabang, Indonesia. Vijit's visit highlights strengthening cooperation in the area of maritime security and safety between New Delhi and Jakarta.

### **2. *U.S. Special Forces Hold Exercise with NSG In Hyderabad***

The United States Special Forces Group stationed in Japan conducts a joint exercise with India's National Security Guard in Hyderabad. The overall aim of the program was to enhance professionalism and the ability to operate together during times of crisis.

### **3. *Indian Air Force to participate in LIMA 2019***

Indian Air Force to participate in Langkawi International Maritime Aero Expo (LIMA) 2019 which will be held from 26 March to 30 March 2019. Indian Air Force is participating in the Maritime Aero Expo for the first time in Langkawi, Malaysia.

## **Agreements**

### News: Most Important

### **1. *GoI & ADB sign \$926 Million Loan Agreement***

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed a \$926 Million Loan Agreement today to operationalize two lines for the **Mumbai Metro Rail System**. The Project also marks ADB's first co-financing with NDB, which will provide \$260 million.

### **2. *India Signs Agreement with World Bank for \$ 25.2 M for Chhattisgarh***

The Government of India, State Government of Chhattisgarh and the World Bank signed a \$25.2 Million Loan Agreement to support the State's Reforms in Expenditure Management. The Loan from the IBRD, has a **5-year grace period**, and maturity of 10.5 years.

### **3. *New visa agreement between Maldives & India***

The new visa agreement between Maldives & India has come into force that will allow Maldivian tourists to stay in India for 90 days without a visa. Maldivians with tourist visas can also stay in India for treatment if they suffer a sudden medical issue.

### **4. *ADB to invest \$50 mn in solar project developer Avaada***

Asian Development Bank (ADB) has inked an agreement to invest \$50 mil in solar energy project developer Avaada Energy. The investment will come equally from ADB's Ordinary Capital Resources & Leading Asia's Private Infrastructure Fund(LEAP).



### 5. *SBI sign MoU with Bank of China*

SBI has signed MoU with Bank of China (BoC), the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest bank in the world by capital size to enhance business synergies between both the banks. SBI has a branch in Shanghai and BOC is opening its branch in Mumbai.

### 6. *NCGG & IICA sign an MoU*

The National Centre for Good Governance & Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs has signed an MoU. IICA will support NCGG for utilizing **infrastructure facilities during the training programme** of NCGG at Delhi & for academic & intellectual interactions.

## News: Others

### 1. *IIT Roorkee, ISRO sign MoU For Space Technology Cell*

IIT Roorkee & ISRO have signed an MoU to develop Space Technology Cells. The Space Technology Cells developed under this MoU will help & faculty members of the institute to pursue advanced research in different areas related to futuristic space technology.

### 2. *IBBI sign MoU with SEBI*

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for implementation of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (Code) and its allied rules and regulations.

### 3. *Maldives Sign Agreement with Exim Bank*

Maldives finance ministry has signed an agreement with Export-Import bank for a line of credit of \$800mil for infrastructure projects. The EXIM Bank loans come with a 1.75 percent interest rate and a 15-year repayment period after five years of moratorium.

## **Books & Authors**

### News: Most Important

#### 1. *'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas' book on PM's selected speeches*

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley released the book **Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas** - a collection of selected speeches of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the presence of Information and Broadcasting Minister Col Rajya Vardhan Rathore.

#### 2. *Former CEC Navin Chawla's book launched*

Former Vice-President Hamid Ansari launched former Chief Election Commissioner Navin Chawla's book **Every Vote Counts-The Story of India's Elections**. Navin Chawla had served as 16<sup>th</sup> Chief Election Commissioner of India in 2009.

## News: Others

### 1. Reference Annuals 'Bharat 2019' and 'India 2019' released

The 63<sup>rd</sup> edition of the popular reference annuals '**Bharat 2019**' & '**India 2019**' were released by Amit Khare, Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (MoI&B). These are published by Publications Division under the Ministry.

### 2. "Mann Ki Baat- a social revolution on radio" book released

Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley released the 50 Episodes Special Edition book "**Mann Ki Baat : A Social Revolution on Radio**" in New Delhi. According to him Mann Ki Baat is a programme that will have a tremendous recall power for years and decades to come.

Books	Authored by/brought by/Edited by
Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas	Arun Jaitley
Every Vote Counts-The Story of India's Elections	Navin Chawla
'Bharat 2019' & 'India 2019'	Amit Khare
Mann Ki Baat - A Social Revolution on Radio'	Arun Jaitley

## Science & Technology

### News: Most Important

#### 1. Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL) Launched 'Smart Garbage Bins'

SAIL has come out with smart steel garbage bins that can emit signals to the collection vehicles about the fill-up position. The smart garbage bins made up of stainless steel can also collect **unbridled garbage**.

#### 2. New solar-powered device creates water from thin air

Scientists have developed a solar-powered harvesting system that absorbs moisture from air & converts it into clean, usable water. It relies on hydrogels, gel-polymer hybrid materials designed to be super sponges that can retain large amounts of water.

#### 3. Google unveiled a video-game streaming platform 'Stadia'.

Google launched its Stadia cloud gaming service at the Game Developers Conference (GDC) in San Francisco. It will stream games from the cloud to the Chrome browser, Chromecast, and Pixel devices.

#### 4. WhatsApp and NASSCOM Foundation collaborated to tackle misinformation

WhatsApp has joined hands with NASSCOM Foundation, to tackle the challenge of misinformation. The aim of the partnership is to train 100,000 Indians to spot false information and provide tips and tricks to stay safe on WhatsApp.

## News: Others

### **1. Crew Dragon spacecraft of SpaceX marked debut unmanned flight**

SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket carried the Crew Dragon spacecraft off the NASA's Kennedy Space Centre in Florida. Flight is intended to show the transport capabilities of SpaceX for International Space Station flights in future for humans.

### **2. L&T announces new strategic initiative L&T-Nxt**

Larsen & Toubro (L&T) announced a new initiative, **L&T-Nxt**, to focus on the areas of artificial intelligence, internet of things (IoT), virtual reality, augmented reality, geospatial solutions as well as cybersecurity.

### **3. Bacteria partners with virus to cause chronic wounds**

According to a study by investigators at the Stanford University School of Medicine.

A common bacterial pathogen called *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* produces a virus that substantially increases the pathogen's ability to infect us.

## Environment

### News: Most Important

### **1. UNEA adopts India's resolutions on sustainable nitrogen management**

UNEA has adopted 2 resolutions piloted by India on single-use plastics & sustainable nitrogen management. They were adopted at 4<sup>th</sup> session of **UNEA held in Nairobi** on Innovative Solutions for Environmental Challenges & Sustainable Production & Consumption.

### **2. U.N.: Environmental threats are jeopardizing human health**

In sixth Global Environmental Outlook, released by **U.N. environmental conference** depicts that ,The Earth's condition has continued to deteriorate since the first global outlook was prepared in 1997 & urgent action at an unprecedented scale is necessary to arrest and reverse this situation.

### News: Others

### **1. Low soil moisture posing threat in most river basins**

Recent study of factors like temperature, rainfall and soil moisture affect distribution and growth of vegetation shown that forest and croplands in two-thirds of river basins across India do not have the potential to cope with extreme climatic events such as drought.

## 2. *Amount of toxins released into environment continues to decline*

According to **Virginia Department of Environmental Quality** the amount of chemicals being released into the environment each year continues to decline. In the latest Toxic Release Inventory report, the DEQ says **899.96 million pounds** of chemicals were managed, transferred or released to the environment in 2017.

## **Apps & Portals**

### News: Most Important

#### 1. *Hardeep S Puri launches e-Dharti App*

Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Housing and Urban Affairs has launched e-Dharti app which is a new online system where all the three main modules i.e. Conversion, Substitution, and Mutation have been made online.

#### 2. *CBSE launches Shiksha Vani app*

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) launched a new podcast app 'Shiksha Vani' that will disseminate crucial information to students and parents in a timely.

#### 3. *PSBloansin59minutes.com becomes largest fintech lending platform*

Web portal PSBloansin59minutes.com launched 3 months ago has emerged as the largest online lending platform, according to a report by global financial firm Credit Suisse. It provides a credit of up to Rs 1 crore to MSMEs in just 59 minutes.

#### 4. *IRCTC has launched its own digital payment aggregator called IRCTC iPay.*

The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has launched its own payment aggregator system, IRCTC iPay, a step which will help promote government's Digital India initiative.

### News: Others

#### 1. *Google Bolo App launched in India*

Google released Bolo App which is aimed to provide elementary school students access to technology like Google's speech recognition and text-to-speech to help kids learn to read in both Hindi and English. It offers 50 stories in Hindi & 40 in English.

#### 2. *Telangana government unveiled its Digital portal for MSMEs*

Telangana government launched a digital business networking portal for MSMEs Telangana State GlobalLinker ([ts-msme.globallinker.com](http://ts-msme.globallinker.com)). It would digitise over 2.3 million MSMEs of the State which would connect them to the global economy.

### Quick Revision:

App/Platform/Portal	Launched by
e-Dharti App	Hardeep S puri
Shiksha Vani	CBSE
IRCTC iPay	IRCTC
Bolo	Google
ts-msme.globallinker.com	Telangana government

## Acquisitions & Mergers

### News: Most Important

#### **1. ICICI Bank to buy 9.9% in NBFC Kisan Finance**

ICICI Bank will acquire 9.9% stake in Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC) Kisan Finance for nearly ₹18 crore. Kisan Finance, which was incorporated in December 2017, had registered a net loss of ₹48 lakh in 2017-18.

#### **2. PFC completes buyout of REC, eyes merger in FY20**

Power Finance Corporation (PFC) completed the buyout of fellow PSU Rural Electrification Corporation (REC). The next step is to enable synergies and eventually merge the two. The acquisition price of REC works out to ₹139.50 a share.

### News: Others

#### **1. NSEIT acquires Aujas cybersecurity company**

IT-services focused subsidiary of the National Stock Exchange, NSEIT recently announced its acquisition of Aujas Networks Ltd., provider of information security consulting and IT risk management services.

#### **2. WAPCOS gets CCI nod for NPCC acquisition**

The Competition Commission of India gave nod to public sector firm WAPCOS Ltd for acquiring shares of National Projects Construction Corporation (NPCC). The transaction involves the acquisition of 98.89 per cent shareholding held by the President of India.

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