



07 April – 13 April, 2019



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National News

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

- As part of the carbon-positive village project, Phayeng will receive a grant of Rs10 crore in phases to facilitate afforestation in the catchment of river Maklang that flows along the village.
- Phayeng is a scheduled caste village of the Chakpa community in Imphal West district and its conservation efforts are mainly linked to the belief that the forest is a sacred grove.
- It is surrounded by three densely forested hillocks with fruit trees at centre and a stream flowing through it.

2. India could achieve high penetration of electric vehicles by 2030: Niti Aayog

- India could achieve high penetration of electric vehicles (EV) by 2030 on the back of the success of FAME II and other measures.
- The report quantifies direct oil and carbon savings that vehicles incentivised under the FAME II would deliver.
- FAME II intends to catalyze the market for faster adoption of EVs to ensure durable economic growth and global competitiveness for India's automotive industry.

3. Chennai Central railway station renamed after AIADMK founder MGR

- The Tamil Nadu governmentreleased an official notification that Chennai Central railway Station has been officially named after former state chief minister and ruling All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam(AIADMK) founder MG Ramachandran.
- For his immense contribution to public service, M G Ramachandran was posthumously honoured with Bharat Ratna, the highest civilian award, by the Government of India in 1988.
- ♣ With the new gazette notification, the Chennai Central railway station will be hereafter called as Dr. MG Ramachandran Chennai Central railway station.

4. National Handloom Week observed from 7th April to 14th April

- It is a celebration of the country's 5,000-year old tradition of hand weaving cloths.
- On this occasion, a book named 'The Indian textile Sourcebook' authored by Avalon Fotheringham and published by Thames and Hudson will be launched on 9th April.
- The National Handloom Day is observed on 7th August every year across India. It was on this day that the Swadeshi Movement was launched in 1905.

5. SC directs EC to raise random matching of VVPAT slips

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- The Supreme Court directed the EC to increase random matching of VVPAT slips with EVMs to five polling booths per assembly segment.
- The Election Commission (EC) currently follows a system of random counting of VVPAT slips in one polling booth per assembly segment of a Parliamentary or Assembly constituency.
- The bench said the court should endeavour to find out a viable number of machines which should be subjected t
- o verification of VVPAT paper trails keeping in mind the infrastructure and manpower difficulties pointed out to it by the EC.

<mark>6. National Green Tribunal imposes Rs 100-crore penalty on Andhra Pradesh govt</mark> over illegal sand mining

- The National Green Tribunal has slapped an interim penalty of Rs 100 crore on the Andhra Pradesh government for inaction to prevent illegal sand mining in the state.
- The green panel said it is the duty of the government to provide complete protection to the natural resources as a trustee of the public at large.
- The tribunal directed the state government to deposit Rs 100 crore 'environment compensation' with the Central Pollution Control Board within a month.

7. Namami Gange gets global recognition at world summit

- The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) was awarded the distinction of "Public Water Agency of the Year" by Global Water Intelligence at the Global Water Summit in London.
- The awards recognise excellence across the international water industry and reward those initiatives in the water, waste water, and desalination sectors, which bring remarkable improvements in the lives of people.
- This programme is an integrated mission for Ganga rejuvenation. It has a comprehensive multi-sectoral intervention with multi-stakeholder involvement and adopts a basin based approach which includes Ganga and its tributaries.

8. International recognition for Utkarsha Bangla, Sabooj Sathi

- Utkarsh Bangla" and "Sabooj Sathi" projects have won the prestigious World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) awards under the aegis of the United Nations.
- 4 Out of 1062 nominations in 18 categories, "Utkarsh Bangla" got the topmost award and emerged a winner in Capacity Building category.
- Sabooj Sathi" ranked in the first five as a champion project under ICT application:E-Government category.

9. Railway Board Celebrates 64th Railway Week Function at Rail Bhawan

The 64th Railway Week Function of Railway Board was organized on 12th April, 2019 in Rail Bhavan, New Delhi.

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Shri V.K. Yadav presented the Running Efficiency Shield to Stationery and O&M Branches (jointly) of Railway Board selected as "Best Maintained Branch" for maintaining high standards of efficiency.

International News & Foreign Affairs

1. TBN Radhakrishnan Sworn In As New Chief Justice Of Calcutta High Court

- Justice T B N Radhakrishnan was sworn-in as the new Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court.
- West Bengal Governor K N Tripathi administered the oath of office to Justice Radhakrishnan in a solemn ceremony at the high court.
- ↓ Justice Radhakrishnan was earlier the Chief Justice of the High Court of Hyderabad for the states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh from July 7, 2018.

2. Nagaland observes 75th anniversary of Battle of Kohima

- The 75th anniversary of the Battle of Kohima was observed by the Nagaland government with representatives from the UK and Japan speaking on the theme of 'Remembrance, Reconciliation and Rebirth'.
- The dignitaries from the UK and Japan assembled at the programme to seek "reconciliation and forgiveness" for the "sufferings and pain" caused against each other at the Battle of Kohima, that was fought in three stages during the Second World War in 1944.
- The relationship with the UK and Japan over the last 75 years stands as a model of the power of reconciliation.

3. US and Morocco conduct F-16 training during African Lion 2019

- Personnel from the US Air Force 31st Fighter Wing and Royal Moroccan Air Force have taken part in F-16 aviation training during multilateral exercise African Lion 2019 at Ben Guerir Air Base in Morocco.
- The exercise is conducted in Morocco and Tunisia. Participants also include the armed forces of Canada, France, Senegal, Spain, and the UK.
- These exercises focus on transnational threats, regional cooperation and cybersecurity and defence.

4. "Deeply Regret Jallianwala Bagh": British PM Theresa May In Parliament

British Prime Minister Theresa May described the Jallianwala Bagh massacre in Amritsar in 1919 as a "shameful scar" on British Indian history but stopped short of a formal apology sought by a cross-section of parliament in previous debates.



- The UK government has announced that on the centenary of the massacre British high commission in New Delhi would visit the memorial site on April 13 and lay a wreath.
- In a statement, marking the 100th anniversary of the massacre, at the start of her weekly Prime Minister's Questions in the House of Commons, she reiterated the "regret" already expressed by the British government.

5. India, Sweden to provide solutions for smart cities

- India and Sweden launched a joint programme that will work towards addressing a range of challenges around smart cities and clean technologies among others.
- The programme was co-funded by Indian Department of Science and Technology (DST) and Swedish agency Vinnova.On the Indian side, conditional grant of up to 50 per cent (with a limit of Rs 1.5 crore) per project will be provided to the Indian partners.

6. Hong Kong's equity market surpasses Japan as world's third largest in value

- The city's equity market has overtaken Japan to be the world's third largest in value, behind only the U.S. and mainland China, courtesy of a rebound in Hong Kong stocks after their worst year since 2011.
- ↓ Hong Kong's market value stood at \$5.78 trillion, surpassing Japan's market value at \$5.76 trillion tally for the first time since 2015.

Bankin

1. Karnataka Bank TIEs up with Bharti Axa Life Insurance Company Limited for Life Insurance Business

- Karnataka Bank entered into Memorandum of Understanding with Bharti AXA Life Insurance Company Ltd. for distribution of latter's life insurance products.
- With 95 years of Banking experience and one among the Prominent First Generation Private Sector Banks, Karnataka Bank is into distribution of life insurance products to its customers since last 16 years.
- This is the third such tie-up by the Bank after PNB MetLife Life Insurance Co. Ltd. and LIC of India, both of which continue to provide insurance solutions to the customers of Karnataka Bank.

2. RBI issues norms for banks to set up currency chests

The Reserve Bank of India came out with guidelines for banks to set up new currency chests, which include minimum area of 1,500 square feet for strong room.

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- The central bank further said the currency chests should have CBL of Rs 1,000 crore, subject to ground realities and reasonable restrictions, at the discretion of the Reserve Bank.
- Earlier, a RBI appointed committee had recommended that the apex bank should encourage banks to open large currency chests with modern facilities and Chest Balance Limit (CBL) of at least Rs 1,000 crore.

3. BSE, HDFC Bank tie up to strengthen startup platform

- The BSENSE 0.49 % has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with HDFC BankNSE -0.49 % with an objective to strengthen the BSE Startups platform.
- The MoU has been signed to spread more awareness on the benefits of listing of startups on this BSE startup platform.
- **4** BSE is the first exchange to have launched the Start Up platform.

4. RBL Bank ties up with CreditVidya for improving customer experience

- RBL Bankhas partnered with credit profiler CreditVidya to improve the lender's customer experience.
- Through this partnership, the private sector lender will be able to gain significant insights into its customer base.
- The bank had first partnered with CreditVidya in 2018 for instant and automated verification of employment details of salaried card applicants.

5. Paisalo Digital signs first co-origination loan agreement with SBI

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

6. HDFC Bank ranked No. 1 in India by Forbes

- HDFCBank has been identified as number 1 bank by customers in India, as per Forbes World's Best Bank survey.
- In the first edition of this survey, Forbes partnered with market research firm Statista to measure the best banks in 23 countries.
- HDFC Bank has been at the forefront in leveraging technology to give its 43 million customers a superior banking experience.

New Appointments & Person in News

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1. Shah Rukh Khan receives honorary doctorate from The University of Law in London

- Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan received yet another honorary doctorates from The University of Law (London) in Philanthropy.
- He was awarded the merit during a graduation ceremony for more than 350 students.
- SRK already has honorary doctorates from The University of Bedfordshire and The University of Edinburgh.

2. SUN Group chairman Vikramjit Sahney is new president of ICC India

- SUN Group Chairman Vikramjit Singh Sahney Monday elected as the new president of International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) India.
- He said the chamber would work with the government to promote India's external trade.
- ICC was founded in the aftermath of first world war when no world system of rules covered trade, investment, finances and commercial relations.

3. Collegium recommends Justice Vikram Nath as First Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh HC

- The Supreme Court Collegium has recommended that Allahabad High Court judge, Justice Vikram Nath be appointed the first Chief Justice of the recently constituted Andhra Pradesh High Court at Amaravati.
- Justice Vikram Nath obtained his law degree in 1986. Following his enrolment in 1987, he practised in the Allahabad High Court.
- He was appointed an additional judge of the Allahabad High Court in 2004. He was made a permanent judge of the High Court in 2006.

4. Jamia Millia Islamia gets its first woman vice-chancellor

- Akhtar was appointed Vice Chancellor of New Delhi's Jamia Millia Islamia, becoming the first woman to head the 99-year-old university.
- Akhtar's appointment was approved by President Ram Nath Kovind, who also cleared the appointments of Sanjiv Sharma as Vice Chancellor of the Mahatma Gandhi Central University in Bihar.
- Professor Najma Akhtar is a gold medallist from Aligarh Muslim University. She has a Ph.D in Education from Kurukshetra University.

Science Tech & Defence

1. South Korea unveils 5G networks early to secure world first

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- South Korea unveils 5G networks early to secure world first
- South Korea's telecoms providers have turned on super-fast 5G mobile internet networks ahead of schedule, in an attempt to ensure the country is first to launch the services.
- This service is important for the future development as it is expected to bring about \$565 billion in global economic benefits by 2034.

2. A new seller-funding programme named Amazon Wings was launched by Amazon India

- A new seller-funding programme named 'Amazon Wings'launched by Amazon India to help the small businesses and entrepreneurs to raise funds through the crowd funding platform.
- Amazon India sellers can use the Ketto's platform for a subsidized fee which is around 50 percent to initiate fundraisers.
- With this initiative, the small businesses and entrepreneurs of this platform can raise the funds for their business expansion, product development, and foster innovation or community development.

3. Bis And IIT-Delhi Inks Mou On Standardisation And Conformity Assessment

- The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has inked an MoU with the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (IIT-D) to standardisation and conformity assessment.
- 4 According to the MoU, IIT Delhi will provide infrastructure support for research
- and development projects of relevance to standardisation and BIS will provide financial support to IIT Delhi for projects.
- BIS is the National Standard Body of India established under the BIS Act 2016.Surina Rajan is the Director General of BIS.

4. Biannual Army Commanders' Conference to begin in New Delhi

- The biannual Army Commanders' Conference will begin in New Delhi today. Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will deliver her opening address at the conference.
- During the conference, important issues that are likely to be discussed are the management of the extant security dynamics, mitigation of future security threats and enhancement of combat edge over potential adversaries.
- According to an official release, the Conference, chaired by Chief of the Army Staff is held biannually for formulating important policy decisions. It is an important event for the planning and execution process of the Indian Army.

5. NIRF Ranking 2019: IIT Madras ranked No. 1 in overall category

President Ramnath Kovind declared the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF India Rankings 2019) April 8, at Plenary Hall, Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

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- He also announced the Atal Ranking of Institutions for Innovation Achievements (ARIIA) 2019.
- The NIRF rankings was released for a total of 9 categories Overall, Universities, Engineering, Colleges, Management, Pharmacy, Medical, Architecture, and Law.

6. India, Singapore joint military exercise kicks off in Babina

- Military forces of India and Singapore got together to participate in a joint exercise in Babina Cantonment in Jhansi.
- The three-day exercise, 'Bold Kurukshetra-2019', is being conducted to develop military technology, boost maritime security and bolster the nations' fight against terrorism.
- As per an official press note issued by the Indian government, the two countries had signed a cooperation agreement to strengthen the defence ties between Indian Military and Singapore Armed Forces in November, 2017.

7. Veer Parivar App launched for families of martyred CRPF troops

- President Ram Nath Kovind has launched Veer Parivar App for families of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel killed in the line of duty. It was launched on the occasion of the CRPF's 'Valour Day' observed on April 9.
- The day is observed by the force every year as a remembrance of the gallant fight back by a small contingent of the 2nd Battalion of CRPF against an attack by a Pakistani Brigade at the Sardar post in Gujarat's Rann of Kutch on April 9, 1965.
- The Android-based app will be installed by the force's officials securely on the phone of the families and will not be available over the app stores.

<mark>8. Raksha mantri Smt Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurates Air force commanders'</mark> conference

- The first bi-annual Commanders' Conference of IAF for the year 2019 began at the Air Headquarters (Vayu Bhawan).
- During the two day conference, discussions and deliberations will take place in line with the theme of the conference of 'Enhancing our operational capability in the short and long term'.
- The successful strike over Balakot and air action on 27 February will also be discussed along with the latest technologies in the aviation field to make IAF a more high tech force.

9. India's education technology startup 'Dost Education' bags USD 25,000 global tech prize

India's education technology startup 'Dost Education' has bagged a USD 25,000 tech prize along with two other winners from Tanzania and Egypt.

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- Dost was awarded for its ability to empower parents to take charge of their child's early education by creating short, friendly audio content that is sent to them via their mobile phones.
- Its aim is to identify, spotlight and celebrate the world's leading EdTech startups that have shown through ingenuity and innovation that they can improve learning in parts of the world.

10. Google releases Anthos as part of new multi-cloud push

- Google this week took the wraps off Anthos, an open platform designed to give organizations the flexibility to run IT systems across multiple clouds without the need for manual modifications.
- Anthos is based on the Cloud Services Platform that was first announced at last year's Google Cloud Next, and launched as a beta earlier this year.
- The idea is to offer enterprises the seamless ability to manage workloads across cloud platforms without the need to learn new environments.

Important days

1. International Day of Sport for Development and Peace 6 April

- The United Nations' (UN) International day of Sport for Development and Peace (IDSDP) is observed annually on April 6 torecognize the power of sport in promoting peace and erasing cultural barriers worldwide.
- 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.
- Creating a a historical link to the first modern Olympic Games in 1896, 6 April was declared the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly in 2013.

2. World World Homeopathy Day 2019 observed on 10 April

- Every year World Homeopathy Day is observed on April 10, the birthday of Dr Samuel Hahnemann who discovered Homeopathy in 1796.
- Homeopathy is an alternative system of medicine based on the principle of 'Like cures like'.
- Academic homoeopathy institutes comprise 35.8% of AYUSH colleges, while homeopathy practitioners are 37% of the AYUSH in total.

3. World Aviation and Cosmonautics Day celebrated on April 12

On April 12 the whole World celebrates an Aviation and Cosmonautics Day – a date to commemorate the first ever flight of human in space.

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- On April 12, 1961 a citizen of the Soviet Union, first lieutenant Yuri Gagarin orbited the Erath onboard "Vostok" spacecraft for the first time in mankind history, thus opening the era of manned space missions.
- 4 Many countries organize a so-called Yuri's Night on April 12. The first Yuri's Night was celebrated on the 40th anniversary of the first manned flight into space in 2001.

<u>Sports</u>

1. Graham Reid appointed as India men's hockey team head coach

- The Sports Authority of India (SAI) gave its nod for the appointment of former Australian Graham Reid as the head coach of Indian men's hockey team.
- The 54-year-old Reid is likely to join the team midway through its national camp in Bengaluru, which commenced on Monday.
- His first big assignment would be the Hockey Series Finals in June, one of the qualifying events for the Tokyo Olympics.

2. Champion shot putter Manpreet Kaur banned for 4 years for failing dope tests

- Asian champion shot putter Manpreet Kaur has been banned for four years by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) for flunking four dope tests in 2017.
- 4 The period of suspension would begin from July 20, 2017, the date of her provisional suspension, according to an order of the anti-doping disciplinary panel (ADDP) of the NADA dated March 29.
- Manpreet had failed for an anabolic steroid in the Asian Grand Prix and for a stimulant in the Federation Cup, Asian championships and National inter-state championships.

Awards

1. "Global Slag Company of the Year" award was won by Tata Steel

- Tata Steel has been named as the 'Global Slag Company of the Year' at the 14th Global Slag Conference and Exhibition 2019.
- The conference held recently in Aachen, Germany is one of the largest global annual slag event, attended by major steelmakers, steel mill service providers & associated companies.
- The award has been presented to Tata Steel for its innovative practices in development of new applications for Steel by-products (Slag). The award demonstrates global recognition of Tata Steel's commitment towards sustainability & circular economy principles.

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2. General Insurance Corporation (GIC) India chief awarded Freedom of the City of London

- The Chairman and Managing Director of the General Insurance Corporation (GIC) of India Alice G. Vaidyanwas nominated for the traditional honour by the Lord Mayor of London, Peter Estlin, and City of London Corporation Policy Chair Catherine McGuinness.
- The event, which delved into areas such as India's low insurance penetration and density, was aimed as a precursor to the Global InsurTech Summit in Mumbai later in the year.
- The City of London Corporation noted that companies in the UK manage 1.8 trillion pounds worth of investments, making it the third-largest insurance industry in the world.

3. Paralympics medallist Deepa Malik wins New Zealand PM's Sir Edmund Hillary Fellowship

- Rio Paralympics silver medallist Deepa Malik was named as the recipient of the New Zealand Prime Minister's Sir Edmund Hillary Fellowship for 2019 in recognition of her "inspiring achievements".
- She became the first Indian woman to win a medal at the Paralympic Games when she bagged a silver in shot put F 53 at the Rio Paralympics in 2016, scoring her personal best of 4.61m.
- She is the only Indian woman to have won medals in three consecutive Asian Para Games in 2010, 2014 and 2018. Her tally of laurels stands at 58 national and 23 international medals.



1. Padma Shri Dr. V G Patel passed away at 79

- 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.
- The Government of India also incorporated the EDP approach as a part of its self employment schemes.
- **4** The Central Government's 'Rojgar Yojana' incorporated entrepreneurship training, based on work done by Dr. Patel.

