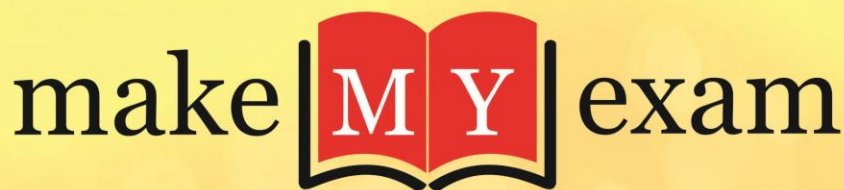


Monthly GK Capsule

April 2019



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- G.K Sessions
- Debates & discussions
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- Group discussions

National News

1. PayU acquires digital payments company Wibmo for \$70 million

- ✦ PayU, an online payment service provider and Naspers' fintech arm, announced the acquisition of Wibmo, a Cupertino, CA-based industry leader in digital payment security and mobile payment technologies.
- ✦ This acquisition will also help PayU accelerate its credit business by leveraging big data to power credit on various online and offline merchants in partnership with leading lending players.
- ✦ Wibmo will continue to operate and serve all of its clients as a wholly-owned subsidiary of Naspers' PayU under the leadership of Govind.

2. Airtel, FICCI Ladies Organisation launch women's safety app

- ✦ Telecom operator Bharti Airtel and the FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) launched a safety app My Circle - aimed at aiding women in event of distress or an emergency situation.
- ✦ The carrier-agnostic app can be installed by both Airtel and non-Airtel customers.
- ✦ "My Circle app enables women to send SOS alerts to any five of their family or friends in 13 languages including English, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, Marathi, Punjabi.

3. India drops down on World Press Freedom Index

- ✦ India has dropped two places on a global press freedom index to be ranked 140th out of 180 countries in the annual Reporters Without Borders analysis.
- ✦ The World Press Freedom Index 2019', topped by Norway, finds an increased sense of hostility towards journalists across the world.
- ✦ At the bottom of the Index, both Vietnam (176th) and China (177th) have fallen one place and Turkmenistan (down two at 180th) is now last, replacing North Korea (up one at 179th).

4. World Health Organization releases guidelines for digital health adoption

- ✦ World Health Organization (WHO) released 10 guidelines for how countries can use digital health tools to improve patient care.
- ✦ The guidelines were designed to help decision makers in government health departments, the public health sector and other stakeholders.
- ✦ The guideline demonstrates that health systems need to respond to the increased visibility and availability of information.

5. CRISIL board gives nod for transfer of ratings business to new subsidiary

- ✦ CRISIL Ltd, a diversified global analytics company, will transfer its ratings business to its proposed new wholly-owned subsidiary.

- ✦ This segregation will have no impact on CRISIL's businesses, and the financial value to CRISIL's shareholders will remain unchanged.
- ✦ CRISIL proposes to undertake the transfer of its ratings business through a scheme of arrangement in terms of Section 230 to 232 of the Companies Act, 2013.

6. The 4th Resilient Cities Asia-Pacific Congress 2019 started in New Delhi

- ✦ The 4th Resilient Cities Asia-Pacific Congress 2019 organised by the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) and co-hosted by South Delhi Municipal Corporation started in New Delhi.
- ✦ The proposed themes that have been recognised for RCAP 2019 are: Integrated climate resilience planning to manage risks and vulnerabilities, Good governance and resilience, Nature-based solutions to adaptation, Climate knowledge brokering.
- ✦ It offers a lot of innovative solutions that build resilience to climate change at the sub-national level.

7. Essel World Launches India's First Foreign Interactive Bird Park in Mumbai

- ✦ India's first foreign interactive and exotic world park was inaugurated in Mumbai. Bird lovers are up for a treat with this interactive bird park in Mumbai.
- ✦ The park is equipped with small ponds for aquatic birds, dense cover of trees for birds to incubate their eggs and a water stream that offers drinking water to birds.
- ✦ The park is spread across 1.4 acres and is home to over 500 exotic birds from more than 60 species.

8. Veera'- Indian coast guard offshore patrol vessel deployed by General Bipin Rawat

- ✦ Indian Coast Guard vessel Veera has been commissioned by General Bipin Rawat, Chief of Army Staff in the presence of Director General of Indian Coast Guard Rajendra Singh.
- ✦ This is indigenously designed and built by Larsen & Toubro Ltd. at its shipbuilding facility at Kattupali in Chennai.
- ✦ Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) is commanded by Commandant Girish Datt Raturi and managed by 12 officers and 94 men.

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. Chennai Central railway station renamed after AIADMK founder MGR

- ✦ The Tamil Nadu government released 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.

12. 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.

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

- ✦ 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 to

- ✦ o verification of VVPAT paper trails keeping in mind the infrastructure and manpower difficulties pointed out to it by the EC.

14. National Green Tribunal imposes Rs 100-crore penalty on Andhra Pradesh govt 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.

15. 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.

16. 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.
- ✦ 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.

17. 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.
- ✦ 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.

18. Punjab and Haryana High court bars stating of caste in Preceding

- ✦ The Punjab and Haryana High Court has instructed Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh not to mention the caste of the accused, victims or witnesses in proceedings before the court.
- ✦ The court has directed the Secretaries (Home) of the governments to issue instructions to all investigating officers not to mention the caste of the accused, victims or witnesses in recovery memos.
- ✦ A Bench of Justices Rajiv Sharma and Kuldip Singh, while passing a ruling in a murder case where the Haryana police had mentioned the caste of the accused, witnesses and the victim during the proceedings, noted that the caste system was profoundly illogical and was also against the basic tenets of the Constitution.

19. Agriculture institute in Malawi by India

- ✦ India on April 2, 2019 signed an agreement with the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Consultancy Service (NABCONS) for setting up the India-Africa Institute of Agriculture and Rural Development (IAIARD) in Malawi, a landlocked country in southeastern Africa.
- ✦ IAIARD will develop training programs in the areas of micro-financing and agro-financing, among others. This will be the first of its kind institute developed in an African country by India.

20. Reliance Jio buys chatbot firm Haptik in Rs 700 crore deal.

- ✦ Reliance Jio has acquired a majority stake in chatbot platform Haptik in a Rs 700-crore deal, which includes a Rs 470-crore investment for future growth of the business over four-five years.
- ✦ The deal will give an exit to majority stake owner Times Internet, which is part of the Times Group that publishes this newspaper.
- ✦ Haptik Co-founders Aakrit Vaish and Swapan Rajdev will have a minority stake i.e.13% in Haptik.

21. Election Commission launches Voter Turnout app on Google Play Store

- ✦ The Election Commission of India (ECI) has launched a new mobile app for the voters across the country to see the realtime availability of voter turnout during the election season in the country.
- ✦ The beta version of the ECI's Voter Turnout app is available for download on the Google Play Store and as of now it has been downloaded over 5,000 times.
- ✦ This app would increase transparency of information pertaining to the voter turnout in public while ensuring that the same information is available easily for the media.

22. Ministry of AYUSH inked Memorandum of Understanding with CSIR

- ✦ The Ministry of AYUSH inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), New Delhi for cooperation

in research and education in areas of traditional systems of medicine and its integration with modern science.

- ✦ Under the agreement, both CSIR and Ayush Ministry jointly endeavour to proceed in the activities likeresearch and Development.
- ✦ TheMinistry and CSIR aims to bring the organisations under an umbrella understanding for pursuing focused R&D efforts in the domain.

23. Reliance retail became 1st Indian retail company to cross Rs 1 lakh crore in annual revenues

- ✦ The retail venture of Reliance Industries reported an income of Rs 1,30,556 crore for 2018-19, 89% more than the previous year's Rs 69,198 crore.
- ✦ Mukesh Ambani led Reliance Retail also became the first Indian retailer to cross more than 10,000 stores. It operates 10,415 retail stores in more than 6,600 cities and towns, covering an area of over 22 million sq ft, as on March 31.

24. First edition of Naval Commanders' Conference scheduled at New Delhi

- ✦ The first edition of Naval Commanders' Conference of 2019 is all set to begin in New Delhi from April 23.
- ✦ The conference, which would continue till April 25, is the apex forum within the Service for interaction between the Naval Commanders.
- ✦ The Conference assumes greater significance in the backdrop of Pulwama associated events that have brought country's defence under sharper focus.
- ✦ The themes 'Functional Reorganisation of Indian Navy towards improving Operational Efficiency' and 'Optimal Manning' would form the core of discussions towards finalising long term road map for the IN.

25. Iran, Pakistan to set up border 'reaction force' after attacks

- ✦ Iran and Pakistan have agreed to set up a joint border "reaction force" following a spate of deadly attacks by militant groups on their frontier.
- ✦ The border skirts the volatile southeastern Iranian province of Sistan-Baluchistan which has been the scene of frequent attacks on Iran's security forces.
- ✦ Pakistan is a close ally of the United States and Saudi Arabia, both of which have ratcheted up pressure on Iran over its alleged meddling in regional affairs.

26. SEBI reduces minimum subscription requirement for InvITs, REITs

- ✦ Markets regulator Sebi has reduced the minimum subscription requirement as well as defined trading lots for Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) and Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs).
- ✦ The minimum value of a single lot should be Rs 1 lakh in the case of InvITs.
- ✦ The amendments are aimed at providing flexibility to the issuers in terms of fundraising and increasing the access of these investment vehicles to investors.

International News & Foreign Affairs

1. The Eu Approved a ban on Single-Use Plastics

- ✦ The European parliament voted to support plans for the elimination of most uses of single-use plastic, ranging from cutlery and straws to coffee stirrers and plastic plates.
- ✦ It's a significant step that could encourage other governments around the globe to also commit to reducing the amount of plastics that end up in landfills, waterways, and oceans.

2. India, Chile sign MoUs

- ✦ India and Chile released a Joint Statement after extensive talks between Indian President Ram Nath Kovind and the President of Chile, Sebastian Pinera Echenique, during the former's official state visit to Chile from March 30 to April 1, 2019. This is the third leg of the President's three-nation tour which included Croatia and Bolivia.
- ✦ During the visit, President Kovind participated in India-Chile Business Forum and interacted with young scientists at the University of Chile.
- ✦ Then he held detailed discussions with the Chilean President, which led to the signing of three MoUs for cooperation in the fields of mining, culture and empowerment of persons with disabilities. The agreements aim to further enhance engagement in economic, social and cultural fields between the two countries.

3. Japan's New Imperial Era Name: Reiwa

- ✦ Japan is one of the last nations in Asia to adhere to traditional era names, in addition to the modern Gregorian calendar, each having legal status.
- ✦ Since 1868, these era names have been tied to imperial reigns and become the formal name of the Emperor after death.
- ✦ The neologism is taken from a poem in the Manyōshū, the oldest Japanese anthology of poetry, which dates back to around 760 CE.

4. US approves sale of 24 MH 60 Romeo Seahawk helicopters to India

- ✦ The Trump administration has approved the sale of 24 multi-role MH-60 Romeo Seahawk helicopters to India at an estimated cost of 2.4 billion US dollars.
- ✦ It is considered the world's most advanced maritime helicopter. The choppers will provide the Indian defence forces with the capability to perform anti-surface and anti-submarine warfare missions.
- ✦ In its notification, the State Department told the Congress that this proposed sale will support the foreign policy of the US by helping to strengthen the US-Indian strategic relationship.

5. New Palestinian authority govt led by PM Mohammed Ishtayeh sworn in

- ✦ A new government for the West Bank-based Palestinian Authority has been sworn-in.
- ✦ President Mahmoud Abbas picked Mohammed Ishtayeh as the Prime Minister, a move that is being said to have deepened the internal Palestinian divide at a time when prospects for a peace deal with Israel are possibly at their lowest point ever.
- ✦ The UN Middle East envoy Nickolay Mladenov has expressed hoped that the new government would receive support to overcome internal divisions.

6. 2019 Pulitzer Prizes Are Announced By Columbia University

- ✦ The Pulitzer Prize is an award for achievements in newspaper, magazine and online journalism, literature, and musical composition in the United States.
- ✦ Winners were picked in 14 journalism categories plus 7 in arts, letters and music. Each prize gets \$15,000 and the Public Service winner, the South Florida Sun-Sentinel, also received a gold medal.
- ✦ 2019 Pulitzer Prize winners: Public service- Staff of the South Florida Sun Sentinel, Criticism -Carlos Lozada of The Washington Post, Editorial writing- Brent Staples of the New York Times.

7. Saudi Arabia to host G20 leaders' summit in November 2020

- ✦ Saudi Arabia will host the annual G20 leaders' summit on November 21-22, 2020, in its capital, Riyadh.
- ✦ The G20 is made up of 19 of the world's biggest economies, as well as the European Union. It formed in 1999 to discuss policy matters and financial stability.
- ✦ Japan will host this year's G20 summit in Osaka, which will be held June 28-29, as well as ministerial meetings in eight cities.

8. Mukesh Ambani among TIME's list of 100 most influential people

- ✦ Mukesh Ambani and public-interest litigators Arundhati Katju and Menaka Guruswamy, are among the Indians who have been named by TIME magazine in its prestigious list of the 100 most influential people in the world.
- ✦ The list includes Indian-American comedian and TV host Hasan Minhaj, US President Donald Trump, Pope Francis, Chinese President Xi Jinping, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, iconic golfer Tiger Woods and Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg.

9. Israel's President Formally Nominates Benjamin Netanyahu as Prime Minister

- ✦ Israel's president formally nominated Benjamin Netanyahu for a fourth consecutive term as prime minister.
- ✦ The move was widely expected after Netanyahu's Likud party and its right-wing allies captured a majority of seats in parliamentary elections.

- ✦ He became the leader of Likud in 1993 and won the 1996 elections, becoming Israel's youngest-ever Prime Minister, serving his first term from June 1996 to July 1999.

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. 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.

13. "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.

14. 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.

15. 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.

16. India Rises To 17th Spot From 37th in StartupBlink's Startup Ecosystem Ranking

- ✦ India ranks 17 globally among 100 countries, based on the strength of its startup ecosystem, according to StartupBlink, which tracks startup ecosystems on a number of parameters.
- ✦ In terms of global rankings, the top three spots remained unchanged with the United States, United Kingdom and Canada taking the first, second and third rank respectively.
- ✦ Bengaluru, New Delhi, and Mumbai are the cities with the most vibrant startup ecosystems in India.

17. India Is Ranked At 19 Out Of 28 Countries In The Index Of Cancer Preparedness (ICP)

- ✦ India is ranked at 19 out of 28 countries in the Index of Cancer Preparedness (ICP) released by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).
- ✦ Australia tops the ICP, followed by the Netherlands and Germany.
- ✦ Its objective To allow benchmarking of national efforts and identify best practice in addressing the cancer challenge.

18. India and France to hold largest ever 'Varuna' naval exercise off Goa coast

- ✦ With the objective of expanding their strategic partnership in the Indian Ocean region (IOR), India and France will conduct their largest ever naval exercise 'Varuna'.
- ✦ The exercise is expected to involve aircraft carriers, destroyer ships, submarines and also fighter planes, thus making it a mega event to happen in the history of relationship between the two nations.

- ✦ The Indian participation will also include the destroyer INS Mumbai, frigate INS Trikand with their integral helicopters, IN submarine Kalvari, P8-I aircrafts and Dornier Maritime Patrol aircraft.

19. Saudi Arabia increases India's Haj Quota to 2 lakh

- ✦ Saudi Arabia has issued a formal order increasing the Haj quota of India to two lakhs from one lakh seventy five-thousand.
- ✦ The decision will ensure that all the Haj applicants from big states like Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Bihar can embark pilgrimage this year as their waiting lists have been cleared due to the increase in quota.
- ✦ This year, the GST on Haj pilgrimage has been reduced from 18 percent to 5 percent.

20. India to be guest country at Abu Dhabi book fair

- ✦ 29th edition of the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair (ADIBF) started and will conclude on 30th April at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre.
- ✦ The fair aims to highlight the UAE's rich heritage, showcase its authenticity, and cultural. The fair will involve over 1000 participants from more than 50 countries and 30 publishing houses from India are taking part in the fair.
- ✦ India has been selected as the official guest of honour for this year's book fair, with at least 40 Indian publishing companies set to take part.

21. World's first malaria vaccine launched in Africa

- ✦ The world's first malaria vaccine has been rolled out in Malawi to protect 360,000 children under two in Malawi, Kenya and Ghana in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- ✦ This vaccine — called RTS,S — is one of the few immunizations designed and launched specifically to help young children in Africa.
- ✦ The vaccine took more than 30 years — and more than \$500 million — to develop. It was an international collaboration among WHO, PATH, the pharmaceutical company GlaxoSmithKline and a network of African countries.

22. Russia successfully tests world's first floating nuclear power plant 'Akademik Lomonosov'

- ✦ Russia has successfully tested the world's first floating nuclear power plant (NPP), a subsidiary of Rosatom nuclear corporation.
- ✦ Akademik Lomonosov is 144 metres in length, 30 metres wide and has a displacement of 21,000 tonnes.
- ✦ These tests confirmed the operational stability of the main and auxiliary equipment of the plant, as well as the automatic process control systems.

23. Indonesia releases special stamp on theme of Ramayana

- ✦ Indonesia released a special commemorative stamp on the theme of Ramayana to mark the 70th anniversary of establishment of its diplomatic ties with India.
- ✦ The stamp, designed by renowned Indonesian sculptor Padmashri Bapak Nyoman Nuarta, featured a scene from Ramayana in which Jatayu valiantly fought to save Sita.
- ✦ A specially signed version of the stamp will be on display at the Philately Museum in Jakarta.

24. WHO issues first-ever screen time guidelines for children under 5

- ✦ The World Health Organisation (WHO) has released new guidelines on physical activity, sedentary and sleep for children under 5 years of age.
- ✦ The UN health agency also issued its first-ever guidance for how much screen time children should be allowed - limited and none at all for one-year-olds.
- ✦ The guidelines are designed to reduce inactive behaviour and thereby overcome obesity, overweight, diabetes, hypertension and some forms of cancer.

25. Microsoft becomes world's third company to be worth \$1 trillion

- ✦ Microsoft has reached a valuation of one trillion dollars for the first time after posting a 19pc increase in profits.
- ✦ It makes the software giant only the third publicly-traded company in history to reach the threshold, after Apple and Amazon passed it last year.
- ✦ Apple and Amazon are the only companies to have previously cracked the trillion-dollar milestone, before their shares plummeted, along with global markets in late-2018.

26. Vladimir Putin, Kim Jong Un hold first-ever talks

- ✦ Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un holds first-ever talks at the Far Eastern Federal University Campus.
- ✦ The talks involve China, Japan, Russia, the US along with North Korea and South Korea.
- ✦ The aim of this meeting is to break the deadlock over North Korea's nuclear weapons programme.

27. Etihad becomes first airline in the Gulf to operate plastic-free flight

- ✦ The UAE's flag carrier Etihad Airways has become the first airline in the Gulf region to operate a flight without any single-use plastics on board, in a bid to raise awareness about pollution on Earth Day.
- ✦ The milestone flight is part of Etihad's pledge to reduce single-use plastic usage by 80 per cent not just in-flight, but across the entire organisation by the end of 2022.
- ✦ According to the Abu Dhabi-based national airline of the UAE, the flight EY484 landed in Brisbane on April 22, Earth Day.

Banking

1. Bank of Baroda becomes second largest PSU bank after SBI

- ✦ Bank of Baroda (BoB) became the second largest state-owned lender after merging Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank into itself as part of the first three-way amalgamation.
- ✦ The consolidated entity started its operation with a business mix of over Rs 15 lakh crore of balance sheet, with deposits and advances of Rs 8.75 lakh crore and Rs 6.25 lakh crore, respectively.
- ✦ Government has also infused Rs 5,042 crore into Bank of Baroda by way of preferential allotment of equity shares.

2. Reliance Mutual Fund customers can now carry out voice-based transactions

- ✦ Customers of Reliance Mutual Fund can now carry out voice-based financial transactions, with Reliance Nippon Life Asset Management (RNAM) partnering with internet major- Google.
- ✦ For the first time in India, Reliance Mutual Fund for its customers is introducing a conversational interface that would help customers shop with the fund just by listening and speaking to your smartphone or digital device through a series of voice commands.
- ✦ In the first phase, the functionality would be launched in Reliance Simply Save app for the customers and then subsequently in Google Assistant platform for access by all existing and potential investor.

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

- ✦ ICICI Securities appointed Vijay Chandok as an additional director and as a Managing Director and CEO of the company.
- ✦ The board of directors of the company have approved the appointment of Vijay Chandok as an additional director and as a Managing Director and CEO of the company with effect from May 7, 2019.
- ✦ He is also on the boards of ICICI Bank UK PLC and ICICI Bank Canada.

4. RBI cuts repo rate by 25 bps to 6% for second time in row

- ✦ The Reserve Bank of India on Thursday cut the repo rate by another 25 basis points to 6 per cent.
- ✦ The move will cheer markets and investors and is the second consecutive rate cut by the RBI.
- ✦ It has also maintained the policy stance neutral and lowered the retail inflation and GDP forecasts.

5. RBI makes NPA divergence rule easier for banks

- ✦ Reserve Bank of India has made life a little bit easier for banks by tweaking the bad loan divergence rule.
- ✦ Banks' disclosure of divergence practice mandated by RBI aims at improving transparency in asset classification and preventing under-reporting of bad loans.
- ✦ Earlier, the public financial statements with material divergences in banks' asset classification and provisioning from RBI rule did not depict the true and fair view of the financial position of the bank.

6. Canara Bank becomes the first public sector bank in India to meet RBI's EMV mandate

- ✦ ACI Worldwide, a global provider of realtime electronic payment and banking solutions, announced that Canara Bank has successfully rolled out major new functionality to support EMV card acquiring across its ATM network and Aadhaar Authentication, leveraging ACI's UP Retail Payments solution to achieve market firsts.
- ✦ The EMV shift, as in other major global markets, is aimed at reducing lost and stolen card fraud and making counterfeit card fraud more difficult.
- ✦ The prime objective of the EMV shift is to reduce fraud of lost and stolen card and make forging of card fraud more difficult.

7. The IMF and World Bank launches "Learning Coin" to explore blockchain technologies

- ✦ The two global financial agencies The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank want to gain insights into how blockchain and cryptocurrencies work.
- ✦ To get a better understanding of the subject, they launched a private blockchain and quasi-cryptocurrency called "Learning Coin", the Financial Times reports.
- ✦ The World Bank and IMF emphasised that this project should not be regarded as a way to promote cryptocurrencies as it is focused on knowledge and educational aspects.

8. Bandhan Bank gets CCI nod for merger with Gruh Finance

- ✦ Bandhan Bank has received approval from the Competition Commission of India (CCI) for the proposed scheme of amalgamation of Gruh Finance with the bank.
- ✦ Bandhan Bank had, in January, announced the merger of Gruh Finance with it. The move was taken to bring down promoter holding in the bank to 61 per cent from 82.3 per cent.
- ✦ The bank, which had received RBI nod for the scheme, had recently got approval from the BSE and the NSE.

9. Exim Bank funds projects worth USD 267 mn in Rawanda

- ✦ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Stated that Exim Bank has proffered soft loans worth 266.6\$ million to Rwanda for various projects.
- ✦ The funding, done in three separate tranches to Rawanda, is to support agricultural projects, development of special economic zones (SEZs) and for financing road project in the African nation.
- ✦ According to the agreements, Exim Bank will provide USD 100 million for financing the development of two SEZs and expansion of the Kigali SEZ in Rwanda.

10. RBI proposes to allow fintech start-ups to test regulatory sandbox

- ✦ The Reserve Bank of India proposed that fintech start-ups could set up regulatory sandbox or live-testing of innovative products and services in segments such as retail payments, money transfer, artificial intelligence and data analytics in the financial sector.
- ✦ The innovative products and services which could be considered for testing under RS include retail payments, money transfer services, marketplace lending, digital KYC and financial advisory services.
- ✦ The objective of RS is to provide a formal regulatory programme for testing new products and services with a customers in a live environment.

11. Deutsche Bank appoints Kaushik Shaparia as CEO to succeed Ravneet Gill

- ✦ Deutsche Bank appointed Kaushik Shaparia as the chief executive officer for India to succeed Ravneet Gill. Gill left the bank to head private lender YES Bank earlier this year.
- ✦ Shaparia served as Asia Pacific Head of Corp-orate Banking Coverage within Institu-tio-nal and Treasury Coverage, as well as Global Head of Subsidiary.
- ✦ Headquarters: Germany

12. IDBI Bank launches paperless account opening facility for NRIs

- ✦ Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), living in nearly 40 countries, will now be able to open account in IDBI Bank without submitting paper documents.
- ✦ IDBI Bank has launched the 'NRI-Insta-Online' account-opening process for NRIs residing in Financial Action Task Force (FATF) member countries.
- ✦ The person will not be required to furnish physical documents and KYC proofs for opening an account with the bank.

13. 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.

14. 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.
- ✦ 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.

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

- ✦ The BSE 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.
- ✦ BSE is the first exchange to have launched the Start Up platform.

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

- ✦ RBL Bank has 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.

17. 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.
- ✦ The company expects to disburse 200,000 loan applications in FY20.

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

- ✦ HDFC Bank 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.

19. Govt leaves interest rate on small-saving schemes unchanged

- ✦ The finance minister decided to keep the interest rate unchanged on small savings schemes for the three-month period beginning April 1.
- ✦ The announcement covers small-saving schemes such as the Post Office Saving Accounts, Post Office Time Deposits, the National Saving Certificates (NSC), the Public Provident Fund (PPF), the Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP) and Sukanya Samridhi.
- ✦ The unchanged interest rate means the NSC (5 years) and the PPF (15 years) will fetch 8 per cent interest, while money deposited in KVP will double in little over nine years.

20. Airtel Payments Bank partners with Bharti AXA General Insurance for two-wheeler insurance

- ✦ Airtel Payments Bank announced it has teamed up with Bharti AXA General Insurance for a two-wheeler insurance product offering.
- ✦ The offering entails personal accident cover, protection against third-party liabilities and inspection-free renewal through a fast, paperless process.
- ✦ Sanjeev Srinivasan, managing director and chief executive officer of Bharti AXA General Insurance, said the partnership shall provide the company a massive reach and help offer cost-effective two-wheeler insurance to a wider audience.

21. Bajaj Allianz launches Total Health Secure Goal plan

- ✦ Bajaj Allianz General Insurance and Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance in collaboration launched their first product 'Total Health Secure Goal'.
- ✦ The new insurance product is a combination of two existing plans - Health Guard policy by Bajaj Allianz General Insurance, and iSecure from Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance.
- ✦ This insurance plan is designed to take care of customers' health and life goals, through one comprehensive insurance policy.

22. Govt raises authorised capital of Allahabad Bank to Rs 8,000 cr

- ✦ State-owned Allahabad Bank government has increased its authorised capital by Rs 500 crore to 8000 Crore.
- ✦ The increase in authorised capital will help enable the bank to raise further fund up to a maximum ceiling of Rs 8,000 crore.

- ✦ Allahabad Bank Headquarter- Kolkata

23. Money Loji' launches App that offers loans to salaried professionals within 5 minutes

- ✦ Money Loji, a modern money lending platform, has launched its App, which offers quickest and the most secure loans to salaried professionals for an immediate requirement and repayment options starting from 7 days to a maximum of 90 days.
- ✦ They follow a unique three-step process - application, approval, disbursement, which is carried out within 3-4 minutes.
- ✦ The eligibility criterion is a minimum in-hand salary of Rs 20,000 per month and a minimum age of 23 years.

24. IndusInd Bank receives NCLT approval for merger with Bharat Financial Inclusion

- ✦ National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) approved merger of private sector lender IndusInd Bank with Bharat Financial Inclusion (BFIL), a microfinance company.
- ✦ IndusInd Bank Ltd's share price is currently at Rs1,686.85, up by Rs32.25 or 1.95%, from its previous close of Rs1,654.60 on the BSE.

25. SBI Launches Green Car Loan on The Occasion of World Earth Day

- ✦ In an effort to encourage customers to buy electric vehicle, the country's largest lender, State Bank of India (SBI) launched India's first 'Green Car Loan' (Electric Vehicle).
- ✦ The scheme comes with the longest repayment period of up to eight years is a strategic inclusion to the bank's auto loan segment would be offered with zero processing fee for the first six months of the launch.
- ✦ Bank will offer loan at 20 bps lesser than the interest rate on the existing car loan schemes.

New Appointments & Person in News

1. Rima Das becomes Ambassador of Toronto International Film Festival's 'Share Her Journey'

- ✦ Rima Das joins Toronto International Film Festival's Share Her Journey as their official ambassador.
- ✦ TIFF launched the 5-year campaign in 2017 with a view to increase participation, skills, and opportunities for women behind and in front of the camera.

- ✦ The woman behind 'Village Rockstars', India's Official Entry to Oscars 2019 would like to see more and more women in the industry break the glass ceiling.

2. Google India Head Rajan Anandan Resigned

- ✦ Rajan Anandan, vice president for Google India and South East Asia, and essentially heading Google in India, is leaving the company after an eight-year stint. Anandan had joined Google from Microsoft India in 2010.
- ✦ Vikas Agnihotri, who is currently serving as Google's country director for sales, will take on the interim responsibility until the company finds a new managing director.

3. Chinese Grand Prix 2019: Lewis Hamilton wins F1's 1000th race

- ✦ Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes won Chinese Grand Prix, beating teammate and pole sitter Valtteri Bottas with a quicker start from his No. 2 spot on the grid. It was his sixth victory in the Shanghai race.
- ✦ Hamilton, the five-time and defending champion, led for the entire race after the quick start for his 75th career victory. It also moved him into the lead in the overall standings after three races.

3. Dr Suhel Ajaz khan appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Lebanon

- ✦ Dr. Suhel Ajaz Khan presently Deputy Chief of Mission in the Embassy of India, Riyadh, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Lebanon.
- ✦ He completed MBBS from Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Medical college, Indore.

4. Mithali Raj named goodwill ambassador of Team India at the Street Child Cricket World Cup

- ✦ Indian women's cricket team captain Mithali Raj has been named the goodwill ambassador of Team India at the Street Child Cricket World Cup (SCCWC).
- ✦ The Street Child Cricket World Cup 2019 SCCWC is the first cricket world cup for street-connected children.
- ✦ The tournament is being organised by Street Child United (SCU), a UK based organization.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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.

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

- ✦ National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration Professor Najma 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.

9. Dubai based 'RAKEZ' appointed Cricket Champion Ravi Shastri as a Corporate Ambassador

- ✦ "Champion of Champions", Former Cricketer Ravi Shastri appointed as Ras Al Khaimah Economic Zone (RAKEZ) exclusive Corporate Ambassador to the Indian Business Community.
- ✦ Ravi Shastri played for the India National Cricket Team between 1981 and 1992 in both Tests and One-Day Internationals (ODIs) and was a member of India's World Cup winning team in 1983.
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10. Hamied elected Honorary Fellow of Royal Society

- ✦ Cipla chairman Yusuf Hamied has been elected an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Society, U.K. for his service to the cause of science.
- ✦ The Society is a Fellowship of the world's most eminent scientists and is the oldest scientific academy in continuous existence.
- ✦ Dr. Hamied graduated with honours from Cambridge University in 1957 and continued a Ph.D in 1960 under the tutelage of Nobel Laureate Alexander Todd.

11. Twitter appoints Manish Maheshwari as new India MD

- ✦ Twitter announced that it has appointed Manish Maheshwari as the new managing director for India.
- ✦ Last year, Taranjeet Singh had stepped down as the India Country Director and Balaji Krish was given charge of leading the country's operations in the interim period.
- ✦ India is among one of the biggest markets for internet companies like Facebook, Google and Twitter, given the large base of young population.

12. Nasim Zaidi resigns as non-independent director of Jet Airways board

- ✦ Jet Airways non-executive and non-independent director Nasim Zaidi has quit the board, citing personal reasons and time constraints.
- ✦ Zaidi, the former Chief Election Commissioner of India (ECI) and ex-civil aviation secretary, joined the Jet Airways board in August last year.
- ✦ Jet Airways temporarily ceased all its operations, and now is under the management control of State Bank of India-led consortium of lenders following a debt-recast plan approved by its board.

13. Karnam Sekar has been appointed as Indian Overseas Bank's new MD & CEO

- ✦ Dena Bank's former Managing Director Karnam Sekar has been appointed as the new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Indian Overseas Bank.
- ✦ At Indian Overseas Bank, he will take over the charge from R Subramaniakumar, who had played a pivotal role in initiating measures to turn around the bank, which has been reporting losses owing to high Non-Performing Assets.
- ✦ Earlier, he was associated with the State Bank of India (SBI) as its Deputy Managing Director and Chief Credit Officer heading its highest Credit Committee.

14. Ex-Army Chief Dalbir Singh Suhag named Indian High Commissioner to Seychelles

- ✦ Former Indian Army Chief General Dalbir Singh Suhag has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Seychelles.

- ✦ Dalbir Singh Suhag was the Army Chief when the Special Forces commandoes of the Indian Army conducted surgical strikes at terrorist launch pads inside Pakistan Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.
- ✦ The strikes took place in the aftermath of the terrorist attack at an Army Camp in Uri, in which at least 20 soldiers of the Indian Army lost their lives.

15. Siddhartha Mohanty appointed as COO of LIC Housing Finance

- ✦ Siddhartha Mohanty has been appointed as its chief operating officer by LIC Housing Finance.
- ✦ Mohanty started his career as a direct recruit officer with LIC of India in 1985 and has risen through the ranks to this senior position.
- ✦ Prior to taking over as the position, he was executive director with LIC of India.

Science Tech & Defence

1. GAIL, BHEL sign pact for development of solar power projects

- ✦ State-owned gas utility GAIL India Ltd has signed an agreement with Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) for cooperation in the development of solar power projects.
- ✦ BHEL shall also provide operation and maintenance services during the initial period upon becoming successful bidder.
- ✦ BHEL is one of the few companies in the world, and only company in India, having the capability to manufacture the entire range of power plant equipment.

2. Four Indigenous 'Dhanush' Howitzers Inducted Into Indian Army

- ✦ In a major fire-power boost for the country, four indigenous 'Dhanush' Howitzer guns were inducted to the Indian Army at a ceremony held at the Ordnance factory in Jabalpur.
- ✦ The Dhanush guns have been tested to withstand extreme conditions like rainfall and snow, and have also been built for use in multiple terrains, from plains, to sand and especially in hilly areas.
- ✦ The Dhanush gun system is based on designs of the Bofors howitzer which was inducted in the Army in 1980s and would be the third type of artillery gun to be inducted into the force after the K-9 Vajra and the M-777 ultra-light.

3. ISRO's PSLV C45 places DRDO defence satellite EMISAT along with 28 nano satellites in orbit

- ✦ ISRO's PSLV C45 lifted off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, carrying India's EMISAT defence satellite along with 28 nano satellites of global customers.

- ✦ As the 27-hour countdown concluded, the nearly 50-metre tall rocket, a new variant of ISRO's trusted work horse PSLV-QL, blasted off from the second launch pad at the spaceport of Sriharikota at 9:27 am.
- ✦ The mission marks several firsts to the credit of the space agency as it would manoeuvre satellites in various orbits and orbital experiments, including on maritime satellite applications.

4. Rear Admiral Suraj Berry takes over as Command of Eastern Fleet

- ✦ Rear Admiral Suraj Berry, NM, VSM took over as the Command of Eastern Fleet, the Sword Arm of the Eastern Naval Command from Rear Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi.
- ✦ The Eastern Fleet under him also participated in various bilateral exercises, most notable being INDRA-18 with the Russian Federation Navy, JIMEX-18 with the Japanese Navy and the 25th edition of SIMBEX with the Republic of Singapore Navy.
- ✦ Rear Admiral Tripathi has been placed in the select list for promotion
- ✦ to Vice Admiral and is headed to New Delhi as the Assistant Director-General, Project Seabird. (ANI).

5. PSLV-C45 successfully launches EMISAT and 28 customer satellites

- ✦ India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C45) successfully launched EMISAT and 28 international customer satellites from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR in Sriharikota.
- ✦ This flight marked the first mission of PSLV-QL, a new variant of PSLV with four strap-on motors.
- ✦ PSLV-C45 lifted off at 9:27 Hrs (IST) from the Second Launch Pad and injected India's EMISAT into a 748 km sun-synchronous polar orbit, 17 minutes and 12 seconds after liftoff.

6. Shanghai becomes world's first district with 5G coverage

- ✦ Shanghai claimed it has become the world's first district using both 5G coverage and broadband gigabit network as China seeks to establish lead over the US and other countries in the race to develop next generation cellular mobile communications.
- ✦ 5G is the next generation of cellular technology with download speeds that are 10 to 100 times faster than 4G LTE networks.
- ✦ The 5G stations are being installed in different parts of China, including Tibet, as part of Huawei's plans to lead the 5G trials despite the opposition.

7. Bilateral Maritime Exercise 'AUSINDEX-19' begins

- ✦ The third edition of bilateral maritime exercise 'AUSINDEX-19' began on 2 April between India and Australia at Visakhapatnam.
- ✦ The objective of this exercise is to 'strengthen and enhance mutual cooperation and interoperability between the Indian Navy and Royal Australian Navy, providing opportunities for interaction and exchange of professional views between the personnel of the two navies'.
- ✦ The third edition would involve exercises in all three dimensions with focus on Anti-Submarine Warfare Systems (ASW). This year, the number of participating units of both the navies in the bilateral exercise is the highest till date.

8. China Launches Its 2nd Generational Data Relay Satellite, Tianlian II-01

- ✦ China has successfully launched the first of its new-generation data relay satellite, Tianlian II-01 into orbit that will provide data relay, measurement, and control services for its manned spacecraft.
- ✦ It was launched by a Long March-3B carrier rocket from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in southwest China's Sichuan Province.

9. CMFRI joins hands with ISRO to protect coastal wetlands

- ✦ The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) have joined hands to map, validate and protect smaller wetlands in the coastal belt of the country.
- ✦ As per the MoU, the two scientific institutes will identify and demarcate wetlands, and restore the degraded wetlands through suitable livelihood options like coastal aquaculture.
- ✦ The collaborative move is part of a national framework for fisheries and wetlands recently developed by the National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) project of CMFRI.

10. Airtel confirms it has received conditional nod for merger with TTSL

- ✦ Bharti Airtel has confirmed that it has received in-principal approval from the telecom department for merger with Tata Teleservices.
- ✦ As per the agreement -Airtel will take in the Tata Group-owned telco's consumer mobile operations in 19 telecom circles.
- ✦ The deal will allow the Tata Group to rid itself of the loss-making mobility business, which has been a drag on the group's finances.

11. 2nd Edition of Indian Navy-Vietnam Peoples' Navy Bilateral Exercise 'In - VPN Bilat Ex' Concludes

- ✦ In the backdrop of the growing maritime engagement between India and Vietnam, the Indian Navy undertook the second edition of the bilateral maritime exercise between Indian Navy and Vietnam Peoples.
- ✦ The exercise was undertaken as a part of the ongoing Overseas Deployment of Eastern Fleet ships to South East Asian countries.

- ✦ The Indian Navy-Vietnam Peoples' Navy Bilateral Exercise is a significant step in further strengthening mutual confidence and inter-operability as well as sharing best practices between the Indian and the Vietnam Peoples' Navies.

12. NASA's Cassini Reveals Disappearing Lakes on Saturn's Titan Moon

- ✦ Fresh findings from NASA's Cassini mission shed light on the bizarre "water cycle" of Saturn's largest moon.
- ✦ Scientists suspect the lakes were formed when surrounding bedrock chemically dissolved and collapsed a process which occurs with a certain type of lake on Earth.
- ✦ Titan is the most Earth-like body in the solar system. It has lakes, canyons, rivers, dune fields of organic sand particles about the same size as silica sand grains on Earth.

13. Nepal launches its first satellite from USA

- ✦ Nepal successfully launched its first satellite NepaliSat-1 into space from America, evoking unbridled excitement among the people and scientists.
- ✦ The satellite developed by the Nepalese scientists was launched at 2:31 am (Nepal time) from Virginia in United States, according to Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST).
- ✦ NepaliSat-1 is a low orbit satellite which will be in the 400-km distance from the Earth's surface.

14. Gagandeep Kang is the first Indian woman scientist to be elected Royal Society Fellow in 360 years

- ✦ Dr Gagandeep Kang, who is purportedly the first woman scientist from India to have received this honour, while Mumbai-born Padma Bhushan awardee Dr Yusuf Hamied was elected as Honorary Fellow.
- ✦ Gagandeep Kang is the executive director of Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI), Faridabad.
- ✦ Apart from Hamied and Kang, four other Indian scientists became Royal Fellows.

15. Sri Lanka's 1st satellite 'Raavana-1' launched into space

- ✦ Sri Lanka's first satellite 'Raavana-1' was launched into space from NASA's Flight Facility on Virginia's east shore. 'Raavana 1' weights around 1.05 kg and the lifespan of the satellite is around one and a half years.
- ✦ The satellite was designed and built at the Kyushu Institute of Technology in Japan by two Sri Lankan research engineers.

16. NASA Chooses SpaceX to Launch Asteroid-Walloping Mission

- ✦ The company's Falcon Heavy rocket aced its first-ever commercial mission, lofting the huge Arabsat-6A communications satellite and sticking three first-stage booster landings, one of them on a ship at sea.
- ✦ The total launch cost for NASA will be about \$69 million, agency officials said.
- ✦ NASA announced that SpaceX will fly its Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) planetary-defense mission.

17. India successfully test fires sub-sonic cruise missile 'Nirbhay'

- ✦ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully test fired 1,000 km strike range sub-sonic cruise missile named 'Nirbhay' from Odisha coast.
- ✦ India's Aeronautical Development Establishment has said the cruise missile is India's first indigenously designed and developed long-range missile.
- ✦ The successful test of the 1,000 km long range missile will definitely provide a boost to India's defence power.

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

- ✦ 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.

19. 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.

20. 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 collaborate in the field of standardisation and conformity assessment.
- ✦ 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.

21. 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.

22. 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.
- ✦ 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.

23. 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.

24. 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.

25. Raksha mantri Smt Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurates Air force commanders' 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.

26. 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.
- ✦ 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.

27. 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.

28. Antares Rocket Takes off for International Space Station with Essential NASA Supply

- ✦ A US rocket has been launched from NASA's Wallops Flight Facility on Virginia's Eastern Shore, carrying cargo with the space agency's re-supply mission for the International Space Station (ISS).
- ✦ The Antares rocket built by Northrop Grumman lifted off, carrying the Cygnus cargo spacecraft to the ISS.
- ✦ The spacecraft will remain attached to the space station for approximately two months before departing with up to 7,700 pounds (about 3,500 kg) of cargo for disposal

29. Navy chief launches new guided missile destroyer 'INS Imphal'

- ✦ Navy chief Admiral Sunil Lanba launched the third ship of Project 15B, a guided missile destroyer Imphal, at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders, Mumbai.
- ✦ The launch marks yet another significant milestone in the annals of the indigenous warship design and construction programme of India.
- ✦ With a launch weight of 3,037 tonnes, the vessel made its first contact with water with full fanfare during the launching ceremony.
- ✦ Each ship spans 163 metres in length and 17.4 metres at beam and displaces 7,300 tonnes.

30. BSE ties up with Network Intelligence to provide security services to its members

- ✦ BSE, India's largest stock exchange has entered a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Network Intelligence, a global cybersecurity services provider to provide cybersecurity services to its members in line with the cybersecurity framework set by SEBI.
- ✦ Aim is to safeguard the interests of our stock brokers and robust cyber security in place.
- ✦ Network Intelligence will be using its own developed platform – BlueScope to offer 24×7 cybersecurity operations to the members.

31. Army starts process to induct women as jawans in military police

- ✦ Opening up a new avenue for females, the Indian Army kicked off the process of inducting women as jawans by starting their online registration for recruitment in the corps of military police.
- ✦ Women will be inducted in a graded manner to eventually comprise 20 per cent of total Corps of Military Police and their role would range from probing crime cases to assisting the Army in field operations.
- ✦ Currently, women are allowed in select areas such as medical, legal, educational, signals and engineering wings of the Army.

32. Japan succeeds in creating world's 1st man-made crater on asteroid

- ✦ Japan's Hayabusa2 space probe has successfully created a man-made crater on an asteroid that altered the body's terrain in a historical first.
- ✦ Hayabusa2 had shot a projectile at the Ryugu asteroid around 340 million kilometers from Earth as part of the probe's mission to explore the origin of life and the evolution of the solar system.
- ✦ The mission was launched in December 2014 and is scheduled to return to Earth with its samples in 2020 with a total cost of around 30 billion yen.

Important days

1. International Mine Awareness Day 4 April

- ✦ On 8 December 2005, the General Assembly declared that 4 April of each year shall be observed as the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action.
- ✦ It called for continued efforts by States, with the assistance of the United Nations and relevant organizations, to foster the establishment and development of national mine-action capacities in countries where mines and explosive remnants of war constitute a serious threat to the safety.
- ✦ 2019 Theme: "United Nations Promotes SDGs – Safe Ground – Safe Home".

2. World Haemophilia Day 2019 observed on 17 April

- ✦ Every April 17 World Haemophilia Day is recognised worldwide to increase awareness of haemophilia and other inherited bleeding disorders.
- ✦ This is a critical effort since with increased awareness comes better diagnosis and access to care for the millions who remain without treatment.
- ✦ On World Haemophilia Day we celebrate the theme of Reaching out - connect to your community.

3. World Liver Day is observed on 19 April

- ✦ The World Liver Day (WLD) is observed every year on April 19 to build awareness and understanding importance of liver in human body and how liver ailments are treated.
- ✦ The liver, which measures about 1,00 grams in weight and 15 cm in length, is the second largest organ and is key player in our body's digestive system.
- ✦ World liver Day 2019 theme is 'Riding New Waves in liver Diagnosis, Staging & Treatment.

4. 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 to recognize 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.
- ✦ On April 12, 1961 a citizen of the Soviet Union, first lieutenant Yuri Gagarin orbited the Earth onboard “Vostok” spacecraft for the first time in mankind history, thus opening the era of manned space missions.
- ✦ 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.

7. World Creativity and Innovation Day is observed on 21 April

- ✦ World Creativity Day is observed on 21 April. World Creativity and Innovation Day is well positioned to encourage creative multidisciplinary thinking to help us achieve the sustainable future we want.
- ✦ On 27th April 2017, the United Nations (UN) recognized 21st April as an official World Creativity and Innovation Day and 2018 marks the first year the UN was observed WCID.

8. World Earth Day observed on 22 April

- ✦ Each year, Earth Day—April 22—marks the anniversary of the birth of the modern environmental movement in 1970.
- ✦ For the year 2019, the Earth Day theme is 'Protect our Species'
- ✦ On April 22, 1970, the Environmental Teach-In held a nationwide day of environmental education and activism that it called Earth Day.

9. April 23 observed as a World Book and Copyright Day

- ✦ The World Book and Copyright Day was observed across the world on April 23, 2019 to highlight the power of books and to promote UNESCO’s vision of knowledge societies that are inclusive, pluralistic, equitable, open and participatory for all citizens.
- ✦ The 24th edition of World Book Day will celebrate literature and reading while laying emphasis on the importance of enhancing and protecting Indigenous languages.
- ✦ The Day pays tribute to books and authors by encouraging everyone to discover the pleasure of reading.

10. World Malaria Day 2019 observed on 25 April

- ✦ World Malaria Day is observed each year on 25th April to recognise the global efforts made to control the vector-borne disease.
- ✦ World Malaria Day 2019 theme is 'Zero malaria'
- ✦ According to the WHO's latest World Malaria Report, no significant gains were made in reducing malaria cases between 2015 and 2017.

11. World Immunization Week 2019 observed in April

- ✦ World Immunization week 2019 observed from 24-30 April. The theme of this year's campaign is Protected Together: Vaccines Work!
- ✦ World Immunization Week aims to promote the use of vaccines to protect people of all ages against disease.
- ✦ Immunization saves millions of lives every year and is widely recognized as one of the world's most successful and cost-effective health interventions.

12. World Intellectual Property Day 2019 observed on 26 April

- ✦ The World Intellectual Property Day was observed across the world on April 26, 2019 to spread awareness about the role that intellectual property rights like patents, trademarks, industrial designs and copyright play in encouraging innovation and creativity.
- ✦ The theme of World Intellectual Property Day 2019 was "Reach for Gold: IP and Sports".
- ✦ This year's theme dives into the world of sports. It explores how innovation, creativity and the IP rights support the development of sport and its enjoyment around the world.

Books & Authors

1. Jeff Kinney comes out with a book 'Diary of an Awesome Friendly Kid: Rowley Jefferson's Journal'

- ✦ Jeff Kinney come out with his new book, "Diary of an Awesome Friendly Kid: Rowley Jefferson's Journal.
- ✦ The book is written from the opinion of Rowley Jefferson, the best friend of 'Diary of a Wimpy Kid' supporter Greg Heffley.
- ✦ This book is Jeff Kinney's first outside of his "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" series.

2. Book on 'Khooni Vaisakhi', a Punjabi poem on Jallianwala Bagh, launched in UAE

- ✦ The launch of a book containing English translation of the Punjabi poem, 'Khooni Vaisakhi' was praised by Navdeep Singh Suri, India's Ambassador to the UAE.
- ✦ Nanak Singh had published a long poem in 1920 to commemorate that tragic event and the memory of those who sacrificed their lives but it was banned by the British government.
- ✦ Translated by Suri, the poem was written by his grandfather revolutionary poet and novelist Nanak Singh, a Jallianwala Bagh survivor, after he witnessed first-hand the events of April 13, 1919.

Sports

1. Lucky Hamilton grabs first win after Leclerc's Ferrari faces engine trouble

- ✦ Five times world champion Lewis Hamilton took a lucky Bahrain Grand Prix win for Mercedes after engine trouble in the dying stages denied Ferrari's Charles Leclerc a first Formula One victory.
- ✦ The luckless Leclerc had looked like becoming Ferrari's youngest ever race winner, at 21, after starting on pole position and leading comfortably.
- ✦ The race finished with the field following the safety car, deployed as marshals removed Daniel Ricciardo's stranded Renault.

2. India retains ICC Test Championship mace

- ✦ India have retained the ICC Test Championship Mace and won the purse of USD 1 million for a third successive year on April 1, 2019. India won this award after finishing at the top of the MRF Tyres ICC Test Team Rankings on the cut-off date of April 1, while New Zealand have ensured second place.
- ✦ International Cricket Council chief executive Manu Sawhney congratulated the Indian team while reiterating the importance of Test cricket and looking forward to the start of the ICC World Test Championship later this year.
- ✦ New Zealand finished second after series win over Bangladesh; South Africa and Australia finish third and fourth, respectively.

3. Bajrang regains top spot in world wrestling rankings

- ✦ India's Bajrang Punia has regained the world number one spot in the men's 65-kilogram freestyle category rankings.
- ✦ Punia, who won Gold in the Asian Games and Commonwealth Games as well as a silver in the World Championships last year, secured 58 points ahead of Akhmed Chakaev of Russia.
- ✦ The rankings were released by United World Wrestling. He won gold at the Dan Kolov-Nikola Petrov tournament in Bulgaria last month.

4. Mumbai Shuttler Dani Clinches Dutch International badminton title 2019

- ✦ Former junior national champion Harsheel Dani rallied from a game down against Mads Christophersen of Denmark to clinch the Dutch International badminton title in The Hague, Netherlands.
- ✦ The 22-year-old won the Ghana international crown in 2018 second Karvy All India junior-ranking badminton tournament in 2012.

5. 2nd Marshal Arjan Singh Memorial International Hockey Tournament 2019 Kicks off at Chandigarh

- ✦ 2nd Marshal Arjan Singh Memorial International Hockey Tournament is being organised by Air Force Sports Control Board at Astro Turf Hockey Ground.
- ✦ The conduct of this Hockey Tournament is a befitting tribute to the legend and way to express our gratitude towards his contribution to the nation.
- ✦ Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Maintenance Command as the Chief Guest and declared the tournament open.

6. 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.

7. 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.
- ✦ 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.

8. Bajrang Punia wins gold at Asian Wrestling Championship

- ✦ Bajrang Punia opened India's medal tally at the Asian Wrestling Championships with a gold in the 65kg freestyle category, beating Sayatbek Okassov 12-7 in the final.
- ✦ Bajrang comfortably defeated Uzbekistan's Sirojiddin Khasanov 12-1 in the semifinals to make it to the gold medal bout of 65kg.
- ✦ The 2019 Asian Wrestling Championships was held in Xi'an, China. The event took place from April 23 to April 28, 2019.

Awards

1. Dr Rajendra Kumar Joshi Conferred With Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award in Switzerland

- ✦ Dr Rajendra Kumar Joshi, has been awarded with the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award for his contributions in the field of science, education and medicine, promoting the honour and prestige of India.
- ✦ Dr Joshi, who belongs to Rajasthan, is a scientist of Indian origin and is based in Switzerland.
- ✦ The theme of 2019 Pravasi Bharatiya Divas convention was 'Role of Indian Diaspora in building New India.'

2. PM Modi Awarded Zayed Medal, UAE's Top Civilian Honour

- ✦ Prime Minister Narendra Modi was awarded Zayed Medal, the United Arab Emirates' highest civilian award, on Thursday as a mark of appreciation for his efforts to boost bilateral ties between the two nations.
- ✦ The 'Order of Zayed' is the highest civil decoration instituted by the UAE.
- ✦ It consists of a collar centered by a medallion bearing the name 'Zayed' who is the founding father of the United Arab Emirates.

3. Meena Kumari Maisnam clinches 54kg gold medal in Cologne Boxing World Cup

- ✦ Meena Kumari Maisnam continued her fine run to win gold medal in the 54 kg at the Boxing World Cup in Cologne.
- ✦ This was the only bout of the tournament for the Manipur pugilist as she had been directly placed in the final due to a smaller draw.
- ✦ Meena, the 2014 Asian Championships bronze medallist with three National Championships titles to her credit, edged Thailand's Machai Bunyanut on points in the summit clash.

4. "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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. Rana Dasgupta bags 2019 Tagore Literary Prize

- ✦ The second edition of Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize was awarded to author Rana Dasgupta for his 2010 novel "Solo", a tale of estrangement and the ultimate failure of material existence.
- ✦ An amount of \$10,000, a Tagore statue and a certificate for contribution to literature was given to Dasgupta.
- ✦ TagorePrize is founded and launched with a strong vision to be a platform and a vehicle for improving and inspiring World Peace, Literature, Art and Education.

8. India Wins Two Gold At International Shooting Sport Federation ISSF World Cup

- ✦ Young Indian shooters Manu Bhaker and Saurabh Chaudhary shot gold in the 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team event at the ISSF World Cup in Beijing.
- ✦ Bhaker and Chaudhary outclassed Jiang Ranxin and Pang Wei of China 16-6 in the final, which was held in the new format wherein top two teams battled for the gold medal.

Obituaries

1. Eminent Bengali folk singer Amar Paul dead

- ✦ Eminent Bengali folk singer Amar Paul passed away in a hospital following a cardiac arrest.
- ✦ He surfaced as a folk singer for the All India Radio in the early 1950s.
- ✦ Paul lent his voice in a number of films including Satyajit Ray's "Hirak Rajar Deshe". He has penned several books on folk songs of Bengal and received accolades from various academies around the world.

LIST OF ALL INDIA TOPPERS FROM IBT					
SUBHOJIT CHAKRABORTY SBI PO - 2016 Roll No.: 38407295966	SACHIN ZANWAR SBI PO - 2018 Roll No.: 2550139022	SHALINI SINGH IBPS PO - 2017 Roll No.: 1580179828	LOVE GUPTA SSC CGL - INSPECTOR Roll No.: 2201295176	MOHA VASHISTHA SSC CGL - INSPECTOR Roll No.: 3840729596	AASTHA SIHAG SSC CGL - INSPECTOR Roll No.: 2201399971
1 st Rank 	2 nd Rank 	4 th Rank 	6 th Rank 	8 th Rank 	12 th Rank 

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