

Top Current Affairs of the Week (14-20 April 2019)

1. Benjamin Netanyahu re-elected as Israel's Prime Minister

- Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (69-years) has won a fifth term in office.
- His closest opponent's party the Blue and White party conceded defeat, clearing the path for Netanyahu to set up a coalition government.
- Mr Netanyahu is now set to be the longest-serving prime minister in Israeli history even longer than David Ben-Gurion (the country's first prime minister) who's often described as "Israel's George Washington."

Related Information

- Benjamin "Bibi" Netanyahu was born in Tel Aviv in 1949.
- In 1963 his family moved to the US when his father Benzion, the historian and Zionist activist, was offered an academic post.
- He took part in a raid on Beirut's airport in 1968 and fought in the 1973 Middle East war.

2. 14 April: Ambedkar Jayanti

- Ambedkar Jayanti is an annual festival observed on 14th April to commemorate the memory of B. R. Ambedkar, the 'Father of The Indian Constitution'.
- It marks Babasaheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's birthday who was born on 14th April 1891.
- Ambedkar Jayanti honours the Dalit icon who dedicated his life working for the upliftment of untouchables, women and labourers.
- Dr BR Ambedkar not just gave India its Constitution, but also played a key role in the formation of Reserve Bank of India - the country's central banking institution.

3. Lewis Hamilton wins record-extending 6th Chinese GP

- In motor racing, British racing driver Lewis Hamilton (34-years) won the Chinese Grand Prix for a record sixth time.
- The comfortable win was the 75th of Hamilton's career, and second in a row after his lucky triumph in Bahrain two weeks ago.
- Valtteri Bottas was second for his team's third one-two finish in as many races this season.
- Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel took third place.

Related Information

- The 2019 Chinese Grand Prix was a Formula One motor race that took place at the Shanghai International Circuit in Shanghai, China.
- The race also marked the 1000th Formula One World Championship race since the first World Championship race was held at the Silverstone Circuit in 1950.

Positions	Driver /Countries	Teams' Name
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First	Lewis Hamilton (United Kingdom)	Mercedes
Second	Valtteri Bottas (Finland)	Mercedes
Third	Sebastian Vettel (Germany)	Ferrari

4. India successfully test fires Sub-Sonic cruise missile 'Nirbhay

- India Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test fired indigenously designed and developed Long Range Sub-Sonic Cruise Missile 'Nirbhay' from the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur Odisha.
- It is the sixth development flight trial with the objective to prove the repeatability of boost phase, cruise phase using waypoint navigation at very low altitudes.
- The missile took off vertically turning horizontally into the desired direction, booster separated, the wing deployed, the engine started, cruised all the intended waypoints.

5. First-Of-Its-Kind 'Voter Park' Inaugurated in Gurugram

- Haryana Chief Electoral Officer Rajeev Ranjan has inaugurated India's first-of-its-kind 'Voter Park' in Gurugram, Haryana.
- At the park, voters will get information about the polling process and the history of elections in the country.
- The objective of establishing Voter Park was to motivate eligible people to vote in the Lok Sabha election so that they can contribute to the progress of the country.

6. John Moore wins World Press Photo Awards 2019

- An image of a two-year-old little girl crying, as she and her mother have been taken into custody by US-Mexico border officials in Texas won the prestigious World Press Photo of the Year 2019.
- Veteran Getty photographer John Moore took the picture in the Rio Grande Valley in June 2018.
- Dutch-Swedish photographer Pieter Ten Hoopen won the "World Press Photo Story of the Year Award" for the image of 2018 mass-migrant caravan to the US border.
- The photos are judged for their accurate, fair, and visually compelling insights about our world.

Related Information

- The World Press Photo Foundation has recognized the best contributions to visual journalism by professional photographers through its international World Press Photo Contest.
- The winning photos of the World Press Photo Contest 2019 will be shown in exhibitions around the world starting in Amsterdam from 13 April until 7 July 2019.

7. 'The Overstory' by Richard Powers wins Pulitzer Prize 2019 for fiction



- The winners of the 2019 Pulitzer Prizes has announced from the World Room at Columbia University’s School of Journalism by Administrator Dana Canedy.
- The Overstory (by Richard Powers) a sprawling epic about the wonderful life and alarming death of trees, has won this year’s Pulitzer Prize for fiction.
- The Washington Post won two prizes, as did The New York Times.
- The Wall Street Journal won one and the Sun-Sentinel won its second Pulitzer for Public Service.
- The late American singer-songwriter Aretha Franklin (known as ‘The Queen of Soul’) posthumously awarded the Pulitzer Prize Special Citation honour for her contribution to the American music and culture,
- Drama: Fairview, by Jackie Sibblies Drury.
- History: Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom, by David W. Blight (Simon & Schuster).

Related Information

- The 2019 Pulitzer Prizes (in 21 categories) were awarded by the Pulitzer Prize Board for work during the 2018 calendar year.
- The award is administered by Columbia University in New York City

8. Jailed Reuters journalists in Myanmar win UN press freedom prize

- The United Nations' cultural agency had awarded its annual press freedom prize to two Reuters reporters jailed in Myanmar.
- The 2019 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano Press Freedom Prize awarded to Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo (bars since December 2017) as a tribute to their courage and commitment to freedom of expression.
- The two journalists Lone & Soe Oo had been working on stories about a military crackdown and alleged human rights violations in Rakhine state in Myanmar when they were arrested.

9. 17 April: World Haemophilia Day

- The World Haemophilia Day is being observed worldwide on 17th April to increase awareness of haemophilia and other inherited bleeding disorders.
- The theme of WHD 2019 is ‘Reaching out - connect to your community’.
- Haemophilia is a mostly inherited genetic disorder that impairs the body's ability to make blood clots, a process needed to stop bleeding.

Related Information

- World Haemophilia Day was started in 1989 by the World Federation of Hemophilia (WFH) which chose to bring the community together on 17th April in honour of WFH founder Frank Schnabel’s birthday.

10. Kento Momota wins Singapore Badminton Open singles title



- Japan's Kento Momota has won the Singapore Badminton Open men's singles title 2019 by beating Anthony Ginting (Indonesia) 10-21, 21-19, 21-13.
- In the women's final, Tai Tzu-Ying (Taiwan) claimed her second Singapore Open title with a 21-19, 21-15 victory over Nozomi Okuhara (Japan).

Related Information

- The 2019 Singapore Open badminton tournament (10th edition) took place at Singapore Indoor Stadium in Singapore.
- This tournament was organized by the Singapore Badminton Association with sanction from the BWF.

11. IDBI Bank launches 'NRI-Insta-Online' paperless account facility

- IDBI Bank has launched 'NRI-Insta-Online' account opening process for NRIs (Non-Resident Indians) residing in the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) member countries.
- The person will not be required to furnish physical documents as well as KYC proofs for opening an account with the bank.
- On the successful uploading and verification of the scanned documents, the account is instantly opened & electronic advice is sent to the customer.
- The body has 38 member countries, including the US, UK, India, Japan, China and France, among others.

Related Information

- FATF is an inter-governmental body which devises policy and sets standards to promote effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures to combat money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system.

12. 18 April: World Heritage Day

- The 'World Heritage Day' is being observed across the globe on 18th April every year to celebrate cultural heritage and encourage people to conserve our rich past.
- The theme for this year is 'Rural Landscapes'.
- The day aims to spread awareness of the importance of protecting and preserving various sites around the world that have achieved world heritage status.
- There are over 1000 World Heritage Sites (man-made and natural) recognized by UNESCO.

Related Information

- In the year 1982, the International Council on Monuments and Sites declared 18th April as World Heritage Day to raise awareness about monuments and other sites which form a part of our history and culture.



- The World Heritage sites are officially recognized by the UN and the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

13. Nepal successfully launches its 1st satellite NepaliSat-1 into space

- Nepal successfully launched its first satellite NepaliSat-1 into space from Virginia in the United States.
- NepaliSat-1 is a low orbit satellite developed by the Nepalese scientists.
- The satellite will take photographs on a regular basis to gather geographical information of the country.
- It weighs 1.3 kilograms, making it a small satellite with limited capability.
- NAST initiated the launch of the country's own satellite under the BIRDS project of the Japanese Kyushu Institute of Technology.
- The BIRDS project has been designed in association with the United Nations and aims at helping countries launch their first satellite.

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

- Today, Sri Lanka's first satellite 'Raavana-1' has been 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.
- Its camera mission is to capture images of Sri Lanka and its neighbouring countries.

15. China makes the world's 1st armoured amphibious drone boat

- China has successfully tested the world's first armed amphibious drone boat 'Marine Lizard'.
- It is 'capable of forming a combat triad with aerial drones and other drone ships.
- Built by Wuchang Shipbuilding Industry Group under China Shipbuilding Industry Corporation.
- Having a maximum operation range of 1,200 km, the Marine Lizard can be remotely controlled via satellites.

16. 19 April: World Liver Day

- The World Liver day is observed on the 19th April every year to spread awareness about the second largest organ 'liver' in the body.
- The theme of World Liver Day 2019 is 'Love Your Liver and Live Longer'.
- Liver diseases can be caused by hepatitis A, B, C, alcohol, and drugs.
- According to WHO (World Health Organization), liver diseases are the 10th most common cause of death in India.

Related Information



- The liver is the second largest and the most complex organ in the body (first-brain).
- In humans, it is in the right upper quadrant of the abdomen, below the diaphragm.

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

- ACI Worldwide announced that Canara Bank has successfully rolled out major new functionality to support EMV card acquiring across its ATM network and Aadhaar Authentication.
- Canara Bank is the first public sector bank to shift to EMV chip and PIN for card present transactions across the country's vast ATM network.
- Canara Bank has nearly 6,300 branches and a network of more than 10,000 ATMs.
- ACI has played a central role in driving EMV rollouts across numerous countries over the years

Related Information

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had mandated all banks to migrate the magnetic strip based ATM/Debit cards to EMV chip-and-PIN payment cards by 31st December 2018.

18. Mukesh Ambani among TIME's list of 100 Most Influential People of 2019

- TIME magazine has released the Time 100 Most Influential People 2019 list.
- According to TIME magazine, Three Indians Mukesh Ambani (Reliance Industries Chairman), Arundhati Katju (public-interest litigators) and Menaka Guruswamy (fought for the LGBTQ+ rights) has been named in the list.
- 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.

19. 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).
- She joins in supporting the team alongside Saurav Ganguly and Rajasthan Royals.
- The Street Child Cricket World Cup (SCCWC) 2019 is the first cricket world cup for street-connected children.
- The tournament is being organised by UK based organisation Street Child United (SCU).

20. Book on Jallianwala Bagh poem 'Khooni Vaisakhi' released in UAE



- India's Ambassador to the UAE Navdeep Singh Suri has launched a book containing English translation of the 100-year-old classic Punjabi poem about Jallianwala Bagh massacre, 'Khooni in Abu Dhabi.
- The poem was translated by Mr Suri whose grandfather Nanak Singh (Jallianwala Bagh survivor) wrote it after witnessing first-hand the events of April 13, 1919.
- On this ill-fated day, British troops fired upon crowds of protesters peacefully demonstrating against the Rowlatt Act of the British Raj, leading to the loss of well over a thousand lives.

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