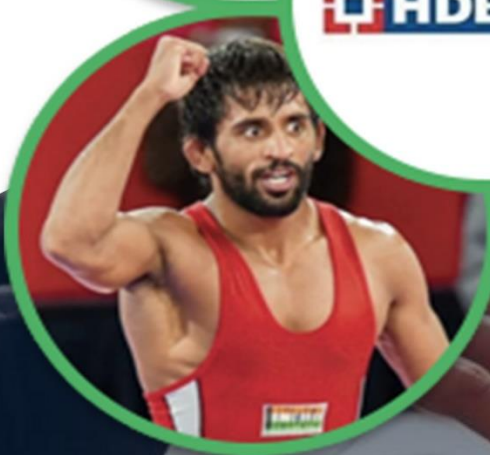


Monthly GK Digest

April 2019



 **HDB** FINANCIAL SERVICES



Monthly Digest April-2019

Dear readers,

This **Monthly GK Digest** is a complete docket of important news and events that occurred in a month of April 2019. This file is important for, **Bank** and all exams.

Banking & Financial Awareness

1. The Reserve Bank set the average base rate to be charged from borrowers by **non-banking financial companies** (NBFCs) and **micro-finance institutions** (MFIs) at **9.21%**.
Note: The applicable average base rate to be charged by Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC). The regulator in February 2014 had issued directions to NBFC-MFIs regarding pricing of credit. RBI comes out with the average of the base rates of the five largest commercial banks for the purpose of arriving at the interest rates to be charged by NBFC-MFIs to its borrowers in the ensuing quarter.
2. **Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank** merged with **Bank of Baroda** (BoB) to create the third-largest lender of the country.
Note: All customers of **Dena Bank**, which is under **prompt corrective action** (PCA) framework of the RBI, will have renewed access to credit facilities immediately. This is the **second merger** of state-run banks in recent years in the **banking sector** after State Bank had merged five of its associate banks from April 2017.
3. **The Reserve Bank of India** will inject long-term liquidity worth 5 billion US Dollars into the banking system through a dollar-rupee buy-sell swap for a tenure of three years.
Note: The auction would be a multiple-price based auction -- successful bids will get accepted at their respective quoted premium. The minimum size of each bid should be USD 10 million and in multiples of USD 1 million thereafter. Liquidity is a measure of the ability and ease with which assets can be converted to cash.
4. **(SEBI)** has given approval to **Paytm Money** to start offering broking services **Securities and Exchange Board of India**
Note: Paytm Money is the investment and wealth management platform of the mobile payments company. The broking services will allow investors to trade in the cash segment, derivatives, exchange-traded funds (ETFs), among other listed entities.
5. **Kotak Mahindra Bank** will charge customers for UPI transactions starting 1st of May 2019.
Note: For each Kotak Bank account, the first 30 UPI fund transfers will be free, after which a charge will be levied on all fund transfers from the bank account. This will be applicable across all platforms, including Paytm, PhonePe, Google Pay or Truecaller Pay among others. The bank will charge Rs 2.50 per transaction for an amount value below or equal to Rs 1,000, and Rs 5 per transaction will be levied for a payment value above Rs 1,000.
6. The **Reserve Bank of India** has decided that the limits for **Ways and Means Advances** (WMA) for the first half (April- Sep 2019) financial year -- Rs 75000 crore.
Note: The Reserve Bank may trigger fresh floatation of market loans when the Government of India utilises 75% of the WMA limit. The Reserve Bank retains the flexibility to revise the limit at any time, in consultation with the Government of India. The interest rate on WMA will be Repo Rate and overdraft will be 2% above the Repo Rate.
7. **Kotak Mahindra Bank (Kotak)** will charge customers for UPI transactions starting 1st of May 2019.
Note: For each Kotak Bank account, the first 30 UPI fund transfers will be free, after which a charge will be levied on all fund transfers from the bank account. This will be applicable across all platforms, including Paytm, PhonePe, Google Pay or Truecaller Pay among others. The bank will charge Rs 2.50 per transaction for an amount value below or equal to Rs 1,000, and Rs 5 per transaction will be levied for a payment value above Rs 1,000.
8. **Karnataka Bank** has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with **Bharti AXA Life Insurance**

Company to distribute the latter's life insurance products.

Note: Now, the bank will be able to provide a wide choice of life insurance products to its customers across 836 branches, supported by the products of Bharti AXA Life Insurance Company. This is the third such tie-up by the bank after PNB MetLife Life Insurance Company and LIC of India.

9. According to the Asian Development Bank (ADB), India's projected GDP growth for the current fiscal -- **7.2%**.

Note: ADB has projected India to remain the fastest growing Asian nation with 7.3% growth in 2020 as policy rates are cut and farmers receive income support, bolstering domestic demand. For entire Asia, the multilateral agency forecasted that growth will soften to 5.7 per cent in 2019 and 5.6 per cent in 2020.

10. **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** has reduced the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** usage fees for **small transactions** less than Rs 1,000 to 10 paise from 25 paise.

Note: For transactions above Rs 1,000, the charge has been retained at 50 paise. The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** is an umbrella organisation for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India. The NPCI (Founded in 2008) is a not-for-profit organization registered under **section 8** of the Companies Act 2013.

11. The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has announced its first Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Rates for 2019-20 in **Mumbai**.

Note: The RBI reduced the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) by 25 basis points to 6.0 per cent from 6.25 per cent with immediate effect. Consequently, the reverse repo rate under the LAF stands adjusted to 5.75 per cent. The marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate to 6.25 per cent.

Policy Repo Rate	6.0%
Reverse Repo Rate	5.75 %
Marginal Standing Facility Rate	6.25%
Bank Rate	6.25%
CRR	4%
SLR	19.25%

12. **IDBI Bank** has launched account opening process for **NRIs (Non-Resident Indians)** residing in the **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** member countries -- **NRI-Insta-Online**.

Note: 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.

13. **Bajaj Finance Ltd.** has launched a campaign where in **customer buying** air conditioners -- **#BijliOnEMI**.

Note: Customers buying air conditioners of **Rs. 20,000** and above will be eligible for an **Instant Credit** loan of **Rs 5000**. For those purchasing air conditioners above **Rs. 40,000** will receive **Rs 7000** as an **Instant Credit** loan to their Wallet. This will **assist the customer** to pay the **installations charges** of the air-conditioner and their electricity bills on EMI. **Bajaj Finserv** (part of Bajaj Holdings & Investments Limited) is an **Indian financial services** company focused on lending, asset management, wealth management and insurance.

14. Bandhan Bank has received approval from the **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** for the proposed scheme of amalgamation of **Gruh Finance**.

Note: The approval has been made under sub-section (1) of Section 31 of the Competition Act, 2002. The merger move was taken to bring down promoter holding in the bank to 61% from 82.3%. The bank, which had received **RBI nod** for the scheme, had recently got approval from the BSE and the NSE.

15. Punjab National Bank (PNB) has appointed an Executive Director of the bank -- **Rajesh Kumar Yaduvanshi**

Note: Now, PNB has three **Executive Directors**, the others being **L V Prabhakar** and **A K Azad**. Mr Yaduvanshi holds a doctorate in science from Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi and certified associate member of the Indian Institute of Bankers.

16. The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has put into circulation **50 rupees denomination** banknotes signed by its Governor **Shaktikanta Das**.

Note: According to RBI, the design of these notes is similar in all respects to 50 banknotes in Mahatma Gandhi new series. All banknotes in the denomination of 50 issued by the Reserve Bank in the past will continue to be legal tender.

- 17. Bank of Maharashtra (BoM)** has partnered with **M1Xchange Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS)** platform for MSME bill discounting.
Note: TReDS is a digital platform to support micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to get their bills financed at a competitive rate through an auction where multiple registered financiers can participate. Mynd Solutions is a technology management firm which runs the TReDS platform of M1Xchange. The main purpose of TReDS platform is to facilitate smooth flow of liquidity in the system and make finance available at a competitive rate.
- 18. ICICI Bank** has announced the launch of **insta car and two-wheeler loans** that will provide existing customers final sanction letters instantly -- **Insta Auto Loan**.
Note: The first service, called 'Insta Auto Loan', enables over two million pre-approved customers to avail the final sanction letter of a car loan instantly and digitally up to Rs 20 lakh for a tenure of up to seven years. The second initiative, named 'Insta Two-Wheeler Loan', offers over 12 million pre-approved customers the facility to get instant sanction of loan up to Rs 2 lakh for a tenure of up to three years. Both the plans will offer 100 per cent of the on-road price of vehicle.
- 19. According to ACI Worldwide, Canara Bank** has successfully rolled out major new functionality to support EMV card acquiring across its ATM network and Aadhaar Authentication.
Note: 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. 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.
- 20. Fincare Small Finance Bank (SFB)** has been awarded the prestigious **Celent Model Bank 2019 Award** in the category of Financial Inclusion, for 'Redesigning Lending to Reach Small Businesses'.
Note: Fincare Small Finance Bank serves the banking needs of banking-savvy consumers across metro, urban and semi-urban markets. Fincare Small Finance Bank commenced banking operations on the 21st of July, 2017, after receiving the final license from the RBI under Section 22 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. As of March 2019, Fincare SFB serves, over 15 lakh customers in 12 States and 1 Union Territory.
- 21. SBI General Insurance (SBIG)** has launched a product to protect businesses from financial and reputational losses due to cyber-attacks.
Note: In the initial phase, it will focus on **small medium-sized enterprise (SME)**, mid-market businesses. The new insurance plan of SBI General Insurance comes with CyRUSS (Cyber Risk Underwriting and Solution Suite). CyRUSS is a cloud-based tool for commercial cyber policies including risk assessment, ongoing risk management and claim management as well.
- 22. Karnam Sekar** has been appointed as the new **Managing Director (MD)** and CEO of Indian Overseas Bank.
Note: Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) is a major public sector bank based in Chennai, India. The bank has achieved 100 percent networking status as well as 100 percent CBS status for its branches. IOB has a network of about 3,300 ATMs all over India.
- 23. Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB)** has proposed to raise **Rs 188.16 crore** by allotting 4.99% of its shares at Rs 112 a piece on a preferential basis to Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd.
Note: On 5 April 2019, the board of Lakshmi Vilas Bank approved a merger of the bank with the country's second largest housing finance company, Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd. The board of LVB has approved the merger with IBHL in which shareholders of the bank will get 14 shares of IBHL for every 100 shares they hold.
- 24. According to Allahabad Bank** statement, the union government has increased its authorized capital by Rs 5,000 crore to **Rs 8,000 crores**.
Note: The increase in authorized capital will enable the bank to raise further fund up to a maximum ceiling of Rs 8,000 crore. Every Company irrespective of size, type of business, category of business etc will have its share capital classified under various types in the financial statement. It is the maximum amount of the capital for which shares can be issued by the Company to shareholders. The Authorized capital is mentioned in the Memorandum of Association of the Company under heading of "Capital Clause".
- 25. Reserve Bank** has divested its entire stake in National Housing Bank (NHB) and the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).
Note: According to RBI press release, it is based on the recommendation of second Narasimham Committee. The RBI sold the entire stake worth 20 crore rupees in

- NABARD and 1,450 crore rupees in NHB in the last quarter of 2018-19. With this divestment, the government now holds 100 percent stake in both these financial institutions.
- 26. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) plans to buy Rs 25,000 crore worth of bonds in two instalments from the secondary market in May.**
Note: The first such open market operations (OMO) for the fiscal year 2019-20, amounting to Rs 12,500 crore, will happen on 2nd May 2019. This is despite the central bank buying bonds worth Rs 3 trillion in the last fiscal year and infusing another about Rs 70,000 crore through two-dollar swaps.
- 27. Wipro Consumer Care** has announced to acquire Philippine largest personal care company 'Splash'.
Note: According to Wipro, this is the company's 11th acquisition in the consumer line business, and the 9th acquisition in the personal care segment overall. Splash recorded revenues worth USD 80 million in 2018.
- 28. Digital financial services company 'Mobikwik'** collaborated with **Aegon Life Insurance** (pioneer of digital insurance in India) to launch a Rs 20 smart digital insurance product.
Note: The main objective for this initiative is to improve the insurance penetration in India (currently at 3.7%) that is to drive financial inclusion for the masses. The company has created 3 variants of the amount assured between Rs. 1 lakh, Rs.1.5 lakh and Rs. 2 lakhs at no extra cost. The policy can be availed at a premium of Rs 20, Rs 30 and Rs 40 respectively depending on the protection amount and this is issued instantly.
- 29. Kotak Mahindra Bank** has launched the first debit card-based authentication solution on NPCI's (National Payments Corporation of India) e-Mandate (electronic mandate) API platform.
Note: With this, it has become the first ever Destination Bank to go live with both Net Banking and Debit Card-based e-mandate authentication. The objective of this initiative is to enable Kotak customers to create electronic mandates, similar to the former e-NACH with Aadhaar + OTP via both debit card and net banking provision.
- 30. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will soon release new banknotes in the Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series of Rs 20.**
Note: The base colour of the note is greenish yellow and bear the signature of Shaktikanta Das (RBI Governor). The new denomination Rs 20 (dimension: 63 mm x 129 mm) has the motif of the Ellora Caves on the reverse. All the banknotes in the denomination of Rs 20 issued by the RBI in the earlier series will continue to be legal tender.
- 31. SEBI** has reduced the minimum required level for clearing corporations operating in international financial services centre (IFSC).
Note: They should have at least Rs 100 crore net worth from three years of commencing operations. This net worth requirement in the form of liquid assets has been brought down from the earlier Rs 300 crore.
- 32. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has come out with guidelines for banks to set up new currency chests, which include a minimum area for the strong room **1,500 square feet**.
Note: The new chests should have a processing capacity of **6.6 lakh pieces** of banknotes per day. It added that for those situated in the hilly/ inaccessible places, capacity should be **2.1 lakh pieces** of banknotes per day. Currency chests are branches of selected banks authorized by the RBI to stock rupee notes and coins.
- 33. Lakshmi Vilas Bank** is set to merge with **India Bulls Housing Finance** in a share-swap deal.
Note: It reflects the trend of consolidation in the financial services sector. The boards of both entities approved the merger proposal. The shareholders of Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB) will get 14 shares of India Bulls Housing Finance (IBHF) for every 100 equity shares held in the bank.
- 34. National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC)** has inked a term-loan agreement with Canara Bank to raise Rs 2,000 crore.
Note: This loan has a **door to door tenure** of 15 years and will be utilized to part finance the capital expenditure of the NTPC. NTPC (National Thermal Power Corporation Limited) Limited is an Indian Public Sector Undertaking, engaged in the business of generation of electricity and allied activities.
- 35. According to The International Monetary Fund (IMF) report, India's economy projected to grow 7.3% in 2019.**
Note: The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** is an international organization headquartered in **ashington, D.C.**, consisting of **189 countries** working to foster global monetary cooperation. In 2018, India's growth rate was **7.1%** as against China's 6.6 per cent. All the estimates are **0.2 percentage** points less than its previous assessment in January.
- 36. State Bank of India (SBI)** has re-priced **home loans** up to **Rs 30 lakh** by 10 basis points.

Note: Accordingly, the interest rate on housing loans of such size will now be in the range of 8.6 to 8.9 per cent. The bank has also lowered its lending rates by a nominal five basis points across all tenors. The reduction in lending rate by the bank follows a 50 basis points cut in repo rate by the RBI in the course of two monetary policy reviews held in February and April this year.

37. Karnam Sekar will take over as MD and CEO of Indian Overseas Bank from 1st July 2019.

Note: R A Sankara Narayanan (former MD and CEO of Vijaya Bank) will move to Canara Bank in the same position. R K Yaduvanshi (executive director at Dena Bank) will move as executive director of Punjab National Bank. Nageshwara Rao (executive director at Vijaya Bank) will move to Syndicate Bank as officer on special duty and full-time director.

38. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of Rs 1 lakh for violation of norms regarding shifting of its branch -- **UP Postal Primary Co-operative Bank.**

Note: The Rs 1 lakh penalty has been imposed on the co-operative bank "for violation of RBI Instructions/Guidelines for shifting of its branch without obtaining prior approval from RBI".

39. Emirates Islamic Bank has announced the launch of **Chat Banking services** for customers via **WhatsApp**, marking a **global first** in the Islamic banking sector.

Note: The bank's customers will now able to conduct daily banking activities via WhatsApp in a seamless and hassle-free manner. The Chat Banking solution, supported by Infobip, further enhances Emirates Islamic's suite of digital banking channels and allows customers to use features such as checking account balances and temporarily blocking or unblocking of an existing card.

40. The **union Government** has retained the interest rate for **General Provident Fund (GPF)**, Contributory Provident Fund and other related schemes for the **first quarter of current** financial year -- **8%.**

Note: The **interest rate** on these funds was at 8% in the **January-March quarter of 2018-19** and government kept it unchanged for April to June for 2019-20. The interest rate will be applicable on provident funds of central government employees, railways and defence forces. Last month, the government had retained interest rates on small savings, including National Savings Certificate and PPF for the first quarter of current fiscal. According to the RBI reports, the Reserve Bank of India

(RBI) injected total liquidity in the market in 2018-19__ **Rs 2.98 lakh crore.**

Note:

- According to the **First Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement for 2019-20**, the systemic liquidity moved into deficit during February 7- March 31 from a daily net average surplus of Rs 27,928 crore during February 1-6, 2019, reflecting the build-up of Centre's cash balances.
- Simultaneously, total durable liquidity injected by the RBI through OMOs aggregated Rs 2,98,500 crore for 2018-19.

41. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has given **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** 12 years to reduce its stake by 10 percent in **IDBI Bank.**

Note: RBI has stipulated that after 12 years LIC has to reduce stake in IDBI Bank by 10 percent to 40 percent. LIC has 51 percent controlling stake in the bank, making the insurer the lender's majority shareholder. The government is the other major investor in IDBI Bank owning 46.46 per cent while the rest is with the public.

42. PAISALO Digital Limited signed the **first co-origination loan** agreement with **State Bank of India (SBI).**

Note: 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. PAISALO Digital Limited is a systemically important non-deposit taking NBFC registered with the Reserve Bank of India and has been in operations since 1992.

43. RBL Bank has partnered with credit profiler CreditVidya to improve the lender's customer experience.

Note: With this partnership, the bank will be able to gain significant insights into its customer base. This will allow it to improve user experience and build customized offerings for over 15 lakh customers. CreditVidya leverages alternative data, artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning for credit scoring in order to facilitate institutional credit for the underserved.

44. As per Forbes World's Best Bank survey, **HDFC Bank** has been identified as number 1 bank by customers in India.

Note: HDFC Bank emerged as India's No 1 bank. ICICI Bank was at number 2 and SBI was surprisingly ranked 11th in the list. At third rank was DBS, followed by Kotak Mahindra Bank and IDFC Bank taking the fourth and fifth spot. Customers were asked to rate banks on overall recommendation and satisfaction, as well as 5 key attributes or 'sub-dimensions' namely trusts, erms &

conditions, customer services, digital services and financial advice.

45. Google has partnered with bullion refiner to allow Google Pay users to buy and sell gold through the app '**MMTC-PAMP India**.

Note: Through this partnership with India's only LBMA accredited gold refinery, Google Pay users will be able to buy 99.99% 24-karat gold, Google said in a statement. Google Pay users can purchase gold for any value and that will be stored on behalf of the user, by MMTC-PAMP, in secure vaults.

46. **Tata Consultancy Services** partnered with **Google Cloud** to build industry-specific cloud solutions.

Note: TCS' solutions on **Google Cloud Platform (GCP)** will help enterprises build secure, cloud-native analytics platforms that enable high levels of personalization, and are cost-effective, easy to maintain, and future ready. In addition, **TCS is a primary partner of Google Anthos**, a modern platform that simplifies building, running and managing services both on-premises and in the cloud.

Obituaries

1. Veteran journalist and academician **Prafulla Rajguru** passed away due to hip injury at a private hospital.

Note: Rajguru had retired (in 1997) as the head of the department of English from DCB Girls College in Jorhat. Rajguru authored four books and was a member of several social organizations like the Asom Sahitya Sabha.

2. Eminent **theatre organizer** and playwright **Kartik Chandra Rath** passed away at his residence in Cuttack.

Note: Mr Rath has penned over a hundred plays and directed over 500 plays in his career as a dramatist. His play "Bhagwan Jane Manisha" staged at the National Theatre festival in Allahabad way back in the 1980s gave him an opening as a dramatist from where he scripted a passionate career as a dramatist.

3. Noted economist **Viharidas Gopaldas Patel** passed away after a brief illness.

Note: Patel's work towards inclusion of entrepreneurship in the formal education system, sensitization of support system, and entrepreneurship research has been widely recognized. In 2017, the Government of India had decorated him with a Padma Shri for his contribution to the entrepreneurship movement.

4. 2002 Medicine Nobel Prize Winner passed away in Singapore -- **Sydney Brenner**.

Note: He discovered fundamental steps in how cells use **DNA** to make the proteins that enable life. Brenner helped **decipher** the genetic code and jointly won the **2002 Nobel Prize** in Physiology or Medicine. Brenner born in South Africa Brenner was an alumnus of **Oxford University**.

5. Bollywood actor **Shri Navtej Hundal** passed away in Mumbai.

Note: Mr. Hundal had been a part of films like Khalnayak (1993), Tere Mere Sapne (1996) and The Whisperers (2009). The actor was last seen in Vicky Kaushal starrer 'Uri: The Surgical Strike' which released in January this year. He played the role of the Home Minister in the movie.

6. Former South Africa Women all-rounder **Elriesa Theunissen-Fourie** passed away in a motor-car accident in Stilfontein in South Africa.

Note: She represented South Africa in three One-Day Internationals and one T20I in 2013. The medium pacer was even part of South Africa's 2013 World Cup squad.

7. Former Kerala Finance Minister **K M Mani** passed away at a private hospital.

Note: He is credited with the record of presenting the State Budget **13 times** as Finance Minister. Mr. Mani (Chairman of the Kerala Congress (M) party) had been an MLA of Pala assembly constituency for nearly five decades. Kerala Congress(M) is a key ally of the Congress-led UDF in the state.

8. BJP MLA **Bhima Mandavi** killed in a **massive Maoist** attack at Dantewada district in Chhattisgarh.

Note: Maoists blasted an IED (Improvised explosive device) and then opened indiscriminate fire on a carcade of MLA near Kuakonda area. The MLA was returning after an election campaigning.

9. Serbia-born actor **Nadja Regin** passed away at the age of 87 years.

Note: She best known for starring in Bond films 'From Russia With Love' and 'Goldfinger'. Regin also worked for the small screen and her TV roles included shows such as The Avengers, Danger Man, The Saint and Dixon of Dock Green. The actor appeared in several British TV

- programmes in the 1960s and also appeared in the 1964 New Zealand film Runaway.
- 10. The Swedish actress Bibi Andersson** passed away at Stockholm, Sweden.
Note: Bibi Andersson had received several awards including the Silver Bear for Best Actress at the Berlin international film festival in 1963. She is best known for starring in many of Bergman classics including The Seventh Seal (1957), Wild Strawberries (1957) and Persona (1966).
- 11. Renowned Hindi poet Pradeep Choubey** passed away at his home in Gwalior.
Note: Choubey was the younger brother of the celebrated humorist, satirist and poet Shail Chaturvedi. He quit his job at Dena Bank to pursue his passion for poetry and travelled across the nation enthralling audiences with his punches, several of them targeted at the orthodox elements of society. Mr. Choubey born in Maharashtra's Chandrapur district, Choubey shifted to Gwalior.
- 12. Former-Director of Indian Space Research Organisation Satellite Centre (ISAC) SK Shivakumar** passed away in Bengaluru.
Note: He was part of the team which had developed telemetry system for India's first moon mission Chandrayan - I. He contributed to several missions like Bhaskara, INSAT, IRS-1B, and IRS-1C. He was Padma Shree awardee and honoured with Karnataka Rajyotsava award (2008).
- 13. America's first female astronaut candidate pilot** passed away in Florida -- **Jerrie Cobb**.
Note: In 1961, Cobb became the first woman to pass astronaut testing. Altogether, 13 women passed the arduous physical testing and became famous as the Mercury 13.
- 14. Scotland all-rounder Con de Lange** passed away after a lengthy battle with a brain tumour.
Note: The South Africa-born player played 21 international matches for Scotland, making his debut in a T20I against Ireland in June 2015. The left-arm orthodox spinner achieved his career-best figure of 5/60 against Zimbabwe which handed Scotland its first ever ODI win over a Full Member.
- 15. Noted Bengali folk singer Amar Pal** passed away in Kolkata after a prolonged illness.
Note: He was an old artist of Akashvani Kolkata and remained closely associated with this prestigious institution. The West Bengal Government conferred Sangeet Mahasamman on him in 2012 for his outstanding contribution in the field of music.
- 16. Veteran lady mountaineer of the country** passed away following a cardiac arrest -- **Rama Sengupta Paul**.
Note: She led the first successful all-women expedition to **Krdarnath Dome** in Garhwal Himalaya. Rama was a member of **Indo-Japanese Women** expedition to Kamet and Abi Gamin organized by Indian Mountaineering Foundation in 1976
- 17. Former India footballer Pungam Kannan** passed away at a city hospital In Kolkata.
Note: Kannan (known as the 'Pele of Asia') played 14 matches for India & was the former Mohun Bagan & East Bengal forward.
- 18. The writer of 'Children of a Lesser God'** passed away in Las Cruces, New Mexico -- **Mark Medoff**.
Note: Medoff wrote 30 plays and is best known for the groundbreaking Children of a Lesser God, the story of a young deaf woman and her love affair with her speech teacher. Matlin won an Oscar for her portrayal of Sarah.
- 19. Noted film director J. Mahendran** passed away following a brief hospitalization.
Note: He was also a part of the Blue Ocean Film and Television Academy (BOFTA) in Chennai where he heads the filmmaking and direction course. Mahendran has directed several memorable films including Mullum Malarum, Johnny and Nenjathai Killadhey.
- 20. BJP MLA Dilip Sarkar** passed away at a private hospital in following prolonged illness in Delhi_.
Note: Sarkar was suffering for quite some time from liver and kidney related problems and was admitted to Apollo hospital in Delhi. Mr. Sarkar had won from the Badharghat seat three times on the Congress ticket and was also minister of state for PWD in the state in the Congress government in 1988. Sarkar had won the 2018 Assembly election from Badharghat seat on BJP ticket
- 21. British film & sound editor Terry Rawlings** passed away.
Note: He was an Oscar nominee for his work on Best Picture winner "Chariots of Fire". Mr. Rawlings was the founding member of the Guild of British Film and Television Editors.

Important Days

1. Odisha has celebrated 84th foundation day on 1st April 2019 also known as -- **Utkal Divas**.
Note: Odisha is the 9th largest state by area and the 11th largest by population. To commemorate the sacrifices of people for the formation of Odisha province in 1936, programmes are being organised at various places across the State. In 1936, Odisha was the first State to be formed on linguistic basis
2. The '**World Autism Awareness Day**' has been observed across the world on **2nd April**.
Note: The day raise awareness about people with **autism** throughout the world. The 2019 theme for the day is "**Assistive Technologies, Active Participation**".
3. International Mine Awareness Day (IMAD) is being organized across the world on **4th April**.
Note: The Theme for IMAD 2019 is "**United Nations Promotes SDGs – Safe Ground – Safe Home**". 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.
4. **National Maritime Day of India** is being organized across the county on **5th April**.
Note: This day, the country renews its abiding faith in the importance of maritime zone as well as sea route for all-round development of the nation. The theme of the National Maritime Day 2019 (56th edition) is "Indian Ocean-An Ocean of opportunity".
5. Traditional new year festivities (Chaitra Sukladi, Ugadi, Gudi Padava, Cheti Chand, Navreh and Sajibu Cheiraoba) are being celebrated in several parts of the country on **6th April**.
Note: In Telangana, people are celebrating Ugaadi across two Telugu states, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh to mark the beginning of the Hindu Lunar calendar. In Maharashtra, Gudi Padwa signifies the welcoming of spring. The day marks the beginning of Chaitra Navratri, that lead up to Ram Navami.
6. The United Nations' (UN) International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (IDSDP) is observed across the world on **6th April**.
Note: The day recognize the power of sport in promoting peace and erasing cultural barriers worldwide. The day has been celebrated each year since 2014. The date commemorates the inauguration of the first Olympic games of the modern era, in Athens (Greece) in 1896.
7. The 'World Health Day' is a global health awareness day celebrated every year on -- **7th April**.
Note: The day provides with a unique opportunity to mobilize action around a specific health topic of concern to people all over the world. The tagline for this year's World Health Day is "Universal Health Coverage: everyone, everywhere". The World Health Organization (WHO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that is concerned with international public health.
8. President **Ram Nath Kovind** paid homage to the martyrs of police at **National Police Memorial in New Delhi**.
Note: It was **54th Valour Day of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)**. Mr. Kovind also presented Gallantry medals to six Jawans posthumously. The President also launched the App - **Veer Parivar** for assistance to next of kin of Martyrs of CRPF personnel.
9. The **World Homoeopathy Day 2019** is being observed across the world on **10th April**.
Note: The day commemorate the birth anniversary (264th) of the founder of Homoeopathy (Dr Christian Fredrich Samuel Hahnemann). On this occasion, The Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH) has organized a two-day convention at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi. Homeopathy as system of medicine (second most widely used system) was developed by Dr. Samuel Hahnemann in Germany in 1796.
10. Ram Navami is being celebrated with religious fervour and enthusiasm in different parts of the country -- **13th April**.
Note: The festival marks the birth of Lord Rama, the seventh incarnation of Lord Vishnu. President Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi have greeted people on the occasion.
11. The festival of harvest **Baisakhi** has been celebrated with traditional enthusiasm in the northern part of the country.
Note: Baisakhi is celebrated with much fanfare in Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh. People are taking a dip at the holy sarovars, canals and rivers before joining the Mela celebrations. Traditional folk dances are performed on this day.
12. The birth anniversary of 24th and last Jain '**Tirthankar Bhagwan Mahavir**' is being celebrated across the country -- **17th April 2019**.
Note: It is one of the most sacred days for Jain people. The followers of Lord Mahavir celebrate this festival by chanting prayers, offering Prasad and participating in chariot processions. Lord Mahaveer was born in Ikshvaku dynasty as the son of King Siddhartha of Kundagrama and Queen Trishala.
13. The **World Haemophilia Day** is being observed worldwide on **17th April**.

- Note:** The day increase awareness of haemophilia and other inherited bleeding disorders. The theme of WHD 2019 is 'Reaching out - connect to your community'. 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.
14. The historic Mujibnagar day is being observed in **Bangladesh**.
Note: The day marks the oath-taking ceremony of Bangladesh's first government in 1971 at Baidyanathtala in Meherpur. The day is being observed by political parties and social and cultural organisations through various programs across Bangladesh. On this day in 1971, senior leaders of the liberation movement of Bangladesh had assembled at Baidyanathtala to form the provisional government of independent Bangladesh.
 15. The 'World Heritage Day' is being observed across the globe every year on **18th April**.
Note: The theme of 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.
 16. The World Liver day is observed every year on **19th April**.
Note: 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.
 17. The 'UN Chinese Language Day' is observed every year on **20th April**.
Note: The day promote the use of Chinese language in United Nation (UN). The day was chosen as the date for the Chinese language to pay tribute to Cang Jie, a mythical figure who is presumed to have invented Chinese characters about 5,000 years ago.
 18. The World Creativity and Innovation Day (WCID) has been celebrated on **21st April**.
Note: On this day the world is invited to embrace the idea that innovation is essential for harnessing the economic potential of nations. The Day is a part of the United Nations resolution entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development."
 19. The civil services day is celebrated every year on **21st April**.
Note: The civil services day is not being observed this year due to the **general elections**. It was on this day that Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel, addressed the first batch of civil servants in Independent India at the Metcalf House where he referred to civil servants as the 'steel frame of India'.
 20. The **International Mother Earth Day** has been celebrated every year around the world on **22nd April**.
Note: The Day (the largest secular world event) provides an opportunity to raise public awareness around the world to the challenges regarding the well-being of the planet and all the life it supports. The theme for 2019 International Mother Earth Day is "Protect our species", which aims to draw attention to the rapid extinction of species across the world.
 21. The '**World Book and Copyright Day**' (WBCD) is being observed every year on **23rd April**.
Note: The day raise awareness about the importance of reading and promote publishing and the protection of copyright around the globe. UNESCO at its General Conference held in Paris chose 23rd of April to celebrate World Book Day as it is a highly symbolic date for world literature in 1995.
 22. The United Nations English Language Day is being observed annually across the world on **23 April**.
Note: It is the date traditionally observed as both the birthday and date of death of the greatest writer ever known in the English language '**William Shakespeare**'. English has an official or special status in at least **75 countries** that have a total population of over **two billion**. The day was **established in 2010** by the Department of Public Information, as a result of its efforts to establish language days for each of United Nation's six official languages.
 23. The 'National Panchayati Raj Diwas' being observed every year across India on **24th April**.
Note: This day marks the passing of the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 that came into force with effect from 24 April 1993.
 24. The 'World Malaria Day. being observed every year across the world on **25th April**.
Note: This year's global theme for World Malaria Day is "Zero malaria starts with me ". Malaria caused by the falciparum parasite is the most serious and can lead to breathing problems, liver failure, and eventual death.
 25. Anzac Day is being observed every year on **25th April**.
Note: ANZAC Day is a national day of remembrance in Australia and New Zealand that commemorates all Australians and New Zealanders who served and died in all wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping operations. On 25 April 2019 a wreath 'laying ceremony' was held for the first time in the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery, Kolkata.
 26. The 'World Intellectual Property Day' is observed annually on **26th April**.
Note: The Day is organized by World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). This year's theme of the day is 'Reach for Gold: IP and Sports'.

27. The World Day for Safety and Health at Work to promote the prevention of occupational accidents and diseases globally observed every year on **28th April**.
Note: The theme for the 2019 is: "Safety and Health and the Future of Work". The day is observed mainly by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) as an awareness-raising campaign to raise awareness of safety in the workplace.

28. International Dance Day is being observed globally on **29th April**.

Note: The day strives to encourage participation and education in dance through events and festivals held on the date all over the world. The event takes place every year on 29th April on the anniversary of the birth of Jean-Georges Noverre (1727–1810), the creator of modern ballet.

New Appointments

1. Anti-corruption activist has been confirmed as the first female President of Slovakia -- Zuzana Caputova.
Note: She defeated Maros Sefcovic, a candidate nominated by Slovakia's ruling party. According to Xinhua News Agency reported, Caputova received 58.40% of votes, while Sefcovic got 41.59% of votes.
2. Executive Director of ICICI Bank **Vijay Chandok** will be the MD and CEO of its subsidiary ICICI Securities with effect from 7th May 2019.
Note: He will succeed Shilpa Naval Kumar. Mr Chandok holds a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology (Banaras Hindu University) and master's degree in Management Studies from Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies, Mumbai (NMIMS).
3. Fighter pilot **Air Marshal 'NS Dhillon'** has been appointed as the **new Strategic Forces** Command Chief.
Note: The Strategic Forces Command (SFC) is tasked to look after the strategic nuclear arsenal of the country and is a part of India's Nuclear Command Authority (NCA) headed by PM Narendra Modi. Dhillon graduated from the National Defence Academy (NDA) in Khadakwasla in Pune and later attended Defence Services Staff College in Wellington Cantonment and National Defence College in New Delhi.
4. Media professional took charge as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the International Cricket Council (ICC) -- **Manu Sawhney**.
Note: He will work alongside Dave Richardson, who will step down after the World Cup in July 2019. Sawhney was with ESPN Star Sports for 17 years and was responsible for scaling the business and doubling annual revenues.
5. **Eicher Motors Ltd** has appointed 'Vinod K. Dasari' as the **chief executive officer** (CEO) of Royal Enfield.
Note: Mr. Dasari will also join the board of Eicher Motors as an executive director with immediate effect. Earlier, Mr. Dasari was the CEO and managing director (MD) of Ashok

Leyland, a position he held since 2011. Royal Enfield is an Indian motorcycle manufacturing brand with the tag of "the oldest global motorcycle brand in continuous production" manufactured in factories in Chennai in India.

6. Algerian President **Abdelaziz Bouteflika** resigned from the post with immediate effect.
Note: Bouteflika (in power for 20 years) has come under mounting pressure to step down since his decision to seek a fifth term despite rarely being seen in public after suffering a stroke in 2013. The powerful Algerian army had called for to be declared incapable of carrying out his duties.
7. **Mayuri Kango** has joined Google India as its industry head.
Note: Earlier, Mayuri Kango was the managing director of Performics Resultrix, part of the Publicis Group. She has also worked with Digitas as associate director, media and Zenith as chief digital officer. She later appeared in films like 'Papa Kehte Hain', 'Betaabi', 'Hogi Pyaar Ki Jeet', 'Badal' and 'Papa the Great'.
8. **Vipin Anand** taken charge as Managing Director (MD) of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India.
Note: Mr. Anand has handled several assignments in various capacities and departments across different locations in India during his 35 years' service. Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) is an Indian state-owned insurance group and investment company headquartered in Mumbai.
9. Senior US Treasury official **David Malpass** has been selected as the President (13th) of the World Bank.
Note: He replaced Jim Yong Kim. Malpass has served on the boards of the Council of the Americas, Economic Club of New York, and the National Committee on US-China Relations. The President of the World Bank Group is responsible for chairing the meeting of the Boards of

- Directors and for overall management of the World Bank Group.
- 10. CS Rajan** has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) of Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services (IL&FS).
Note: Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services Limited (IL&FS) is an Indian infrastructure development and finance company. IL&FS's projects include some of the largest infrastructure projects in India including India's longest tunnel, Chennai-Nashri Tunnel, which was opened for traffic in April 2017.
- 11. Vineet Nayyar** has been appointed as the Executive Vice-Chairman of Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services (IL&FS).
Note: Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services Limited (IL&FS) is an Indian infrastructure development and finance company. IL&FS's projects include some of the largest infrastructure projects in India including India's longest tunnel, Chennai-Nashri Tunnel, which was opened for traffic in April 2017.
- 12. AIIFF President Praful Patel** has become the **first Indian** to be elected as member of **FIFA** Executive Council.
Note: All India Football Federation (AIFF) president Praful Patel (62-years) has become the first Indian to be elected as a member of the FIFA Executive Council for four years (2019 to 2023). Mr Patel was one of the eight candidates vying for the spot in the election which was held during the 29th Asian Football Confederations Congress in Kuala Lumpur.
- 13. Justice Pradeep Nandrajog** sworn in as the Chief Justice of Bombay High Court.
Note: He was administered the oath by Maharashtra Governor C Vidyasagar Rao at the Raj Bhavan in Mumbai, Maharashtra. Justice Nandrajog was serving as the Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court since March 2017, following his transfer from the Delhi High Court.
- 14. Vikramjit Singh Sahney** has been elected as the new president of **International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)** India.
Note: He is the Chairman of SUN Group. ICC India is one of the most active chapters of the ICC, the world's apex business organization. The ICC network speaks, directly and indirectly, for thousands of individual corporations and industrial and trade associations in over 140 countries.
- 15.** One of the power brands of Emami Limited '**Navratna**' has appointed Bollywood heart throb & actor as Brand Ambassador -- **Varun Dhawan**.
Note: Harsha V Agarwal is the Director of Emami Limited. The Navratna collection consists of Navratna Xtra Thanda Oil, Navratna Oil, Navratna Smart Cool, Navratna Cool and Navratna Almond Cool Oil.
- 16. Justice Vikram Nath** has been appointed as the first Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh High Court.
Note: The new high court for Andhra Pradesh was created on January 1 this year, following the bifurcation of a combined high court for AP and Telangana, which had been operating from Hyderabad since June 2, 2014, when the two Telugu states got separated.
- 17. Benjamin Netanyahu** has won the Israeli national election, securing a record fifth term in office.
Note: With 97% of the votes counted, neither of the candidates' parties had captured a ruling majority, but Netanyahu was clearly in a strong position to form a coalition government with other right-wing factions that have backed him.
- 18. Shiv Das Meena** has been appointed as the **Chairman cum Managing Director** (CMD) of National Buildings Construction Corporation (NBCC).
Note: Shiv Das Meena, an Indian Administrative Service officer of Tamil Nadu cadre of 1989-Batch, will succeed Dr. Anoop Kumar Mittal. NBCC (India) Limited (formerly National Buildings Construction Corporation Limited) is a blue-chip Government of India Navratna enterprise and a Central Public Sector undertaking which trades publicly in the market.
- 19. Professor Najma Akhtar** has been appointed as the first woman vice-chancellor of **Jamia Millia Islamia** for a period of five years.
Note: She is a gold medalist from **Aligarh Muslim University (AMU)** and **completed her PhD** (Education) from Kurukshetra University. She held posts of faculty and Controller of Examinations and Admissions and Director, Academic Programmes at AMU. She was the founder director of the State Institute of Educational Management and Training (SIEMAT), Uttar Pradesh, which was established for developing educational administrators for the country.
- 20.** The government has appointed Senior bureaucrat as Secretary, Defence Finance, as part of a bureaucratic reshuffle -- **Gargi Kaul**.

- Note:** She is a **1984-batch officer** of the Indian Audit and Accounts Service, is at present Financial Advisor (Defence Services), Ministry of Defence.
- 21. Jean-Michel Lapin** confirmed as Haiti's new prime minister.
Note: Mr. Lapin (former culture and communications minister) succeeds Prime Minister Jean-Henry Ceant. Haiti is the poorest country in the Americas, with 60 per cent of the population living below the poverty line. In 2018, Haiti racked up a record USD 290 million deficit, while its national budget, the lowest in the Caribbean region, amounts to USD 1.8 billion.
- 22. Union Steel Minister Chaudhry Birendra Singh** resigned from the Union Cabinet as well as from the membership of Rajya Sabha.
Note: However, he will continue to be a member of the 'Bhartiya Janata Party' (BJP). Birendra Singh was elected to Rajya Sabha in 2016 for a six years term which means he still has more than three years left in the upper house of the Parliament
- 23. The Union Cabinet** has given its approval to create one post in the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India -- **Deputy Comptroller and Auditor General.**
Note: The Deputy CAG shall oversee the coordination among state audits, audit of telecommunication and coordinate the various information systems initiatives within the Indian Audit & Accounts Department (IA&AD).
- 24. The first Indian** to be appointed Chair of the **International Hockey Federation (FIH) Health and Safety Committee** by the world governing body -- **Col (Dr.) Bibhu Kalyan Nayak.**
Note: Col (Dr.) Bibhu Kalyan Nayak has become the first Indian to be appointed Chair of the International Hockey Federation (FIH) Health and Safety Committee by the world governing body. Mr. Nayak has extensively trained in Sports Traumatology and Sports and Exercise Physiology from National Institute of Sports Medicine at Havana, Cuba & National Sports Centre at Madrid, Spain. Recently, he also served as the Medical Officer for the 2018 Men's World Cup. He was commissioned in the Army Medical Corps of the Indian-Army in 1995 and has worked in the Army Sports Institute, Pune in six years.
- 25. Mohammad Ishtayyeh** sworn in as new Prime Minister of Palestine.
Note: The President of the State of Palestine, Mahmoud Abbas has confirmed the appointment of Dr. Mohammad Ishtayyeh (61 year) as the new Prime Minister of the country. Mr. Ishtayyeh will succeed Rami Hamdallah. The Prime Minister of the State of Palestine is the head of government of the State of Palestine.
- 26. Mali's Prime Minister** has resigned along with his entire government of **Soumeylou Boubeye Maiga.**
Note: Tens of thousands of people took to the streets of Bamako on April 5 to protest the upsurge of violence, accusing the government of not doing enough to stop it. Mali has been struggling to restore stability since Islamist extremists linked to Al-Qaeda took control of the country's vast desert north in early 2012.
- 27. Pakistan's Finance Minister Asad Umar** quit the Cabinet.
Note: Pakistan is seeking eight billion dollars from the IMF to bail itself out from a severe balance-of-payments crisis that threatens to cripple the country's economy. The Ministry of Finance is a ministry of the Government of Pakistan tasked to ensure a strong Pakistani economy by developing policies of sound economic management and providing expert advice to the government.
- 28. India's next High Commissioner** to South Africa --- **Jaideep Sarkar.**
Note: Currently, Sarkar is serving as India's ambassador in Bhutan. The government also appointed Suhel Ajaz Khan as India's next High Commissioner to Lebanon. Currently, he is serving as India's Deputy Chief of Mission in Saudi Arabia.
- 29. Germany-based lender Deutsche Bank** has appointed **Kaushik Shaparia** as the chief executive officer (CEO) for India.
Note: Shaparia served as Asia Pacific Head of Corporate Banking Coverage within Institutional and Treasury Coverage, as well as Global Head of Subsidiary Coverage. Deutsche Bank AG is a German multinational investment bank and financial services company headquartered in Frankfurt, Germany.
➤ The bank is operational in 58 countries with a large presence in Europe, the Americas and Asia.
- 30. Ukraine's political newcomer Volodymyr Zelensky** has won the **2019 Presidential election** of the country.
Note: He won 73% of the vote in the runoff election, according to national exit poll results broadcast by Ukrainian television. Mr. Zelensky is best known for starring in a satirical television series *Servant of the People* in which his character accidentally becomes Ukrainian president.

- 31.** CEO of Network18 Digital has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) for India operations -- **Manish Maheshwari**.
Note: Mr. Maheshwari takes over from interim head Balaji Krish. He will be responsible for driving an integrated business strategy to accelerate Twitter's audience and revenue growth in the country. Twitter is an American online news and social networking service on which users post and interact with messages known as "tweets".
- 32.** **Shri Rajendra Kumar Nayak** took over as the **52nd** Controller General of Defence Accounts.
Note: Shri Nayak has held important assignments in the Defence Accounts Department and on deputation in the Government of India. He was Additional Controller General of Defence Accounts, Defence Accounts Department, Ministry of Defence before taking over as the CGDA. Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA) heads the Defence Accounts Department (DAD), which is one of the oldest government organizations in India.
- 33.** **Uday Kumar Varma** resigned from the post of The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Assocham) Secretary-General.
Note: He had succeeded D S Rawat who held the position for nearly 14 years. Mr. Verma retired from the post of Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on June 30, 2013. The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) is one of the apex trade associations of India.
- 34.** Former Army Chief **Dalbir Singh Suhag** has been appointed as India's next **high commissioner** to the island nation **Seychelles**.
Note: Seychelles is a country which is of strategic importance to India in the Indian Ocean region. General (retired) Suhag was the Army chief from 31st July 2014, to 31st December 2016. Seychelles is an archipelago country (115-island) in the Indian Ocean.
- 35.** The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has set up a 13 members committee under IRDAI Executive Director -- **Suresh Mathur**.
Note: The committee will review the regulatory framework on microinsurance and recommend measures to increase the demand for such products. The committee has been formed in the backdrop of a less-than-desired offtake of microinsurance products despite their inherent benefits.
- 36.** A high-level panel led by former RBI governor **Bimal Jalan** set up to decide the appropriate capital reserves that the central bank should maintain, is likely to submit its report by June.
Note: The six-member Jalan panel was appointed on 26th December 2018, to review the Economic Capital Framework for the RBI. The panel has got an extension beyond its three-month term.

Important News – India

- ISRO has successfully **launched 29 satellites including the primary payload EMISAT** from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in **Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh**.
Note: The main satellite EMISAT and the 28 customer satellites will be ed into two different orbits. The foreign satellites include 24 from the United States, two from Lithuania and one each from Switzerland and Spain. An ISRO release says EMISAT (weighing 436 kg) is intended for electromagnetic spectrum measurement, developed for monitoring radar network by India.
- The **Union government** has announced that the deadline for the linking of **Aadhaar with PAN** has been extended to **30th September 2019**.
Note: Those looking to file their income tax returns on or after 1st April 2019 will still have to quote their PAN while doing so. This is the sixth time the government has extended the Aadhaar-PAN linking deadline.
- Kandhamal haldi (turmeric) produced by the tribal farmers received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag -- **Kandhamal (Odisha)**
Note: Kandhamal turmeric, originally grown by tribal people in Kandhamal, is famous for its medicinal properties. Kandhamal haldi is organic by default being cultivated by more than 60,000 families. The colour of Kandhamal haldi is golden yellow being well distinguished from other varieties. Kandhamal Apex Spices Association for Marketing had moved for registration 'Kandhamal Haldi' which was accepted under sub-section (1) of Section 13 of the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999.
- The Garuda Prakashan Private Limited** has launched its book 'Saffron Swords- Centuries of Indic Resistance to Invaders'.

- Note:** The book 'Saffron Swords- Centuries of Indic Resistance to Invaders' has been written by Manoshi Sinha Rawal. It is a book on 52 unsung warriors of India from the last 1300 years. Aabhas' "#Modi Again: Why Modi is right for India, An Ex-Communist's Manifesto" is the story of someone who was raised on communist ideology but grew to question the dogmas he was taught in the education system.
5. India signed an agreement with a development bank (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Consultancy Service) for setting up the IAIARD in **Malawi**.
Note: IAIARD will be a Pan-African Institute wherein trainees not only from Malawi but also from other African countries. The travel, logistics and training course expenses for students from other African countries will be borne by the Government of India for an initial period of three years. This institute will be the first of its kind developed in an African country by India.
 6. WhatsApp launched a new service in India to tackle rumors ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha elections -- **tipline**.
Note: It allows users to submit for review messages they think are misleading or carry unsubstantiated information, in the latest of a series of steps to curb misinformation on the messaging platform. Users can send suspicious messages to the 'tipline phone number' (+91-9643-000-888) to validate the authenticity of claims in those messages, which may be in the form of text, images or videos.
 7. The 3rd Goa Anti-Tobacco Film Festival will be held in Goa on **31st May**.
Note: The festival will select ad films to spread the message of the harmful effects of tobacco use and decrease the occurrence of oral cancer and heart disease and to promote film art through non-profit screening of these films. This festival, whose ultimate objective is to make Goa smoke-free, will have two separate categories — one for Goa and another for national films.
 8. **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** has inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)** in Delhi to collaborate in the field of standardization and conformity assessment.
Note: The MoU was signed by IIT Delhi Director Professor V Ramgopal Rao and Director General of BIS Surina Rajan. BIS and IIT Delhi have also agreed to set up a Centre of Excellence in the field of standardization, testing and conformity assessment.
 9. **Bharatiya Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)** has received a license from the **Department of Telecommunications** to provide Internet and mobile services on flights.
Note: India has got a new "**in-flight and maritime connectivity**" (IFMC) license. BSNL and its satellite partner, Inmarsat (British telecommunications satellite company) will be able to offer in-flight connectivity to airlines. According to the rules, passengers can make phone calls or use the Internet when a flight is at a minimum height of 3,000m in Indian airspace to avoid interference with terrestrial mobile networks.
 10. The **Biannual Army Commanders' Conference** begins in **New Delhi**.
Note: Defence Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** has delivered 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.
 11. The **first indigenous long-range artillery gun** has been inducted into the Indian Army -- '**Dhanush**'.
Note: The **Ordnance Factory Board (OFB)** handed over the first batch of six Dhanush artillery guns to the Army. The 155 mm calibre artillery gun was manufactured by the Jabalpur-based Gun Carriage Factory. Dhanush is a 155 mm, 45-calibre towed artillery gun with a range of 36 km and has demonstrated a range of 38 km with specialized ammunition. It is an upgrade of the existing 155m, 39 calibre Bofors FH 77 gun.
 12. India is hosting a two-day convention to mark the 'World Homeopathy Day' at Dr Ambedkar International Centre in **New Delhi**.
Note: The day is observed to commemorate the birth anniversary of the founder of Homoeopathy, Dr. Christian Fredrich Samuel Hahnemann. AYUSH awards relating to Homoeopathy for Life Time Achievement, Best Teacher, Young Scientist and Best Research paper will be conferred on this occasion.
 13. **Guillermo del Toro** will expand the folklore around his Oscar-nominated film Pan's Labyrinth with a new novel titled Pan's Labyrinth: The Labyrinth of the Faun.
Note: The novel is co-written by the filmmaker and Cornelia Funke. The book will include stories that expand the folklore on which the original film was based on.
 14. **National Green Tribunal (NGT)** has slapped an interim penalty of Rs 100 crore on the Andhra Pradesh government for inaction to prevent illegal sand mining in the state.
Note: The tribunal directed the state government to deposit Rs 100 crore 'environment compensation' with the Central Pollution Control Board within a month. The tribunal's direction came on a plea filed by Andhra Pradesh resident Anumolu Gandhi, alleging illegal sand

- mining was causing damage to Krishna, Godavari rivers and their tributaries in the state.
- 15. Revolt Intellicorp Pvt Ltd.** will make the smart electric two-wheelers & connected devices.
Note: The e-motorcycle is supposed to be launched in June this year. As per some crucial specifications, the bike will be able to cover over 150 km on a single charge.
- 16.** According to a report by the **United Nations Population Fund**, India's **population grew** at an average annual rate between 2010 and 2019 -- **1.2%**.
Note: India's population in 2019 stood at 1.36 billion, growing from 942.2 million in 1994 and 541.5 million in 1969. China's population grew at an average annual rate of 0.5 per cent between 2010 and 2019, the report said. Six per cent of the country's population was of the age 65 and above.
- 17.** As per the **Indian Steel Association**, India's steel demand is likely to grow by over in 2019 and 2020 -- **7%**.
Note: The Indian Steel Association has forecast India's steel demand to grow by 7.1% in the **calendar year 2019** and by 7.2% in the **calendar year 2020**. The **World Steel Association** had recently estimated steel demand in India to touch **103 million tonnes** in 2019, against 96 million tonnes logged in 2018 and 110 million tonnes in 2020.
- 18.** Google has launched a new cloud platform -- **Anthos**.
Note: Anthos is a completely software-based solution. Users can set it up on existing hardware, claimed Google. It allows users to run applications, unmodified, on existing on-premise hardware or on the public cloud and is based on the Cloud Services Platform that announced in 2018.
- 19.** According to the Air Quality in India 2014-2019' report, most polluted city in the world -- **Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh)**.
Note: Faridabad in Haryana has been ranked second and Varanasi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Lok Sabha constituency, is ranked third on the WHO's list of 15 most polluted cities. WHO's report states that Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh is witnessing a rise in the number of people suffering from allergies and respiratory problems due to the huge amount of construction in the city.
- 20. NGT (National Green Tribunal)** formed a Central Monitoring Committee to enforce a national plan to reduce the river pollution.
Note: The Central Monitoring Committee will also coordinate with the River Rejuvenation Committees of the states and oversee the execution of the action plans. It will make over 351 river stretches across the country pollution free as it has caused a serious threat to the safety of water and environment.
- 21.** The Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral '**Sunil Lanba**' has inaugurated the maiden 'state-of-the-art' Virtual Reality Centre (VRC) at the **Directorate of Naval Design, New Delhi**.
Note: This centre would provide a major boost to the Indigenous warship design capabilities of the Indian Navy. It will provide impetus to self-reliance and greater fillip to warship construction under "Make in India" initiative of the Indian government. This project will facilitate collaborative design reviews for continuous interaction between the designers and the end users to improve design and ergonomics onboard warships.
- 22.** India successfully test fires Sub-Sonic cruise missile -- **Nirbhay**.
Note: 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.
- 23.** General Rawat commissioned the coast guard's offshore patrol vessel (OPV) -**Veera**.
Note: Veera (97-metre long and 15-metre wide) will help the coast guard monitor maritime boundaries more effectively. The Veera has a range of 5,000 nautical miles and can attain a sustained speed of up to 26 knots. It is armed with two 12.7-mm heavy machine guns (HMGs) and a 30 mm-naval gun with the fire control system.
- 24.** The Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of the GSLV Phase - 4 programmes consisting of five GSLV flights during the period from **2021 to 2024**.
Note: The Phase - 4 will enable the launch of two tonne class of satellites for Geo-imaging, Navigation, Data Relay Communication and Space Sciences. The programme will meet the launch requirement of satellites for providing critical Satellite Navigation Services, Data Relay Communication for supporting the Indian Human spaceflight programme and the next interplanetary mission to Mars. The operationalization of GSLV has made the country self-reliant in the launching capability of 2 tonne class of satellites for communication and meteorological satellites.
- 25. The Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** has approved the merger of Tata Teleservices with Bharti Airtel Ltd.
Note: The guarantees are mostly related to one-time spectrum charges (OTSC) and some deferred airwave charges, according to people aware of the development. The merger will be taken on record after Airtel submits

- a bank guarantee of about Rs 6,000 crore for one-time spectrum charges and another Rs 1,200 crore for the spectrum that would be acquired from TTSL.
- 26.** The 8th- edition of **Home Expo India-2019** has begun at India Expo Centre and Mart in **Greater Noida**.
Note: It covers sectors with maximum thrust and growth potential in home decor, furnishing, furniture, flooring and textiles. About 500 companies in permanent marts will be exhibiting their collection under these categories. Home Expo India 2019 is a one-stop destination for all your sourcing needs for a variety of Housewares & Decorative products at one place. The exhibition has been organized by the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts.
- 27. National Green Tribunal (NGT)** has directed the **Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF)** to submit a report on the constitution of **Biodiversity Management Committees (BMC)** at the local level in every state within three months.
Note: A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel also asked the states who have not constituted the committees to file an affidavit stating the reason for the delay. The tribunal on August 8 last year had directed a monitoring committee comprising officials from the Ministry of Environment and Forests and National Biodiversity Authority to furnish a report.
- 28.** The British Indian Novelist Salman Rushdie's new novel **Quichotte** will be released in August 2019.
Note: It is the story of an ageing travelling salesman who falls in love with a TV star and sets off to drive across America on a quest to prove himself worthy of her hand. This book "Quichotte", acquired by Penguin Random House India, will be published in India under the Hamish Hamilton imprint in August. Rushdie is the author of 13 novels including "Midnight's Children", for which he won the Man Booker Prize and Booker of Bookers Prize, and one collection of short stories.
- 29.** Saudi Arabia has issued a formal order increasing the Haj quota of India to -- **Two lakhs**.
Note: In February 2019, the Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin had announced that Indian Haj quota would be increased by 25 thousand to two lakhs. This is the third hike in three consecutive years. As many as 2,340 Indian Muslim women will go for the pilgrimage without a male companion or Mehram.
- 30.** The Union government has suspended the LoC trade in **Jammu and Kashmir**.
Note: The decision was taken as the government has been receiving reports that the Cross-LoC trade routes are being misused by the Pakistan-based elements for funnelling illegal weapons, narcotics and fake currency. The main objective of allowing LoC trade between Jammu and Kashmir and Pakistan occupied areas of Jammu and Kashmir was to encourage local trade and exchange of locally made and grown products.
- 31.** The Indian Navy launched guided missile destroyer at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders in Mumbai -- '**Imphal**'.
Note: Imphal is the third ship to be launched under a project in which ships are built to carry and operate two multiple role helicopters. According to enhanced stealth features have been achieved through the shaping of hull and use of radar transparent deck fittings which make the ships difficult to detect. Navy has become a builder from a buyer and was slated to excel in coming years.
- 32.** The first edition of Naval Commanders' Conference of 2019 held in **New Delhi**.
Note: The three days conference is the apex forum within the Service for interaction between the Naval Commanders. It will provide the higher naval leadership a forum to discuss the emerging challenges in the maritime domain. The conference also serves as a platform for interaction of Naval Commanders with senior Government Officials.
- 33.** India has been placed at **19th spot** out of 28 countries in the **Index of Cancer Preparedness (ICP)** 2019 created by the **Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)**.
Note: Australia (score - 90.6) has topped the ICP list with a, followed by the Netherlands (score- 89.9) and Germany (88.7). The Index of Cancer Preparedness (ICP) presents data on 45 indicators that are relevant to cancer control. Cancer is a generic term for large group of diseases characterized by growth of abnormal cells beyond their usual boundaries that can then invade adjoining parts of body and spread to other organs.
- 34. Indonesia** has released a **special commemorative stamp** on the theme of **Ramayana** to mark the **70th anniversary** of the establishment of its diplomatic ties with India.
Note: According to the Embassy of India in Jakarta, 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.
- 35. Reliance Jio** has become the second-largest telecom company in the country.
Note: Jio overtaken Bharti Airtel in terms of customer base and now trails only Vodafone Idea. According to a Times of India report, Jio presently has 306 million customers, Vodafone Idea continues to lead the industry with 387 million subscribers, Airtel has 284 million subscribers.

36. The Union government has extended the ban on import of milk and its products, including chocolates, from **China**.
Note: Food regulator FSSAI had recommended extending the ban until all labs at ports are modernised to test the chemical. The ban was imposed on apprehensions of the presence of melamine in some milk consignments from China.

37. Country's largest car maker **Maruti** will phase out diesel cars from its line-up from April 2020.
Note: The reason of stopping is higher manufacturing cost on account of stricter BS6 emission norms that would make diesel vehicles significantly expensive for customers, pricing them out of the market. For Maruti, the share of diesel variants is 23% in total sales that stood at 17.5 lakh units last fiscal.

States News

- 1. Telangana** has ranked number one by reaching 20,000 field staff during 2018-19 in eLearning training.
Note: This is the second year in succession that the State got the distinction under the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT). Dr MCR HRD Institute enrolled over 20, 000 field staff in different districts of the State to impart training on 12 soft skills modules and three domain-specific modules.
- The longest suspension bridge (260-foot) over the Indus River at Choglamsar village opened to the public in **Leh**.
Note: The bridge has been named 'Maitri Bridge', symbolising the excellent civil-military relations existing in the Leh-Ladakh region. It was constructed by the combat engineers (Sahas aur Yogyata Regiment) of the Fire and Fury Corps of the Indian Army in a record time of 40 days, ferrying almost 500 tons of equipment and construction material.
- India's first carbon-positive settlement village -- **Phayeng**.
Note: Phayeng Village of Manipur has been tagged as India's first carbon-positive settlement. A village is given the carbon-positive tag if it sequesters more carbon than it emits, slowing the accumulation of greenhouse gases and mitigating the effects of climate change. Phayeng is a scheduled caste village of the Chakpa community in Imphal West district.
- Guwahati Railway Station** has become the first ever railway station in the Indian Railways to get an **ISO certification** (ISO-14001) from the **National Green Tribunal** (NGT) for "providing passenger amenities in a clean and green environment."
Note: Guwahati Railway Station is ISO-14001, which is for Environment Management System as per international norms which were upgraded in 2015. In April 2017, Guwahati railway station became the first railway station to run entirely on solar power.
- Delhi Deputy Chief Minister & Education Minister Manish Sisodia will pen the story of the changes in Delhi's education system in a book -- **Shiksha: A Journey**.
Note: This book (launch in September 2019) was going to be a document about the "idea of India through education". The book, which will come out in both English and Hindi. It will recount this journey of "raising the bar

- of public education in the state and the challenges he overcame to improve the infrastructure and quality of schooling".
- Haryana Chief Electoral Officer Rajeev Ranjan has inaugurated India's first-of-its-kind 'Voter Park' in **Gurugram, Haryana**.
Note: 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.
 - Accepting the recommendations of the Election Commission, President Ram Nath Kovind cancelled polling in **Vellore constituency**.
Note: With this, Vellore has become the first Lok Sabha seat in the history of independent India to have had its elections countermanded over abuse of money power.
 - The Supreme Court has banned all mining activities along the 'Kaziranga National Park' and catchment area of rivers originating in **Karbi Anglong Hills, Assam**.
Note: The mining activity in this area was resulting in environmental degradation and habitat destruction in an important elephant and tiger habitat. It is famous for one-horned rhinoceros. Kaziranga National Park is a national park in the Golaghat and Nagaon districts of the state of Assam, India.
 - Dr. M. Ravi Kanth (CMD, HUDCO) has inaugurated the **49th Foundation Day celebrations of HUDCO** (Housing and Urban Development Corporation) in **New Delhi**.
Note: The **HUDCO Design Awards** for innovative design solutions for disaster resistant housing, conservation of heritage, green buildings and landscape planning & design were also presented on the occasion.
 - South Central Zone Cultural Centre (SCZCC) of Ministry of Culture, Government of India has organized a Madhya Dakshini Festival 2019 in four venues of **Guwahati**.
Note: The festival is being celebrated in collaboration with North East Zone Cultural Centre (NEZCC) in four venues of Guwahati. Around 100 folk artists from Central India, states from Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh has performed vibrant and colourful folk dances showing the rich cultural heritage of India.

11. The Gujarat health department has issued an alert for two-days as the temperatures are likely to touch 44 degrees -- **Orange Alert**.
Note: All state's bus stands and municipal corporation has made arrangement for water at multiple points.

Meteorological Centre (MC) Ahmedabad released warning for a heat wave in multiple regions of Gujarat for the next 48 hours.

Important News – World

- Tesla has developed its 'largest power storage system in Asia' at Osaka train station in **Japan**.
Note: It will reduce energy demand and provide emergency backup power to trains in Japan. The 42 Powerpack battery system will also help reduce energy demand on the Osaka grid during peak hours. Tesla stated that 7 megawatt-hours (MWh) system is its largest energy storage project in Asia and the fourth largest in the greater Asia-Pacific (APAC) region.
- President **Ram Nath Kovind** visited Pablo Neruda Museum at Santiago in **Chile**.
Note: During his three day visit to Chile, The President meet Indian business community and interact with the Indian community. Mr. kovind will also interact with the young scientist at the University of Chile.
- China** has been successfully launched the first of its new-generation data relay satellites into orbit to provide data relay.
Note: The Tianlian II-01 satellite was launched by a Long March-3B carrier rocket from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre. The Tianlian II network will be markedly more advanced in mission planning, system management and operations than the first-generation network composed of Tianlian I satellites. The satellite is developed by the China Academy of Space Technology under the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation.
- India has signed three memoranda of understanding (MoU)s with **Chile** for cooperation in the fields of mining, culture and Empowerment of persons with disabilities.
Note: The agreements would further enhance engagement in economic, social and cultural fields between the two countries. President Ram Nath Kovind who was on an official visit to Chile said this after a brief Tete-a-Tete with his Chilean counterpart. Mr Kovind was on a three-day visit to Chile on the third leg of his three-nation tour including Croatia and Bolivia.
- The US government has approved the sale of 24 multi-role MH-60 Romeo Seahawk helicopters to India at an estimated cost of **USD 2.4 billion**.
Note: 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. The Sikorsky MH-60 Seahawk is a twin turboshaft engine, multi-mission United States Navy helicopter based on the United States Army UH-60 Black Hawk and a member of the Sikorsky S-70 family.
- Japan's government has unveiled an era name -- **Reiwa**.
Note: The name 'Reiwa' which consists two Chinese characters, the first meaning 'good' or 'beautiful' as well as 'order' or 'command' and the second meaning 'peace' or 'harmony'. The country's current era, Heisei, will end in April. The era name, or "gengo," is a 1,400-year-old Japanese tradition tied to emperors' reigns to showcase their power. The names change when a new emperor takes the throne.
- World's first nationwide **5G mobile networks services** has been launched two hours ahead of the US - **South Korea**.
Note: Three top telecom providers SK Telecom, KT, and LG Uplus launched the 5G services. 5G will provide smartphones with near-instantaneous connectivity, 20 times faster than 4G. 5G networks will operate in a high-frequency band between 28 GHz and 60 GHz. This range is known as the millimetre wave (mm-Wave) spectrum and the sub-6 GHz range that LTE calls home will also be used.
- Nepal-India Franchise Investment Expo and Conclave will be held in **Kathmandu**.
Note: The event primarily focuses on building the relations between India and Nepal through entrepreneurship development. The conclave is organized by Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FNCCI) in association with Embassy of India and Franchise India. According to organizers 250 businesspersons and investors will attend the conclave and more than 1000 prospective franchisees and investors are expected to visit the expo.
- The 7th Foreign Office consultations between India and Italy were held in **New Delhi**.
Note: These consultations provided an opportunity to review the follow-up actions taken after the visit of Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte in October last year as well as the entire range of bilateral relations, including political, defence, scientific, economic and commercial ties. Both sides took note of the growing economic and commercial relations and discussed steps to further facilitate their growth, including through strengthening the existing institutional mechanisms.

10. The International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT) will organize a NuGen Mobility Summit, 2019, at **Manesar**.
Note: NuGen Mobility Summit is a biennial event being organised by the International Centre for Automotive Technology in collaboration with SAE-NIS. The objective of the Summit is to share new ideas, global experiences, innovations and future technology trends for faster adoption, and development of advanced automotive technologies for a smarter and greener future. More than 2500 participants and over 250 exhibitors are expected to take part in the Summit.
11. Sri Lankan Army will conduct "Exercise" starting from 1st July 2019 — '**Exercise – Western Shield**'.
Note: 'Exercise-Western Shield' is the biggest ever infantry training module. Exercise Western Shield will extend from Mannar to Puttalam, including Kalpitiya, Wilpattu National Park, Mavillu and Thabbowa Forest Reserves and the Western coastal belt.
12. **South Korea** declared a state of national disaster over the massive blaze that engulfed five cities and counties along the northeastern coast.
Note: Thousands of residents were ordered to evacuate overnight. The fire likely started on Thursday night from a transformer spark near a resort in the town of Goseong and spread to the nearby mountains. including the Inje county and the cities of Sokcho, Donghae and Gangneung in Gangwon province.
13. **UAE Govt.** has announced granting **long-term visas** for the top **100 start-ups** shaping the fourth industrial revolution.
Note: The Forum witnessed for the **first time** bringing together **100 emerging companies** from the Arab region, which are working to shape the future of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. The UAE is a global incubator for emerging innovations. Our innovation-friendly legislative structure is essential for start-up companies
14. Military forces of India and Singapore got together to participate in a joint exercise in Babina Cantonment, Jhansi -- **Bold Kurukshetra-2019**.
Note: The three-day exercise is being conducted to develop military technology, boost maritime security and bolster the nations' fight against terrorism. As per the agreement, the Singapore military would undergo training and participate in firing exercise with their India.
15. The World Economic Forum (WEF) in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) 2019 took place in **Jordan**.
Note: The 17th WEF meeting in the region called for united efforts to address the most pressing challenges of the area. The forum assembled more than 1,000 government, business and civil society leaders from more than 50 countries. The forum was themed on three major visions: generating job opportunities, empowering Arab women and promoting the most intriguing start-ups that have joined the region's industry over the past years.
16. The United Nations has described Cyclone as one of the deadliest storms on record in the southern hemisphere -- **Cyclone Idai**.
Note: Zimbabwe updated the number of deaths to 344, while Mozambique has reported 602 deaths. In Malawi, 59 people died in heavy rains before the onset of Idai.
17. India has launched a joint programme with a country that will work towards addressing a range of challenges around smart cities and clean technologies among others_ **Sweden**.
Note: The programme was co-funded by the Indian Department of Science and Technology (DST) and Swedish agency Vinnova. Under this collaboration, Sweden's Vinnova will provide funding to Swedish participants up to 2,500,000 Swedish Krona (around Rs 1.87 crore) as a grant.
18. The first-ever blackhole to be pictured has been named -- **Powehi**.
Note: The name Powehi, meaning the embellished dark source of unending creation, was deliberated upon by astronomers and renowned Hawaiian language professor, Larry Kimura. "Powehi", the name bestowed upon the first black hole pictured ever, is sourced from the Hawaiian word "Kumulipo", a primordial chant describing the creation of the universe.
19. **India** will be the Guest of Honour country at the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair (ADIBF) 2019, to be held from 24th to 30th April 2019.
Note: The fair aims to highlight the UAE's rich heritage, showcasing its authenticity and modernity, as well as its cultural and literary output. India's participation in the fair is expected to attract a significant increase in the number of visitors with various events and activities which will be held throughout the entire duration of ADIBF. The Indian Pavilion will host Indian writers, authors and literary scholars who will serve as ambassadors for the literature and art of their country.
20. **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** will host the world's foremost **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** Summit to empower global dialogue on the future of government, business and society.
Note: Emirates News Agency reported that the two-day event will bring together world leaders to define the underlying pillars of governance, business and society - augmenting the world's happiness. AIE will unravel real-world use cases across industries, and forge collaborations and partnerships, hosting over 130 influential speakers

21. Finland's leftist has recorded a razor-thin victory in general elections, holding off the far-right Finns Party -- **Social Democrats**.
Note: The Social Democrats, led by Antti Rinne, bagged 40 seats in the 200-member Parliament, while the Finns Party picked up 39 seats. The National Coalition Party claimed 38 seats, with the ruling Centre Party winning 31 seats. The remaining seats were won by other parties.
22. **Nepal** successfully launched its **first satellite** into space from **Virginia** in the United States -- **NepaliSat-1**.
Note: **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. The BIRDS project has been designed in association with the **United Nations** and aims at **helping countries** launch their first satellite.
23. Sri Lanka's **first satellite** has been launched **into space** from **NASA's Flight Facility** on Virginia's east shore -- **Raavana-1**.
Note: 'Raavana 1' weighs 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.
24. China has successfully tested the **world's first** armed amphibious **drone boat** -- **Marine Lizard**.
Note: 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.
25. Google has opened its first African artificial intelligence (AI) centre in **Accra, Ghana**.
Note: The research laboratory will host software engineers and research scientists to work on projects dedicated to next-generation technology. The centre engages directly with African universities by providing grants and PhD scholarships to students interested in AI. Google also supports graduate programs in machine intelligence at the African Institute for Mathematical Sciences in Rwanda.
26. The **Ministry of External Affairs** has set up an Indo-Pacific Wing in the foreign office.
Note: This new division is intended to give a coherent architecture to the policy, which was articulated by the PM Modi at the Shangri-La Dialogue in 2018. Currently, this division will be headed by joint secretary Vikram Doraiswam.
27. Google and Apple have removed the Chinese internet firm Bytedance's **social media app** in India from the Play Store and App Store -- **TikTok**.
Note: Earlier, Madras High Court that had directed the Centre to ban TikTok app over concerns about access to pornographic content through it. TikTok is an iOS and Android media app for creating and sharing short videos. The application allows users to create short music videos of 3–15 seconds and short looping videos of 3–60 seconds. It is a leading short video platform in Asia, the United States, and other parts of the world.
28. The Indian Navy held the **2nd edition** of the **bilateral maritime exercise** between the **Indian Navy** and Vietnam Peoples' Navy at **Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam**.
Note: The exercise was undertaken as a part of the ongoing Overseas Deployment of Eastern Fleet ships to South East Asian countries. INS Kolkata under the command of Captain Aditya Hara and INS Shakti under the command of Captain Sriram Amur participated in the exercise.
29. The 7th China International Technology Fair (CSITF) opened in **Shanghai, China**.
Note: The national-level professional fair has five exhibition areas including professional technologies, technological innovation, and trade services. Nearly 1,000 companies and organizations are attending the fair, including more than 20 companies and organizations from the British city of Liverpool.
30. The UAE Cabinet has adopted the **National Artificial Intelligence Strategy 2031** at the Presidential Palace in **Abu Dhabi**.
Note: Its aims at positioning the UAE as a global leader in artificial intelligence by 2031 and to develop an integrated system that employs artificial intelligence in vital areas in the country. According to Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid, The UAE is moving ahead with its vision and aspirations through a well-defined plan for the UAE Centennial 2071.
31. **Saudi Arabia** will host the G20 summit on 21-22 November 2020.
Note: First-ever '**Japan**' will host this year's **G20 summit** in Osaka (28-29 June 2019). The G20 (Group of Twenty) is an international forum for the governments and central bank governors from 19 countries and the European Union. It was founded in 1999 with the aim to discuss policy pertaining to the promotion of international financial stability
32. NASA astronaut is going to have her mission on the **International Space Station (ISS)** extended to 328 days -- **Christina Koch**.
Note: This would set a record for the longest single spaceflight by a woman. Koch arrived at the space station on 14th March and scheduled to remain in orbit until February 2020. She will eclipse the record of 288

- days set by former NASA astronaut Peggy Whitson in 2016-17.
- 33. India** has been nominated as the “**Guest of Honour**” country at the 29th edition of the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair (ADIBF).
Note: According to Indian Ambassador to the UAE, Navdeep Singh Suri 30 publishing houses from India will take part in the fair. Books on the life and struggle of Mahatma Gandhi will be on display as part of the 150th birth anniversary celebrations.
- 34.** Kim Jong-un (North Korean leader) and Vladimir Putin (Russian President) meet for their first summit talks in the Pacific port city of **Vladivostok**.
Note: The two leaders talked about the Korean peninsula's nuclear problem. The situation in the Korean peninsula had stabilized somewhat in recent months and Russia intends to help in any way possible to cement that positive trend.
- 35.** Israel to name town in Golan Heights after **Donald Trump**.
Note: All Israelis were deeply moved when President Trump made his historic decision to recognize Israel's sovereignty over the Golan Heights.
- 36.** The world's first malaria vaccine RTS known as 'Mosquirix' has launched in **Malawi**.
Note: This vaccine has created by British Pharmaceutical giant GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) in 1987 and after that vaccine has undergone 30 years of testing which was supported by many organizations including a non-profit organization PATH. This pilot project aims to reach 360,000 children per year in all three countries.
- 37.** The 5th Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) Media Summit on Climate Action and Disaster Preparedness held in **Kathmandu**.
Note: The theme of the two-day summit is “Media Solutions for Sustainable Future: Saving Lives, Building Resilient Communities”. Over 200 participants including political leaders, representatives of UN agencies and NGOs, climate change and disaster management experts, scientists and media persons are attending the event.
- 38.** UAE based flag carrier **Etihad Airways** has become the **first major airline** in the Gulf region to operate a flight without any single-use plastics on board.
Note: The objective is to raise awareness about pollution on Earth Day. Etihad Airways has pledged to reduce single-use plastic usage by 80% across the entire organization by the end of 2022.
- 39.** Srilankan President Maithripala 'Sirisena' has decided to ban the two fundamentalist terror networks **National Thawheed Jamath (NJT) & Jamathe Milathu Ibrahim (JMI)**.
Note: The organizations have been banned under emergency provisions, which were imposed on 23rd after the attacks. All activities of those organizations as well as their property will be seized by the government. Earlier, NJT was named behind suicide attacks last Sunday which killed over 250 people including 42 foreigners. Over 100 suspects linked to the organizations have been taken into custody as a countrywide crackdown on the organizations continue.
- 40.** The Shanghai Co-operation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers' conclave (16th) held in **Kyrgyzstan**.
Note: The SCO was founded at a summit in Shanghai in 2001 by the presidents of Russia, China, Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Along with India, Pakistan was also granted membership of the SCO in 2017.
- 41. Microsoft** has reached a valuation of one trillion dollars for the first time after posting an increase in profits.
Note: It makes the software giant only the third publicly-traded company in history to reach the threshold after Apple and Amazon passed it in 2018. Microsoft's current valuation also means that it has again taken over Apple as the world's most valuable company.

Honor & Awards

- 1.** Swiss-based NRI **Dr Rajendra Joshi** has been conferred with the **Pravasi Bhartiya Samman Award** by the President of India Ram Nath Kovind.
Note: Dr Rajendra Joshi is the RUJ Group's founder and chairman. The Indian Ambassador to Switzerland Sibi George handed over the award citation signed by the President to Dr Joshi at his residence in Switzerland. The Pravasi Bharatiya Samman is an award constituted by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, Government of India to honour exceptional and meritorious contribution in their chosen field/profession.
- 2.** United Arab Emirates (UAE) has conferred its highest civilian honour 'Zayed Medal' to **Narendra Modi**.
Note: UAE President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahya has conferred Mr. Modi the highest decoration awarded to kings, presidents and heads of states. The award came in appreciation of Narendra Modi's role in consolidating the long-standing friendship and joint strategic cooperation between the two countries. The Indian Prime Minister had played a pivotal role in enhancing bilateral ties to the level of comprehensive strategic relations.

3. **Dr. Pawan Munjal** was felicitated by the Asian Tour with a Special Achievement Award for his contributions to Asian Golf.
Note: Dr. Munjal was presented with a special salver by leading Indian golfer Shiv Kapur, representing the players on the Asian Tour. Pawan Munjal Felicitated By Asian Tour For Contribution To Golf In Asia.
4. The Gairdner Foundation has announced the 2019 Canada Gairdner Award laureates -- **Vikram Patel**.
Note: Vikram Patel has been awarded for his research career raising the global profile of mental health problems. Each year seven Canada Gairdner Awards are presented to honour the world's most significant biomedical and global health researchers. Laureates receive a USD100,000 cash honorarium and will be formally presented with their awards on October 24, 2019, at the annual Canada Gairdner Awards Gala in Toronto.
5. **Shah Rukh Khan** felicitated with an Honorary Doctorate by London's University of Law.
Note: Superstar Shah Rukh Khan has received an honorary doctorate in Philanthropy by The University of Law, London. He has lent support to the Indian government's campaigns, including Pulse Polio and National Aids Control Organization. He has worked closely with several charitable foundations, including the Make-a-Wish Foundation.
6. Vice-President **M Vainkaiya Naidu** gave the 'Presidential Award of Maharshi Badrayan Vyas Samman' to **Dr. Gyanaditya Shakya**.
Note: He has conferred the award for his outstanding contribution in the field of Pali language and literature. Currently Dr Shakya is working as an Assistant Professor in Gautam Buddha University, Greater Noida. Dr Shakya was honored with Rs 1,00,000 Award and a certificate.
7. Israel's soccer player broke the record after playing as a goalkeeper in an afternoon game with Israel's Ironi Or Yehuda soccer club -- **Isaak Hayik**.
Note: The previous record was held by **Robert Carmona of Uruguay**, who in 2015 played a professional match with Uruguay's Pan de Azucar at the age of 53-years.
8. India's education technology startup has bagged a USD 25,000 tech prize along with two other winners from Tanzania and Egypt -- **Dost Education**.
Note: 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. The Next Billion EdTech Prize 2019 run by UK-based Varkey Foundation.
9. Namami Gange gets global recognition at the **Global Water Summit in London**.
Note: 'Public Water Agency of the Year' award was presented to India's flagship programme National Mission for Clean Ganga or Namami Gange at Global Water Summit held in London, United Kingdom. The **Global Water Intelligence** presented the award during the **Global Water Summit**. The **Global Water Summit** is the primary business conference for the water industry worldwide. The award **recognizes excellence across** the entire international water industry and rewards those initiatives in the water, wastewater, and desalination sectors which bring remarkable improvements in the lives of people.
10. The General Insurance Corporation (GIC) India chief **Alice G. Vaidyan** awarded Freedom of the City of London.
Note: **Alice G. Vaidyan** was the first lady officer to assume the post of Chairman-cum-**Managing Director** of General Insurance Corporation of India. She was the first lady officer to assume the post of Chairman-cum-**Managing Director of General Insurance Corporation of India**.
11. Russia awarded its highest state honour '**Order of St Andrew the Apostle**' for promoting the bilateral special and privileged strategic partnership -- **Narendra Modi**.
Note: The award was extended on behalf of Russian President Vladimir Putin with whom Modi shares strong chemistry. The Order of St Andrew the Apostle is awarded to prominent statesmen and public figures and representatives of science, culture, the arts and various industries for their exceptional services in promoting the prosperity, greatness and glory of Russia.
12. Telugu poet **K Siva Reddy** has been selected for the prestigious Saraswati Samman, 2018 for his collection of poetry titled Pakkaki Ottigilite.
Note: The award, instituted by the KK Birla Foundation in 1991, is given annually for an outstanding literary work written in any Indian language and published during the last 10 years. It is the highest recognition in the field of Indian literature and carries a cash purse of Rs 15 lakh, apart from a citation and a plaque.
13. **Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)** has won the prestigious 'AIMA Managing India Award 2019 for outstanding PSU of the year'.
Note: The award was presented by former President Pranab Mukherjee to Sanjiv Singh, Chairman, Indian Oil, at a glittering ceremony held here on Monday. The AIMA awards, declared under 11 categories, were headed by Sanjiv Goenka, chairman, RP-Sanjiv Goenka Group, and shortlisted 11 eminent enterprises and personalities of the country for their contribution to nation-building.
14. Digital Sukoon founder **Sudhanshu Kumar** was honored with the **Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Nobel Award** by International Human Rights Council at Hotel Sea Princess Juhu Mumbai.
Note: Digital Sukoon is a Mumbai based Digital solutions agency, which provides a comprehensive 360-degree solution to their clients for the promotional needs by

creating innovative campaigns and optimum usage of technology tools.

15. **President Ramnath Kovind** declared the **4th edition of National Institutional Ranking Framework** (NIRF India Rankings 2019) in **New Delhi**.

Note: 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**.

S. No	Categories	Names of Institution
1.	Overall	Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras
2.	University	Indian Institute of Science (IIS) Bangalore
3.	Engineering	Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras
4.	College	Miranda House, Delhi
5.	Management	Indian Institute of Management Bangalore
6.	Pharmacy	Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi
7.	Law	National Law School of India University, Bengaluru
8.	Architecture	Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur
9.	Medical	All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) New Delhi

16. **John Moore** won the World Press Photo Awards 2019.

Note: 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.

17. Director at Life Sciences **Dr A K Singh** has been honored with Lifetime Achievement Award 2019.

Note: He has been awarded for the contribution in life sciences, aerospace and aeronautics at Chandigarh University, Mohali. The conclave was organised by the university to note World Creativity and Innovation Day. The DST scientist has more than 18 patents and has contributed to more than 57 research publications at an international and national level.

18. The Overstory' by Richard Powers wins Pulitzer Prize 2019 for -- **fiction**.

Note: 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 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,

19. Jailed Reuters journalists in Myanmar **Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo** win UN press freedom prize.

Note: The United Nations' cultural agency had awarded its annual press freedom prize to two Reuters reporters jailed in Myanmar. 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.

20. According to TIME magazine, Three Indians **Mukesh Ambani, Arundhati Katju and Menaka Guruswamy** have been named in the list.

Note: TIME magazine has released the Time 100 Most Influential People 2019 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.

21. **Cipla chairman Yusuf Hamied** received UK Royal Society honour.

Note: The Royal Society is an independent scientific academy of the UK and the Commonwealth, dedicated to promoting excellence in science. Fellowship of the Royal Society (FRS) is an award granted to individuals that the Royal Society of London judges to have made a 'substantial contribution to the improvement of natural knowledge, including mathematics, engineering science and medical science'.

22. **Sunil Kumar Gautam** has been honoured with the **Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant Award** for the year 2018-19 for his book 'Samvidhan Kavya'.

Note: The award was presented by the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. The book depicts the Constitution of India in a very simple and poetic form to make it understandable to the common man in a very simple manner.

23. **Professor Gagandeep Kang** has become the **first Indian female scientist** to be elected as a **Fellow of the Royal Society** (FRS) in the UK fellowship's 358-year-history.

Note: Dr Kang is known for her inter-disciplinary research studying the transmission, development and prevention of enteric infections and their sequelae in children in India. She is the Executive Director of Translational Health Science and Technology Institute at Faridabad. Other notable FRS inducted in 2019 include Fields Medal-winning mathematicians Akshay Venkatesh and Manjul Bhargava.

24. **Malayalam film 'Bhayanakam'** has won the best cinematography award at Beijing International Film Festival 2019.

- Note:** The cinematography was done by **Nikhil S Praveen** and directed by Jayaraj. The film had also won the best cinematography award at the 65th National Film Awards. The film portrays the visits of first World War veteran to a small village in the backwaters of Kerala's Kuttanand as a postman during the World War-II. The film is an adaptation of two chapters from Takazhy Sivasankara Pillai's epic Malayalam novel Coir (1978).
25. **IIM Bangalore** has become only Indian institute to feature in QS EMBA Rankings 2019.
Note: The institute's post-graduate programme in **Enterprise Management** (PGPEM) has secured the 12th rank in APAC listing and came 61st globally in the QS Executive MBA Rankings 2019. The **QS Rankings identify** the world's top universities in individual subject areas so that students who know what subjects they are interested in can find suitable universities. QS Executive MBA Rankings 2019 have been ranking B-schools based on certain parameters such as thought leadership, executive profile, diversity and career outcomes.
26. **Dr. Benny Antony** has been honored with the **National Intellectual Property Award - 2019** in the category of Top Individual for Patents and Commercialization.
Note: Along with the National IP Award, the Intellectual Property Office India and the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) have jointly conferred the 'WIPO Medal for Inventors' also to Antony. Antony is the inventor of the world's leading patented turmeric extract formulation "BCM-95".
27. The International Press Institute has declared the recipient of its 71st World Press Freedom Hero award -- **Cyril Almeida**.
Note: The institute lauded Almeida for his 'tenacious coverage of the Pakistani state's patronage of militant groups'. The awards will be presented in a ceremony in Geneva, Switzerland on 5th June 2019. The World Press Freedom Hero award honours journalists who have made significant contributions to the promotion of press freedom.
28. Former captain of India national women's cricket team **Jhulan Goswami** awarded the "Sportsperson of the Year" in Kolkata.
Note: Sukumar Samajpati (former India winger) and Sambaran Banerjee (Bengal's Ranji Trophy winning captain) honoured 'Lifetime Achievement' awards.
29. The prestigious Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Award 2019 was awarded to -- **Madhur Bhandarkar, Salim Khan and Helen**.
Note: This year, the Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Award for music and art has been given to classical dancer Sucheta Bhide-Chapekar. Anandmayee Puraskar was given to Pandit Suresh Talwalkar of Taalyogi Ashram.
30. West Bengal's projects have won the United Nations World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) awards -- **Utkarsh Bangla & Sabooj Sathi**.
Note: The "Utkarsh Bangla" project aims at creating a pool of skilled candidates who are industry ready. Under the "Sabooj Sathi" scheme, bicycles are distributed to students between class IX and XII studying in government-run and government-aided schools and madrasahs of the state. The Bengal government has distributed nearly 1 crore bicycles since the inception of this project.
31. The Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize (2nd edition) was awarded to author for his 2010 novel 'Solo' -- **Rana Dasgupta**.
Note: An amount of USD 10,000, a Tagore statue and a certificate for contribution to literature was given to Dasgupta. The Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize for social achievement was awarded to Yohei Sasakawa, for his incredible efforts to uproot leprosy and great contribution to world peace. Mr. Yohei Sasakawa is the World Health Organization Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination.

Sports News

1. Former world champion **Viktor Axelsen (Denmark)** has won the **Yonex-Sunrise India Open badminton tournament** in New Delhi.
Note: He defeated India's Kidambi Srikanth in straight games 21-7, 22-20. Thai badminton player Ratchanok Intanon has won the women's singles in India Open. The 2019 India Open was a badminton tournament took place at K. D. Jadhav Indoor Hall in India (26th to 31st March 2019)
2. **South Korea** lifted the **Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey tournament** defeating India in a shootout (4-2) at Ipoh in Malaysia.
Note: Hosts Malaysia defeated Canada 4-2 and secured the 3rd place. The '**Sultan Azlan Shah Cup**' is an annual international men's field hockey tournament held in Malaysia. The tournament is named after the ninth Yang di-Pertuan Agong (King) of Malaysia, Sultan Azlan Shah.
3. **Roger Federer** has won the Miami open 2019 at Dolphins' NFL stadium in Miami.
Note: **Roger Federer** defeated American John Isner (defending champion) in the final 6-1, 6-4. It was Federer's 4th Miami title and 28th Masters 1000 title. The 2019 Miami Open is a professional men and women's tennis tournament being played on outdoor hard courts. It was the 34th edition of the Miami Open and of the Premier Mandatory category on the 2019 WTA Tour.

4. **Sam Curran** has become the youngest player to take a hat-trick in the Indian Premier League (IPL) match.
Note: In 2009, Rohit Sharma (Mumbai Indians) had taken a hat-trick at the age of 22 years and 6 days. England all-rounder Curran removed Harshal Patel (0), Kagiso Rabada (0) and Sandeep Lamichhane (0) to take the 1st hat-trick of the 2019 Indian Premier League in Mohali.
5. British racing driver **Lewis Hamilton** has won Bahrain Grand Prix.
Note: He took advantage of Ferrari boy Charles Leclerc's wretched misfortune. The Bahrain Grand Prix is a Formula One Championship race in Bahrain sponsored by Gulf Air.
6. The **Kho-Kho Federation of India** (KKFI) has launched a franchise-based league for the sport named -- **Ultimate Kho-Kho**.
Note: It will conduct the 21-day league (IPL-style)), which will see eight franchise teams playing a total of 60 matches in a double round-robin format. KKFI has partnered with Dabur India for this event. Kho kho is played by teams of 12 nominated players out of fifteen, of which nine enter the field who sit on their knees (chasing team), and 3 extra (defending team) who try to avoid being touched by members of the opposing team.
7. **Saurav Ghosal** has become the first Indian male **squash player** to enter the **top 10** in the latest PSA world rankings.
Note: Before Saurav Ghosal, only two Indian women players (Joshna Chinappa and Dipika Pallikal) had made it to the top 10 in the world rankings. Egypt's world champion Ali Farag maintains his position at the top of the ladder.
8. The International Cricket Council (ICC) has sought closer working relations with the **Interpol**.
Note: The cooperation was discussed during ICC Anti-Corruption Unit General Manager, Alex Marshall's visit to the Interpol headquarters in Lyon, France. Marshall said the idea is to ensure that players are better educated about the corruptors and Interpol's vast network would be helpful in this.
9. The **Indian football team** gained two places in the new FIFA rankings -- **101th**.
Note: With 1219 total ranking points, the Indian team lies 18th among the Asian countries. Iran continued to top the Asian rankings at 21, followed by Japan (26), South Korea (37), Australia (41) and Qatar (55). Overall, Belgium remained on top with 1737 points, ahead of France (1734), Brazil (1676), England (1647) and Croatia (1621).
10. Chinese player **Lin Dan** has won the Malaysian Open Badminton singles title in the men's final at Axiata Arena Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
Note: He defeated countryman **Chen Long** 9-21, 21-7, 21-11. In the women's singles final top seed **Tai Tzu Ying** (Taiwan) saw off Japanese **Akane Yamaguchi** 21-16, 21-19. The 2019 Malaysia Open (9th) is a badminton tournament which takes place at Axiata Arena in Malaysia from 2 to 7 April 2019.
➤ This tournament is organized by the Badminton Association of Malaysia with sanction from the BWF.
11. The **Indo-Tibetan Border Police** (ITBP) along with **Sky Running Association of India** organized the **National Sky Running Championship** at **Auli, Uttarakhand**.
Note: This is the first time such championship was organised at a high altitude of up to 4000 metres. Various athletes from ITBP, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Uttarakhand participated in the championship.
12. Royal Challengers Bangalore skipper **Virat Kohli** overtook Suresh Raina to become the leading run-scorer in the Indian Premier League (IPL).
Note: Kohli also became the 2nd fastest after Chris Gayle to reach 8000 T20 runs. Till date, Virat Kohli and Suresh Raina are the only two players to score 5000 runs in the IPL. Rohit Sharma (Mumbai Indians) is 3rd in the list of most runs in the IPL with 4600 runs.
13. Former **Australian** field hockey player **Graham Reid** has been appointed as the **men's national team chief coach** till the end of 2020.
Note: Graham Reid was a member of the team that won the **silver medal** at the 1992 Summer Olympics in Barcelona, Spain. He was ratified after Hockey India received necessary clearance from the **Sports Authority of India** (SAI). Mr. Graham Reid has worked as the coach of the Australia men's team and then as the assistant coach to Max Caldas with the Netherlands.
14. Asian shot putter champion **Manpreet Kaur** has been banned for four years by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) for flunking four dope tests in 2017.
Note: According to an order of the anti-doping disciplinary panel (ADDP) of the NADA, the period of suspension would begin from 20th July 2017. She has the option of filing an appeal before the Anti-Doping Appeal Panel. She had set the national record of 18.86m at Jinhua.
15. Indian captain **Virat Kohli** was named the Leading Cricketer in the World and featured in Wisden's Five Cricketers of the Year.
Note: Kohli was also among Jos Buttler and Sam Curran to be listed in Wisden's Five Cricketers of the Year, a rare accolade which has been eluding him in his career until now. Wisden Cricketers' Almanack (The Bible of Cricket) is a cricket reference book issued annually in the United Kingdom. In 1998, an Australian edition of

- Wisden Cricketers' Almanack and in 2012, Indian edition was launched. English Cricketer John Wisden established the Book in 1864.
- 16.** Team India opener **Smriti Mandhana** has been named as the Wisden Almanack's 'Leading Women's Cricketer of the Year'.
Note: Currently, she is the top-ranked player in women's ODI and third in T20Is. In 2018, Mandhana scored 669 runs at an average of 66.90 in 12 ODIs and 622 runs at a strike-rate of 130.67 in 25 T20Is.
- 17.** Chennai Super Kings' **medium pacer** has become the bowler with most number of **dot balls** in an innings in the history of the **Indian Premier League (IPL) -- Deepak Chahar**.
Note: Chahar staggering 20 dot balls and broke the record of 18 dot balls in an innings jointly held by Sunrisers Hyderabad spinner **Rashid Khan** and Kings XI Punjab medium pacer **Ankit Rajpoot**.
- 18.** The recipient of the **New Zealand Prime Minister's Sir Edmund Hillary Fellowship** for 2019 in recognition of her "inspiring achievements -- **Deepa Malik**.
Note: The **first Indian woman** to earn a medal at the Paralympic Games, Deepa has won 58 national and 23 international medals. A recipient of the **Padma Shri** and Arjuna Award, she has entered the **Limca Book of World Records** four times. As a Sir Edmund Hillary Prime Minister's Fellow for New Zealand, Deepa will travel to New Zealand and meet with Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, undertake a series of visits to Paralympic sporting organisations, and engage with Kiwi athletes, students and the media as well as New Zealand's significant Indian Diaspora community.
- 19.** American professional Golfer **Tiger Woods** clinched his fifth master's to land his 15th major title.
Note: There were raucous celebrations around the 18th green as Woods finished with a two-under-par 70 to win on 13 under, one clear of fellow Americans Dustin Johnson. Overnight leader Francesco Molinari's hopes sunk with two double bogeys on the back nine and he had to settle for a share of fifth on 11 under. Today's thrilling victory puts the former world No.1 just three majors behind the record of Jack Nicklaus.
- 20.** India finished with 5 medals in the Boxing World Cup, concluded at **Cologne, Germany**.
Note: Meena Kumari Maisnam continued her fine run to win gold in the 54 kg. Reigning youth world champion Sakshi (57 kg) and India Open champion Pwilao Basumatary (64 kg) settled for the silver. Pinki Rani (51 kg) and Parveen (60 kg) won bronze.
- 21.** Ethiopian women's racer athletes **Gelete Burka** have won the 43rd edition of the Paris Marathon.
Note: Burka was the fastest woman with 2 hours: 22 minutes and: 48 seconds. In the wheelchair race, Julien Casoli won for the third time. The Paris marathon is one of the world's most popular running events.
- 22.** Ethiopian men's racer athletes **Abrha Millaw** have won the 43rd edition of the Paris Marathon.
Note: Millaw won the men's race with a time of 2 hours: 07 minutes and: 04 seconds. Kenyan Paul Lonyangata, a two-time Paris Marathon winner, was the third-fastest man.
- 23.** In motor racing, British racing driver won the Chinese Grand Prix for a record sixth time -- **Lewis Hamilton**.
Note: 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.
- 24.** India's ace shuttler **Harsheel Dani** has won the **Victor Dutch International Badminton title** at Wateringen, Netherlands.
Note: He defeated Denmark's **Mads Christophersen** 15-21, 21-12, 21-13 in **47 minutes** clash. The **Dutch International** is the second largest badminton event in **The Netherlands** with total prize money of USD 10,000. This tournament has been an **International Series level tournament** and another tournament for **Grand Prix level** named as Dutch Open.
- 25.** Japan's Badminton player **Kento Momota** has won the Singapore Badminton Open men's singles title 2019.
Note: 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). This tournament was organized by the Singapore Badminton Association with sanction from the BWF.
- 26.** **International Hockey Federation (FIH)** has imposed a hefty fine of **one lakh seventy-six thousand Euros** on **Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF)** for not honoring the **Pro League** commitments.
Note: PHF was fined for not sending the national team for the **Pro League matches** in Argentina, Australia and New Zealand. The FIH has given the **Pakistan sports body** time until **20th June** to pay the fine or else the penalty would be doubled.
- 27.** 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).
Note: 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 organized by UK based organisation Street Child United (SCU).

- 28. Services** has won the 73rd edition of premier domestic football tournament 'Santosh Trophy'.
Note: Santosh Trophy is an annual Indian football tournament started in 1941. The trophy is named after the late Maharaja Sir Manmatha Nath Roy Chowdhary of Santosh (now in Bangladesh). It is knock-out competition contested by the regional state associations and government institutions under the All India Football Federation (AIFF).
- 29.** India cricketers were fined 20 lakh rupees each by the BCCI ombudsman Justice D.K. Jain for their sexist comments on a popular TV chat show -- **Hardik Pandya & K.L. Rahul**.
Note: Justice Jain wrote that no further action will be taken against Pandya and Rahul. In the order published on the official BCCI website, they have already served a provisional suspension and tendered an unconditional apology for their loose comments on women.
- 30.** The Asian Weightlifting Championships 2019 held in **Ningbo, China**.
Note: As many as 278 participants from 28 nations and regions, including China, Japan, South Korea, India, Iran and North Korea have registered for the competition. The Asian Weightlifting Championships is a weightlifting championship organized by the Asian Weightlifting Federation for competitors from the Asian countries.
- 31.** Italian Tennis Player **Fabio Fognini** has won the 2019 Monte-Carlo Masters.
Note: He defeated Dusan Lajovic (Serbia) 6-3, 6-4. Croatia's Nikola Mektic & Franko Skugor has won the 2019 Monte-Carlo doubles title, defeating Robin Haase & Wesley Koolhof in the final, 6-7, 7-6, [11-9]. The 2019 Monte-Carlo Masters (113th edition) is an annual tennis tournament (outdoor clay courts) for male professional players held in Roquebrune-Cap-Martin, France.
- 32. Bajrang Punia** has regained the world number one spot in the men's 65-kilogram freestyle category rankings.
Note: Punia secured 58 points ahead of Akhmed Chakaev of Russia. Punia won Gold in the Asian Games and Commonwealth Games as well as a silver in the World Championships last year.
- 33.** Japanese player **Kento Momota** retained his Badminton Asia Championships 2019 title in Shanghai.
Note: He defeated Shi Yuqi (China) 21-12, 11-11, 21-18. 255 players from 21 nations are participating in this edition and the total prize money is USD 400,000. The 2019 Badminton Asia Championships is the 39th edition of the Badminton Asia Championships.
- 34. Yamaguchi** has won the women's 2019 Badminton Asia Championships title.
Note: Yamaguchi won the women's crown with an emphatic victory over home player He Bingjiao 21-19, 21-9. The 2019 Badminton Asia Championships was the 39th edition of the Badminton Asia Championships held at Wuhan Sports Center Gymnasium in China. This tournament is hosted by the Chinese Badminton Association, with the sanctioned from the Badminton Asia.
- 35. Bajrang Punia.** won the gold medal in 65kg men's freestyle at Asian Championship 2019.
Note: Bajrang Punia (World number-1) defeated Kazakhstan's Sayatbek Okassov 12-7 in a nail-biting 65kg men's freestyle final. It is Bajrang's second gold at this championship, having won one in 2017. In 97 Kg category Satywart Kadian, picked bronze medal defeating Haobin Gao of China by 8-2.
- 36.** Young shooters took the top spot in the 10 metres Air Pistol Mixed Team event -- **Manu Bhaker and Saurabh. Chaudhary**
Note: Anjum Moudgil and Divyansh Singh Panwar opened the country's gold account in the 10 metres Air Rifle Mixed Team event. Moudgil and Panwar had to fight tooth and nail to beat another Chinese pair of Liu Ruxuan and Yang Haoran 17-15 in the 10 metres Air Rifle Mixed Team final.
- 37.** India's first wrestler **Bajrang Punia will** fight at New York's iconic Madison Square Garden.
Note: Bajrang Punia won the 65kg men's freestyle gold at the recent Asian championships. He will take on two-time US national champion Yianni Diakomahlis in the "Grapple at the Garden" Beat the Streets event. Punia has eight gold medals from his previous nine international tournaments including last year's Commonwealth and Asian Games.
- 38.** India bagged one gold and two silver medals at the Asian Boxing Championships in **Bangkok**.
Note: Boxer Amit Panghal picked up his second successive gold medal of the year in the 52-kilogram category. Panghal defeated Korea's Kim Inkyu Korea. National champion Deepak Singh and Kavinder Singh Bisht in 56 kg category signed off with silver medals after close losses.
- 39.** India's ace cueist **Pankaj Advani** won the inaugural Asian Snooker Tour title.
Note: Advani beat Nezhad 52-40, 66 (58)-0, 1-63(62), 78-4, 35-47, 0-51, 47-35, 38-39, 53(49)-35, 51(50)-20 in the final. Advani had earlier won the second leg of the Tour in China.
- 40.** Mercedes' Finnish driver beat Lewis Hamilton by 1.5 seconds to win Azerbaijan Grand Prix 2019 -- **Valtteri Bottas**.
Note: With this, Mercedes became the first team to win the opening four races of an F1 season with one-two finishes. The 2019 Azerbaijan Grand Prix was a

Formula One motor race that took place on 28 April 2019 at the Baku City Circuit in Baku, Azerbaijan.

41. India's Shooter **Abhishek Verma** bagged a Gold medal in the 10-metre Air Pistol event at the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup at Beijing in China.

Note: He clinched the top honours with a total score of 242.7 points. Russia's Artem Chernousov won the Silver.

42. **Claire Polosak** has become the **first female umpire** to stand in a men's one-day international (ODI).

Note: Polosak has already stood in 15 women's ODIs, the first one in November 2016 between Australia and

South Africa. She has also umpired the semi-final of the Women's T20 World Cup in 2018 between England and India and four matches at the 2017 Women's World Cup.

43. Liverpool's centre back **Van Dijk** was named **Player of the Year** by England's Professional Footballers' Association (PFA).

Note: Van Dijk has helped the title-chasing Merseysiders keep 19 clean sheets in the Premier League and they have conceded the fewest goals in the top flight so far this season. Arsenal's Dutch forward Vivianne Miedema (22-years) claimed the women's Player of the Year award.

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