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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

1. US Withdraws From UN Arms Trade Treaty

-US President **Donald Trump** stated that his administration is withdrawing the U.S. signature from the **U.N. Arms Trade Treaty**, in response to concerns from gun rights activists that it could impinge on Americans' right to bear arms. (The treaty seeks to regulate international trade in conventional arms, including everything from tanks to small arms, specifically looking to “**prevent and eradicate the illicit trade in conventional arms and prevent their diversion.**”)

2. Tesla Builds Its 'Largest Energy Storage System In Asia'

Tesla has developed its '**largest power storage system in Asia**' at **Osaka** train station in Japan to reduce energy demand and provide emergency backup power to trains in Japan. It was Launched in partnership with **Kintetsu**, a railway operator in Japan's Osaka. **7 megawatt-hours (MWh)** system is its largest energy storage project in Asia and the fourth largest in the greater Asia-Pacific (APAC) region.

3. Japan Unveils Name of Its New Imperial Era 'Reiwa'

- **Japan** has announced that the name of its new imperial era, set to begin on **1 May**, will be '**Reiwa**', signifying order and harmony. The country's current era, **Heisei**, will end in April. 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**'.

4. Morocco-US Joint Military Exercise 'African Lion 2019' Starts In Morocco

5. US Declares Iran Force As Foreign Terrorist Organisation

- The US designated Iran's **Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)** a foreign terrorist organisation. It is the **first time that the US has designated an entity of another government** as a terrorist organization, placing a group with vast economic resources that answer only to **Iran's supreme leader in the same category as al-Qaida and the Islamic State.**

6. Google Launches Its 1st Drone Delivery Service In Australia

-**Google parent Alphabet** has beaten Amazon to launch one of the **first commercial drone delivery businesses.** Alphabet made its first delivery in Canberra after getting approval from the country's civil aviation authority.

7. 17th MENA World Economic Forum Held In Jordan

- The **World Economic Forum** in the **Middle East and North Africa (MENA)** took place at Jordan's Dead Sea. The forum assembled more than 1,000 government, business and civil society leaders from more than 50 countries.

8. London Becomes 1st City To Use Pollution Charge Zone

London (capital city of the UK) is the first city in the world to implement a **24-hour, seven day a week Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ)**, inside which vehicles will have to meet tough emissions standards or face a charge. Introduction of the ULEZ aims to reduce toxic air pollution and protect public health. (Theresa May is the PM of the United Kingdom).

9. India To Be Guest of Honour Country At ADIBF 2019

- The UAE has announced that **India will be the Guest of Honour country** at the **Abu Dhabi International Book Fair, ADIBF 2019**, to be held at the end of April 2019.

10. Benjamin Netanyahu Re-Elected as Israel's Prime Minister for fifth term

Netanyahu is now set to be the longest-serving prime minister in Israeli history even longer than **David Ben-Gurion**, the country's first prime minister, who's often described as “**Israel's George Washington.**”

11. Hong Kong's Stock Market Overtakes Japan To Be World's 3rd Largest

- **Hong Kong's equity market has overtaken Japan** to be the world's **third largest in value**, behind only the U.S. and mainland China.
(**Hong Kong** is an autonomous territory, and former British colony, in southeastern China).

12. Jean Michel Lapin Announced As Haiti's New Prime Minister

13. UAE To Host World's Foremost Artificial Intelligence Summit

-The inaugural 'AI Everything', AIE will take place at the **Dubai World Trade Centre**.

14. China Develops World's First Armed Amphibious Drone Boat

- The world's first armed amphibious drone boat named '**Marine Lizard**' and guided by China's **BeiDou** Navigation Satellite System, has been successfully tested by **China**. The drone ship has been built by **Wuchang Shipbuilding** Industry Group under China Shipbuilding Industry Corporation (**CSIC**). The drone ship has a maximum operation range of **1,200 km** and can be remotely controlled with the help of satellites.

15. Google Opens Its First African AI Lab in Ghana

-Google has opened its **first African artificial intelligence (AI) centre** in **Ghana's** capital **Accra**.

16. IMF & World Bank Launched 'Learning Coin' For In-House Purposes

- The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** and the **World Bank** have together launched a private blockchain with a pseudo-token. The new token, called "**Learning Coin**" and only accessible within the IMF and World Bank, has a purpose to teach relevant individuals within the organizations about blockchain. Though the coin has no real value – **hence the description pseudo-token** – staff members who pass educational milestones will receive the tokens which can then be redeemed for certain rewards.

17. Nepal and Sri Lanka Launches Its First Satellite From USA

-**Nepal** successfully launched its first satellite **NepaliSat-1** into space. The satellite developed by the Nepalese scientists was launched from **Virginia** in the United States. It is a low orbit satellite which will be in the **400-km** distance from the Earth's surface.

- Sri Lanka's first satellite 'Raavana-1' was also launched into space, marking Sri Lanka's entry into the global space age.

18. Saudi Arabia To Host G20 Summit In 2020

-Saudi Arabia announced that it will be hosting the G20 summit in November 2020 in its capital Riyadh. This would be the first G20 summit in the Arab world. (Last year's G20 meeting was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman had represented the Kingdom).

19. Sri Lanka's 1st Satellite 'Raavana-1' Launched Into Space

-Sri Lanka's first satellite '**Raavana-1**' was launched into space from NASA's Flight Facility on **Virginia's** east shore. 'Raavana 1' 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.

20. Volodymyr Zelenskiy an actor and comedian has won a Landslide Victory In Ukrainian Presidential Election

-He is best known for his role in the long-running Ukrainian television series **Servant of the People**, where he played the role of president.

21. Asian Tea Alliance Launched In China

- To boost tea trade, cultural and technical exchanges as well as the global promotion of tea, the **Asian Tea Alliance (ATA)**, a union of five tea-growing and consuming countries, was launched in Guizhou, **China**.
- The members of the alliance are the **Indian** Tea Association, **China** Tea Marketing Association, **Indonesian** Tea Marketing Association, **Sri Lanka** Tea Board and **Japan** Tea Association.

22. LSE Names A Professorship After Economist Amartya Sen

- The **London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)** has announced the creation of the **Amartya Sen Chair** in Inequality Studies, named in honour of the India-born economist, philosopher, and Nobel laureate, who was Professor of Economics at LSE from 1971-82. Called the "**Amartya Sen Chair in Inequality Studies**," its holder will also serve as Director of the LSE International Inequalities Institute, which facilitates interdisciplinary work on subjects related to inequality.

(Amartya Sen won the **Nobel Prize** in **Economics** in **1998**, **Bharat Ratna** in **1999** and National Humanities Medal in **2012**).

23. Russia Successfully Tests World's First Floating Nuclear Power Plant

24. Israel To Name Town In Golan Heights After Donald Trump

-Israeli Prime Minister **Benjamin Netanyahu** has announced that he would name a new community in the **Golan Heights** after US President **Donald Trump**, who officially recognised the disputed area as Israeli territory. Israel has also stated that in appreciation of the U.S. president, it intends to name a proposed **train station** near Jerusalem's Western Wall after him.

(Israel captured the **Golan** from **Syria** in a **1967** war and annexed it, in a move not recognized internationally).

25. Indonesia Releases Special Stamp On Theme of Ramayana to mark the 70th anniversary of the establishment of its diplomatic ties with India.

The stamp is designed by renowned Indonesian sculptor **Padmashri Bapak Nyoman Nuarta**, featured a scene from Ramayana in which Jatayu valiantly fought to save Sita.

26. World's 1st Malaria Vaccine Launched In Africa

- The **world's first-ever malaria vaccine** was launched in a pilot project in Africa's **Malawi**. The country is the first of three in Africa in which the vaccine, known as **RTS,S**, will be made available to children up to **2 years** of age. **Ghana** and **Kenya** will introduce the vaccine soon. About 93% of the world's malaria-related deaths in 2017 occurred in Africa.

27. Iran, Pakistan To Set Up Border 'Reaction Force' to combat the attacks by militant groups on both sides their frontier. Both the nations have decided to collaborate to form the joint quick reaction force by increasing cooperation between border forces and intelligence agencies.

28. Two New Bird Species Found In Indonesia

- Zoologists at **Trinity College Dublin** have discovered two new bird species named as the **Wakatobi white-eye** and the **Wangi-Wangi white-eye** in the Wakatobi Archipelago of Sulawesi, **Indonesia**.

29. Vladimir Putin, Kim Jong Un Hold 1st-Ever talks

- The meeting was held at **Russia's Pacific port city of Vladivostok**.

30. China Hosted 2nd Belt And Road Forum In Beijing

31. WhatsApp Launches Tip Line To Curb Fake News

- **WhatsApp** launched an India-focused **fact-checking feature** to combat fake news and rumours starting with the run-up to the Lok Sabha elections. Developed in collaboration with India-based media skilling startup **PROTO**, the tip line feature will help create a **database** of rumours to study misinformation during elections as part of a research project commissioned and assisted by **WhatsApp**.

32: Etihad Becomes First Major Airline To Fly Plastic-Free

- **Etihad Airways**, UAE based flag carrier, has become the **first major airline** in the Gulf region to operate a flight without any **single-use plastics** on board.

NATIONAL NEWS

1. Telangana Tops In eLearning Training For Field Staff

- For the **second year** in succession, **Telangana** ranks number **1** in the **e-Learning training program** of the Department of Personnel and Training (**DoPT**), Government **India**.

2. Resilient Cities Asia-Pacific (RCAP) 2019 Congress Held in New Delhi

1. Guwahati Railway Station 1st To Get ISO Certification In India

-The **Guwahati Railway Station** has become the **first ever railway station in the Indian Railways** to get an ISO certification from the **National Green Tribunal (NGT)** for "providing passenger amenities in a clean and green environment." Many types of ISO certification exist and the one received by Guwahati Railway Station is **ISO-**

14001, which is for Environment Management System as per international norms which were upgraded in 2015. Thus, the station's certificate reads **ISO 14001: 2015**.

-ISO stands for "**International Organisation for Standardisation**" that is responsible for establishing the standard in different areas of activities.

3. Indian Army Builds Longest Suspension Bridge Over River Indus In Leh-Ladakh

- The Indian Army has successfully built the longest suspension bridge '**Matiri Bridge**' over the **Indus River** in the **Leh-Ladakh** region. Built in a record time of **40 days** 'Maitri Bridge' is longest Suspension Bridge over Indus River. The **260-feet** long suspension bridge was built by the combat engineers belonging to the **Sahas aur Yogyata** regiment of Indian Army's **Fire & Fury Corps**.

4. Kandhamal Haldi Gets Geographical Indications Tag

- '**Kandhamal Haldi**', a variety of turmeric indigenous to **southern Odisha**, has earned the Geographical indication (GI) tag from **Intellectual Property India**, an organization functioning under the auspices of the **Union ministry of commerce & industry**.

5. Government Sets Up Tribunal To Review Ban Imposed On Jamaat-e-Islami, JKLF

- The Centre has set up a tribunal, headed by **Justice Chander Shekhar** of the Delhi High Court, to adjudicate if there exists sufficient cause to ban the **Jamaat-e-Islami Jammu and Kashmir (JeI)** and the **Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front-Yasin Malik (JKLF-Y)** faction.

6. 7th Foreign Office Consultations Between India and Italy Held In Delhi

7. BSNL Gets Licence For WiFi On Flights

-State-owned telecom service provider **Bharatiya Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)** has received a licence from the **Department of Telecommunications** to provide **Internet and mobile services on flights**. **BSNL and its satellite partner, Inmarsat**, will be able to offer in-flight connectivity to airlines.

8. Phayeng Village in 'Imphal West' district of Manipur has become India's first carbon-positive settlement.

- A village is given carbon-positive tag if it sequesters more carbon than it emits, slowing accumulation of greenhouse gases (GHGs) and mitigating effects of climate change. Phayeng Village is scheduled caste village of the **Chakpa** community.

9. President Launches 'CRPF Veer Parivar' App For Families of Martyred CRPF Troops

President Ram Nath Kovind launched '**CRPF Veer Parivar**' app, a mobile application for families of **CRPF** personnel killed in the line of duty.

10. India Successfully Test Fires Sub-Sonic Cruise Missile 'Nirbhay'

- **India has successfully test-fired** first indigenously designed and developed long-range sub-sonic cruise missile '**Nirbhay**' from a test range in Odisha. The all-weather missile, has a 1,000-kilometre strike range. The missile has been developed by Bengaluru-based Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), a lab under DRDO and can be launched from multiple platforms.

11. Airtel, FICCI Ladies Organisation Launch Women's Safety App

-**Bharti Airtel and the FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO**, the women business wing of apex trade body FICCI) launched a carrier agnostic safety app named '**My Circle**' which has been designed to empower women in the event of any distress or panic situation. My Circle app enables women to send SOS alerts to any five of their family or friends **in 13 languages** including English, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, Marathi, Punjabi, Bangla, Urdu, Assamese, Oriya, and Gujarati.

12. First-Of-Its-Kind 'Voter Park' Inaugurated In Gurugram

- **India's first-of-its-kind 'Voter Park'** was inaugurated in **Gurugram, Haryana**, aimed at increasing voter awareness and educating people about the electoral process.

13. India's First Foreign Interactive Bird Park Launched In Mumbai

- **India's first exotic Bird Park 'Essel World Bird Park'** was launched by **EsselWorld Leisure Pvt. Ltd**, the entertainment arm of the **\$6-billion Essel Group** in **Mumbai**.

-It is home to over **500** exotic birds from more than 60 species of flying, terrestrial and aquatic birds and has **200** species of special plants and trees for the birds.

14. Rongali Bihu Festival Celebrated In Assam

-Assam's most awaited festival – the **Rongali Bihu**, also known as '**Bohaag Bihu**' which marks the beginning of the new Assamese calendar year started.

-In Assam, three Bihu festivals are celebrated in a year called as Rongali Bihu or Bohag Bihu, Bhugali (**Magh Bihu**) and Kangali (**Kati Bihu**) for marking the distinctive phase in the farming calendar.

(This festival is observed at almost the same time as **Baisakhi** in Punjab, **Poila Baisakh** in Bengal, **Puthandu** in Tamil Nadu and **Vishu** in Kerala).

15. Gagandeep Kang Becomes First Indian Female FRS

- 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.

- 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**.

16.INS Kolkata, Shakti To Participate In IFR In China

i. The Indian Navy will participate in **International Fleet Review (IFR)** that is scheduled to take place in **Qingdao**, China as part of 70th Anniversary celebrations of People's Liberation Army Navy (**PLA Navy**). The Indian Navy would be represented in the IFR by indigenously built stealth guided missile destroyer **INS Kolkata** and fleet support ship **INS Shakti**.

17. ICMR Launches Malaria Elimination Research Alliance (MERA) India which is a conglomeration of partners working on malaria control in order to eliminate the disease from India by **2030**.

18. Cyclone 'Fani' Intensifies Over Bay of Bengal

-Cyclonic storm '**Fani**' is likely to hit **Coastal Andhra Pradesh** by April 30 as it intensified into a severe storm and trigger thunderstorms, gusty winds and moderate rains in coastal districts and some parts of Rayalaseema. Cyclone Fani currently lays over east **Equatorial Indian Ocean (EIO)** and adjoining the southeast Bay of Bengal.

19. Government Hikes Customs Duty On Wheat To 40% from **30%** to curb imports and protect the domestic industry.

20. IRDAI Forms Panel to Review Microinsurance Framework

- **Insurance Regulatory & Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has set up a 13 member committee under **IRDAI Executive Director Suresh Mathur** to review the regulatory framework on microinsurance & recommend measures to increase the demand for such products.

APPOINTMENTS

1. Manu Sawhney Takes Over As Chief Executive of ICC

-**Manu Sawhney** took over as the **International Cricket Council (ICC) Chief Executive Officer (CEO)**.

Chairperson of ICC : Shashank Manohar

Headquarters of ICC: Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

2. Zuzana Caputova Becomes 1st Female President Of Slovakia

3. Google India Head Rajan Anandan Resigned

- **Rajan Anandan**, vice president for Google India and South East Asia, and essentially heading Google in India, is leaving the company after an eight-year stint.

4. Algeria's President Bouteflika Resigns

Algeria's President Abdelaziz Bouteflika has resigned from the post with immediate effect, ceding power in the face of massive street protests against his 20-year rule.

- Bouteflika 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.

5. UN Appoints Nicholas Koumjian As Investigation Head For Myanmar

- International criminal justice lawyer Nicholas Koumjian will serve as the first head of the Independent Investigative Mechanism (IIM) for Myanmar, which was established by the **Human Rights Council** in September 2018 and welcomed by the UN General Assembly in December 2018.

6. Vipin Anand Takes Over As Managing Director of LIC

7. CS Rajan Appointed MD of IL&FS

-CS **Rajan** has been appointed **Managing Director** while Vineet Nayyar named as **Executive Vice-Chairman** of Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services (**IL&FS**).

8. David Malpass Named World Bank President

-He was US President Donald Trump's nominee and won unanimous approval from the institution's executive board. He has replaced Former World Bank **President Jim Yong Kim** who left in January 2019. Malpass was former Bear Stearns and Co chief economist who advised Trump's 2016 election campaign.

-**World Bank Headquarter** : Washington DC, USA (Established in: 1944.).

9. SUN Group Chairman Vikramjit Sahney Elected As President of ICC India (International Chamber of Commerce India).

10. Karnam Sekar To Take Over As MD and CEO of Indian Overseas Bank

11. Abdelkader Bensalah Appointed As Algeria's New President

Algeria's parliament confirmed **Abdelkader Bensalah** as the new **interim president of the country**, following resignation by the ailing **Abdelaziz Bouteflika**. Bouteflika's resignation, fuelled by protests that have lasted over a month, means Algeria has a new president for the first time in 20 years.

12. Vikram Nath Appointed As First Chief Justice of New Andhra Pradesh High Court

Justice Vikram Nath, the senior most judge of Allahabad High Court, was appointed as the first Chief Justice of the newly-constituted **Andhra Pradesh High Court**.

13. Gargi Kaul Appointed Secretary of Defence Finance

(Sanjay Mitra is the present Defence Secretary).

14. BK Nayak Appointed FIH Health And Safety Committee Chair

- **Bibhu Kalyan Nayak** became the **first Indian** to be appointed Chair of **International Hockey Federation (FIH) Health and Safety Committee** by the world governing body.

15. Najma Akhtar Becomes Jamia Millia Islamia's First Woman Vice Chancellor

-Jamia Millia Islamia was founded in **1920** in Aligarh and became a Central University by an Act of Parliament in **1988**.

16. Indian women's cricket team captain Mithali Raj Named Goodwill Ambassador Of Team India At The Street Child Cricket World Cup (SCCWC)

17. Mohammed Ishtayeh Appointed As PM of Palestine

-The **Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas** has appointed **Mohammed Ishtayeh** as the new Prime Minister. Mohammed Ishtayeh will succeed Rami Hamdallah.

18. Deutsche Bank Appoints Kaushik Shaparia As CEO For India

19. Mali's PM Soumeylou Boubeye Maiga has resigned along with his whole government, following a motion of no confidence over its failure to handle violence in the West African country.

20. Twitter Appoints Manish Maheshwari As Managing Director of its India operations.

21. Uday Kumar Varma Resigns From Assocham Secretary General Post

22. MD Karnam Sekar Appointed As Indian Overseas Bank 's New MD & CEO

23. Gen.(Retd.) Dalbir Singh Suhag Appointed India High Commissioner To Seychelles

AWARDS & HONOURS

1. UAE Honours PM Modi With Highest Civilian Award Zayed Medal for giving a "big boost" to bilateral strategic ties. President of the UAE Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan conferred PM Modi with the award, the highest decoration awarded to kings, presidents, and heads of states.

2. Pawan Munjal Felicitated By Asian Tour For Contribution To Golf In Asia

- **Dr. Pawan Munjal**, Chairman, **Hero MotoCorp**, the world's largest manufacturer of motorcycles and scooters, was felicitated by the **Asian Tour** with a Special Achievement Award for his contributions to Asian Golf.

3. Vikram Patel has been awarded 2019, **John Dirks, Canada Gairdner Global Health Award** for his world-leading research in global mental health, generating knowledge on the burden and determinants of mental health problems in low-and-middle-income countries.

4. Tata Steel Wins 'Global Slag Company Of The Year' Award at the 14th Global Slag Conference and Exhibition 2019. The conference was held recently in Aachen, Germany.

5. Virat Kohli Named Wisden's Leading Cricketer

- **Team India captain Virat Kohli** has been named as the **Wisden Almanack's 'Leading Cricketer of the Year'** for the third straight time.

6. Smriti Mandhana Named Wisden's Almanack's Leading Women's Cricketer Of The Year - The 22-year-old is currently the top-ranked player in women's ODIs and third in T20Is.

7. PM Modi Awarded Russia's Highest State Honour

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** was decorated with **Order of St Andrew the Apostle** – the highest state decoration of Russia, for exceptional services in promoting special and privileged strategic partnership between the two countries. This is the **seventh international award** that PM Modi has been honoured with.

8. Dost Education Wins \$25,000 Global Tech Prize

India's education technology startup '**Dost Education**' won a **\$25,000** tech prize along with two other winners from Tanzania and Egypt.

- The **Next Billion Edtech Prize 2019**, run by UK-based **Varkey Foundation**, recognizes the most innovative technology destined to have a radical impact on education in low income and emerging world countries.

9. Namami Gange Gets Global Recognition At World Summit

-The **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)** was awarded the distinction of "**Public Water Agency of the Year**" by Global Water Intelligence at the **Global Water Summit** in London.

10. Indian Oil Bags AIMA Managing India Award For Outstanding PSU

- **Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)** has bagged the prestigious '**AIMA Managing India Award 2019 for outstanding PSU of the year.**'

11. 2 West Bengal Government -"Utkarsh Bangla"and "Sabooj Sathi" Schemes Win UN Awards

-The "**Utkarsh Bangla**" project aims at creating a pool of skilled candidates who are industry ready, while 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.

12. Telugu Poet K Siva Reddy Selected For Prestigious Saraswati Samman 2018 for his collection of poetry titled Pakkaki Ottigilite. The award carries a cash prize of 15 lakh rupees, a citation and a plaque. (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).

13. Dr A K Singh Conferred With Lifetime Achievement Award

-Dr. **A K Singh**, director at Life Sciences, **DRDO** has been honoured with **Lifetime Achievement Award 2019** during 4th APJ Abdul Kalam Innovation Conclave at Chandigarh University, Mohali.

(Dr. G. Satheesh Reddy is the Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman, DRDO. DRDO was established in 1958.It Headquarters in **New Delhi**).

14. John Moore Won The World Press Photo Award 2019

-An image of a **little girl crying**, as she and her mother have been taken into custody by US border officials in Texas won the prestigious World Press Photo of the Year.

- Veteran Getty photographer **John Moore** took the picture in the Rio Grande Valley in June 2018.

15. NY Times, Wall Street Journal Win Pulitzers For Trump Probes

- The **New York Times** and **The Wall Street Journal** were awarded **Pulitzer Prizes** for their separate investigations of **President Donald Trump and his family**.

- The **Associated Press** won a **Pulitzer** for international reporting for its coverage of the war in Yemen. Reuters was honoured for international reporting for its coverage of atrocities committed against Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar.

(**The Pulitzer Prize** is an award for achievements in newspaper, magazine and online journalism, literature, and musical composition in the United States. It was **established in 1917** by provisions in the will of **American (Hungarian-born) Joseph Pulitzer** who had made his fortune as a newspaper publisher and is administered by Columbia University in New York City).

16. Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo To Receive 2019 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano Press Freedom Prize

- Reuters journalists, **Kyaw Soe Oo**, and **Wa Lone** have been selected for **UNESCO/Guillermo Cano Press Freedom Prize 2019**. Currently, they are serving 7-year prison sentences in **Myanmar**. They collected classified military records that revealed extrajudicial assassinations of Rohingya Muslims by the army in Rakhine State.

17. Indian Peacekeepers Awarded UN Medal of Honour

- A total of **150** Indian peacekeepers serving with the **UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)** have received medals of honour for their dedicated service and sacrifice.

18. Cipla Chairman Yusuf Hamied Receives UK Royal Society Honour

-Prominent scientist and businessman **Yusuf Hamied** is among a host of Indian-origin experts honoured in the 2019 list of new **fellows of the UK's Royal Society**.

19. Sunil Kumar Gautam Bestowed With 'Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant Award'

- **Sunil Kumar Gautam**, Special Commissioner of Police (Operations) was honoured with '**Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant Award**' for his book titled '**Samvidhan Kavya**'.He was awarded by the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.

20. KAU IPR Cell Wins The National IP Award 2019

- The **Intellectual Property Rights Cell (IPR Cell)** of **Kerala Agricultural University (KAU)** has been selected for the **National Intellectual Property Award 2019**.

(World IP Day is observed on April 26.The award constituted by the Indian Intellectual Property Office under the **Union Ministry of Industry and Commerce** is conferred on persons and organisations working in the field of patents, trademarks, and Geographical Indications).

21. Sree Sreenath Inducted Into Cleveland International Hall of Fame

-Indian-American scientist and social activist **Sree Sreenath** has been inducted into the prestigious **Cleveland International Hall of fame** for his contribution in applications in systems biology, global issues, and sustainable development.

22. Benny Antony Conferred With The National IP Award 2019

23. Salim, Helen and Bhandarkar Get Deenanath Mangeshkar Award 2019

- The prestigious **Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Award 2019** was awarded to National Award-winning filmmaker **Madhur Bhandarkar**, popular scriptwriter **Salim Khan** and dancing diva **Helen**.

24. Pakistan's Cyril Almeida Named IPI's World Press Freedom Hero

- **Dawn** editor and Columnist **Cyril Almeida** from **Pakistan** has won the **IPI's** (International Press Institute) **World Press Freedom Hero** award in 2019. He won this award for his "critical" and "tenacious coverage" of the civil-military relations in Pakistan.

25. Rana Dasgupta Wins 2019 Tagore Literary Prize for his 2010 novel "Solo"

-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".

26. Jacques Kallis Receives Ikhamanga Award 2019

Ex-South Africa all-rounder Jacques Kallis has been honoured with the Order of Ikhamanga in the **Silver Division**.

SPORTS NEWS

1. Miami Open: Federer Lifts 101st Career Title

-**Switzerland's Roger Federer** defeats USA's **John Isner** in **straight sets** to lift his 101st career title at the Miami Open. Roger Federer has lifted his **fourth title at the Miami Open**. Federer is now behind only **America's Jimmy Connors** with **109 career singles titles**.

2. South Korea Won Azlan Shah Hockey Cup

- **South Korea** defeated **India** in the penalty shootout in the final of **Sultan Azlan Shah Cup 2019**. 17th Ranked South Korea defeated World number 5, India to win the Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey Cup which was held at Azlan Shah Stadium in **Ipoh, Malaysia**.

3. Lewis Hamilton Wins Bahrain Grand Prix 2019

4. Saurav Ghosal Becomes 1st Indian Man To Enter Top-10 In Squash

-Indian women squash players **Joshna Chinappa** and **Dipika Pallikal** had earlier reached top 10 in the world rankings.

5. Praful Patel Becomes 1st Indian In FIFA Executive Council

6. Malaysia Open 2019 Concludes: Complete List of Winners

-The **2019 Malaysia Open**, officially the **CELCOM AXIATA Malaysia Open 2019**, is a badminton tournament which takes place at **Axiata Arena in Malaysia**. **Lin Dan** of **China** won in **Men's Singles** category after defeating **Chen Long** of **China**. **Tai Tzu-ying** of **Chinese Taipei** won in **Women's singles** after defeating **Japan's Akane Yamaguchi**.

7. Graham Reid Named As Chief Coach of India Men's Hockey Team

8. AITA Signs MoU With Serbian Tennis Federation To Train Junior Players

- The **All India Tennis Association (AITA)** has signed an **MoU** with **Serbian Tennis Federation (STF)** to train **Indian junior players** under world-renowned **Serbian coaches**.

9. Gelete Burka and Abrha Milaw Win Paris Marathon

- **Ethiopian athletes Gelete Burka** (women's race) and **Abrha Milaw** (men's race) won the 43rd edition of the **Paris Marathon**.

10. Tiger Woods Wins 2019 Masters To Claim 15th Major in Golf

11. Lewis Hamilton Wins Chinese Grand Prix - Formula One's 1,000th Race

12. Meena Kumari Maisnam Clinches Gold In Boxing World Cup 2019

- India bagged a Gold and two Silver medals at the Boxing World Cup at Cologne in Germany. Meena Kumari Maisnam (from Manipur) claimed the Gold medal in the 54 kg category.

13. Shuttler Harsheel Dani Clinched Dutch International Badminton Title in The Hague, Netherlands.

14. Bajrang Regains Top Spot In World Wrestling Rankings

-India's Bajrang Punia has regained the world number one spot in the men's 65-kilogram freestyle category rankings. The rankings were released by United World Wrestling. Punia, who won Gold in the Asian Games and Commonwealth Games as well as a silver in the World Championships in 2018, secured 58 points ahead of Akhmed Chakaev of Russia.

15. Fabio Fognini Becomes First Italian To Claim ATP Masters 1000 Title at the Rolex Monte-Carlo Masters.

16. Bajrang Punia Wins Gold In Asian Wrestling Championship in China's Xian.

-He defeated Kazakhstan's Sayatbek Okassov in a nail-biting 65kg men's freestyle final. It is Bajrang's second gold at this championship, having won one in 2017. Parveen Rana secured a silver medal. Satywart Kadian picked a bronze medal defeating Haobin Gao of China.

17. Asian Athletics Championships: India Finishes Fourth

Asian Athletics Championships 2019 held at Doha in Qatar. It was the 23rd edition of the Championships. India ended at the fourth spot in the medals tally with 3 Gold, 7 Silver and 7 Bronze. Bahrain topped the table with 11 Gold, 7 Silver and 4 Bronze. China was second while Japan was third.

- Tejinder Pal Singh Toor (Shot put), Gomathi Marimuthu (800 metres) and P. U. Chitra (1500 metres) won gold for India. India had won 29 medals - 12 Gold, 5 Silver and 12 Bronze in the last edition in Bhubaneswar in 2017, topping the medal tally for the first time.

18: India Wins Two Gold At ISSF World Cup

- India won gold each in 10 metres Air Rifle Mixed Team and 10 metres Air Pistol Mixed team events in the ISSF World Cup in Beijing. Shooters Manu Bhaker and Saurabh Chaudhary took the top spot in the 10 metres Air Pistol Mixed Team event

- Anjum Moudgil and Divyansh Singh Panwar won gold in the 10 metres Air Rifle Mixed Team event. (ISSF- International Shooting Sport Federation, Headquarters: Munich, Germany).

19: ISSF World Cup: Abhishek Verma Wins Gold In 10m Air Pistol

-Abhishek Verma won the 10m air pistol gold medal at the ISSF World Cup at Beijing, China. He clinched the top spot with a total score of 242.7.

20. Asian Boxing Championships: India Wins 13 Medals

-India won 13 medals, including 2 gold, 4 silver, and 7 bronze at the Asian Boxing Championships in Bangkok. Boxers Pooja Rani and Amit Panghal gave India 2 gold medals.

21: Pankaj Advani Wins Asian Snooker Tour Title

22. Dominic Thiem Wins Barcelona Open 2019

- Dominic Thiem (Austria) won the Barcelona Open 2019 after defeating Daniil Medvedev (Russia). The Austrian became just the fourth player in the past 15 years to lift the title in Barcelona, joining Rafael Nadal, Kei Nishikori and Fernando Verdasco. Dominic Thiem is also the first Austrian winner at this event since Thomas Muster in 1996. Thiem now has 13 ATP Tour titles, nine of which have come on clay.

23. ISSF Rifle/Pistol World Cup 2019 Concludes: India Finishes Top

- India ended their campaign at the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup with a total of four medals, three golds and a silver. China was on the second position with 5 medals including 2 gold. The event was held in Beijing, China.

- Divyansh Panwar and Anjum Moudgil had won the first medal for India at the Beijing ISSF World Cup after clinching gold in 10m Air Rifle Mixed event. Manu Bhaker and Saurabh Choudhary won the gold medal in 10m Air Pistol Mixed event.

24. Claire Polosak To Become First Female Umpire In Men's ODI

- Australia's Claire Polosak will become the first female umpire to officiate in a men's one-day international at the ICC World Cricket League Division Two match.

25. Petra Kvitova Wins Maiden Stuttgart's Porsche Grand Prix 2019

-World number three tennis player Petra Kvitova (Czech Republic) beat Anett Kontaveit (Estonia) to win Stuttgart's Porsche Grand Prix for her second title of the year. Kvitova is a two-time Wimbledon champion. The championship was held at Stuttgart, Germany.

26. F1 Racer Valtteri Bottas Wins Azerbaijan Grand Prix 2019

27. 23rd Asian Athletics Championships Concludes: Bahrain Tops, India Finishes 4th

-The 2019 Asian Athletics Championships was the 23rd edition of the Asian Athletics Championships. The 4-day event was held from at the Khalifa International Stadium in Doha, Qatar. Bahrain topped the medal tally with 11 Golds followed by China (9 Gold) and Japan (5 Gold). India clinched the 4th spot with 17 total medals including 3 Gold. PU Chitra won gold in Women's 1,500 metres race.

28. India Open 2019 Concludes

-The 2019 India Open, officially the YONEX-SUNRISE India Open 2019, was a badminton tournament which took place at K. D. Jadhav Indoor Hall in New Delhi, India and had a total purse of \$350,000.
- Viktor Axelsen of Denmark defeated India's Srikanth Kidambi to win in men's singles category while Ratchanon Intanon of Thailand won in Women's singles category.

29. Bajrang Punia To Become 1st Indian Wrestler To Fight At Madison Square Garden

Bajrang Punia is set to become the first wrestler from India to fight at the iconic Madison Square Garden in New York. The 25-year-old has recently won the gold medal in the 65-kg category at the ongoing Asian Wrestling Championships. He is the first Indian wrestler to be invited by the American governing body. Punia will take part in the "Grapple at the Garden - Beat the Streets" fight night.

30. Asian Wrestling Championship 2019 Concludes: India Finishes With 16 Medals, Iran Tops

-India wrapped up their campaign at the Asian Wrestling Championships on a resounding note with 16 medals (1 Gold, 3 Silver & 4 Bronze) after Harpreet Singh settled for a silver in 82kg on the final day of competitions. Only Bajrang Punia won the gold medal after defeating Kazakhstan's Sayatbek Okassov by 12-7 in 65kg men's freestyle. Asian Wrestling Championship 2019 was held at Xi'an, China.

OBITUARIES

1. J. Mahendran : Noted Tamil Film Director

2. Eminent Dramatist Kartik Chandra Rath Passes Away

-In 1963, he wrote the first play titled 'Ei Desha, Ei Maati'.

3. 2002 Medicine Nobel Prize Winner Sydney Brenner Passes Away

4. K.M. Mani, Longest-Serving Legislator in Kerala's History, Passes Away

-Kerala Congress (M) chairman K. M. Mani, the longest-serving legislator in the State's history, is no more. He was 86 years old.
- Fondly called 'Mani Saar', had represented the Pala Assembly constituency for 52 years since its formation in 1965. Till now, he has won all the 13 elections from the constituency.

5. Renowned Hindi Poet Pradeep Choubey Passes Away

6. Renowned Space Scientist from Karnataka SK Shivakumar Passes Away

- Former Director of Indian Space Research Organisation Satellite Centre (ISAC), SK Shivakumar died at the age of 66 in Bengaluru. He was part of the team which had developed telemetry system for India's first moon mission Chandrayan – I.

7. Scotland All-rounder (cricketer) Con de Lange Passes Away

8. NASA's 1st Female Astronaut Candidate Jerrie Cobb Passes Away

-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.

9. Eminent Bengali Folk Singer Amar Paul Passes Away

10. Lorraine Warren, A Paranormal Investigator Passes Away

-One of the most well known paranormal investigator, Lorraine Warren passed away at the age of 92. She investigated haunted houses and other manifestation of paranormal activities throughout her life with her late husband Ed. Warren. Both wife and husband founded the New England Society at Monroe, Connecticut in 1952 to investigate haunting cases. Famous horror movies like 'Amityville Horror' and 'Conjuring' were inspired by her work.

11. S Muthiah, chronicler of Madras, Passes Away

-Chennai's famed chronicler, cartographer, and journalist S. Muthiah, 89, passed away due to age-related ailments. He was awarded the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in 2002 for his accomplishments.

12. Veteran Lady Mountaineer Rama Sengupta Paul Passes Away

13. Terry Rawlings, British Film Editor Passes Away

14. Mark Medoff, An Acclaimed Author Passes Away

- Mark Medoff, whose acclaimed play "Children of a Lesser God," which won the Tony Award for best play in 1980 and was turned into a 1986 movie that won an Oscar for its female lead, Marlee Matlin, recently passed away at the age of 79.

(Tony Award is given in recognition of excellence in live theatre).

15. Former Indian Footballer Pungam Kannan Passed Away

-Kannan played 14 matches for India & was the former Mohun Bagan & East Bengal forward. He won Santosh Trophy for Bengal twice in a row (1971-73) and was the top-scorer. He was known as the 'Pele of Asia'.

16. Former Ethiopian President Negasso Gidada Passed Away

17. Youngest Best Director Oscar Nominee John Singleton Passes Away

He was best known for directing "Boyz N the Hood". Singleton became the first black filmmaker nominated for a Best Director Oscar for his debut feature from 1991, "Boyz N The Hood." He was only 24 at the time.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. World Autism Awareness Day: 2 April

Theme - '*Assistive Technologies, Active Participation*'.

2. International Mine Awareness Day: 4 April

-The Theme for IMAD 2019 is "**United Nations Promotes SDGs – Safe Ground – Safe Home**".

3. National Maritime Day: 5th April

-Theme : "*Indian Ocean-An Ocean of opportunity*".

4. World Health Day: 7th April

-Theme '*Universal health coverage (UHC): Everyone, Everywhere*'.

5. World Homoeopathy Day: 10th April

6. International Day of Human Space Flight: 12 April

- 12 April 1961 was the date of the first human space flight, carried out by Yuri Gagarin, a Soviet citizen.

7. World Allergy Week 2019: 7-13 April

-The theme for World Allergy Week 2019 is "*The Global Problem of Food Allergy*".

8. International Day for Monuments and Sites: 18th April

-Theme 2019 is '**Rural Landscapes**'.

9. World Creativity And Innovation Day: 21st April

10. Earth Day: April 22

-Theme- to '**Protect Our Species**.'

11. World Book Day: 23 April

For the year 2019, **Sharjah**, UAE has been declared as the **World Book Capital**.
It will be preceded by **Kuala Lumpur**, Malaysia in the year 2020.

12. National Panchayati Raj Day : 24 April

Celebrating since 2010, this day marks the passing of Constitution (**73rd Amendment**) Act, 1992 that came into force with effect from **24 April 1993**.

13. World Malaria Day: 25 April

,Theme for the day is "**Zero malaria starts with me**" and it is being hosted by the **World Health Organisation (WHO)**.

14: World Intellectual Property Day: April 26

Theme is "**Reach Gold-Intellectual Property (IP) And Sports**".

15. World Immunization Week 2019 Observed In April

The last week of **April** every year is observed as **World Immunisation Week (WIW)** in order to promote the use of **vaccines** for the protection of people of all age-groups against disease. Theme - "**Protected Together: Vaccines Work**".

16. International Dance Day: 29th April

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

1. Garuda Prakashan Launches 'Saffron Swords'

-The Indian Publishing company, **Garuda Prakashan** Private Limited, launched its book '**Saffron Swords- Centuries of Indic Resistance to Invaders**'. Written by **Manoshi Sinha Rawal**, it is a book on 52 unsung warriors of India from the last 1300 years.

2. Book On Jallianwala Bagh Poem 'Khooni Vaisakhi' Released In UAE

A book containing English translation of the **100-year-old** classic Punjabi poem about Jallianwala Bagh massacre, '**Khooni Vaisakhi**' has been released in Abu Dhabi. India's Ambassador to the UAE **Navdeep Singh Suri** commended the launch of the book.

-The poem was translated by Mr. Suri whose grandfather, revolutionary poet and novelist **Nanak Singh, a Jallianwala Bagh survivor**, wrote it after witnessing first-hand the events of April 13, 1919.

RANKS AND REPORTS

1. Dhanbad Tops 4G Availability Chart In India

-A report by **OpenSignal**, which is named as '**OpenSignal's Hottest city for 4G Availability**' reveals the **4G Availability in India's 50 largest cities**.

- Out of the 50 cities, **Dhanbad**, which is also known as the coal capital of India has the highest 4G availability of **95.3%**, followed by **Ranchi** which has **95%** of 4G Availability. Notably, both Ranchi and Dhanbad are two cities in **Jharkhand** and they are the only two cities to have over 95% of 4G coverage.

2. IIT-Madras Tops HRD's National Ranking of Institutes

-The Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore bagged the second rank followed by IIT Delhi.

- **Delhi University's Miranda House** was ranked the best among colleges across the country.

3. India Highest Recipient of Remittances At \$79 billion in 2018: World Bank

- **As per the World Bank Report, India** retained its position as the **world's top recipient of remittances** with its diaspora sending a whopping **USD 79 billion back home in 2018**. India was followed by China (USD 67 billion).

4. India's Population Grew At 1.2 % Average Annual Rate Between 2010 And 2019: UN Report - India's population grew at an average annual rate of **1.2%** between **2010** and **2019** to **1.36 billion**, more than **double** the annual growth rate of **China**, according to a report by the **United Nations Population Fund (UNPFA)**. India's population in 2019 stood at **1.36 billion**, growing from **942.2 million** in **1994**. In comparison, China's population stood at **1.42 billion** in **2019**, growing from **1.23 billion** in 1994.

5. HDFC Bank Named India's No. 1 Bank: Forbes Magazine

- **HDFC Bank** emerged as **India's No 1 bank**. ICICI Bank was at number 2 and **SBI** was **surprisingly ranked 11th** in the list.

(Aditya Puri is the MD of HDFC Bank).

6. Mukesh Ambani Among TIME's List Of 100 Most Influential People

- Reliance Industries Chairman **Mukesh Ambani** and public-interest litigators **Arundhati Katju** and **Menaka Guruswamy**, who spearheaded a historic legal battle for LGBTQ rights in India, are the Indian names that appeared in the list.

7. India Ranks 140th In World Press Freedom Index 2019, Norway Topped

-**India** ranked **140th** out of **180** countries in the **World Press Freedom Index 2019**, released by Reporters Without Borders. The index is topped by Norway.

(**Paris-based Reporters Sans Frontieres (RSF)**, or **Reporters Without Borders**, is a non-profit organisation that works to document and combat attacks on journalists around the world).

1st: Norway, 2nd: Finland, 179th: North Korea , 180th: Turkmenistan.

8. India Ranks 17th In among 100 countries Global Startup Ecosystem Ranking for 2019 (released by StartupBlink)

Bangalore, **New Delhi**, and **Mumbai** were the top cities in the Indian startup ecosystem.

Top three countries are: **1st:** United States, **2nd:** United Kingdom, **3rd:** Canada.

9. Cancer Preparedness Index 2019 Released, India Ranks 19th

- India was ranked **19th** out of 28 countries in the **Index of Cancer Preparedness (ICP)** released by the **Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)**. It was released as part of the report titled "**Cancer preparedness around the world: National readiness for a global epidemic**" prepared by EIU.
(Top 3 countries are **Australia** (1st), **Netherlands** (2nd) and **Germany** (3rd).
Bottom three are **Saudi Arabia** (28th), **Romania** (27th) and **Egypt** (26th).

SCI-TECH NEWS

. South Korea Launches World's First fully-fledged National 5G Networks

- **South Korea** launches the world's first fully-fledged **5G mobile networks**. The system will bring smartphones near-instantaneous connectivity **20 times** faster than the existing 4G allowing users to download entire movies in less than a second. It is crucial for the future development of devices ranging from self-driving vehicles that send data traffic to one another in **real time**, industrial robots, drones and other elements of the Internet of Things.

2. Astronomers Capture First-ever Image of A Black Hole

-Astronomers have taken the first-ever image of a black hole, which is located in a distant galaxy known as '**Messier 87' (M87)**. The image which has been captured by a network of **eight** telescopes across the world shows an intensely bright 'ring of fire' surrounding a perfectly circular dark hole. The '**Event Horizon Telescope**' captured the image from the galaxy that is **50 million lightyears** away.

3. SpaceX's Falcon Heavy, World's Most Powerful Rocket, Launches 1st Commercial Mission

- The most powerful operational rocket in the world, **SpaceX's Falcon Heavy**, launched its first commercial mission from Florida in a key demonstration for billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk's space company in the race to grasp lucrative military launch contracts.
- The 23-story-tall Heavy, which previously launched Musk's cherry red Tesla roadster to space in a 2018 debut test flight, blasted off from Florida's Kennedy Space Center carrying its first customer payload.

4. Google Launches New Cloud Platform Anthos

- Google launched **Anthos**, a new open platform from **Google Cloud**, that lets users run applications from anywhere. Anthos 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 Google announced in **2018**.

5. ISRO Launches PSLV C-45 Carrying EMISAT And 28 Nano Satellites

-The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has launched a **Defence Intelligence Satellite, EMISAT** in its **47th Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) mission**, along with 28 other customer satellites, **onboard the advanced PSLV-C45 Rocket**. The PSLV C45 was launched from **ISRO's Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota**. It is the **first time ISRO is launching satellites in three different orbits**. Along with that, the PSLV-C45 launch vehicle is also the **first PSLV rocket to use four strap-on motors**.

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

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

7. Christina Koch To Set Record For Longest Spaceflight By A Woman

-NASA astronaut **Christina Koch** is going to have her mission on the **International Space Station (ISS)** extended to **328** days, which would set a record for the longest single spaceflight by a **woman**. Koch, who arrived at the space station on March 14 is scheduled to remain in orbit until February **2020**, will eclipse the record of 288 days set by former NASA astronaut **Peggy Whitson** in 2016-17.

DEFENCE

1. Indo-Sri Lanka Joint Exercise Mitra Shakti VI Concludes

-The sixth edition of the joint military training exercise between the **Indian Army and the Sri Lankan Army**, Exercise **Mitra Shakti** concluded in Sri Lanka.

2. India-Singapore Joint Military Exercise 'Bold Kurukshetra-2019'

- **Military forces of India and Singapore** got together to participate in a joint exercise in **Babina Cantonment in Jhansi**.

3. GRSE Becomes 'First' Indian Shipyard To Deliver 100 Warships

Garden Reach Ship Builders and Engineers Ltd (GRSE) became the '**first Indian shipyard**' to build and deliver **100 warships**.

-GRSE Chairman and Managing Director, Rear Admiral (Retd) V K Saxena, formally handed over the 100th warship '**IN LCU L-56**' to the Indian Navy.

4. India's 1st Indigenously Built Dhanush Howitzer Inducted In Army

-**India's first indigenously designed and developed Dhanush artillery gun** was inducted in the Indian Army during a ceremony held at **Ordnance Factory in Jabalpur, MP**. The Army had placed an order for more than 110 of these guns with the Ordnance Factory. **Dhanush 155mm/45 calibre towed gun system** can be deployed in all types of terrains. The Dhanush gun system is **based on the designs of the Bofors howitzer** which was inducted in the Army in the 1980s and would be the third type of artillery gun to be inducted into the force after the K-9 Vajra and the M-777 ultra-light howitzers.

5. Indian Navy-Vietnam Peoples' Navy Bilateral Exercise Concludes

- The Indian Navy undertook the second edition of the bilateral maritime exercise between the Indian Navy and Vietnam Peoples' Navy, (**IN – VPN BILAT EX**) at/ off Cam Ranh Bay, **Vietnam**.

6. Coast Guard Patrol Ship Veera Commissioned

-Chief of Army Staff General **Bipin Rawat** commissioned the Indian Coast Guard Ship **Veera** at a ceremony held at Naval Jetty at the dockyard at Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. Veera, third in the series of **offshore patrol vessels** of the Coast Guard, was built by **L&T** at its shipbuilding facility at Kattupalli in **Chennai**.

7. India And France To Hold Largest Ever 'Varuna' Naval Exercise Off Goa Coast in May 2019.

8. Navy Chief Launches New Guided Missile Destroyer 'INS Imphal'

-Indigenously designed '**INS Imphal**' a guided **missile destroyer** was launched by Navy Chief **Sunil Lanba** at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) in **Mumbai**. It is the **third ship** under **Project 15B**. The first ship of this project, a guided missile destroyer **INS Visakhapatnam**, was launched on in April **2015**.

(Vice Admiral **Karambir Singh** has been appointed as **next** Chief of the Naval Staff).

9. Army Starts Process To Induct Women As Jawans In Military Police

They were being inducted only as **officers** and this is the first time they would be taken in as soldiers.

10. India 4th Biggest Military Spender in 2018: SIPRI Report

-**India was the world's fourth biggest military spender in 2018** behind the United States, China, and Saudi Arabia, according to new data think tank **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)**. India was the fifth largest military spender in 2017. According to the SIPRI data, **China was the second-largest military spender** in 2018. India accounts for 3.7% of the global defence spending.

11. GRSE To Build 8 Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Watercraft For Indian Navy

-The **Defence Ministry** has awarded a contract of worth **Rs 6,311 crore** to **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited (GRSE)** to build eight anti-submarine warfare shallow watercraft (**ASWSWC**) for the **Indian Navy**. As per the agreement, the first ship is to be delivered within **42 months** from the date of signing of the contract and subsequently, two ships are required to be delivered per year.

(GRSE was founded in **1884** as a small privately owned company. it was renamed as Garden Reach Workshop in **1916**. The company was nationalised by the Government of India in **1960**. Its **Headquarter is in Kolkata**.)

SCHEMES AND COMMITTEES

6. CPWD Constitutes 8-member Committee To Chart Out Design Policy for building construction and infrastructure development The committee has been set up under the chairmanship of CPWD's Additional Director General M K Sharma. The move is aimed at reviving building construction and infrastructure development at all levels in the CPWD which comes under the Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry.

7. ABU Media Summit On Climate Action and Disaster Preparedness Held In Nepal

-5th Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) Media Summit on Climate Action and Disaster Preparedness held in Kathmandu. The theme of the two-day summit was "Media Solutions for Sustainable Future: Saving Lives, Building Resilient Communities".

AGREEMENTS

1. BSE, India INX Become First Indian Exchanges To Sign MoU With Moscow Exchange

- BSE (earlier known as **Bombay Stock Exchange**) and India International Exchange (**India INX**) have signed a memorandum of understanding with **Moscow Exchange (MOEX)** to connect investor community and companies in both countries besides allowing a capital formation platform.

2. India Inks MoU To Set Up Agriculture, Rural Development Institute In Malawi

- India has signed an MoU with the **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Consultancy Service (NABCONS)** for setting up the **India-Africa Institute of Agriculture and Rural Development (IAIARD)** in Malawi, a landlocked country in southeastern Africa.

3. India, Sweden Ink Pact To Collaborate On Solutions For Smart Cities

- **India and Sweden launched a joint programme** that will work towards addressing a range of challenges around smart cities and clean technologies among others. The programme was co-funded by **Indian Department of Science and Technology (DST)** and Swedish agency **Vinnova**.

4. TCS Signs Deal With India Post To Transform Country's Mail Delivery System

- India's largest IT services company, **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)**, has partnered with the **Department of Posts** in a bid to transform it into a multi-service digital hub. It will modernise the delivery of mail and packages, enhance customer experience, and launch innovative services that will drive new revenues.

5. Indian Army Inks MoU With NHPC To Build Tunnels On China, Pakistan Borders for storage of ammunition and

other war-related equipment. Three tunnels will be built along the Chinese border and one tunnel will be built along the Pakistan border. The tunnel can store 175-200 metric tonnes of ammunition and the cost of this pilot project is around Rs 15 crore.

ECONOMY NEWS

6. Wipro Acquires Philippines' Largest Personal Care Company 'Splash'

-**Wipro Consumer Care** announced that it is acquiring personal care company '**Splash**', which is based in the **Philippines**. Splash, the largest personal care player in the Philippines,

2. RBI Sets Limits For Ways and Means Advances

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in consultation with the government of India has set the limits for Ways and Means Advances (WMA) for the first half of the financial year 2019-20 (April 2019 to September 2019) at Rs 75000 crore. (WMA is the temporary loan facility provided by the RBI to the center and state governments. The WMA scheme was introduced in 1997 to meet any temporary mismatches in the receipts and payments of the government).

3. India's GDP To Accelerate Moderately To 7.5% In 2019-20: World Bank

- As per the World Bank, India's GDP growth is expected to accelerate moderately to 7.5% in Fiscal Year 19-20, driven by continued investment strengthening, particularly private-improved export performance and resilient consumption.

4. IMF Cuts India's GDP Growth Forecast To 7.3% For FY20

5. Government Retains Interest Rate For General Provident Fund at 8% for the first quarter of the current financial year.

6. Emirates Islamic Becomes World's 1st Islamic Bank To Launch Banking Via WhatsApp - The bank's customers will now able to conduct daily banking activities via WhatsApp in a seamless and hassle-free manner. (Emirates Islamic, part of Emirates NBD Group, is one of the fastest growing banks in the UAE).

7. DoT Approves Merger of Tata Tele Unit & Airtel With Riders

- The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has approved the merger of Tata Teleservices with Bharti Airtel Ltd., subject to the condition that it furnishes a Rs 7200 crore bank guarantee.

8. IDRBT Sets Up 5G Lab For Banking, Financial Sector

- The Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT), an arm of Reserve Bank of India, has launched a 5G Use Cases Lab for banking and financial sector. The 5G technology, along with blockchain, will be progressively adopted by banks. Department Of Telecommunications had already launched test beds for 5G use in the academia in Hyderabad, Chennai and Bangalore to develop 5G for Indian use.

9. India Becomes Net Steel Importer In 2018-19

-India was a net importer of steel during the 2018-19 fiscal year, the first time in three years, as the country lost market share among its traditional steel buyers and imports jumped on demand for higher-quality steel domestically.

10. ADB Committed Highest-ever \$3 bn In Sovereign Loans To India In 2018

-ADB committed to provide USD 3 billion in sovereign loans to India in 2018, the highest level of assistance since sovereign operations began in the country in 1986.

11. Microsoft Becomes World's Third Company To Be Worth \$1 Trillion after Apple and Amazon.

12. RBI to Introduces ₹ 20 Banknote In Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series

The new denomination has the motif of Ellora Caves on the reverse, depicting the country's cultural heritage. The base colour of the note is Greenish Yellow. The dimension of the banknote will be 63 mm x 129 mm.

13. Paytm Money Receives SEBI Approval To Start Stock Broking Services

14. Fitch keeps India's rating unchanged at BBB

- Rating agency Fitch retained India's sovereign rating at 'BBB-', the lowest investment grade, with a stable outlook for the 13th straight year.

- Fitch expects growth of 6.8% in current fiscal 19-20 and 7.1% in the next fiscal 20-21.

15. RBI Sells Entire Stake In NHB, Nabard To Government For INR 1,470 crore

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has divested its entire stake held in National Housing Bank (NHB), and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard) to the government, which now holds 100% in these entities. The transactions were completed in February (Nabard) and March (NHB). RBI had 100% shareholding in NHB, which was divested for INR 1,450 crore. RBI had 72.5% stake in Nabard, out of which 71.5%, worth INR1,430 crore was divested in October 2010 and the residual shareholding was divested in February 2019 for INR 20 crore.

16. BuyUcoin Introduces First Indian Platform for Wholesale Cryptocurrency Trading

- BuyUcoin, second oldest Cryptocurrency Exchange in India, has introduced a new and unique platform for wholesale cryptocurrency trading. It is also known as OTC (Over-the-counter) Desk that allows users to trade on a large scale with low price fluctuations.

17. RBI Issues Norms For Banks To Set Up Currency Chests

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

- The new chests should have a processing a capacity of 6.6 lakh pieces of banknotes per day. The currency chests should have CBL of Rs 1,000 crore, subject to ground realities and reasonable restrictions, at the discretion of the Reserve Bank.

18. Deposits In Jan Dhan Accounts Are Set To Cross Rs 1 Lakh Crore Mark

-The scheme was launched on 28th August 2014 by the Modi-government with an aim to provide universal access to banking facilities to all households.

(The government increased the accident insurance cover to Rs 2 lakh from Rs 1 lakh for new accounts opened after 28th August 2018 and the overdraft limit was also doubled to Rs 10,000).

BANKING NEWS (imp for IBPS Bank PO & clerk EXAMS)

1. BSE, HDFC Bank Tie Up To Strengthen Startup Platform

2. RBL Bank Partners With Credit Vidya For Improving Customer Experience

- Through this partnership, the private sector lender will be able to gain significant insights into its customer base. RBL/Ratnakar Bank Limited is a scheduled commercial bank, headquartered in Mumbai.

3. Bandhan Bank Gets CCI Nod For Merger With Gruh Finance

4. Fincare Small Finance Bank Awarded the Celent Model Bank 2019 Award in the category of Financial Inclusion, for 'Redesigning Lending to Reach Small Businesses'.

5. IDBI Bank Launches 'NRI-Insta-Online' Paperless Account Facility

-IDBI Bank has launched 'NRI-Insta-Online' account opening process for NRIs residing in the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) member countries. The person will not be required to furnish physical documents as well as KYC proofs for opening an account with the bank.

6. Canara Bank Becomes The First Public Sector Bank In India To Meet RBI's EMV Mandate

7. ETMONEY Becomes India's First Comprehensive Financial Services App To Integrate With UPI

-ETMONEY India's largest app for financial services has integrated with Unified Payment Interface (UPI) as a payment method. The reason for this is to double its monthly user base by the end of 2019.

8. Exim Bank Funds Projects Worth USD 267 mn In Rwanda for various projects

9. Reliance Retail Became India's First Retail Company To Cross The Rs.1 Lakh Crore Annual Revenue

10. SBI General Insurance Launches Cyber Defence Insurance For Businesses

-SBI General Insurance has launched a product - cyber defence insurance to protect businesses from financial and reputational losses due to cyber attacks.

11. Government Raises Authorised Capital of Allahabad Bank To Rs 8,000 Crore

12: 1st of Its Kind, SBI and PAISALO Digital Limited Signed Agreement

- PAISALO Digital Limited signed the first co-origination loan agreement with State Bank of India, the first agreement of its kind in the country that State Bank of India has signed. Introducing a platform for the last mile customer, the loan ticket is designed at Rs 10,000 to 2 lakh. PAISALO Digital Limited is a leading systemically important non-deposit taking NBFC registered with the Reserve Bank of India, in operations since 1992.

13: Kotak Bank Launches Debit Card-Based e-mandate On NPCI's API Platform

-With this, it has become the first ever Destination Bank to go live with both Net Banking and Debit Card-based e-mandate authentication.

14: IndusInd Bank Receives NCLT (National Company Law Tribunal) Approval For Merger With Bharat Financial Inclusion.

15: Karnataka Bank Signs Pact With Bharti AXA For Insurance Products

16. Lakshmi Vilas Bank To Merge With Indiabulls Housing Finance

17. State Bank of India Launched India's First 'Green Car Loan'

-State Bank of India (SBI) has launched India's first 'Green Car Loan' (Electric Vehicle) to encourage customers to buy electric vehicles. The new scheme 'Green Car Loan' will offer the loan at 20 basis points lower than the interest rate on the existing car loan schemes. SBI has already notified 100% migration to EVs (Electric Vehicles) by 2030 in order to decrease carbon footprints, thus being in line with the government's pledge of ensuring 30% EVs on road by 2030.

18. Canara Bank, Canara HSBC OBC Life launch 'Webassurance'

19. BOB Becomes 3rd Largest Bank As Dena, Vijaya Merger Take Effect

- The amalgamation of Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank into the Bank of Baroda (BoB) has come into effect and all branches of the former two will function as branches of BoB. Post the merger, Bank of Baroda has become the third largest bank in the country. The merged entity would also receive Rs 5,042 crore fund infusion from the government.

20. Kotak Mahindra Bank Becomes First Lender To Charge For UPI Use

- Kotak Mahindra Bank (Kotak) stated that it will charge customers for UPI transactions starting 1st of May 2019. 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.

RAMANA ACADEMY