

Current Affairs April 2019

All India Career Counsellor Number

DELHI: +91-8920-180-477

MUMBAI: +91-9930-476-636

CONTENT

National.....	2
International.....	06
Defence.....	11
Appointments or Resign/Retired.....	13
Honours/ Awards.....	15
Sports.....	20
Obituaries.....	24
Important Days with theme.....	26

National

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

- i. 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**.
- ii. 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**.

news-

- **ISRO Director: K. Sivan, Headquarters: Bengaluru, Established in: 1969.**



Important Takeways from above

Dhanbad Tops 4G Availability Chart In India

- i. 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**.
- ii. 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.
- iii. Notably, both Ranchi and Dhanbad are two cities in **Jharkhand** and they are the only two cities to have over 95% of 4G coverage.



Telangana Tops In eLearning Training For Field Staff

- i. 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.
- ii. During the financial year **2018-19**, 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 **3** domain-specific modules.



Kandhamal Haldi Gets Geographical Indications Tag

- i. '**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**.
- ii. The recognition coincided with the state's **Foundation Day (Utkal Divas)**. Kandhamal in Odisha's southern hinterland is famed for its **turmeric**.

Important Takeways from above news-

- Odisha, on **April 1, 1936**, was carved out as a separate state in the then British India on a linguistic identity.
- **Odisha CM: Naveen Patnaik, Governor: Ganeshi Lal.**



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

- i. 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.
- ii. The decision has been taken by the **Home Ministry** exercising the powers conferred under the **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act**.



Lakshmi Vilas Bank To Merge With Indiabulls Housing Finance

- i. The board of **Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB)** approved the merger of the **private sector lender with Indiabulls Housing Finance (IBH)** through a share swap deal.
- ii. The merger will also enable **Tamil Nadu-based LVB** to obtain a larger geographical presence. The merged entity will have a net worth Rs19,472 crore and a loan book Rs1,23,393 crore for the nine months of FY19.

BSNL Gets Licence For WiFi On Flights

- i. 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**.
- ii. **BSNL and its satellite partner, Inmarsat**, will be able to offer in-flight connectivity to airlines.

IIT-Madras Tops HRD's National Ranking of Institutes

- i. **President Ram Nath Kovind** has released the **national ranking of higher institutes** by the **Ministry of Human Resources Development (HRD)** in New Delhi.



ii. **Indian Institute of Technology Madras** topped the rankings while the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore bagged the second rank followed by IIT Delhi.

iii. **Delhi University's Miranda House** was ranked the best among colleges across the country, while the varsity's St Stephen's College was ranked fourth.

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

i. 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).

ii. The Report was titled as '**World Bank's Migration and Development Brief**'. Over the last three years, India has registered a significant flow of remittances from USD 62.7 billion in 2016 to USD 65.3 billion 2017.



WhatsApp Launches Tip Line To Curb Fake News

i. **WhatsApp** launched an India-focused **fact-checking feature** to combat fake news and rumours starting with the run-up to the Lok Sabha elections.

ii. 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**.

HDFC AMC Ranks 1st In Terms Of Assets: AMFI Report

i. **India's asset management companies (AMCs)** own assets under management (AUM) worth Rs24.46 trillion, according to data released by the **Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi)**.

ii. **HDFC Asset Management Co. Ltd** has claimed the top spot with an average AUM of Rs3.42 trillion, overtaking **ICICI Prudential Asset Management Co. Ltd** with an average AUM of at Rs3.20 trillion.



Reliance Mutual Fund Launches Voice-Based Financial Transactions

i. **Reliance Nippon Life Asset Management (RNAM)** has joined hands with Google to enable the customers of **Reliance Mutual Fund** to carry out **voice-based financial transactions**.

ii. With this, **RNAM** becomes the **first company in India**, to provide a conversational interface that would help customers regarding funds transactions.

Kotak Mahindra Bank Becomes First Lender To Charge For UPI Use

i. **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.

ii. 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.

Garuda Prakashan Launches 'Saffron Swords'

i. The Indian Publishing company, **Garuda Prakashan Private Limited**, launched its book '**Saffron Swords- Centuries of Indic Resistance to Invaders**'.

ii. Written by **Manoshi Sinha Rawal**, it is a book on 52 unsung warriors of India from the last 1300 years. **Important Takeways from above news-**

- **Garuda CEO: Sankrant Sanu.**

Phayeng Village Becomes India's 1st Carbon-Positive Settlement

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

ii. 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.



Guwahati Railway Station 1st To Get ISO Certification In India

i. 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."

ii. 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**.

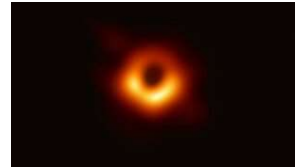


Important Takeways from above news-

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

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.



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.



Important Takeways from above news-

- **FICCI Founded in:** 1927, **Headquarters:** New Delhi, India.

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.
- The objective of establishing Voter Park was also to motivate eligible people to vote in the Lok Sabha election so that they can contribute to the progress of the country.



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**.



Important Takeways from above news-

- **UNPFA Headquarters:** New York, United States, **Head:** Natalia Kanem.

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

- HDFC Bank** has been identified as **number 1 bank** by customers in India, as per **Forbes World's Best Bank** survey. In the first edition of this survey, Forbes partnered with market research firm Statista to measure the best banks in 23 countries.
- HDFC Bank** emerged as **India's No 1 bank**. **ICICI Bank** was at number 2 and **SBI** was **surprisingly ranked 11th** in the list.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Aditya Puri** is the MD of **HDFC Bank**.

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.
- Telecom Minister Manoj Sinha** gave his conditional nod for the merger. The guarantees are mostly related to **one-time spectrum charges (OTSC)** and some deferred airwave charges, according to people aware of the development.

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**.
- The Park is spread over **1.4 acres** of land and surrounded by flora and fauna. 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.



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.



ii. 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.

Important Takeways from above news-

- 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.
- **Assam Capital:** Dispur, **Chief Minister:** Sarbananda Sonowal

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

i. 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**.

ii. This integration will simplify the mutual fund payment for millions of ETMONEY users. ETMONEY is owned by Times Internet which is a part of the **Times Group**.

Important Takeways from above news-

- UPI is an instant **real-time payment system** developed by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) which facilitates inter-bank transactions.



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

i. The **Time 100 Most Influential People 2019** list has been released, naming the world's most influential pioneers, leaders, titans, artists, and icons of the year. 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.

ii. The famous names in the list include Indian-American comedian and TV host Hasan Minhaj, US President **Donald Trump**, Pope Francis, Chinese President Xi Jinping, Pakistan PM **Imran Khan**, and iconic golfer Tiger Woods.

Gagandeep Kang Becomes First Indian Female FRS

i. 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.

ii. The 56-year-old 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**.



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

i. 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.

ii. **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.

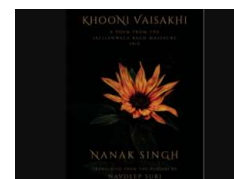
Important Takeways from above news-

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

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

i. 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.

ii. 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.



India Ranks 17th In Global Startup Ecosystem

India was ranked **17th** position among **100** countries in **Startup Ecosystem Ranking for 2019** released by **StartupBlink**. It was ranked **37th** spot last year.

ii. It takes into consideration startup ecosystems of **1,000** cities and **100** countries for the ranking. China was ranked **27th**. **Bangalore**, **New Delhi**, and **Mumbai** were the top cities in the Indian startup ecosystem.

Important

Takeways from above news-

Top three countries are:

- 1st:** United States
- 2nd:** United Kingdom
- 3rd:** Canada.

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

- i. Reliance retail has become the **first Indian retail** company to clock more than **Rs 1 lakh crore** in annual revenues.
- ii. The retail venture of Reliance Industries reported an income of **Rs 1,30,556 crore** for 2018-19, **89%** more than the previous year's **Rs 69,198 crore**.

Cancer Preparedness Index 2019 Released, India Ranks 19th

- i. India was ranked **19th** out of 28 countries in the **Index of Cancer Preparedness (ICP)** released by the **Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)**.
- ii. It was released as part of the report titled "**Cancer preparedness around the world: National readiness for a global epidemic**" prepared by EIU.

Important Takeways from above news-

- Top 3 countries are **Australia** (1st), Netherlands (2nd) and Germany (3rd).
- Bottom three are **Saudi Arabia** (28th), Romania (27th) and Egypt (26th).



BuyUcoin Introduces First Indian Platform for Wholesale Cryptocurrency Trading

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



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

- i. The Reserve Bank of India will shortly issue ₹ 20 denomination banknotes in the **Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series**, bearing the signature of **Shri Shaktikanta Das**, Governor, Reserve Bank of India.
- ii. 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**.



Cyclone 'Fani' Intensifies Over Bay of Bengal

- i. 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.
- ii. Cyclone Fani currently lays over east **Equatorial Indian Ocean (EIO)** and adjoining the southeast Bay of Bengal.



International

Tesla Builds Its 'Largest Energy Storage System In Asia'

- i. 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.
- ii. 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.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Japan Capital:** Tokyo, **Currency:** Japanese yen, **PM:** Shinzo Abe.



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

- i. 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.
- ii. It was launched by a Long **March-3B** carrier rocket from the **Xichang Satellite Launch Centre** in southwest China's Sichuan Province.



Japan Unveils Name of Its New Imperial Era 'Reiwa'

- i. 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.
- ii. 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**'.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Japan Capital:** Tokyo, **Currency:** Japanese Yen, **PM:** Shinzo Abe.



South Korea Launches World's First National 5G Networks



- i. **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.
- ii. 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.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **South Korea Capital-** Seoul, **Currency-** South Korean won.

Google Launches Its 1st Drone Delivery Service In Australia

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



17th MENA World Economic Forum Held In Jordan

- i. 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.
- ii. The forum was themed on three major visions: generating job opportunities, empowering Arab women and promoting the most intriguing startups that have joined the region's industry over the past years.



Important Takeways from above news-

- **World Economic Forum Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland.
- **Founder and Executive Chairman:** Mr. Klaus Schwab.

London Becomes 1st City To Use Pollution Charge Zone

- i. **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.
- ii. Introduction of the ULEZ aims to reduce toxic air pollution and protect public health, according to a press release from the office of Sadiq Khan, mayor of London.



Important Takeways from above news-

- Theresa May is the PM of the United Kingdom.

Emirates Islamic Becomes World's 1st Islamic Bank To Launch Banking Via WhatsApp

- i. **Emirates Islamic** has announced the launch of Chat Banking services for customers via WhatsApp, **marking a global first in the Islamic banking sector**.
- ii. The bank's customers will now able to conduct daily banking activities via WhatsApp in a seamless and hassle-free manner.



Important Takeways from above news-

- Emirates Islamic, part of Emirates NBD Group, is one of the fastest growing banks in the UAE.
- Emirates Islamic Bank was established in 2004.

India To Be Guest of Honour Country At ADIBF 2019

- i. 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.
- ii. The fair aims to highlight the UAE's rich heritage, showcasing its authenticity and modernity, as well as its cultural and literary output.



Important Takeways from above news-

- **Abdullah Majed Al Ali** is the Director of ADIBF.
- **UAE Capital:** Abu Dhabi, **Currency:** United Arab Emirates Dirham.

Benjamin Netanyahu Re-Elected as Israel's Prime Minister

- i. Israeli Prime Minister **Benjamin Netanyahu** has won a **fifth term** in office. His closest opponent's party the Blue and White party conceded defeat, clearing the path for Netanyahu to set up a coalition government.
- ii. 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."**



Important Takeways from above news-

- **Israel Capital:** Jerusalem, **Currency:** Israeli new shekel.

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

- i. 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.
- ii. 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.



Google Launches New Cloud Platform Anthos

- i. Google launched **Anthos**, a new open platform from **Google Cloud**, that lets users run applications from anywhere.
- ii. 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**.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **CEO Google:** Sundar Pichai.

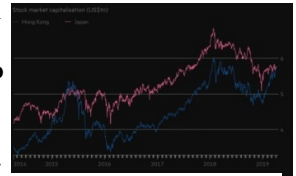


Hong Kong's Stock Market Overtakes Japan To Be World's 3rd Largest

- i. 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.
- ii. Hong Kong's market cap was \$5.78 trillion, compared with \$5.76 trillion for Japan, **according to data compiled by Bloomberg** based on where primary securities are listed.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Hong Kong** is an autonomous territory, and former British colony, in southeastern China.



UAE To Host World's Foremost Artificial Intelligence Summit

- i. UAE is set to **host the world's foremost Artificial Intelligence (AI) Summit** to empower global dialogue on the future of government, business and society. The inaugural '**AI Everything**', AIE will take place at the **Dubai World Trade Centre**.
- ii. It will be hosted by the UAE National Programme for Artificial Intelligence, with the support of International Telecommunication Union, ITU, and the World Intellectual Property Organisation, WIPO, and in strategic partnership with Smart Dubai.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **UAE Capital:** Abu Dhabi, **Currency:** United Arab Emirates Dirham.



Google Opens Its First African AI Lab in Ghana

- i. Google has opened its **first African artificial intelligence (AI) centre** in **Ghana's capital Accra**, one year after announcing the project.
- ii. The research laboratory will host software engineers and research scientists to work on projects dedicated to next-generation technology.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **CEO Google:** Sundar Pichai.



Nepal and Sri Lanka Launches Its First Satellite From USA

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

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Nepal Prime Minister:** K P Sharma Oli, **Capital:** Kathmandu.



Saudi Arabia To Host G20 Summit In 2020

- i. **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**.
- ii. Last year's G20 meeting was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman had represented the Kingdom.

Christina Koch To Set Record For Longest Spaceflight By A Woman

- i. 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**.
- ii. 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.



China Develops World's First Armed Amphibious Drone Boat



- i. 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**.
- ii. The drone ship has been built by **Wuchang Shipbuilding** Industry Group under China Shipbuilding Industry Corporation (**CSIC**).
- iii. The drone ship has a maximum operation range of **1,200 km** and can be remotely controlled with the help of satellites.

Two New Bird Species Found In Indonesia

- i. 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**.
- ii. Details of their discovery were published in the **Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society**.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Indonesia Capital-** Jakarta, **Currency-** Indonesian rupiah.



LSE Names A Professorship After Economist Amartya Sen

- i. 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.
- ii. 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.



Important Takeways from above news-

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

Asian Tea Alliance Launched In China

- i. 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**.
- ii. 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.



Russia Successfully Tests World's First Floating Nuclear Power Plant

- i. **Russia** has successfully tested the world's **first** floating nuclear power plant (NPP), **Akademik Lomonosov**, a subsidiary of Rosatom nuclear corporation stated.
- ii. Reactors of the floating atomic block were launched in November 2018.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Russia Capital:** Moscow, **Currency:** Russian ruble.



Israel To Name Town In Golan Heights After Donald Trump

- i. 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.
- ii. 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.

Important Takeways from above news-

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



Indonesia Releases Special Stamp On Theme of Ramayana

- i. **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.
- ii. 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.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Indonesia Capital-** Jakarta, **Currency-** Indonesian rupiah.
- **Ambassador of India to Indonesia:** Pradeep Kumar Rawat.



World's 1st Malaria Vaccine Launched In Africa

- i. 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.



ii. **Ghana and Kenya** will introduce the vaccine soon. About 93% of the world's malaria-related deaths in 2017 occurred in Africa.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **WHO Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland, **Director general:** Tedros Adhanom.

Iran, Pakistan To Set Up Border 'Reaction Force'

i. **Iran and Pakistan** have agreed to set up a joint border "**reaction force**" to combat the attacks by militant groups on both sides their frontier.

ii. Both the nations have decided to collaborate to form the joint quick reaction force by increasing cooperation between **border forces** and **intelligence agencies**.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Iran President:** Hassan Rohani, **Pakistan PM:** Imran Khan.
- **Iran Capital:** Tehran, **Currency:** Iranian rial.



Microsoft Becomes World's Third Company To Be Worth \$1 Trillion

i. **Microsoft** has reached a valuation of **one trillion** dollars for the **first time** after posting an increase in profits. It makes the software giant only the **third** publicly-traded company in history to reach the threshold after **Apple** and **Amazon** passed it in **2018**.

ii. Microsoft's current valuation also means that it has again taken over Apple as the **world's most valuable company**.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Microsoft CEO:** Satya Nadella.



Etihad Becomes First Major Airline To Fly Plastic-Free

i. **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.

ii. The objective is to raise awareness about pollution. Etihad Airways has pledged to reduce single-use plastic usage by 80% across the entire organization by the end of **2022**.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **UAE Capital:** Abu Dhabi, **Currency:** UAE dirham.



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

i. **Russia's Vladimir Putin** and **North Korea's Kim Jong Un** met face-to-face for the **first time** and vowed to seek closer ties.

ii. The meeting was **held at Russia's Pacific port city of Vladivostok**. Efforts to ease tensions on the Korean peninsula and ways to boost economic ties were discussed.

iii. Six-party talks on North Korean de-nuclearization started back in 2003. **The talks involve China, Japan, Russia, the US along with North Korea and South Korea.**

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Russia Capital:** Moscow, **Currency:** Russian ruble.
- **North Korea Capital:** Pyongyang, **Currency:** North Korean won.



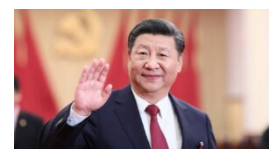
China Hosted 2nd Belt And Road Forum In Beijing

i. The second edition of **Belt and Road Forum (BRF)** was held in **Beijing, China** in which 37 heads-of-state and 159 countries had participated along with **United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres** and **International Monetary Chief (IMF) Christine Lagarde**.

ii. The theme of this event was "**Belt and Road Cooperation: Shaping a Brighter Shared Future**". The Belt and Road Forum is a part of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Important Takeways from above news-

- **China Capital-** Beijing, **Currency-** Renminbi.



5th ABU Media Summit Held In Kathmandu

i. The **5th Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) Media Summit** on Climate Action & Disaster Preparedness was held at **Kathmandu, Nepal**.

ii. The theme of the two-day summit was "**Media Solutions for Sustainable Future: Saving Lives, Building Resilient Communities**".



Wipro Acquires Philippines' Largest Personal Care Company 'Splash'

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

ii. **Splash**, the largest personal care player in the Philippines, recorded revenues worth \$80 million in 2018.

Important Takeways from above news-



- **Philippines Capital:** Manila, **Currency:** Philippine peso.

US Withdraws From UN Arms Trade Treaty

i. **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.

Important Takeaways from above news-

- 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."**



Defence

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.



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**.



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.



Important Takeaways from above news-

- **General Bipin Rawat** is the present Chief of Army Staff of Indian Army.

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.
- Started in 2013, exercise Mitra Shakti is in continuation of a series of joint exercises that is conducted annually as part of military diplomacy to enhance cooperation between the armies of India & Sri Lanka.



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**.
- The three-day exercise, **'Bold Kurukshetra-2019'**, is being conducted to develop military technology, boost maritime security and bolster the nations' fight against terrorism.



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**.

Important Takeaways from above news-

- US Secretary of State **Mike Pompeo**.
- **Iran Capital:** Tehran, **Currency:** Iranian rial.



India And France To Hold Largest Ever 'Varuna' Naval Exercise Off Goa Coast

- India and France** will conduct their largest ever naval exercise **'Varuna'** in May 2019. It will witness the participation of aircraft carriers, destroyers, submarines, and fighters.



ii. India will deploy its aircraft carrier, **INS Vikramaditya** with its MiG-29K fighters. Similarly, the French Navy will send its aircraft carrier **FNS Charles de Gaulle** with its Rafale-M naval jets, and other warships for the "Varuna" exercise.

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

i. 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.

ii. The missile has been developed by Bengaluru-based Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), a lab under DRDO and can be launched from multiple platforms.



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).

ii. The Indian Navy would be represented in the IFR by indigenously built stealth guided missile destroyer **INS Kolkata** and fleet support ship **INS Shakti**.



Important Takeways from above news-

- **Indian Navy Chief:** Admiral Sunil Lanba.

Indian Navy-Vietnam Peoples' Navy Bilateral Exercise Concludes

i. 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**.

ii. The exercise was undertaken as a part of the ongoing Overseas Deployment of Eastern Fleet ships to South East Asian countries.



India 4th Biggest Military Spender in 2018: SIPRI Report

i. 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.

ii. According to the SIPRI data, **China was the second-largest military spender** in 2018. India accounts for 3.7% of the global defence spending.



Coast Guard Patrol Ship Veera Commissioned

i. 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.

ii. 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**.



Navy Chief Launches New Guided Missile Destroyer 'INS Imphal'

i. Indigenously designed 'INS Imphal' a guided missile destroyer was launched by Navy Chief **Sunil Lanba** at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) in **Mumbai**.

ii. 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.

Important Takeways from above news-

- Vice Admiral **Karambir Singh** has been appointed as **next** Chief of the Naval Staff.
- **Navy Day** in India is celebrated on **4 December** every year.



Army Starts Process To Induct Women As Jawans In Military Police

i. The **Indian Army** has started the process of **inducting women** as **jawans** by starting their online registration for recruitment in the corps of **military police**.

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



Appointments or Resign/Retired

Vijay Chandok Appointed As MD And CEO Of ICICI Securities

- i. Executive Director of ICICI Bank, **Vijay Chandok** has been appointed as **MD and CEO of ICICI Securities**, a subsidiary of ICICI bank.
- ii. He will succeed Shilpa Naval Kumar. He joined the ICICI Group in **1993**.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **ICICI Bank Headquarters:** Mumbai, **Tagline:** Hum Hain Na!



Manu Sawhney Takes Over As Chief Executive of ICC

- i. **Manu Sawhney** took over as the **International Cricket Council (ICC) Chief Executive Officer (CEO)**. Sawhney has been working alongside the outgoing CEO David Richardson for the last six weeks to ensure a smooth transition within the organization.
- ii. Richardson will remain with the ICC until July as originally planned to oversee the delivery of the upcoming Men's Cricket World Cup 2019.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Chairperson:** Shashank Manohar, **Headquarters:** Dubai, United Arab Emirates.



David Malpass Named World Bank President

- i. **David Malpass** has been appointed as the **President of the World Bank**. He was US President Donald Trump's nominee and won unanimous approval from the institution's executive board.
- ii. 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.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **World Bank Headquarters in:** Washington DC, USA, **Established in:** 1944.

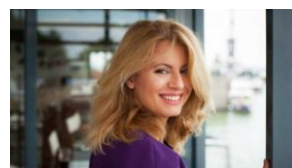


Zuzana Caputova Becomes 1st Female President Of Slovakia

- i. Anti-graft lawyer **Zuzana Caputova** won **Slovakia's** presidential election, making her the country's **first female** head of state.
- ii. The 45-year old political novice won about 58.3% of the vote ahead of the more politically savvy European commissioner **Maros Sefcovic** who took 41.7%.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Slovakia Capital:** Bratislava, **Currency:** Euro.



Google India Head Rajan Anandan Resigned

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



SUN Group Chairman Vikramjit Sahney Elected As President of ICC India

- i. **SUN Group Chairman Vikramjit Singh Sahney** elected as the new president of **International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) - India**.
- ii. The chamber would work with the government to promote India's external trade.

UN Appoints Nicholas Koumjian As Investigation Head For Myanmar

- i. The UN Secretary-General, **Antonio Guterres** announced the appointment of **Nicholas Koumjian** of the United States as the head of the **Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar**.
- ii. 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.



Chicago Creates History, Elects Lori Lightfoot As 1st Black-Woman Mayor

- i. Chicago has created history by **electing an African-American woman as its mayor for the first time**. Lightfoot will take over office from Mayor Rahm Emanuel.



ii. Lightfoot's primary proposals include increasing access to affordable housing, creating an office of public safety to reduce crime and reform policing, and pushing through a real estate transfer tax to help combat homelessness.

Vipin Anand Takes Over As Managing Director of LIC

i. **Vipin Anand** has taken charge as **Managing Director of Life Insurance Corporation of India**.

Prior to this, he was in charge of LIC's Western Zone, headquartered at Mumbai.

ii. During his service of more than 35 years with the organisation, Anand has handled several assignments in various capacities and departments across different locations in India.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **MR Kumar** is the present Chairman of **Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)**.



CS Rajan Appointed MD of IL&FS

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

ii. Rest of the new board comprises of Bijay Kumar as the deputy managing director and GC Chaturvedi, Nand Kishore, Malini Shankar, and N Srinivasan as non-executive directors.



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.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Algeria Capital:** Algiers, **Currency:** Algerian dinar.



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

i. **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**.

ii. The Collegium of Supreme Court comprising of Chief Justice of India **Ranjan Gogoi** besides Judges S A Bobde and N V Ramana recommended the name of Justice Vikram Nath.



Gargi Kaul Appointed Secretary of Defence Finance

i. In a bureaucratic reshuffle, the Centre has appointed **Gargi Kaul** as **Secretary, Defence Finance**.

ii. She is a 1984-batch officer of the Indian Audit and Accounts Service (IA&AS). Kaul was earlier Financial Advisor, Defence Services in the Defence Ministry.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Sanjay Mitra** is the present Defence Secretary.



BK Nayak Appointed FIH Health And Safety Committee Chair

i. **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.

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

i. **Professor Najma Akhtar** was appointed as the **first woman vice-chancellor** of **Jamia Millia Islamia**, making her the first woman to hold the charge.

ii. Akhtar is the head of the Department of Training and Capacity Building in Education at the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration in New Delhi. She has been appointed Jamia vice chancellor for **five years**.

Important Takeways from above news-

- Jamia Millia Islamia was founded in **1920** in Aligarh and became a Central University by an Act of Parliament in **1988**.
- Manipur Governor **Najma Heptulla** is the university's chancellor.



Mithali Raj Named Goodwill Ambassador Of Team India At The Street Child Cricket World Cup

i. 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)**.

ii. Mithali joins IPL franchise Rajasthan Royals and former captain **Sourav Ganguly** in supporting the team.



Mohammed Ishtayeh Appointed As PM of Palestine



- i. The **Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas** has appointed **Mohammed Ishtayeh** as the new Prime Minister. Mohammed Ishtayeh will succeed Rami Hamdallah.
- ii. The 18th Palestinian government since the establishment of the Palestinian Authority in 1995 was sworn in according to a presidential decree issued by Abbas, a move at a time when prospects for a peace deal with Israel are possibly at their lowest point ever.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Palestine Capitals-** Ramallah & East Jerusalem.

Volodymyr Zelenskiy Wins Landslide Victory In Ukrainian Presidential Election

- i. **Volodymyr Zelenskiy**, an actor and comedian has won a landslide victory in **Ukraine's** presidential election. The incumbent, **Petro Poroshenko** conceded defeat.
- ii. 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.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Ukraine Capital:** Kiev, **Currency:** Ukrainian hryvnia.



Uday Kumar Varma Resigns From Assocham Secretary General Post

- i. **Uday Kumar Varma**, a former bureaucrat retired from the post of Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, resigned from the post of The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry (**Assocham**) **Secretary-General**.
- ii. He had succeeded **D S Rawat** who held the position for nearly 14 years.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Assocham President:** B K Goenka.



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

- i. General (Retd.) **Dalbir Singh Suhag** has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of **Seychelles**.
- ii. He will soon be taking over the new position. General Suhag was the **26th** Army Chief of the Indian Army from July 2014 to December 2016.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Seychelles Capital:** Victoria, **Currency:** Seychellois rupee.



Twitter Appoints Manish Maheshwari As India MD

- i. Twitter has appointed **Manish Maheshwari** as the Managing Director of its India operations.
- ii. Maheshwari has previously served as the CEO of Network18 Digital. Maheshwari will report to Twitter Vice President and Managing Director of Asia Pacific **Maya Hari** and will be based in Delhi.

Honours/ Awards

UAE Honours PM Modi With Highest Civilian Award Zayed Medal

- i. The UAE honoured PM **Narendra Modi** with the prestigious **Zayed Medal** for giving a "big boost" to bilateral strategic ties.
- ii. 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.



Tata Steel Wins 'Global Slag Company Of The Year' Award

- i. **Tata Steel** has been named as the '**Global Slag Company of the Year**' at the 14th Global Slag Conference and Exhibition 2019. The conference was held recently in **Aachen, Germany**.
- ii. It is one of the largest global annual slag event, attended by major steelmakers, steel mill service providers & associated companies.

Important Takeways from above news-

- Mr Ratan Naval Tata is the Emeritus Chairman of TATA Steels.



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

- i. **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.
- ii. Dr. Munjal was presented with a special salver by leading Indian golfer **Shiv Kapur**, representing the players on the Asian Tour.



Vikram Patel Awarded The Prestigious John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Award

- i. The **Gairdner Foundation** announced the 2019 Canada Gairdner Award laureates, recognizing Goa and Boston-based **Vikram Patel** for his research career raising the global profile of **mental health problems**.
- ii. Prof 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.



Dr A K Singh Conferred With Lifetime Achievement Award

- i. 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.
- ii. He has made notable contributions in Internal Decorporation of Fission Produced Radionuclides and Infection Imaging.



Important Takeways from above news-

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

John Moore Won The World Press Photo Award 2019

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



Smriti Mandhana Named Wisden's Leading Women's Cricketer Of The Year

- i. Team India opener **Smriti Mandhana** has been named as the Wisden Almanack's 'Leading Women's Cricketer of the Year'.
- ii. The 22-year-old is currently the top-ranked player in women's ODIs 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.



2 West Bengal Government Schemes Win UN Awards

- i. Two schemes of the West Bengal government for skill development- "**Utkarsh Bangla**" and distribution of bicycles to students "**Sabooj Sathi**" have won the prestigious World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) awards of the United Nations.
- ii. 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.



Important Takeways from above news-

- Keshari Nath Tripathi is the governor of West Bengal.
- Mamta Banerjee is the CM of West Bengal.

Telugu Poet K Siva Reddy Selected For Prestigious Saraswati Samman 2018

- i. Telugu poet **K Siva Reddy** has been selected for the 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.
- ii. 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.



Indonesian Nuraeni Named Best Athletic Coach In Asia 2019

- i. Indonesian **Eni Nuraeni** was named by **Asian Athletic Association (AAA)** as the best athletic coach in Asia for the short-haul run category in 2019. It was announced by Indonesian athletic sports association (PB PASI).
- ii. Eni coaches young sprinter **Lalu Muhammad Zohri** to win the 100m gold medal in 10.20 seconds in the 2019 Grand Prix Malaysia Open athletics championships.



PM Modi Awarded Russia's Highest State Honour

- i. 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.
- ii. This is the **seventh international award** that PM Modi has been honoured with.



Dost Education Wins \$25,000 Global Tech Prize

- i. India's education technology startup '**Dost Education**' won a **\$25,000** tech prize along with two

other winners from Tanzania and Egypt.

ii. 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.

Namami Gange Gets Global Recognition At World Summit

i. 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**.

ii. The Global Water Awards are presented at the Global Water Summit, the major business conference for the water industry worldwide.



Indian Oil Bags AIMA Managing India Award For Outstanding PSU

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

ii. The award was presented by former President Pranab Mukherjee to **Sanjiv Singh, Chairman, Indian Oil**.



Important Takeways from above news-

- The All India Management Association (AIMA), the apex body of management professionals in the country, is committed to enhancing business excellence through its multifaceted activities.
- It was instituted in the year 2010.

NY Times, Wall Street Journal Win Pulitzers For Trump Probes

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

ii. 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.



Indian Peacekeepers Awarded UN Medal of Honour

i. 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.

ii. Under the UNMISS, the **Indian Horizontal Mobility Engineering Company** had completed the renovation of **145 km** of roadway connecting Bentiu and Leer in South Sudan, easing the way for the delivery humanitarian aid, trade, and inter-communal dialogue.



Cipla Chairman Yusuf Hamied Receives UK Royal Society Honour

i. 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**.

ii. The 82-year-old chairman of pharmaceutical major **Cipla** has been made an Honorary Fellow of the prestigious body, comprising of many of the world's most eminent scientists.

Important Takeways from above news-

- The Royal Society is an independent scientific academy of the **UK** and the Commonwealth, dedicated to promoting excellence in science.



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

i. 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**.

ii. They collected classified military records that revealed extrajudicial assassinations of Rohingya Muslims by the army in Rakhine State.

Important Takeways from above news-

- The award is a tribute to Colombian journalist **Guillermo Cano Isaza**. In December 1986, he was killed in front of the offices of his newspaper **El Espectador** in Bogota, **Colombia**.
- **UNESCO Headquarters**: Paris, France.



2019 Pulitzer Prize Announced: Complete List of Winners

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.

Here is the complete list of 2019 Pulitzer Prize winners:

Sl. No.	Category	Winner
JOURNALISM		
1.	Public service	Staff of the South Florida Sun Sentinel
2.	Criticism	Carlos Lozada of The Washington Post
3.	Editorial writing	Brent Staples of the New York Times
BOOKS, DRAMA, AND MUSIC		
4.	Fiction	“The Overstory” by Richard Powers
5.	Drama	“Fairview” by Jackie Sibblies Drury
6.	History	“Frederick Douglass” by David W. Blight
7.	Biography or autobiography	“The New Negro” by Jeffrey C. Stewart

Benny Antony Conferred With The National IP Award 2019

i. Dr. Benny Antony has been honoured with the **National Intellectual Property Award, 2019** in the category of Top Individual for Patents and Commercialization. Dr. Antony has over 80 international patents to his credit.

ii. Along with the National IP Award, the Intellectual Property Office India and the World Intellectual Property Organisation (**WIPO**) have jointly honoured Antony with the ‘**WIPO Medal for Inventors**’.



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**.



The event was organized by Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Smruti Pratishthan charitable trust, **Pune**. It aims to encourage legends from the fields of music, drama, art and social work. **Complete list of Awardees:**

- **Lifetime Award** – Salim Khan.
- **Special Award for the contribution to Indian cinema** – Madhur Bhandarkar.
- **Special Award** – Helen.
- **Vagvilasini Award** – VasantAbaji Dahake.
- **Mohan Wagh Award** (Best Drama of the Year 2019) – SoyareSakal.

Rana Dasgupta Wins 2019 Tagore Literary Prize

- The second edition of **Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize** was awarded to author **Rana Dasgupta** for his 2010 novel "**Solo**", a tale of estrangement and the ultimate failure of material existence.
- 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".



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.
- MadaMasr**, an Egyptian news site, won **Free Media Pioneer Award 2019** of the IPI and International Media Support (IMS). Both awards will be presented in **Geneva**, Switzerland on 5th June, **World Intellectual Property Day 2019**.



Important Takeways from above news-

- **IPI Headquarters-** Vienna, Austria.

PFA Awards 2018/19 Announced: Complete List of Winners

- Liverpool** defender **Virgil van Dijk** and **Arsenal Women Football Club's Vivianne Miedema** were named **Professional Footballers' Association (PFA)** Players' Player of the Year for the 2018-19 season.
- PFA Player's Player of the Year:**
Virgil van Dyjk, Liverpool.
Vivianne Miedema, Arsenal
- PFA Young Player of the Year:**
Raheem Sterling, Manchester City
Georgia Stanway, Manchester City
- PFA Special Achievement Award:**
Steph Houghgton: Former England and WBA



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**.

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**.
- The award, comprising prize money of **INR 1 lakh**, citation, and memento, will be presented at a function to be held in New Delhi on **World IP Day**.

Important Takeways from above news-

- 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.



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.
- He earned **BE in Electrical Engineering** from Bangalore University and is currently serving as Director of Case **GEMNI**(Graduate Engineering & Management National and International) Programme at Case Western Reserve University.



Jacques Kallis Receives Ikhamanga Award 2019

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

ii. Kallis has been rewarded for his successful cricketing career. He played 166 Tests, 328 ODIs and 25 T20Is, returning 62 hundreds and 577 wickets.

Important Takeaways from above news-

- Order of Ikhamanga Grades: **Gold (OIG)**- for exceptional achievement, **Silver (OIS)**- for excellent achievement, **Bronze (OIB)**- for outstanding achievement.
- **South Africa President:** Cyril Ramaphosa, **Currency:** South African Rand.



Sports

Miami Open: Federer Lifts 101st Career Title

i. Switzerland's Roger Federer defeats USA's John Isner in straight sets to lift his 101st career title at the Miami Open.

ii. 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.



South Korea Won Azlan Shah Hockey Cup

i. South Korea defeated India in the penalty shootout in the final of Sultan Azlan Shah Cup 2019.

ii. 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. India lost the match by 4-2 in the penalty shootout after regulation time ended 1-1.



Miami Open 2019 Concludes: Complete List of Winners

The **Miami Open**, sometimes known as the **Miami Masters** and part of the Sunshine Double, is an annual tennis tournament for men and women now held at the **Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens, Florida**.

Here is the complete list of Winners of Miami Open 2019:



Sl. No.	Event	Winner	Runner Up
1.	Men's Singles	Roger Federer (Switzerland)	John Isner (United States)
2.	Women's Singles	Ashleigh Barty (Australia)	Karolina Pliskova (Czech Republic)

Virat Kohli Named Wisden's Leading Cricketer

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

ii. The 30-year-old smashed 2,735 runs in 47 international innings at an average of 68.37 in 2018, including 11 hundred and nine fifties.



Praful Patel Becomes 1st Indian In FIFA Executive Council

Praful Patel, president of All India Football Federation (AIFF), has become the **first Indian to be elected as a member of FIFA Executive Council**.

ii. Patel, who serves as a Senior Vice President at the Asian Football Confederation (AFC), was **one of the eight candidates vying for the spot in the election**, which was held during the 29th AFC Congress in Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia.



India Open 2019 Concludes: Complete List of Winners

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 **Ratchanok Intanon of Thailand** won in **Women's singles** category.

Here is the complete list of Winners of India Open 2019:

Sl. No.	Event	Winner	Runner Up
1.	Men's Singles	Viktor Axelsen(Denmark)	Srikanth Kidambi (India)
2.	Women's Singles	Ratchanok Intanon(Thailand)	He Bingjiao (China)

Lewis Hamilton Wins Bahrain Grand Prix 2019

i. Five times world champion **Lewis Hamilton** won **Bahrain Grand Prix 2019** title by beating **Valtteri Bottas** of Finland who secured the second position.

ii. **Charles Leclerc** finished at the third position and became Ferrari's youngest ever race winner at the age of 21.



12th Asian Airgun Championships Concludes: India Clinches 25 Medals

i. **Indian shooters** continued their dominance claiming five gold medals on the final day of the **Asian Airgun Championships** to **sign off with a total of 25 medals in Taoyuan, Taipei**.

ii. India finished with **16 gold, 5 silver, and 4 bronze medals**. **Yash Vardhan** and **Shreya Agrawal** bagged three gold medals each on the last day.



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

i. **Saurav Ghosal** became the **first Indian male squash player** to enter the top 10 in latest **Professional Squash Association (PSA)** world rankings.

ii. Egypt's world champion **Ali Farag**, meanwhile, maintains his position at the top of the ladder. Indian women squash players **Joshna Chinappa** and **Dipika Pallikal** had earlier reached top 10 in the world rankings.



Important Takeways from above news-

- World Squash Federation is the highest governing body of squash.

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

i. **Hockey India** named **Graham Reid** as the new **chief coach of the India men's hockey team**.

ii. The 54-year-old will join the team in Bengaluru shortly for the on-going National Camp at Sports Authority of India.



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**. It has a total purse of \$700,000. The sports event was held in **Kuala Lumpur, the capital city of 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**.

Shuttler Harsheel Dani Clinched Dutch International Badminton Title

i. **Former junior national champion Harsheel Dani** rallied from a game down against **Mads Christophersen of Denmark** to clinch the **Dutch International badminton title** in **The Hague, Netherlands**.

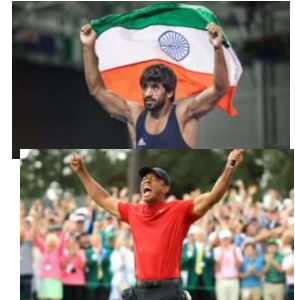
Gelete Burka and Abrha Milaw Win Paris Marathon

- i. Ethiopian athletes **Gelete Burka** (women's race) and **Abrha Milaw** (men's race) won the 43rd edition of the **Paris Marathon**.
- ii. They led a record 60,000 participants to the finish line through the **French capital**. Milaw won the men's race with a time of 2 hours: 07 minutes and: 50 seconds. Burka was the fastest woman with 2 hours: 22 minutes and: 48 seconds.



Bajrang Regains Top Spot In World Wrestling Rankings

- i. 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**.
- ii. 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



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

- i. Famous Golfer **Tiger Woods** completed one of the sport's great all-time comebacks to end an 11-year major title drought at the **Masters by claiming a fifth Green Jacket**.
- ii. A gritty two-under 70 clinched a **one-shot victory over Dustin Johnson**, Brooks Keopka and Xander Schauffele. It is Wood's 15th major title.



Lewis Hamilton Wins Formula One's 1,000th Race

- i. In motor racing, **Lewis Hamilton** won the **Chinese Grand Prix** for a record sixth time.
- ii. He seized the overall lead from his **Mercedes** teammate **Valtteri Bottas** in **Formula One's 1,000th world championship race**. The comfortable win was the **75th of Hamilton's career**, and second in a row.



Meena Kumari Maisnam Clinches Gold In Boxing World Cup 2019

- i. 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**.
- ii. The 2014 Asian Championships bronze medallist defeated Thailand's Machai Bunyanut in the final.
- ii. Sakshi in 57 kgs and Pwilao Basumatary in 64 kgs had to settle for Silver medals after they lost their final bouts. **India finished the tournament with five medals**.



India Wins Two Gold At ISSF World Cup

- i. 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
- ii. **Anjum Moudgil** and **Divyansh Singh Panwar** won gold in the 10 metres Air Rifle Mixed Team event.



Important Takeways from above news-

- ISSF- International Shooting Sport Federation, **Headquarters:** Munich, Germany.

Bajrang Punia Wins Gold In Asian Wrestling Championship

- i. World number one **Bajrang Punia** won gold at **Asian Wrestling Championship in China's Xian**. He defeated Kazakhstan's Sayatbek Okassov in a nail-biting 65kg men's freestyle final.
- ii. It is Bajrang's second gold at this championship, having won one in **2017**. **Parveen Ranasecure** a silver medal. **Satywart Kadian** picked a bronze medal defeating Haobin Gao of China.



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

- i. **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.
- ii. Russia's **Artem Chernousov** took silver. His brilliant performance in the Shooting World Cup Final also secured a **fifth Olympic quota** for India.

Important Takeways from above news-

- ISSF- International Shooting Sport Federation, **Headquarters:** Munich, Germany.

Asian Boxing Championships: India Wins 13 Medals

- i. **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.
- ii. While the men won 1 gold, 3 silver, and 3 bronze, the women bagged 1 gold, 1 silver, and 4 bronze medals.



Pankaj Advani Wins Asian Snooker Tour Title

- i. Pankaj Advani, the 21-time India's cueist defeated Ehsan Heydari Nezhad of Iran 6-4 to clinch the Asian Snooker Tour title.
- ii. He had previously bagged the 2nd leg of the Tour in China and was leading the ranking before the final leg of the Tour in Bengaluru.



Fabio Fognini Becomes First Italian To Claim ATP Masters 1000 Title

- i. Fabio Fognini became the first Italian to win an ATP Masters 1000 title at the Rolex Monte-Carlo Masters. He defeated Dusan Lajovic.
- ii. The Italian defeated World No. 3 Alexander Zverev to reach the quarter-finals and stunned 11-time champion Rafael Nadal in the last four.



Important Takeways from above news-

- Italy Capital: Rome, Currency: Euro.

Asian Athletics Championships: India Finishes Fourth

- i. 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.
- ii. 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.



Dominic Thiem Wins Barcelona Open 2019

- i. 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.
- ii. 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.

2019 Badminton Asia Championships Concludes: Complete List of Winners

The 2019 Badminton Asia Championships, is a badminton tournament which took place at Wuhan Sports Center Gymnasium in China and had a total purse of \$400,000. The 2019 Badminton Asia Championships was the 39th edition of the Badminton Asia Championships. This tournament was hosted by the Chinese Badminton Association.

Here is the complete list of winners of 2019 Badminton Asia Championships:

Sl. No.	Event	Winner	Runner-Up
1.	Men's singles	Kento Momota	China Shi Yuqi
2.	Women's singles	Akane Yamaguchi (Japan)	China He Bingjiao

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

- i. 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.
- ii. 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.



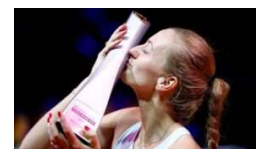
Claire Polosak To Become First Female Umpire In Men's ODI

- i. 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.
- ii. The 31-year-old became the first woman to umpire an Australian men's domestic fixture in October 2017. She will stand in the final between tournament hosts Namibia and Oman.



Petra Kvitova Wins Maiden Stuttgart's Porsche Grand Prix 2019

- i. 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.
- ii. Kvitova is a two-time Wimbledon champion. The championship was held at Stuttgart, Germany.



F1 Racer Valtteri Bottas Wins Azerbaijan Grand Prix 2019

- i. Mercedes' Finnish driver Valtteri Bottas beat his English teammate Lewis Hamilton by 1.5 seconds to win Azerbaijan Grand Prix.
- ii. With this, Mercedes became the first team to win the opening four races of an F1 season with one-two finishes.

AZERBAIJAN GRAND PRIX RESULT	
1	Valtteri Bottas Mercedes
2	Lewis Hamilton Mercedes
3	Sebastian Vettel Ferrari

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

- i. 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.
- ii. 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.



Golfer Gaganjeet Bhullar Wins Outstanding Achievement As a Player Award

- i. Arjuna awardee and star Indian golfer Gaganjeet Bhullar won the outstanding achievement as a player award at the fourth edition of the annual India Golf Industry Association (GIA) awards at the Delhi Golf Club.
- ii. The GIA awards were held along with the 8th India Golf & Turf Expo (IGTE), South Asia's largest golf trade show.



Important Takeways from above news-

- Since 1961, Arjuna Awards are given by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, to recognize outstanding achievement in sports.

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

- i. 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.
- ii. 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.



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

- i. 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.
- ii. Only Bajrang Punia won the gold medal after defeating Kazakhstan's Sayatbek Okasov by 12-7 in 65kg men's freestyle. Asian Wrestling Championship 2019 was held at Xi'an, China.



Obituaries

Eminent Dramatist Kartik Chandra Rath Passes Away

- i. Kartik Chandra Rath, a veteran dramatist, theatre organiser, and Economics teacher passed away at the age of 70 in Cuttack, Odisha due to the heart attack.
- ii. In 1963, he wrote the first play titled 'Ei Desha, Ei Maati'.

Noted Tamil Director J. Mahendran Passes Away

- i. Noted film director J. Mahendran, 79, passed away following a brief hospitalization. He was also seen as an actor in many films. He was also a part of the Blue Ocean Film and Television Academy (BOFTA) in Chennai.
- ii. Mahendran has directed several memorable films including Mullum Malarum, Johnny and Nenjathai Killadhey.



2002 Medicine Nobel Prize Winner Sydney Brenner Passes Away

- i. Biologist Sydney Brenner who helped decipher the genetic code and jointly won the 2002 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, passed away at the age of 92.



ii. He had jointly won the Nobel Prize for "**discoveries concerning genetic regulation of organ development and programmed cell death**".

Renowned Hindi Poet Pradeep Choubey Passes Away

i. **Renowned Hindi poet Pradeep Choubey** passed away of a cardiac arrest.

ii. Choubey (70) was the younger brother of celebrated humorist, satirist, and poet **Shail Chaturvedi**.

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

i. **Kerala Congress (M) chairman K. M. Mani**, the longest-serving legislator in the State's history, is no more. He was 86 years old.

ii. Fondly called 'Mani Saar', had represented the Pala Assembly constituency for 52 years on the trot since its formation in 1965. Till now, he has won all the 13 elections from the constituency.



Renowned Space Scientist SK Shivakumar Passes Away

i. **Former Director of Indian Space Research Organisation Satellite Centre (ISAC), SK Shivakumar** died at the age of 66 in Bengaluru.

ii. He hailed from Mysuru, Karnataka. He was part of the team which had developed telemetry system for India's first moon mission **Chandrayan – I**.



Scotland All-rounder Con de Lange Passes Away

i. **Scotland all-rounder Con de Lange** who had been diagnosed with a brain tumour has passed away at the age of 38.

ii. The South Africa-born de Lange played 21 internationals for Scotland, making his debut in a T20I against Ireland in June **2015**.



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

i. **America's first female astronaut candidate, pilot Jerrie Cobb** passed away in **Florida** at the age of 88 following a brief illness.

ii. 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**.



Eminent Bengali Folk Singer Amar Paul Passes Away

i. Eminent Bengali folk singer **Amar Paul** passed away following a cardiac arrest. He was 97. Paul lent his voice in a number of films.

ii. He has penned several books on folk songs of **Bengal** and received accolades from various academies around the world.



Terry Rawlings, British Film Editor Passes Away

i. **Terry Rawlings**, a British film and sound editor has passed away. He was an Oscar nominee for his work on Best Picture winner "Chariots of Fire,".

ii He was born in 1933. The 5-time BAFTA nominee also received a **career achievement award** from the American Cinema Editors society in **2006**.



Lorraine Warren, A Paranormal Investigator Passes Away

i. 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.

ii. 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.



S Muthiah, chronicler of Madras, Passes Away

i. Chennai's famed chronicler, cartographer, and journalist **S. Muthiah**, 89, passed away due to age-related ailments.

ii. He was awarded the **Most Excellent Order of the British Empire** in 2002 for his accomplishments.

Veteran Lady Mountaineer Rama Sengupta Paul Passes Away

i. Veteran lady mountaineer **Rama Sengupta Paul** passed away at the age of 66 due to cardiac arrest. ii. She led the first successful **all-women expedition** to Kedarnath Dome in Garhwal Himalaya which was organized by Himalayan Association to commemorate the International Year of Women in **1975**.

Mark Medoff, An Acclaimed Author Passes Away

i. **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.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **Tony Award** is given in recognition of excellence in live theatre.



Former Indian Footballer Pungam Kannan Passed Away

i. **Former India footballer Pungam Kannan** passes away at age 80 years. Kannan played 14 matches for India & was the **former Mohun Bagan & East Bengal forward**.

ii. 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**’.



Youngest Best Director Oscar Nominee John Singleton Passes Away

i. **John Singleton**, an Academy Award-nominated filmmaker has passed away following complications from a stroke.

ii. 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, “Boys N The Hood.” He was only **24** at the time.



Important Days with theme

World Autism Awareness Day: 2 April

i. The **United Nations General Assembly** unanimously declared **2 April as World Autism Awareness Day** to highlight the need to help improve the quality of life of those with autism so they can lead full and meaningful lives as an integral part of society.

ii. The theme for this year is ‘**Assistive Technologies, Active Participation**’.



International Mine Awareness Day: 4 April

i. **International Mine Awareness Day (IMAD)** is organized across the world on 4th of April to foster the establishment and development of national mine-action capacities in countries.

ii. The Theme for IMAD 2019 is “**United Nations Promotes SDGs – Safe Ground – Safe Home**”.



National Maritime Day: 5th April

i. In **India**, the **National Maritime Day** is celebrated every year on **April 5**. The day was first celebrated on **April 5, 1964**.

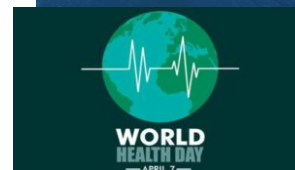
ii. The theme of the **56th** edition of the National Maritime Day is “**Indian Ocean-An Ocean of opportunity**”.



World Health Day: 7th April

i. **April 7** of each year marks the celebration of **World Health Day**.

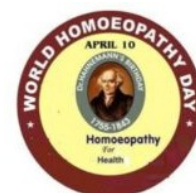
ii. The theme of World Health Day 2019 is ‘**Universal health coverage (UHC): Everyone, Everywhere**’, according to WHO.



World Homoeopathy Day: 10th April

i. The **World Homoeopathy Day 2019** will be observed across the world on April 10 to commemorate the birth anniversary of the founder of Homoeopathy, **Dr Christian Fredrich Samuel Hahnemann**.

ii. On the occasion of the World Homoeopathy Day 2019, the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH), an autonomous research organisation under the Union Ministry of AYUSH organised a **two-day convention (on 9th and 10th April)** at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi.



International Day of Human Space Flight: 12 April

i. The General Assembly declared **12 April as the International Day of Human Space Flight** to celebrate each year at the international level the beginning of the space era for mankind.

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



World Allergy Week 2019: 7-13 April

- i. The **World Allergy Organization** has organized the **World Allergy Week 2019** globally from 7-13 April 2019.
- ii. The theme for World Allergy Week 2019 is *"The Global Problem of Food Allergy"*.



International Day for Monuments and Sites: 18th April

- i. In 1982, **ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites)** established **18 April** as the **International Day for Monuments and Sites**.
- ii. The theme for **International Day for Monuments and Sites 2019** is **'Rural Landscapes'**.



World Creativity And Innovation Day: 21st April

- i. The **World Creativity and Innovation Day (WCID)** is celebrated every year on **21st April** to encourage people to use creativity in problem-solving for all issues related to achieving the **2015 Sustainable Development Goals**.

Earth Day: April 22

- i. **Earth Day** is an annual event celebrated on **April 22** Worldwide. It was first celebrated in **1970**. The theme for Earth Day 2019 is to **'Protect Our Species.'**
- ii. This theme is created to focus on the destruction caused to **plants and wildlife populations** mainly due to human activity.



World Book Day: 23 April

- i. **World Book Day** is celebrated every year on **23 April**. It is also known as World Book and Copyright Day, or International Day of the Book. It is organized by **UNESCO** to promote reading, publishing, and copyright.
- ii. It was first celebrated on **23 April 1995**. 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.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **UNESCO Headquarters-** Paris, France.

National Panchayati Raj Day : 24 April

- i. **National Panchayati Raj Day** is celebrated every year on **24th April** by the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj**. Then Prime Minister of India Manmohan Singh declared the first National Panchayati Raj Day on **24th April 2010**. This day marks the passing of Constitution (**73rd Amendment**) Act, 1992 that came into force with effect from **24 April 1993**.
- ii. The Constitution of India recognizes Panchayats as **'Institutions of self-government'**. It permits states to take steps to organize village panchayats and provide them with necessary powers and authority to help them to function as units of self-government.



World Malaria Day: 25 April

- i. Every year on **25 April**, people around the globe observe **World Malaria Day (WMD)** to raise awareness and funds for the treatment and prevention of the disease.
- ii. This year, the theme for the day is **"Zero malaria starts with me"** and it is being hosted by the **World Health Organisation (WHO)**.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **WHO Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland, **Director general:** Tedros Adhanom.



World Intellectual Property Day: April 26

- i. **World Intellectual Property Day (WIPD)** is celebrated every year on **26 April** around the world to promote the importance of intellectual property rights (patents, trademarks, industrial designs, copyright) in encouraging innovation and creativity.
- ii. WIPD-2019 Theme is **"Reach Gold-Intellectual Property (IP) And Sports"**.



World Immunization Week 2019 Observed In April

- i. 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.
- ii. The WIW 2019 observed from 24-30th April, carrying the theme **"Protected Together: Vaccines Work"**. It was observed for the very first time in **2012**.

Important Takeways from above news-

- **WHO Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland, **Director general:** Tedros Adhanom.



International Dance Day: 29th April

i. **International Dance Day** is observed globally on **29th of April**.

ii. In 1982 the **Dance Committee of ITI** founded **International Dance Day** to be celebrated the **birthday of Jean-Georges Noverre**, creator of modern ballet.