

AWARDS & HONOURS

Person/Winner	Award	Additional Information
Rapper Drake	Billboard Music Awards	Drake surpassed singer Taylor Swift
A S Kiran Kumar - Former ISRO chairman	Chevalier de l'Ordre national de la Lgion d'Honneur	Awarded for his contribution to India-France space cooperation.
G D 'Robert' Govender	V K Krishna Menon award	Indian-origin journalist in South Africa,
Lt. Gen. (retd) Jack Farj Rafael (JFR) Jacob	Wall of Honour at the Ammunition Hill by Israel	He negotiated the historic surrender of Pakistani troops in Dhaka after the 1971 Bangladesh liberation war
Hyderabad's Rajiv Gandhi International Airport	World's eighth best Airport	According to a survey conducted by AirHelp.
IPS officer Chhaya Sharma	2019 McCain Institute Award for Courage and Leadership	She led the investigation team of the infamous Nirbhaya gang-rape and murder case
Sir Andy Murray	knighthood at Buckingham Palace	Murray received his knighthood from Prince Charles.
Ajeay Nagar	TIME's Next Generation Leaders	'CarryMinati', has been named among TIME Magazine's 10 Next Generation Leaders for 2019.
Achyutanand Dwivedi's	Nespresso Talents 2019	Dwivedi's film is based on Rahibai Soma Popere, a conservationist who encouraged the use of traditional farming methods in villages of Maharashtra. The theme of this year's contest was ' We Are What We Eat '.
PK Mishra	UN's Sasakawa Award	"He received the award for his dedication to improve the resilience of communities most exposed to disasters and his personal commitment to social inclusion".
Kapil Sharma	world's most viewed comedians	Kapil Sharma has been recognised as one of the most viewed stand-up comedians in India and abroad and for promoting animal rights by World Book of Records London.
Nancy Pelosi	JFK Profile in Courage Award 2019	She has served in House of Representatives since 1987.

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Shyam Saran	Japan's Second Highest National Award called 'The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver star	He will be conferred for his contributions in strengthening strategic ties and enhancing mutual understanding between India and Japan.
Chancy Chitete	United Nation's (UN) highest peacekeeping award, dubbed as "Captain Mbaye Diagne Medal for Exceptional Courage"	The late UN peacekeeper from Mali is being honoured for his "brave and selfless" action demonstrated in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).
Jokha Al Harthi	Booker International Prize	Jokha Alharthi, the first Arabic-language writer to take the prize, will split the 50,000 pounds or 64,000 US dollar purse with her UK-based translator, Marilyn Booth.
Indra Nooyi	honorary degree by the prestigious Yale University	The degree is to recognize her achievements in business and for being a global role model who encouraged women and girls to see themselves as top corporate executives.
Hema Divakar	Global Asian of the Year	Dr. Hema was conferred the award at the Asian Business & Social Forum 2019 under the 'In Service of the Society and the Nation' .
Dr. Ankur Patwardhan	German Chemistry Prize	Dr. Ankur Patwardhan, a scientist from Pune won second place in 'German Chemistry Prize' in an international competition .
Prof. Bhargava	2019 Dr Lee Jong-wook Memorial Prize	Dr. Lee Jong-wook Memorial Prize for Public Health at the 72nd World Health Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland.
Guy Gunaratne	International Dylan Thomas Prize 2019	He won the award for his debut novel 'In Our Mad and Furious City'.
Parasite	first South Korean to win the Palme d'Or, the top prize at the Cannes Film Festival	Filmmaker Mati Diop, the first black woman director to be considered for the Palme d'Or, won the Grand Prix, the runner-up prize for her film 'Atlantics'.
N Kumar,	'Lifetime Recognition Award' by the Confederation of Horticulture Association of India	The award has been conferred for his outstanding contribution in the field of horticulture

CEAT Cricket Rating Award 2019 Winners' List:

1. CEAT International Cricketer and Batsman of the Year – Virat Kohli
2. CEAT International Bowler of the Year – Jasprit Bumrah
3. CEAT International Test Cricketer of the Year – Cheteshwar Pujara
4. CEAT International ODI Cricketer of the Year – Rohit Sharma
5. CEAT International T20 Player of the Year – Aaron Finch
6. CEAT Outstanding Performance of the Year- Kuldeep Yadav
7. CEAT International T20 Bowler of the Year- Rashid Khan
8. CEAT Lifetime Achievement Award – Mohinder Amarnath
9. CEAT Domestic Player of the Year- Ashutosh Aman
10. CEAT International Woman Cricketer of the Year- Smriti Mandhana
11. CEAT Junior Cricketer of the Year- Yashasvi Jaiswal
12. CEAT Cricket Journalists of the Year Cricket- Sriram Veera & Snehal Pradhan

APPOINTMENTS

Person	Post	Additional Information
M Jayshree Vyas	Independent Woman Director of Bombay Stock Exchange	Vyas is a qualified chartered accountant
Kumar Sangakkara	President of the Marylebone Cricket Club	Former Sri Lanka captain
U.S. Air Force General Tod D. Wolters	Commander of NATO military alliance	Wolters replaces U.S. Army General Curtis M. Scaparrotti
King Maha Vajiralongkorn	Crowned as Thailand's King	King Vajiralongkorn is the tenth monarch of the Chakri dynasty
Economist Reza Baqir	Governor of the central bank of Pakistan	Appointed by Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan
Dragan Mihailovic	Head coach the Indian men's volleyball team.	Appointed by Volleyball Federation of India (VFI)
Virat Kohli and Anushka Sharma	Brand ambassadors of Myntra	
Jagjit Pavadia	Member of International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)	INCB consists of 13 members.
Sujatha V Kumar	Head of Marketing for India and South Asia of VISA	

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Justice (Retired) KS Radhakrishnan	Member of the Commonwealth Secretariat Arbitral Tribunal, London	Former Supreme Court judge
Indian actress Dia Mirza and Alibaba chief Jack Ma	New SDG Advocates of UN. 17 global figures have been appointed.	SDG - Sustainable Development Goals
Balachandra YV	Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Karnataka Bank	
Gokuldas Pai	Chief Business Officer (CBO) of Karnataka Bank	
Professor Tijjani Mohammad Bande	President of the United Nations General Assembly.	Announced by María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, outgoing president of UNGA
Ajoy Kumar Mehta	Chief secretary of Maharashtra	
Balvinder Singh Nakai	Chairman of Cooperative major Iffco	Indian farmers fertiliser Cooperative (Iffco).
Justice Abhay Shreeniwas Oka	Chief justice of Karnataka High Court	
Subhash Chand	Ambassador of India to the State of Eritrea	
Praveen Pardeshi	Chief of Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation	
Former Croatia international and manager Igor Stimac	Indian men's team Football coach	
Dinesh Pangtey	Chief Executive Officer of LIC Mutual Fund	
G.S. Lakshmi	ICC's international panel of match referees	First female to be appointed to the ICC International Panel of Match Referees
Sanjiv Puri	Chairman of ITC	ITC Ltd - India's largest cigarette maker
Salman Khan	Brand ambassador of BharatPe	UPI payments app - BharatPe
R. Gandhi	Additional director on board of YES BANK	Appointed by RBI
Kumar Tuhin	next Ambassador of India to Bosnia & Herzegovina	Kumar Tuhin presently Ambassador of India to the Republic of Hungary.
Sanjiv Puri	Managing Director at ITC Limited	He was appointed to the post after the passing of former chairman YC Deveshwar.
Madan Lokur	Judge of Supreme Court of Fiji	Justice Lokur is appointed as a judge of Supreme Court of Fiji's non-resident panel.
Wasim Jaffer	Bangladesh academy as batting coach	Wasim Jaffer as the batting coach of their high-performance academy in Dhaka.
Angela Ahrendts	Third independent non-affiliated board member for Airbnb Board	Ahrendts joined Apple in 2014 after serving as CEO of the British fashion house Burberry for eight years.

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Nitin Chugh	Ujjivan Small Finance Bank CEO and Managing Directors	
Jeffrey Rosen	USs deputy attorney general	Jeffrey Rosen was confirmed as the United States' latest deputy attorney general by the US Senate.
Karim Raza Khan	CEO of ILFS Engineering	Khan has an overall professional experience of over three decades in the technical field focused on infrastructure.
Joko Widodo	President of Indonesia	Widodo and his vice-presidential running mate Ma'ruf Amin won the election by a 55.5% to 44.5% margin over Prabowo Subianto and Sandiaga Uno.
Jagan Mohan Reddy	Andhra CM	YSRCP chief YS Jagan Mohan Reddy will take oath as Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister on May 30, party's senior leader Ummareddy Venkateswarlu announced
Volodymyr Zelensky	6th President of Ukraine	He became Ukraine's youngest post-Soviet President. In his speech, he announced the dissolution of the parliament.
Naveen Patnaik	Odisha Chief Minister	The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won 23 seats, Congress bagged nine seats, the CPI(M) one and an Independent candidate was also elected.
Shailesh Tinaikar	new Force Commander of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)	Lieutenant General Tinaikar is currently Commandant of The Infantry School.
Narendra Modi	Prime Minister of India	The BJP-led NDA won 353 out of 542 Lok Sabha seats that were contested in the elections.
Shailesh Tinaikar	head UN peacekeeping operation in South Sudan	The commandant of the Indian Army Infantry School, Lieutenant General Shailesh Tinaikar.
Pema Khandu	Arunachal Pradesh CM	This comes after Arunachal Pradesh BJP MLAs on Monday unanimously selected Pema Khandu as the leader of BJP Legislature Party.
P.S. Golay	Sikkim Chief Minister	Mr. Golay is not a member of the State Assembly at present as he did not contest the polls.

Peter Mutharika	Malawi's President	Malawi's President Peter Mutharika re-elected for the second term.
Alapan Bandyopadhyay	new Home Secretary for West Bengal	Bengal, Mamata Banerjee appointed Alapan Bandyopadhyay, an IAS officer of the 1987 batch.
BS Dhanoa	baton of Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC)	Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa will take over as new Chairman COSC with effect from 31 May 2019
Suresh Kumar	Chief Technology Officer of Walmart	Former Google executive, as chief technology officer and chief development officer.
Muhammadu Buhari	president of Nigeria	He is a former military ruler, won 56 percent of the votes to defeat his main challenger
Karambir Singh	new Navy Chief	Karambir Singh, who is the Commander-in-Chief of the Eastern Naval Command, will take over as the Navy Chief on 31st May 2019.
James Marape	Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea	He belongs to Pangu Party. He succeeded Peter O Neill of People's National Congress party
Sandeep Patil	India Managing Director of Truecaller	He served as the head of consumer and commercial lending vertical at Flipkart until his new appointment with Truecaller.

BANKING & FINANCE

Bharti AXA General Insurance to sell two-wheeler policies via WhatsApp

Bharti AXA General Insurance Tuesday said it will sell policies through social media messaging platform WhatsApp and has tied up with web aggregator Wishfin Insurance for speedy delivery of two-wheeler cover.

Bharti AXA General Insurance, a joint venture between Bharti Enterprises and global insurance firm AXA, will sell the policies on the website of Wishfin's insurance arm Wishpolicy.

HDFC Group Overtakes Tata Group As Indias Most Valuable

HDFC Group Overtakes Tata Group As Indias Most Valuable. HDFC group overtaken the 151-year-old Tata group to emerge as India's most valuable by way of market capitalization (m-cap).

The combined market value of the five listed companies of the HDFC group – HDFC, HDFC Bank, HDFC Life, HDFC Asset Management and Gruh Finance stood at Rs 11.66 lakh crore while the combined m-cap of 29 Tata group companies stood at Rs 11.64 lakh crore, about Rs 2,000 crore less than that of the HDFC group.

Goldman Sachs to invest USD250 mn to construct one of its largest global workspaces in Bengaluru

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New York-based investment and financial services major Goldman Sachs have pumped in \$250 million to construct one of its largest global workspaces in Bengaluru. Bengaluru, with 2,500 techies, is the second-largest engineering talent base of Goldman Sachs after New York.

RBI proposes Guidelines for Large NBFC

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released a draft circular titled 'Liquidity Risk Management Framework for NBFCs and Core Investment Companies (CICs). RBI after analysing recent developments in NBFC sector proposed a set of guidelines for large Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) to help them deal with severe liquidity problems and to prevent re-occurrence of IL&FS type of debt crisis. The RBI has invited stakeholder comments on draft by June 14.

WhatsApp to put ads on Status in 2020, confirms Facebook

WhatsApp to put ads on Status in 2020, confirms Facebook. WhatsApp Status will start displaying ads from 2020, the messaging platform's parent firm Facebook has confirmed. It added its already monetized WhatsApp Business app will get richer messaging formats, including viewing text alongside image or PDF in a single message. Notably, WhatsApp Co-founders Brian Acton and Jan Koum had left after disagreements with Facebook over monetising it.

He served as the head of consumer and commercial lending vertical at Flipkart until his new appointment with Truecaller.

Paytm launches cash-back driven credit card with Citi Bank

In a bid to target new credit customers and expand its monthly active user base, digital wallet major, Paytm, has launched a credit card in partnership with global payments company Citi Bank.

Called Paytm First Card, this is the first card of its kind launched in India by the American card company, which has similar exclusive partnerships across sectors in the US.

RBI's vision 2021 looks at a 'cash-lite' society, cyber security, and more

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released its statement on 'Payment and Settlement Systems in India: Vision 2019–2021', which outlined the measures that the central bank will undertake to foster innovation, cybersecurity, financial inclusion, customer protection, and competition.

The Payment Systems Vision 2021 envisages achieving a 'highly digital' and 'cash-lite' society through the goalposts of competition, cost-effectiveness, convenience, and confidence, said the RBI.

The number of digital transactions is expected to increase more than four times, from 20.69 billion in December 2018 to 87.07 billion in December 2021. The digital payment transaction turnover vis-à-vis gross domestic product (at current market prices) is expected to further increase to 10.37 per cent in 2019, 12.29 per cent in 2020, and 14.80 per cent in 2021.

Ola launches Ola Money SBI Credit Card

In a move to enrich the customer experience of millions of the homegrown ride hailing platform's users, Ola has partnered the state-run SBI cards to launch Ola Money SBI Credit Card for the country's first such co-branding initiative in the segment.

The card, which is powered by Visa, will be without any joining fees and provide seamless, flexible and convenient payments to the car hailing platform's customers.

HDFC ties up with India Mortgage Guarantee Corp

Housing finance major HDFC Limited has partnered with the India Mortgage Guarantee Corporation (IMGC) to offer a mortgage-guaranteed home loan product.

The partnership aims to make it possible for HDFC to further penetrate the home loan market and access an enlarged customer base, helping them to own a home of their choice, HDFC said. This product will help HDFC to offer more loan to a home loan customer on an enhanced eligibility as it also helps customers to avail loans beyond their retirement period.

HDFC Bank shortlists three startups in Digital Innovation Summit

HDFC Bank said three start-ups from the city – Loop Reality, BluSapphire and Appnovation Technology – were declared winners at its regional Digital Innovation Summit (DIS). DIS is a platform launched by HDFC Bank for start-ups from across the globe to showcase their innovations.

Facebook registers its new secretive cryptocurrency firm Libra Networks LLC in Geneva, Switzerland

Facebook Global Holdings registered a new cryptocurrency firm named 'Libra Networks LLC' in **Geneva, Switzerland**. It will provide financial and technology services by developing related hardware and software components. Facebook has been very secretive about its new cryptocurrency project.

Facebook had registered the trademark “Libra” with the United States Patent and Trademark Office. Facebook has hired 2 cryptocurrency compliance experts who formerly worked at the major crypto exchange Coinbase to assist in their work.

Tripura Gramin Bank received Indias top three Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) in terms of profit, business and growth

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Currently India has 46 Regional Rural Bank out of which Tripura Gramin Bank ranked 3rd in the country. Tripura Gramin Bank posted a profit for 7 successive years to Rs 125.45 crore in fiscal 2018-19. The central government has a 50% stake, the Union Bank of India has 35% stake and rest 15% is held by the Tripura government.

PNB may take control of 2-3 small state-run banks

State-run Punjab National Bank (PNB) could take control of two-three small state-run banks, according to reports. These small lenders could include **Oriental Bank of Commerce, Andhra Bank and Allahabad Bank**, reports added. The country’s third-largest public sector lender could start the process of taking control of the banks in the next three months, reports further said.

Reliance beats Indian Oil, becomes India’s biggest firm by revenue

Asia’s richest person Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries has toppled state-run Indian Oil to become India’s largest company by revenue. Reliance reported revenue of ₹6.23 lakh crore for 2018-19 compared to Indian Oil’s ₹6.17 lakh crore. With this milestone, Reliance has achieved the number one position in India in terms of revenue, profit and market capitalisation.

Airtel partners HDFC Life for providing insurance cover with prepaid bundle

Bharti Airtel and HDFC Life Insurance announced a partnership under which the telecom operator has launched a prepaid bundle that will come with in-built life insurance cover (term plan) from the private life insurer.

“Airtel’s new ₹249 prepaid bundle will come with ₹4 lakh life cover from HDFC Life along with 2 GB data, unlimited calls to any network and 100 SMS/day. The recharge is valid for 28 days and policy cover till recharge is active,” a company statement said.

NABARD Announces Rs 700-cr VC Fund for Agriculture & Rural Startups to Improve Investment Ecosystem in Farm Sector

The National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) on 13th May 2019 announced a Rs 700-crore venture capital funding for equity investments in agriculture as well as rural-focused startups.

Till now, NABARD has been contributing to other funds but this is the very first time that the rural development bank has initiated a fund of its own.

RBI slaps ₹1-cr fine on Nainital Bank

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of ₹1 crore on Nainital Bank for its failure to fully automate the non-performing asset (NPA) identification process, despite specific directions issued in this regard.

This action is based on the deficiencies in regulatory compliance, and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the bank with its customers.

BSE launches mobile app for its mutual fund platform

Leading stock exchange BSE said it has launched 'BSE StAR MF' app to enable more participation and help mutual fund distributors process transactions faster.

“BSE StAR MF mobile app supports real-time client registration and paperless transactions, creates and uploads mandate for SIPs, generates the basket of multiple orders, tracks and allows the distributor to analyse his business at his fingertips,” the exchange said in a release.

SIDBI's pilot scheme for fintech NBFCs to boost digital lending

Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) launched a pilot scheme to extend financial assistance of up to Rs 10 crore to new-age fintech non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) engaged in financing small businesses and other income-generating activities. SIDBI set the exposure cap for lending to a single new-age fintech NBFC at 30% of NOF of the new-age fintech NBFC, subject to maximum cap of Rs 10 crore.

About Fintech NBFCs :

- Fintech NBFCs are digital loan companies.
- They leverage information technology to provide fast and convenient access to funding.

Finance Commission holds dialogue with FinMin on state of economy

The Finance Commission has observed that the GDP numbers have somewhat fluctuated within the overall global trend which suggests continued high growth trend over the medium term. The Commission has also noted that the revenue projections on the Direct Taxes are healthy though on Indirect Taxes, there have been periodic fluctuations.

The observation came during discussions between the Finance Ministry and the Finance Commission on the overall economic situation, fiscal management and key economic variables. Discussions were also held on GST issues, local body grants and population data.

ICICI Bank joins hands with travel portal Goibibo to launch multi-currency card

ICICI Bank , announced the launch of a co-branded multi-currency card with online travel booking portal Goibibo.

Customers can instantly transfer money from one currency to another through ICICI Bank's internet portal and reload currency into the card anytime, anywhere, using the bank's mobile and internet banking platform.

The card also includes benefits of up to ₹20,000, including gift vouchers of ₹15,000 from Goibibo. Additionally, customers get 40 paise discount on currency conversion rate on loading of a minimum of \$1,000.

Sebi issues show cause notices to HDFC, Kotak mutual fund over FMP woes

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has initiated adjudication against HDFC Asset Management Company Ltd or HDFC AMC and Kotak Mutual Fund over the so-called Fixed Maturity Plan (FMP) woes. The FMPs of these asset management companies were impacted due to their investment in Essel Group papers forcing Kotak to hold back redemptions and HDFC to rollover the entire FMP.

HDFC in disclosure to stock exchanges said that it has received two show cause notices from Sebi on 10 May for violation of mutual fund regulations.

Sebi's show cause notices to the HDFC AMC, Kotak Mutual Fund have cited violation of MF regulations and investor protection

SBI cuts MCLR across all tenors by 5 bps

The State Bank of India (SBI), announced on Friday that it has reduced its marginal cost-based lending rate (MCLR) by 5 bps across all tenors. After the 5 bps cut, the 1-year MCLR will come down from 8.5 percent per year to 8.45 percent. "As a result, interest rates on all loans linked to MCLR stand reduced by 5 bps with effect from 10 May, 2019.

This is the second rate cut by the country's largest lender in the past one month. After the monetary policy review in April, the bank had reduced its MCLR by 5 bps.

Genpact's India engineers to power world's first electric car racing event

Business process management (BPM) major Genpact is helping the Envision Virgin Racing Team for the Formula E Championship — the world's first fully electric car racing event.

The current fifth season differs from the very popular Formula One racing in the critical way that the participants do not race based on laps but in a 45-minute and 30-minute format with the only constant being the energy of the car battery. The drivers have to make real-time decisions on how to utilise the available power to be able to not just win, but also ensure that it lasts through the prescribed .

BharatPe launches India's first UPI Bahi Khata for merchants

BharatPe – India's first Fintech start-up enabling payments for merchants through interoperable UPI QR codes, has announced its foray into merchant services with a new app .

The app allows merchants to record their cash/credit (Udhar) sales customer wise, request accounts receivable from customers via SMS payment links, and keep track of accounts payable to suppliers, among other services.

Indian Bank posts net loss of Rs 190 cr in Q4 on higher NPA provisioning

The public sector Indian Bank has registered a loss of 189.77 crore rupees in the last quarter, as compared to its previous quarter.

Its Chairperson and Managing Director Padmaja Chundurur unveiled the bank's annual financial results today in Chennai. Later, addressing the media, she said, the net profit has turned negative due to two corporate loans turning into NPAs for which no provisioning has been made earlier.

RBI penalises Vodafone m-pesa, PhonePe and three others over regulatory violations

The Reserve Bank of India on Friday said it has imposed penalties on five prepaid payment instrument (PPI) issuers, including Vodafone m-pesa and PhonePe, for violation of regulatory norms.

Also, penalties have been imposed on Western Union Financial Services Inc and MoneyGram Payment Systems Inc, both US firms, for non-compliance of guidelines.

A penalty of Rs 3.05 crore has been imposed on Vodafone m-pesa and Rs 1 crore each on Mobile Payments, PhonePe, Private and GI Technology. Also, a penalty of Rs 5 lakh has been imposed on Y-Cash Software Solutions.

15th Finance Commission to hold meetings with RBI and Banks & Financial Institutions and Eminent Economists.

The 15th Finance Commission has scheduled a two-days visit to Mumbai to hold meetings with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and with the Banks and Financial Institutions on 8th and 9th May, 2019. The Commission will be headed by its Chairman, Shri N.K. Singh and include all its Members and senior officials.

Motila Oswal AMC become the first Indian fund house to introduce WhatsApp transaction platform

Motila Oswal AMC become the first Indian fund house to introduce WhatsApp transaction platform. Motilal Oswal Asset Management Company (AMC) become the first Indian fund house to launch WhatsApp transaction platform for mutual fund transactions for new as well as existing investors. This enables investors to use WhatsApp to invest in any scheme from Motilal Oswal AMC. Investors can either invest lump sum or through SIPS.

IBM Garage To Co-Create AI-based Automation Solutions With HDFC ERGO

IBM Garage To Co-Create AI-based Automation Solutions With HDFC ERGO. IBM India tied-up with HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company, India's third-largest non-life insurance provider in the private sector, to co-create new Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based solutions.

Leveraging IBM Garage that uses data-driven insights to develop end-to-end strategies and solutions for business transformation, teams from HDFC ERGO and IBM Services will work together to develop and test new solutions.

Indian Overseas Bank to raise Rs 1,500 cr in 2019-20

State-run Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) will raise up to Rs 1,500 crore in tranches through private placement and public issues in domestic or overseas markets, IOB said .

In a regulatory filing, the bank said its board has approved a proposal where the bank will issue up to Rs 300 crore equity shares by way of Follow on Public Offer and Rights Issue, with or without participation from the government.

Mastercard to invest \$1 bn in India, plans to make country global tech node

Global card payments major Mastercard Monday said it will invest USD 1 billion (about Rs 7,000 crore) in India in the next five years and plans to make the country a global technology node for its platforms. The company has already invested USD 1 billion in the Indian market in the last five years. This investment will help foster innovation and increase Mastercard's speed-to-market capabilities and value-added services.

Standard Life sells 1.78% in HDFC Life Insurance

Standard Life has successfully divested 1.78 per cent of its stake in HDFC Life Insurance to raise Rs 1,400 crore. The divestment was done through offer for sale (OFS) route and the issue managed to sail through successfully with both qualified institutional investors (QIBs) and retail investor quotas seeing full subscriptions.

Corporation Bank launches Corp SME Suvidha for MSMEs

Corporation Bank launches **Corp SME Suvidha** for MSMEs. Corporation Bank launched 'Corp SME Suvidha', a product for GST-registered MSMEs. The product has been designed as part of the bank's efforts to provide the best products to the MSME sector. PV Bharathi, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation bank, launched the product in Mangaluru recently.

Banks must turn towards global trade-finance instruments: RBI

Banks need to expand their global banking relationship and shift towards globally accepted trade finance instruments instead of indigenous instruments (such as letter of undertaking/ letter of credit), according to a Reserve Bank of India paper.

This, however, may push up costs, the paper added. Domestic banks largely depend on their own branches or branches/subsidiaries of other domestic banks, which have been accepting non-standardised trade instruments – LoUs and LoCs – for arranging trade credit.

WTO ministerial meeting of developing countries to take place on May 13-14

The World Trade Organisation, WTO, ministerial meeting of developing countries will take place on 13-14 of this month in New Delhi.

It will provide an opportunity to the Ministers to discuss various issues and the way forward. On the first day, there will be a meeting of senior officers of the participating countries. On the 2nd day, the Ministerial Meeting will be held. Sixteen developing countries and six Least Developed Countries are participating in the meeting.

E-filing of tax returns saw 19% growth in AY19, says Finance Ministry

The finance ministry said there was growth of 19 per cent in income-tax returns (ITRs) electronically filed for the assessment year 2018-19 (AY19), compared to those in 2017-18 (AY18).

The ministry said a total of 66.8 million returns were e-filed in FY19, which included 64.9 million for AY19. On the other hand, a total 67.4 million returns were e-filed in 2017-18 (FY18), which included 54.7 million for AY18.

Bank of Baroda hikes lending rate by 0.05%

State-owned Bank of Baroda (BoB) has hiked its marginal cost of funds based lending rate (MCLR) by 0.05 per cent with effect from May 7.

BoB has hiked the lending rates for overnight tenor to 8.30 per cent from the previous 8.25 per cent. Similarly, for one-month and three-month tenors the interest rates have been increased to 8.35 per cent and 8.45 per cent, respectively.

ADB Launches \$5 Billion Healthy Oceans Action Plan

The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** launched the Action Plan for **Healthy Oceans and Sustainable Blue Economies** for the Asia and Pacific region at the 52nd Annual Meeting of ADB's Board of Governors in Fiji.

The Action Plan for Healthy Oceans and Sustainable Blue Economies will expand financing and technical assistance for ocean health and marine economy projects to \$5 billion from 2019 to 2024, including co-financing from partners.

Taj Mahal to be 1st Indian monument to have breastfeeding room

A breastfeeding room will be set up in Taj Mahal by July, making it the first Indian monument to have the facility. Archaeological Survey of India official VK Swarnkar said it'll help the "millions of mothers who visit with their babies". Swarnkar said he got the idea when he spotted a mother hiding under a staircase to breastfeed her baby.

Govt. invites nomination for Vayoshreshtha Samman for Senior Citizens 2019

GOvt. invites nomination for **Vayoshreshtha Samman** for Senior Citizens 2019. The Department of Social Justice And Empowerment had invited nominations for the Vayoshreshtha Samman awards 2019. Nominations for Vayoshreshtha Samman- **National Awards for Senior Citizens** 2019 for individuals/institutions should be sent by 31st May 2019.

The Ministries/Departments of Government of India and their autonomous organisations/State Govts. or UT Administration can nominate the suitable individuals/institutions for the said Awards.

India Ratings downgrades Yes Bank with negative outlook

Days after Icria downgraded Yes Bank, India Ratings has also lowered the lender's long-term ratings on concerns of some of its loan exposure turning into bad loans.

India Ratings has downgraded the bank's long-term rating to 'IND AA-' with negative outlook, while reaffirming short-term rating, Yes Bank said .

Accordingly, six instruments with a total borrowing of over Rs 33,000 crore were also downgraded. Yes Bank had also reported its maiden loss of over Rs 1,506 crore in the March 2019 quarter, driven by a near 10-fold spike in provisions.

Asia-Pacific to grow 5.7% this year: ADB

The Asia-Pacific region is expected to power ahead growing at 5.7% this year but escalating trade tensions are a source of worry, according to Takehiko Nakao, President and Chairperson, Asian Development Bank.

Addressing the opening session of the Board of Governors at ADB's 52nd Annual Meeting here, Mr. Nakao said that consumer and investor behaviour could be undermined by trade tensions between countries.

RBI enhances housing-loan limits under priority sector lending for RRBs, SFBs

The Reserve Bank of India has decided to enhance the housing loan limits for Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and Small Finance Banks (SFBs) for eligibility under priority sector lending, in a bid to give them a level-playing field with other Scheduled Commercial Banks.

Paytm launches recurring payments service for merchants

Paytm has launched recurring payment (auto pay) service for merchants that are working on a digital subscription model. The move will allow the subscription-based businesses to collect payments from their subscribers effortlessly.

The auto pay service is targeted at people who use Paytm for bill payments, content subscription, grocery purchases, membership fees, housing society payments etc. The service is being offered as an additional mode of payment other than credit/debit cards, internet banking and other Paytm proprietary instruments.

Sebi bars NSE from capital markets for 6 months in co-location scam

The market regulator said the National Stock Exchange (NSE) did not exercise due diligence when putting in place a network that allowed high frequency traders unfair access to some network servers at the exchange.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) barred the NSE from raising money on the securities market directly or indirectly for six months.

Sebi has been investigating allegations that NSE officials provided high frequency traders unfair access through co-location servers placed at the site of exchange, which could speed up algorithmic trading.

German payments company Wirecard teams up with India to issue PAN cards

German payments company **Wirecard teams up with India to issue PAN cards**. German payments company Wirecard would work with India to simplify the process of issuing tax identity cards required to op

BSNL partnered with Google for expanding WiFi footprint

BSNL partnered with Google for expanding WiFi footprint. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) partnered with Google on the occasion of World Telecom Day. The main objective is to expand BSNL Wifi footprint in the country.

Currently, there are around 38,000 BSNL Wifi hotspot locations working across the country and one can use these after buying the Wi-Fi vouchers worth of Rs 19 and more.

Nilekani Panel on Digital Payments submits report to RBI.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) appointed committee on ‘suggestions on promoting digital payment’ has submitted its report to RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das. The committee was headed by **Nandan Nilekani**, also known as Aadhaar Architect.

In January 2019 RBI had set up a five-member panel headed by Nilekani, on deepening digital payments with a view of encouraging digitisation of payments and enhancing financial inclusion via digitisation.

Sebi allows FPI investment in municipal bonds

Foreign portfolio investors can now invest in municipal bonds, markets regulator Sebi said in a circular.

The circular comes almost two weeks after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) permitted FPIs to invest in municipal bonds as a measure to broaden access of non-resident investors to debt instruments in the country. As per the RBI, foreign investment in municipal bonds should be within the limits set for FPI investment in State Development Loans (SDLs). The limits for FPI investment in SDLs is 2% of outstanding stock of securities.

PayPal India introduces ‘OneTouch’ to enhance user experience

PayPal India has introduced ‘OneTouch’ feature using Google Smart Lock for its users in India that will allow them to stay logged onto the digital payments platform in a secure manner.

India is the first market where the feature will be integrated with Google Smart Lock, Paypal India said in a statement. Users can register their Android device with PayPal and stay logged into the platform for all subsequent PayPal purchases on that device.

India Ratings cuts India GDP growth forecast for FY20 to 7.3%

India Ratings and Research marginally lowered country's GDP growth projection for 2019-20 fiscal to 7.3 per cent mainly due to below normal monsoon prediction and loss of momentum in industrial output.

The Fitch group company had earlier projected India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth at 7.5 per cent.

The key reasons for the downward revision are the prediction of lower-than-normal monsoon for 2019 and continued agrarian distress, and the loss of momentum in the industrial output growth, especially manufacturing and electricity.

GST collections jump 10% to an all-time high of Rs1.13 trillion in April

Revenue from goods and services tax (GST) witnessed 10% growth from the year-ago period at ₹1.13 trillion in April, the highest ever since the implementation of the indirect tax system on 1 July 2017. The rise in tax collections in April (for domestic sales in March) can also be partially attributed to the year-end phenomenon, when taxpayers pay their arrears.

Of the gross GST collection of ₹1.13 trillion, central GST (CGST) was ₹21,163 crore, while state GST (SGST) was ₹28,801 crore. Integrated GST (IGST) collections, levied on inter-state supply of goods and services, and divided between the centre and states, stood at ₹54,733 crore and ₹9,168 crore of cess was collected in April.

SBI's new interest rate plan: Large savings accounts to earn 0.25% less

India's largest bank State Bank of India has moved to a new interest rate regime on large savings account deposits as well as short-term loans. Earlier, SBI had announced that it will link its interest rate on savings account with a balance above Rs1 lakh and short-term loans like overdraft and cash credit facility to Reserve Bank of India's repo rate, effective 1 May 2019.

The interest rates on large SBI savings account deposits and interest rate on some short-term loans will automatically change as and when RBI changes its repo rate.

CBDT and GSTN sign pact to nab evaders, reduce black money generation

To nab tax evaders and reduce black money generation, the income tax department and Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) signed an agreement to facilitate exchange of data between the two.

The I-T department will share key financial information, including status of I-T return filings, turnover of business, gross total income, and turnover ratio among others with GSTN, the information technology backbone of the two-year-old indirect tax regime.

World Bank gives 545 million dollars for cyclone-hit southern Africa

The World Bank will extend more than half-a-billion dollars in grants for cyclone-ravaged southern African countries. A total of up to 545 million US dollar will be disbursed to Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi – the three countries hit by Cyclone Idai in March.

World Bank's president **David Malpass** made the announcement as he concluded his visit to Mozambique, the worst affected country. **Cyclone Idai** devastated the port city of Beira and its surrounding areas when it hit on March 14, killing more than 600 people.

RBI imposes fines on PPIs for violating norms

The Reserve Bank of India said that it has imposed penalties on five prepaid payment instrument (PPI) issuers, including Vodafone m-pesa and PhonePe, for violation of regulatory norms. Also, penalties have been imposed on Western Union Financial Services Inc and MoneyGram Payment Systems Inc, both US firms, for non-compliance of guidelines.

The central bank said in a statement that a penalty of Rs 3.05 crore was imposed on Vodafone m-pesa and Rs 1 crore each on Mobile Payments, PhonePe, Private and GI Technology.

Foreign exchange reserves rise by 4.3 Billion

The country's foreign exchange reserves soared by USD 4.368 billion to USD 418.515 billion in the week to April 26. The RBI data showed that foreign currency assets rose by USD 4.387 billion to USD 390.421 billion.

According to the data Gold reserves remained unchanged at USD 23.303 billion.

The special drawing rights with the International Monetary Fund was down by USD 5.9 million to USD 1.449 billion. The country's reserve position with the Fund also declined USD 13.6 million to USD 3.341 billion

INDIAN AFFAIRS

India was world's fourth biggest military spender in 2018, says SIPRI report

India was the world's fourth biggest military spender in 2018 after United States, China and Saudi Arabia, according to data released by Stockholm International Peace Research Institut. The institute report said the total world military expenditure rose to \$1,822 billion in 2018, an increase of 2.6% from 2017.

Global military spending increased for the second consecutive year. India's 2018 spending rose by 3.1% to \$66.5 billion (approximately 4.63 lakh crore) while Pakistan's increased by 11% to \$11.4 billion. The report said the tensions between the Asian countries were major factors in the increase in expenditure in the region.

Mumbai tops the list of most vulnerable cities to cyberattacks in 2019

Mumbai tops the list of most vulnerable cities to cyberattacks in 2019. Recently, Quick Heal Security Labs in its report titled “The Annual Threat Report 2019” has disclosed that Mumbai topped the list of 15-city which are more vulnerable to cyber attacks in 2019.

The other two cities which followed Mumbai are Delhi and Bengaluru. The report has also revealed that Maharashtra, Delhi and West Bengal which are prone to cyber attacks.

T-Series becomes 1st YouTube channel with 100 million subscribers

Indian music label **T-Series** has become the first YouTube channel to reach **100 million subscribers**, beating its competitor PewDiePie, who has 96 million subscribers currently. T-Series had briefly crossed PewDiePie in February and has maintained the lead over the last few weeks. The Delhi High Court had banned two of PewDiePie’s videos in India over “abusive, vulgar and racist” comments.

SpiceJet became fourth Indian airline to have a 100 aircraft in its fleet

SpiceJet became fourth Indian airline to have a **100 aircraft** in its fleet. SpiceJet became fourth Indian airline to have a 100 aircraft in its fleet. Budget airline SpiceJet has added a new Boeing 737 aircraft to its fleet, taking its total strength to 100 aircraft.

The other three domestic airlines with 100 Aircraft fleet are:

- Air India
- Jet Airways
- IndiGo

Eight domestic carriers namely Air India, IndiGo, SpiceJet, GoAir, Air India Express, Vistara, AirAsia and Alliance together have 595 planes in their fleet at the moment.

India ranked 117th in Kids Right Index

The annual global index named Kids Right Index has ranked countries on the basis of how much they are involved and equipped to improve child rights. India ranked **117th out of 181** countries. **Iceland topped the ranking followed by Portugal.**

Sculptor Anish Kapoor ranked first on Hurun India Art List 2019 with estimated sales of Rs. 168.25 crore

Sculptor **Anish Kapoor** ranked first on Hurun India Art List 2019 with estimated sales of **Rs. 168.25 crore**. Sculptor Anish Kapoor ranked first on Hurun India Art List 2019 with estimated sales of Rs. 168.25 crore. Hurun India Art List 2019 was released by Hurun Research Institute.

The ranking of the top 50 Indian artists alive based on the sales of their works at public auctions from April 2018 to March 2019. The next positions were held by Akbar Padamsee whose 38 works were sold for Rs. 45.84 crore. He was followed by Krishen Khanna with sales of 44 works of Rs. 9.48 crore.

Flight Lieutenant Bhawana become the country's first woman fighter to undertake to missions by day

Flight Lieutenant **Bhawana** become the country's **first woman fighter to undertake to missions by day** on a fighter aircraft in the IAF. This comes after she completed her day operational syllabus as a fighter pilot on the MiG-21 Bison supersonic aircraft.

Mohana Singh becomes 1st woman fighter pilot to fly Hawk jet

Flight Lieutenant **Mohana Singh** has become the **first woman fighter pilot to be qualified to undertake missions by day on Hawk advanced jet aircraft**, an official statement said. Her training involved flying both air-to-air combat and air-to-ground missions. She has a total of over 500 hours of incident-free flying of which 380 hours are on the Hawk Mk 132 jet.

Indian Army, Navy and Air Force hold joint exercise in Andaman and Nicobar

Indian Army, Navy and Air Force hold joint exercise Bull Strike at Teressa Island in Andaman and Nicobar. The objective is to enhance their coordination in dealing with major security challenges which are currently facing the country and also to showcase joint operation capability of the three forces, Indian Army, Navy and Air Force and further enhance operation coordination.

Website of Lokpal inaugurated

The Website of the Lokpal was inaugurated by the Chairperson, Justice Shri Pinaki Chandra Ghose in presence of all the Members of Lokpal today. The Website has been developed by NIC and provides the basic information with respect to the working and functioning of the Lokpal. The Website can be accessed at <http://lokpal.gov.in>.

The Lokpal is the first institution of its kind in independent India, established under the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013 to inquire and investigate into allegations of the corruption against public functionaries who fall within the scope and ambit of the above Act.

Government should allow Aadhaar for insurance KYC: IRDAI chairman

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) plans to lobby the government to allow use of Aadhaar to make online know-your-customer (KYC) process simple and quick for insurers and policyholders, said IRDAI chairman Subhash Chandra Khuntia .

“KYC is one area we are taking up with the government, to use Aadhaar as a kind of KYC for the insurance sector,” said Khuntia. “The insurance companies and the insurtech companies need to use simple KYC so they do not spend too much time. Customers also do not have to wait for too long before they get the product. This is something which will help in doing that,” he said.

Government proposes NSSO and CSO merger

The outgoing NDA government in one of its last decisions has decided to merge the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) with the Central Statistics Office. (CSO) under the Ministry of

Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI). The Government order has cleared restructuring of statistical system by proposing NSSO, CSO merger and formation of an overarching body called National Statistical Office (NSO).

India sets Guinness World Records of largest laundry lesson with the participation of 400 young men

India sets Guinness **World Records of largest laundry lesson** with the participation of 400 young men. India achieved a Guinness World Records of 'largest laundry lesson' with the participation of 400 young Indian men. The event was a part of **#sharetheload** campaign.

It was done to share the responsibility of cleaning clothes at home along with the female members of the family. The event was initiated by **Ariel India**. It was hosted by Mandira Bedi and Indian Actor Anil Kapoor also joined the function.

Earlier, the largest laundry lesson was achieved by Lion NANOX Team (Japan) at Lion Hirai Research Laboratory in Edogawa, Tokyo, Japan on November 29, 2017. It had 318 people.

National Training Workshop for 7th Economic Census organized

A comprehensive training strategy called National Training Workshop of Master Trainers to impart training to trainers engaged in upcoming **7th Economic Census** was held at Indian Habitat Center in the **New Delhi**. It was organized by Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation (MoSPI).

Infosys Foundation's FCRA licence cancelled

The Home Ministry has cancelled the FCRA licence of Infosys Foundation after a request was made by the not-for-profit initiative of the IT major, a senior government official said.

India's overall exports registered positive growth of 1.34% in April this year

India's overall exports, combining Merchandise and Services, in April this year is estimated to be around 44 billion US dollars with a positive growth of 1.34 per cent over the April last year.

According to the Ministry of Commerce & Industry data released today, overall imports in last month is estimated to be around 53 billion dollars with a positive growth of 4.5 per cent over corresponding period of last year.

Mumbai Pilot Becomes World's First Woman to Cross Atlantic Ocean in Light Sports Aircraft

Captain Aarohi Pandit, a 23-year-old pilot from Mumbai became the world's first woman to cross the Atlantic Ocean solo in a Light Sports Aircraft (LSA).

She achieved the feat around midnight Monday-Tuesday (May 13-14) when she landed her tiny aircraft at Iqaluit Airport in Canada, after a gruelling 3,000 km long flight, under adverse and extreme weather conditions following take-off from Wick, Scotland (United Kingdom), with brief stopovers in Greenland and Iceland.

Sherpa Climber Reaches Top of Mount Everest for Record 23rd Time

Sherpa climber Kami Rita reached the top of Mount Everest for a 23rd time. By doing so, he broke his own record for the most successful climbs of the world's highest summit.

Two other climbers have reached the 8,850-meter high summit 21 times each, but both of them have retired from mountain climbing.

Rita was at Everest's base camp in 2015 when a combination of rocks, ice and snow came down the side of the mountain. The avalanche killed 19 people. After that tragedy, he came under intense family pressure to stop mountain climbing, but in the end decided against it.

DRDO Successfully Conducts Flight Test of High-Speed Expendable Aerial Target 'Abhyas'

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted successfully flight test of 'Abhyas', a high-speed expendable aerial target (HEAT), which offers a realistic threat scenario for practice of weapon systems.

The flight test was conducted at the Interim Test Range, Chandipur, in Odisha. It was tracked by various radars and electro-optic systems and proved its performance in fully autonomous waypoint navigation mode, an official release said.

5 Courses of FTII, Pune given approval by AICTE

Five courses of the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune, have been given approval by the All India Council for Technical Education. The approval makes FTII, the first and only institute in this category in the country to receive such recognition.

A list of institutions and approved courses recently published by the AICTE pertaining to institutes offering courses in applied arts, crafts and design, includes all the Five courses of the FTII, an official statement said. FTII operates under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

EPFO offers online facility to withdraw PF balance

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) is offering an online service to withdraw your provident fund (PF) account balance. To make the withdrawal process quicker and easier, the provident fund body has introduced a one-page composite form for those EPF subscribers who have linked their Universal Account Number (UAN) with Aadhaar.

India's first global, Mega-Science Exhibition 'Vigyan Samagam' to begin on May 8th in Mumbai

India's first global, Mega-Science Exhibition 'Vigyan Samagam' is slated to begin at the Nehru Science Centre, Worli, Mumbai on May 8th, 2019. The exhibition will take visitors through the world from micro to macro, unveiling the efforts of the international community in understanding the Universe. It will showcase India's participation in the world's major Mega Science projects, where several developed countries are participating collectively.

Government implements Project ‘SPARROW-CBIC’ for online writing of APAR

Government of India has now implemented Project ‘SPARROW-CBIC’ for online writing of Annual Performance Appraisal Report (APAR) in SPARROW, for over. The term SPARROW stands for ‘Smart Performance Appraisal Report Recording Online Window’.

Project leverages modern technology for enhancing morale and overall efficiency of everyone working in Central GST and Customs formations of CBIC. It serves as an important milestone in journey towards digitisation and paper less working.

WTO Ministerial Meeting of Developing Countries in New Delhi

A WTO Ministerial meeting of developing countries is being hosted by India in New Delhi on 13-14 May 2019. Sixteen developing countries, Six Least Developed Countries (LDC)(Argentina, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Brazil, Central African Republic (CAR), Chad, China, Egypt, Guatemala, Guyana, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Malawi, Malaysia, Nigeria, Oman, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, Uganda)and DG, WTO are participating in the meeting.

First Apache Helicopter formally handed over to The IAF

First AH-64E (I) – Apache Guardian helicopter was formally handed over to the Indian Air Force at Boeing production facility in Mesa, Arizona, USA on 10 May 19. Air Marshal AS Butola, represented the Indian Air Force and accepted the first Apache in a ceremony at Boeing production facility, representatives from US Government were also present.

IAF had signed a contract with US Government and M/s Boeing Ltd in Sep 2015 for 22 Apache helicopters. The first batch of these helicopters is scheduled to be shipped to India by Jul this year.

Konkan Railways signs contract agreement with Nepal to supply two 1600 HP DEMU train sets

Konkan Railways Corporation Ltd has signed a contract agreement with Nepal’s Department of Railways to supply two 1600 HP DEMU train sets. These trains will be used to operationalise railway link between Jayanagar in India and Kurtha in Nepal.

The agreement was signed in Kathmandu today in the presence of Indian Ambassador Manjeev Puri and Nepal’s Secretary, Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport Madhusudan Adhikari.

TCS becomes India’s most valued firm again; surpasses RIL in market-cap

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) regained the status of the country’s most valued firm in terms of market capitalisation (market-cap) , surging past Mukesh Ambani-controlled Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), which slipped to the number two position. TCS market-cap stood at Rs 8.13 trillion, more than RIL’ of Rs 7.95-trillion valuation today, as per BSE data. Over the past four days, RIL has lost 11 per cent at the bourses.

Air traffic growth hits 5-year low in FY19 at 11.6%, cargo at 6%

The pace of growth in air traffic hit a five-year low at 11.6 percent in fiscal 2019, pulled down by low growth of 3.9 percent in the March quarter as against a healthy 14.9 percent in the first three quarters.

Cargo traffic growth also moderated in the year to 6 percent, as against double-digits growth witnessed over the past two years. According to Icra, domestic passenger traffic declined by 1.1 percent in March, overall traffic saw a de-growth of 0.1 percent in the month as international aircraft movement dipped by 1 percent while domestic aircraft movement was flat.

Indian Army to commemorate 2019 as ‘Year of next of kin’

The Indian Army is commemorating this year as the ‘Year of Next of Kin’ and plans to reach out to the next of kin of battle casualties, ex-servicemen and serving soldiers to inform them of entitled financial benefits, welfare schemes and help resolve pension related problems.

New initiative measuring violent deaths worldwide

SIPRI has set up a new initiative aiming to establish the annual number of violent deaths worldwide. SIPRI’s Global Registry of Violent Deaths (GRVD) will count deaths caused by all forms of violence and display these in an open-source database that will allow researchers, policymakers and the general public to track trends in violence at global, regional, national, provincial, city and municipal levels.

The database will hold a single entry for every violent death, including time, location, perpetrator, victim and type of violence.

Missile destroyer ‘INS Ranjit’ decommissioned

Frontline missile destroyer of the Indian Navy ‘INS Ranjit’ was decommissioned at the Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam, after serving the Indian navy for 36 years.

INS Ranjit, the third of the five Kashin-class destroyers built by the erstwhile USSR, was commissioned on September 15 1983. The ship was decommissioned at a solemn ceremony at the Naval Dockyard when the national flag, naval ensign and Commissioning Pennant were lowered.

Committee constituted to oversee clean air programme

The Union Environment Ministry has constituted a committee to implement the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), which aims to reduce particulate matter (PM) pollution by 20%-30% in at least 102 cities by 2024.

The committee will be chaired by the Secretary, Union Environment Ministry and has among its members the Joint Secretary (Thermal), Ministry of Power; Director-General, The Energy Resources Institute (TERI), the Delhi-based think-tank; and Professor Sachidananda Tripathi, Indian Institute of Technology-Kanpur (IIT-K).

CPWD constitutes 10-member committee to bring ‘Safety Manual’ of dept

The Central Public Works Department (CPWD) has constituted a 10-member committee to bring out ‘Safety Manual’ of the department. according to a CPWD official, the committee, headed by Additional Director General (ADG) K M Soni, has been asked to submit its report within two months.

The move is aimed at ensuring safety of engineers and workers working in various projects of the agency which comes under the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry.

Green Number Plates Made Mandatory for Electric Cars

Last year, the Indian government had announced green number plates for all electric vehicles wherein the private electric vehicles will get white lettering on a green background and commercial EVs will yellow lettering. And now the Central Government has asked the state road transport departments to make green number plates mandatory on all types of electric vehicles irrespective of them being brand new or used.

Vice President releases a postage stamp to commemorate the 750th birth anniversary of Sri Vedanta Desikan

The Vice President, Shri. M. Venkaiah Naidu released a postage stamp to commemorate the 750th birth anniversary of Sri Vedanta Desikan in New Delhi. He said that our textbooks must throw light on the lives of great saints and spiritual icons such as Sri Vedanta Desikan so that our children internalize and practice the lofty ideals of humanism, peace and compassion propagated by them.

‘Sri Vedanta Desikan is one of the most prominent preceptors in the Srivaishnava tradition and one of the most effulgent luminaries to have graced this land’.

e-Governance Services India ties up with IIT-Kanpur to upscale Unnat Bharat Abhiyan

Common Service Centre’s (CSC) e-Governance Services India Limited, a special purpose vehicle under the Ministry of Electronics & IT, said it has tied up with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Kanpur to upscale ‘Unnat Bharat Abhiyan’.

‘Unnat Bharat Abhiyan’ is an initiative of the Ministry of HRD. It aims to find solutions to accelerate sustainable growth in rural India.

Under the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, IIT-Kanpur has brought together 15 leading higher education institutions from Uttar Pradesh.

Indian Navy Launches Fourth Stealth Scorpene Class Submarine Vela in Mumbai

Scorpene class submarine Vela, equipped with modern machinery and technology to guard the seas, was launched . It will undergo a number of tests by the Indian Navy before it gets commissioned in the defence fleet, the official added.

It is the fourth submarine to be launched by the state-owned Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) after entering into a contract for the construction and transfer of technology

for six Scorpene class submarines with French collaborator Ms Naval Group (formerly known as DCNS).

INS Vela was first commissioned on August 31, 1973 in the Indian Naval service and continued to serve for 37 years.

NIOS, NHMPH ink MoU in Mumbai

The National Institute of Open Schooling Ministry of Human Resources Development and National Health Mission of Public Health Department of Government of Maharashtra signed a Memorandum of Understanding in Mumbai. The MOU focused at offering Vocational programmes to the Health Service Providers of Providers of National Health Mission (NHM) through National Institute of Open Schooling.

The aim is to impart uniform structured and quality training to Multipurpose Health Workers Class III Male Health Workers and Community Health Workers followed by their assessment evaluation and certification.

Four new Supreme Court judges were sworn in making a strength of 31 judges

Four new Supreme Court judges were sworn in making a strength of 31 judges. Four new Supreme Court judges were sworn in, raising the number of judges to the full sanctioned strength of 31. Justices **Aniruddha Bose, AS Bopanna, Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai and Surya Kant** were administered the oath of office by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi.

With this, the apex court attained its approved total strength of 31 judges. The five-member Collegium, headed by Justice Gogoi, had earlier this month overruled the Centre's objection to the appointment of Justice Bose of the Jharkhand High Court and Justice Bopanna of the Gauhati High Court.

Nirmala becomes first full-time female Finance Minister of India

Nirmala Sitharaman has become the first full-time female Finance Minister of India, replacing Arun Jaitley who had opted out of the new Cabinet because of health issues. In 2017, she had also become the first full-time female Defence Minister of India. Indira Gandhi had briefly taken additional charge of Finance and Defence ministries during her tenure as Prime Minister.

New Wasp species identified in Goa

Scientists have recently identified a new species of wasp from the genus **Kudakrumia** in Goa. The wasp species was collected from Western Ghats forest. It is any insect of order **Hymenoptera** and **suborder Apocrita** which means neither a bee nor an ant. Wasps are proficient at controlling pest populations and thus are deployed to protect crops. For instance in Brazil, farmers control sugarcane crop borers with a kind of parasitic wasp.

Indias last Orangutan Binny died due to prolonged illness

Binny, a 41-year-old orangutan, at Odisha's Nandankanan Zoological Park died on 29 May following a prolonged illness. She was suffering from cold and old age related respiratory

tract issues. Accordingly, the treatment was going on. The lone female orangutan Binny was brought to Nandankanan Zoo from Pune's Rajiv Gandhi Zoological Park on 20 November 2003, when she was 25 years old. Since her arrival, she has been alone in her zoo enclosure and zoo officials failed to arrange a male partner for her.

Govt reduces NEET-PG cut-offs by 6 percentile for 2019-20

The government has decided to reduce the qualifying marks for NEET-PG for 2019-20 by six percentile. An official statement said, general category candidates with a minimum mark of 44 percentile, persons with disabilities category with a minimum of 39 percentile and SC/ST and OBC category candidates with 34 percentile will become eligible for admission to postgraduate medical courses.

TAFE, PCRA sign MoU to aid efficient energy utilisation

Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA), Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Farm Equipment Limited (TAFE) have signed an MoU to aid conservation of resources across the country.

Under the MoU, it is planned to jointly conduct agriculture workshops by involving TAFE's dealership network in spreading awareness/sensitising farmers on the advantages of better maintenance and upkeep of their tractors and implements, resulting in lesser fuel consumption and efficient utilisation of resources, thereby helping farmers maximise their productivity and profitability.

STATE RELATED CURRENT AFFAIRS

'Extremely severe cyclone' Fani headed towards Odisha

Disaster response teams are on alert and fishermen have been advised not to sail as India braces for cyclone 'Fani', which raging in the Bay of Bengal, headed for the Odisha coast. Here are key points to know about the storm.

Fani (pronounced 'Foni') was a 'severe cyclonic storm' Monday evening and could become an 'extremely severe cyclone, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

Kerala Assembly to Digitize all its Records

The Kerala Legislative Assembly recently announced an initiative to digitize all its records and proceedings under its ambitious project called E-Vidhan which enables state legislature to go fully digital and completely paperless.

It is expected that if Kerala Assembly shifts completely into e-space it will save time as well as printing costs of about Rs.35 crore to Rs.49 crore.

Meghalaya CM Conrad Sangma launched a new project to boost medicinal plant cultivation

Meghalaya CM Conrad Sangma launched a new project to boost medicinal plant cultivation. Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma launched a new project to boost medicinal and aromatic plants cultivation named “**Aroma Mission**”. “Aroma Mission” a project of Rs.18 crore launched to give importance for agriculture and allied sectors so that farmers earn the benefits from it.

CM inaugurated a processing unit of essential oils and insisted institutions like CSIR-CIMAP to undertake more researches in this field. Broomsticks and bay leaves were categorized as ‘Agro Forestry’ items.

Telangana to set up countrys first ‘Blockchain District’ in Hyderabad

Telangana to set up countrys first ‘**Blockchain District**’ in Hyderabad. Telangana released a draft blockchain policy to set up country’s first ‘Blockchain District’ in Hyderabad. Telangana released a draft blockchain policy to set up country’s first ‘Blockchain District’ in Hyderabad. It is aimed to create an ecosystem for major blockchain companies, start-ups for promoting research, innovation and industry collaboration.

Telangana Government signed an agreement with Tech Mahindra to set up the Blockchain district in 2018. The draft was released by Information Technology, Electronics and Communications (IT E&C) Department.

YS Jagan Mohan Reddy takes oath as Andhra Pradesh CM

YSR Congress Party chief **YS Jagan Mohan Reddy** took oath as the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh in Vijayawada at 12:23 pm today. The 46-year-old had offered prayers at Tirupati temple ahead of the ceremony. Notably, his party won 151 of 175 seats in the Assembly elections, nearly a decade after its launch and staying in the opposition.

Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar Airport of Indore Gets International Status

Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar Airport of Indore Gets ‘**International**’ Status. **Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar Airport of Indore**, Madhya Pradesh was declared as International Airport. The Indore airport facilitates round the clock operations and was given its World Standardization Certificate by the UK. About Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar Airport

India’s first Tree Ambulance initiated in Chennai by Green man of India

India’s first Tree Ambulance initiated in Chennai by Green man of India. International Day for Biological Diversity tree ambulance was inaugurated in Chennai, Tamil Nadu by Vice President of India, Venkaiah Naidu. The initiative was proposed by Green man of India, **Dr K Abdul Ghani** and it is sponsored by the SASA Group. The ambulance can be availed through the number 9941006786 and volunteers can register on www.treeambulance.org.

Orchha town of Madhya Pradesh added to the Tentative List of UNESCO's World Heritage Sites

Orchha town of Madhya Pradesh added to the Tentative List of **UNESCO's World Heritage Sites**. The architectural heritage of Orchha town in Madhya Pradesh added to the Tentative List of UNESCO's World Heritage Sites. The architectural heritage of Orchha town depicts a unique style of the Bundela dynasty. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) had sent a proposal to UNESCO to include the architectural heritage of Orchha town in its list of World Heritage Sites on April 15, 2019.

Workshop on Artificial Bio Organs held in Visakhapatnam

In order to strengthen Indo-Australian Cooperation and achieve development of 3D printing industry in both the countries, Andhra Pradesh MedTech Zone (AMTZ) has recently organized a one-day workshop on Organ Bio Printing at the Kalam Convention Center, AMTZ Campus in Visakhapatnam.

The workshop explored 3D printing, an innovative technology that covers all medical disciplines and offers new opportunities in diagnostics and therapy. From diagnostic visualization to surgical planning, patient-specific models provide an added value for patients and physicians.

Chennai to get its first unmanned substation

The Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (Tangedco) has identified a substation to be upgraded into an unmanned substation — the first of its kind in the city.

The 33 kilo volt (KV)/11 KV substation, located right at the heart of the central business district of Anna Salai, near the Express Mall on Woods Road, has been chosen for the upgrade. It was constructed only a year ago.

MoU signed for Plantation of Rudraksh Trees in Uttarakhand

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between National Mission for Clean Ganga, HCL Foundation and INTACH for taking up a project of Plantation of Rudraksh Trees in Uttarakhand as a part of CSR initiative under the Namami Gange Programme.

While the project aims at planting 10 thousand Rudraksh trees in the catchment area of river Ganga in Uttarakhand in association with local community and other stakeholders, it will also help in generating income for people residing in those areas.

Mangaluru police gets all-women patrol unit

Mangaluru City Police has launched an all-women police patrol unit in the city. Flagger off the 'Rani Abbakka Force' in Mangaluru, Sandeep Patil, Commissioner of Police, said the Karnataka police is giving utmost importance to the protection of women and children.

PM announces Rs 1000 cr assistance for cyclone-hit Odisha

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has said that Central Govt will provide manpower, machine, material and money for restoration work in cyclone FANI affected areas in Odisha.

Visiting the cyclone-affected areas today in Odisha, Prime Minister said that 1000 crore rupees financial assistance will be given to Odisha. Before the cyclone, 381 crore rupees assistance in advance was declared by the Prime Minister.

IBSA Sherpas meet concluded in Cochin

India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) Sherpas meeting was held in Cochin, Kerala from May 3 to May 5, 2019. Before IBSA Sherpas meeting, the 9th IBSA trilateral Ministerial Meeting was also concluded at the same venue.

Indian delegation was led by T.S. Tirumurti, Secretary (Economic Relations) in Ministry of External Affairs and Amb. Norberto Moretti, Sherpa of Brazil and Prof. Anil Sooklal, Sherpa of South Africa led their respective delegation at the meeting.

India Re-Elected As Observer To ‘Arctic Council’

India was re-elected as Observer to the Arctic Council, an intergovernmental forum. The decision was taken during the 11th Arctic Council ministerial meeting at Rovaniemi, Finland.

The Council also appointed the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) as a new Observer. India successfully got the Observer status in 2013 during the Kiruna Ministerial meeting held in Sweden.

Apple may open first India store in Mumbai

India is set to get its first Apple Inc retail store in Mumbai. The company has finalised a list of locations for its retail store. The iPhone-maker has reportedly zeroed in on several upscale sites in the economic hub of the country. The move comes as the tech giant is trying to establish a strong presence in the world’s fastest-growing smartphone market.

Govt to set up panel under DGFT to look at steel availability for engineering exporters

The government has decided to set up a committee under the Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) to look into availability of steel at competitive prices for engineering goods exporters, an official said.

“The committee will submit its report to steel and commerce ministries within two months. It will suggest measures which will be a win-win situation for both steel producers and engineering exporters,” the official added.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Putin signs law to create an independent Russian internet

Russian President Vladimir Putin has signed into law new measures that would enable the creation of a national network, able to operate separately from the rest of the world, according to documents posted on a government portal on Wednesday. For now, the network remains largely theoretical though, with few practical details disclosed.

In concept, the new law aims to protect Russia from foreign online restrictions by creating what the Kremlin calls a “sustainable, secure and fully functioning” local internet.

Taiwan becomes 1st Asian country to legalise same-sex marriage

Taiwan has become the first Asian country to legalise same-sex marriage following a vote on Friday. In 2017, the island’s constitutional court ruled that same-sex couples had the right to legally marry. Taiwan’s parliament was given a two-year deadline and was required to pass the changes by May 24.

South Korea abandons its bid to stage football’s Asian Cup in 2023

South Korea has abandoned its bid to stage football’s Asian Cup in 2023, leaving the sole other bidders China with a free run to become hosts.

Seoul’s Asian Cup withdrawal means that China should on June 4 be confirmed by the Asian Football Confederation as hosts of the nations championship finals for the second time.

China staged the tournament in 2004 when the hosts lost 3-1 to Japan in the Beijing final. This year’s tournament in the UAE was expanded to 24 nations for the first time with Qatar winning the final 3-1 against Japan.

Saudi Arabia confirms air strikes on Yemen capital

The Saudi-led coalition backing the Yemeni government confirmed that its warplanes were bombing rebel targets following rebel drone attacks that closed a Saudi pipeline.

Earlier, the UN envoy for Yemen warned that despite a rebel withdrawal from key ports, Yemen still faced the threat of plunging into all-out war.

US, France join UAE probe into sabotage of ships

US and France join UAE in the investigation of sabotage of commercial ships. The US and France are assisting the UAE in its investigations into the sabotage attack on four commercial cargo ships in the Sea of Oman, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Anwar Gargash said.

A Statement by the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation said that the concerned authorities have taken all necessary measures, and are investigating the incident in cooperation with local and international bodies.

Football: China to host 2023 Asian Cup after Korea withdraw bid

South Korea have abandoned their bid to stage Asian Cup Football tournament in 2023, leaving the sole other bidders China with a free run to become hosts.

The Korea Football Association (KFA) said in a statement that it had pulled out to strategically focus on a joint bid with North Korea to host the Women's World Cup in the same year.

US President unveils Merit-Based Immigration System

The United States President Donald Trump has proposed rolling out of a new immigration plan named 'merit-based immigration system'. The announcement was made in his recent immigration policy address speech in Rose Garden at White House.

The new 'merit and point based immigration policy' recently proposed by US President Trump will replace the existing green cards (given by US) with 'Build America' visa.

2019 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

The sixth Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GP2019) will take place in Geneva, Switzerland from 13 to 17 May, 2019, convened and organized by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) and hosted by the Government of Switzerland.

The session will be co-chaired by Switzerland and UNISDR. It will represent the next important opportunity for the international community to boost the implementation of the Sendai Framework and related Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda, as well as commitments of the Paris Climate Agreement.

It will be the last global gathering for all stakeholders before the deadline for the achievement of Target E of the Sendai Framework: Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020.

Cannes Film Festival begins in France

One of the most prestigious international events from the world of cinema, the Cannes Film Festival, begins in France. American director Jim Jarmusch's zombie film, 'The Dead Don't Die', the story of a small town under siege from the dead, will be the opening movie at the 12-day long festival.

Information and Broadcasting Secretary Amit Khare, who is leading the Indian delegation at Cannes, will inaugurate India Pavilion.

China blocks all language editions of Wikipedia

China has broadened its block of online encyclopedia Wikipedia to include all language editions. According to a report by the Open Observatory of Network Interference (OONI), China started blocking all language editions of Wikipedia last month.

Previously, most editions of Wikipedia — besides the Chinese language version, which was reportedly blocked in 2015 — were available. China’s online censorship apparatus — dubbed the ‘Great Firewall’ — blocks a large number of foreign sites in the country, such as Google, Facebook and The New York Times. Topics that are deemed too sensitive are also scrubbed.

US unveils strategy to detect and respond to health security threats globally

The United States government has come up with a first of its kind strategy to prevent, detect and respond to threats from infectious diseases occurring naturally or accidentally, in an effort to help improve the world’s ability to stop and contain deadly outbreaks before they spread between countries.

The Global Health Security Strategy, unveiled on Thursday, defines the actions the US administration will take by adopting a whole-of-government approach to health security and leveraging the strengths of different federal departments, agencies and funding streams.

UN mission urges cutting off financial ties with Myanmar army

A United Nations fact-finding mission today called for financial isolation of Myanmar’s military as part of efforts to hold the army accountable for human rights abuses.

The independent investigators, working under a mandate from the UN Human Rights Council, said in a statement that there has been no progress toward resolving the crisis over Myanmar’s mostly Muslim Rohingya minority.

Saudi Arabia lifts export ban on fruits and vegetable from Kerala

Saudi Arabia lifts export ban on fruits and vegetable from Kerala. Saudi Arabia lifted export ban on fruits and vegetables from Kerala. In June 2018, the ban was imposed due to the outbreak of Nipah virus. Saudi Arabian authorities had communicated this information to the state in the second week of May and it has led to the commencement of direct exports from the 3 airports.

The major items of export at present are mangoes such as Alphonso, Banganapalle, followed by banana and pineapple. Kerala exports around 150 tonnes of perishable commodities to gulf countries. It alone exports 30-40 tonnes to Saudi Arabia.

Zaidi wins USD 100,000 Nine Dots Prize

Zaidi wins USD 100,000 Nine Dots Prize. Mumbai-based Writer **Annie Zaidi** was announced as the **2019 winner of the \$100,000 Nine Dots Prize**, an award for creative thinking that tackles contemporary societal issues. She won the prize for her entry titled ‘Bread, Cement, Cactus’, a piece that combined memoir and reportage to explore concepts of home and belonging. Her proposed book, based on the prize-winning essay, will be published in May 2020 and will examine how a citizen’s sense of home might collapse, or recover.

Pakistan reaches agreement with IMF, to receive \$6 billion over 3 years

Pakistan reached an agreement with the IMF on a bailout package under which the cash-strapped country will receive \$ 6 billion over three years, according to a top official.

The agreement aims to support Pakistan's "strategy for stronger & more inclusive growth by reducing domestic and external imbalances, removing impediments to growth, increasing transparency and strengthening social spending", according to the IMF.

GoT finale gets over 19.3 mn viewers in US, sets new record

The final episode of 'Game Of Thrones' drew in **over 19.3 million viewers in the US**, setting a new series record, television network HBO announced. The record was previously held by last week's episode, which was watched by over 18.4 million viewers. The final season of the show had an average of 44.2 million viewers per episode, HBO further said.

Japan Tests World's Fastest-ever Alfa-X Bullet Train Capable of Reaching 400 kmph

Japan has started testing its fastest-ever bullet train — capable of reaching 400 kilometres per hour (249 mph) — as it continues to develop the revolutionary mode of travel.

The ALFA-X version of the Shinkansen train began three years' worth of test runs on Friday.

Once it enters operation sometime around 2030, it will run at speeds of up to 360 kph (224 mph), comfortably making it the world's fastest bullet train. It will also outpace China's Fuxing train, which runs at 10 kph slower despite being designed with the same top speed capabilities as the ALFA-X.

Rich List 2019: Hinduja brothers top rankings for third time

The billionaire Hinduja brothers have been named as the wealthiest people in the UK for a third time, according to the Sunday Times Rich List. Sri and Gopi Hinduja saw their fortune increase by £1.356bn in the last year to £22bn, the paper estimates.

Family business the Hinduja Group was founded in Mumbai in 1914, and now has interests around the world including in oil and gas, banking, IT and property.

Taiwan becomes 1st Asian country to legalise same-sex marriage

Taiwan has become the first Asian country to legalise same-sex marriage following a vote on Friday. In 2017, the island's constitutional court ruled that same-sex couples had the right to legally marry. Taiwan's parliament was given a two-year deadline and was required to pass the changes by May 24.

United Arab Emirates releases Qatari naval vessel

The United Arab Emirates has released a Qatari naval vessel and the four military personnel who were on board when it was seized last week. The UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MoFAIC) the four personnels have been identified as the First Lieutenant Mohammed Hassem Al Heil and Lance Corporal Saeed Nasser Al Marri, both Qatari nationals, Lance Corporal Mohammed Riyad Al Beltaji, a Palestinian national, and Private Fayez Talkoum, an Indian national.

The vessel, flying the Qatari flag, had entered UAE territorial waters on 30th April 2019, the statement noted.

UN To Hold 2020 Ocean Conference In Lisbon

United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) decided to hold its 2020 high-level conference early June in Portugal's Lisbon to support the sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources.

The UNGA “decides to convene the high-level 2020 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development in Lisbon, from June 2 to 6, 2020,” according to a resolution adopted by the 80th plenary meeting of the UNGA 73rd session.

Tim Cook inaugurates Apple Carnegie Library in US

Apple CEO Tim Cook has inaugurated the Apple Carnegie Library, which is the “most extensive historic restoration project to date”, in Washington.

Cook, along with company's Retail Head Deirdre O'Brien, Marketing Chief Phil Schiller and city's Mayor Muriel Bowser, inaugurated the library, which has over 200 employees.

Singapore passes 'fake news' law despite fierce criticism

Singapore's parliament passed laws to combat “fake news” that will allow authorities to order the removal of content despite fierce criticism from tech giants, the media and rights groups.

They give government ministers powers to order social media sites like Facebook and Twitter to put warnings next to posts authorities deem to be false and in extreme cases get them taken down.

WHO: Algeria and Argentina declared Malaria-Free

The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared **Algeria and Argentina as 'Malaria-Free' countries** after no cases of indigenous transmission of disease were recorded.

Algeria became second country in Africa to be declared malaria-free, after Mauritius, which was certified in 1973. Argentina became second country in South America to be certified malaria free after Paraguay, which was certified in June 2018.

The certificates will be presented to both countries on sidelines of the 72nd session of the World Health Assembly (WHA) which is being held in **Geneva, Switzerland**.

Mississippi River flood becomes the longest-lasting in over 90 years

Mississippi River flood becomes the longest-lasting in over 90 years. Flooding in the **Mississippi River is on the record for being the longest-lasting in more than 90 years since the “Great Flood” of 1927**. It is due to relentless, record-breaking spring rainfall. In the month of June also, Mississippi River will continue to rise as runoff from snowmelt upstream in combination with rainfall runoff moves through the river system.

Former basketball player, Lamar Odom launched a new book ‘Darkness to light’

Former basketball player, Lamar Odom launched a new book ‘Darkness to light’. Former American professional basketball player, Lamar Odom, aged 39, launched a new book titled ‘Darkness to light’. **The book reveals the dark secrets of his life.**

He is the ex-husband of Khloe Kardashian, an American media personality, socialite, model, businesswoman and entrepreneur. In his book, he has opened up about his relationship with ex-wife Khloe Kardashian, his difficult childhood, past overdoses and addictions to drugs, alcohol, and sex.

SCO Foreign Ministers’ meeting held in Kyrgyzstan

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Foreign Ministers was held in **Kyrgyzstan** capital Bishkek. It was attended by External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj.

This was the second SCO Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) meeting attended by India as a full member of SCO and was represented by Union External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj. The last CFM meeting was held in Beijing, China on April 2018.

UN downgraded the global economy growth forecast to 2.7% in 2019

UN downgraded the global economy growth forecast to 2.7% in 2019. United Nations (UN) in its mid-year report on economic prospects named “World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) 2019 Mid-year Update” diminished the global economic growth forecasts for 2019 to **2.7% and for 2020 to 2.9%**. In the January predictions, the economic growth was projected at 3% for both years.

US, Japan, South Korea, Australia Hold 1st Naval Drills In Western Pacific

US, Japan, South Korea, Australia Hold 1st **Naval Drills In Western Pacific**. US State Department approved to sell air-defense missiles for worth of more than USD 600 million to Japan and South Korea.

This approval was result of rising tension with North Korea when a pair of missile was tested by North Korea last week. The US government has approved sale of 94 SM-2 missiles used by ships against air threats along with 12 guidance systems for a total cost of USD 313.9 million.

Ireland becomes second country to declare climate emergency

Ireland has declared climate emergency in their country, to be the second country after Britain to do so. An amendment to a parliamentary report declaring a climate emergency and calling on parliament to examine how the Irish government can improve its response to the issue of biodiversity loss was accepted without a vote late Thursday.

Britain’s parliament became the first in the world to declare a climate emergency, passing the largely symbolic motion on May 1.

‘Golden Card’ PR Scheme: launched by UAE

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) launched ‘Golden Card’ Permanent Residency Scheme in an attempt to woo wealthy individuals and exceptional talents from all over the world.

About ‘Golden Card’ Programme

- It is open to investors and ‘exceptional talents’ like **scientists, engineers, doctors, students and artists.**
- As part of initiative, the first group of 6800 investors from more than 70 countries with investments of about 100 Billion Dirhams (USD 27 billion), were being given permanent residency.

Saray Khumalo became the first black african women to conquer Mt. Everest in her fourth attempt

Saray Khumalo became the first black african women to conquer Mt. Everest in her fourth attempt. **Saray Khumalo became the first black African women to conquer Mt. Everest** in her fourth attempt. She climbed the 8,848 meter mountain after three previous attempts. She was born in Zambia and now is a Johannesburg resident. She has also conquered Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa, Aconcagua in Argentina and Mount Elbrus in Russia.

She is on a hunt to conquer the highest peaks on each continent. In 2003, South African park ranger Sibusiso Vilane became the first black person to reach the top of Mount Everest.

Nepal banned popular Chinese digital wallets Alipay and WeChat

Nepal banned popular Chinese digital wallets **Alipay and WeChat.** Nepal banned popular Chinese digital wallets Alipay and WeChat to prevent the loss of foreign currency earnings from tens of thousands of Chinese tourists. The reason cited is Nepal was losing out since the actual transactions took place in China.

Disney to sell Fox regional sports networks to Sinclair for \$9.6 billion

Walt Disney Co said it would sell its interests in 21 regional sports networks and Fox College Sports to Sinclair Broadcast Group Inc for \$9.6 billion, a deal that clears the way for its purchase of Twenty-First Century Fox Inc’s film and television assets.

The deal will help Sinclair, the largest U.S. broadcast station owner, add channels such as Fox Sports Detroit and Fox Sports Florida to its existing sports business that includes Marquee Sports Network and Ring of Honor Wrestling.

Nepali teen dances for continuous 126-hour to set new world record

A Nepali teenager danced continuously for 126 hours to set a Guinness World Records on ‘Longest Dancing Marathon by an Individual’, a feat previously hold by an Indian.

At a function held in his official residence here on Saturday, Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli honoured the 18-year-old girl, Bandana Nepal, for achieving the feat.

Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway buys Amazon shares

Buffett revealed that Berkshire Hathaway (BRKA) has been buying Amazon shares, noting that the exact amount will be disclosed in Berkshire's quarterly report to the United States Securities and Exchange Commission later this month.

16th Ministerial Meeting of Asia Cooperation Dialogue

The 16th Ministerial Meeting of Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) was held in Doha, Qatar. Gen. (Dr) V.K. Singh (Retd), Minister of State for External Affairs led the Indian delegation. Earlier, Mr. Manish, Joint Secretary (South) attended the Senior Officers' Meeting (SOM) held on April 30.

Emphasizing on the theme "Partners in Progress", he underlined India's desire for working cooperatively with all ACD Member States in line with the Government of India's approach of "Collective Efforts, Inclusive Growth".

Laurentino Cortizo wins Panama's presidential elections

The Panama Electoral Tribunal announced that Laurentino Cortizo has won the country's presidential election. Laurentino Cortizo, the presidential candidate from the opposition Democratic Revolutionary Party, has declared his victory, with a narrow gap of 1.93 per cent against Romulo Roux, another candidate.

US approves Missile Sales to South Korea, Japan.

The United State recently approved Anti-Ballistic Missile sales to South Korea and Japan. The sale is worth more than \$600 million and comes in backdrop of mounting tensions with North Korea.

In February 2019 second summit between Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un was held in Vietnam. It ended with a deadlock, when US side refused North Korea's demands of easing sanctions until Pyongyang takes major steps to end its nuclear program.

₹14.7 crore gene therapy approved by US becomes most expensive drug

US' Food and Drug Administration has approved Swiss drugmaker Novartis' \$2.1-million (₹14.7-crore), **one-time gene therapy Zolgensma for treatment of a rare disease that afflicts infants**, making it the **world's most expensive drug**. Defending the price, Novartis executives said that a one-time treatment is better than expensive long-term treatments that cost several hundred thousand dollars a year.

UK Parliament First in World to Declare Climate Emergency

The UK parliament became the first national legislative body in the world to declare a climate change "emergency" Wednesday. The historic move closely follows Extinction Rebellion protests that blocked traffic in key parts of central London for a week in April.

The protest had three demands: that the UK government "tell the truth" about climate change, that it achieve carbon neutrality by 2025 and that it create a citizens' assembly to help with

that process. The protesters embraced parliament's decision Wednesday as a step towards meeting their first demand.

Joint meetings of Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam conventions held in Geneva.

The joint meetings of three conventions on chemicals and waste namely Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam conventions was held in **Geneva, Switzerland**.

Theme of 2019 meetings was- **“Clean Planet, Healthy People: Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste”**.

The 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to Basel Convention (COP 14) was held along with the 9th meeting of the COP to Rotterdam Convention and the 9th meeting of the COP to Stockholm Convention in Geneva, Switzerland, from 29 April to 10 May 2019.

ICC World Cup 2019: Sourav Ganguly, Sanjay Manjrekar named in ICC commentary panel

Former cricketers **Sourav Ganguly and Sanjay Manjrekar** have been named in the International Cricket Council's (ICC) commentary panel for the upcoming World Cup, beginning May 30 in England and Wales.

G7 environment ministers meet to discuss climate crisis

Environment ministers of the G7 nations met in France, a day ahead of the release of what is expected to be another alarming report on the state of the planet. Ministers from Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States gathered for the two-day meeting in the northeastern city of Metz.

Stevo Pendarovski wins North Macedonia's presidential election

Stevo Pendarovski, supported by the ruling Social Democrats (SDSM), has won the North Macedonian presidency in a run-off vote. The 56-year-old garnered 51.66 percent of the vote in North Macedonia on Sunday, beating nationalist VMRO's Gordana Siljanovska-Davkova which got 44.73 percent. The remaining 3.61 percent of the votes were void.

Iran's President announces partial withdrawal from nuclear deal

Iran's President Hassan Rouhani in a televised address has announced that it will partially withdraw from some of the commitments made under the 2015 International Nuclear Deal.

The announcement came after the US unilaterally decided last year to pull out of this commitment completely. The United States has also announced to cancel waivers to countries, including India, who have been purchasing oil from Iran.

Singapore passes laws to combat fake news

Singapore passed laws to combat fake news that will allow authorities to order the removal of content despite fierce criticism from tech giants, the media and rights groups.

The new laws give government powers to order social media sites like Facebook and Twitter to put warnings next to posts that authorities deem to be false and in extreme cases get them taken down.

Rohingya refugees gets identity cards as their first ever proof of documentation

Rohingya refugees gets identity cards as their **first ever proof of documentation**. Over 2.7 lakh Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh have been registered by the United Nations, several getting identity cards as their first-ever proof of documentation.

The Rohingya Muslims living in Myanmar have not been able to acquire formal citizenship, leaving them stateless and deprived of basic rights. The cards are aimed at improving the accuracy of data on refugees in Bangladesh.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

Nirmala Sitharaman attends SCO conclave in Kyrgyzstan

Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman attended a key conclave of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Kyrgyzstan and held bilateral meetings on its sidelines, including with her Chinese counterpart.

Sitharaman attended the SCO Defence Ministers' conclave in Bishkek where ways to further boost defence and security cooperation among the member countries in the wake of evolving security challenges in the region were discussed.

India To Host Part Of International Army Games For First Time In August

In a first, India will host a part of an international military sports event in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer over nine days in August, in a bid to promote bonhomie among the participating countries, senior officials of Army said Tuesday. It is also for the first time that an Indian team will participate in this competition, they said.

International Army Games, organised by the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation, have been taking place since 2015. Nearly 32 countries participate in the event.

SCO Meeting Of Council Of Foreign Ministers Held In Bishkek

SCO Meeting Of Council Of Foreign Ministers Held In **Bishkek**. External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj represented India in the meeting of Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation to be held in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic.

During the meet, she discussed several pressing issues including the threat of terrorism are expected to be discussed. Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi also attended the meeting.

Indian-origin Anita Bhatia appointed UN Deputy Executive Director

She has been appointed the **Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)** for Resource Management, Sustainability and Partnerships. Ms. Bhatia holds a Bachelor of Arts in History from Calcutta University, a Master of Arts in Political Science from Yale University and a Juris Doctor in Law from Georgetown University.

Ms. Bhatia served for several years as Director of Global Partnerships for the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the World Bank Group's private sector arm.

India delivers First Pair of Mi-24 helicopters to Afghanistan

India recently handed over two Mi-24 attack helicopters to Afghanistan. The helicopters were formally handed over by Indian Ambassador to the acting Minister of National Defence of Afghanistan at Kabul Air Force base.

About Mi-24:

- It is a large helicopter gunship thus can be used for assault. It can also be used for transport missions as it can ferry up to eight people.
- Being a attack helicopters, it is designed to take on fortified enemy positions and locations prone to heavy ground fire to flying in troops.

MoU: signed between IIT Guwahati and ISRO

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Guwahati has signed a Memorandum of Understanding MoU with The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to set up an IITG-ISRO Space Technology Cell (STC). The Space Technology Cell (STC) would be a first of its kind in the North-East region that would augment research and capacity building processes in field of space technology.

Burnout classified as medical condition: WHO

The World Health Organization (WHO) has for the first time recognised “**burn-out**” in its International Classification of Diseases (ICD). The decision was taken during the World Health Assembly (WHA) in **Geneva**. In latest update of WHO's catalogue of diseases and injuries globally, WHO defined Burn-out as- syndrome conceptualised as resulting from chronic workplace stress that has not been successfully managed.

India-Botswana hold Foreign Office Consultations in Delhi

The third round of Foreign Office Consultations between India and Botswana was held in New Delhi . The Indian side was led by Joint Secretary, East and Southern Africa in the Ministry of External Affairs Dr. Neena Malhotra.

The Botswana side was headed by Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of International Affairs and Cooperation of Botswana Government, Tapiwa Mongwa.

India Signs ‘Christchurch Call to Action’

To combat online extremism, India has decided to sign an international call initiated by the governments of France and New Zealand along with top social media companies after the Christchurch attacks.

The document called “Christchurch Call To Action” was signed and adopted on Wednesday with participation from 26 nations, including France, New Zealand, European Commission, Ireland, Norway, Senegal, Canada, Jordan, UK, Indonesia, Australia, Germany, Japan, Spain, Netherlands, Sweden and India.

India signs protocol for export of chilli meal to China; discusses market access for farm products

India and China signed a protocol for the export of Indian chilli meal to China. This is the fourth protocol signed between the two nations over the past year allowing the export of farm commodities from India.

Commerce Secretary Anup Wadhawan and General Administration of Customs of China (GACC) Vice-Minister Li Guo, who signed the protocol at a meeting here, also discussed issues related to India’s pending request for the clearance of more farm products for the Chinese market.

India extends 1 billion dollar Line of Credit to Mongolia

India has extended 1 billion dollar Line of Credit to Mongolia to set up its first-ever grass-root refinery at Sainshand in Dornogobi Province.

External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Raveesh Kumar said, the capacity of the refinery will be 1.5 Million Metric Tons Per Annum and it will be implemented with Exim Bank funding.

India, China sign protocol for export of Indian chilli meal

India and China Thursday signed a protocol for export of Indian chilli meal to the neighbouring country, the commerce ministry said. Both the sides also agreed to resolve market access issues expeditiously in order to achieve the vision of the leaders of both India and China by promoting a more balanced trade.

India & Turkey vow to strengthen economic relations

India and Turkey vowed to strengthen economic relations with the aim of reaching 10 billion US dollars bilateral trade by 2020.

Turkey’s Deputy Foreign Minister Sedat Onal, who is on a three-day visit to India since May 7, held talks with Gitesh A Sarma, Secretary (West) under the institutional mechanism of foreign office consultations.

Vice President to embark on a four-day visit to Vietnam

The Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu will embark on a four-day official visit to Vietnam from May 09. His visit is expected to enhance India's comprehensive strategic partnership with the Southeast Asian nation.

Apart from holding one-on-one talks with the leaders of Vietnam, the Vice President will participate in the 16th United Nations Day of Vesak at Tam Chuc pagoda in Vietnam's northern Ha Nam province, on May 12 and deliver the keynote address at the inaugural session of the event themed as "Buddhist Approach to Global Leadership and Shared Responsibilities for Sustainable Societies."

20th Conference of Regional Heads of Customs Administration (RHCA) of Asia Pacific Region of the World Customs Organisation (WCO) concludes in Kochi

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) had organised a Conference of the Regional Heads of Customs Administration of Asia Pacific Region of the World Customs Organisation (WCO) in Kochi from 08th to 10th May, 2019. India hosted this Conference in its capacity as Vice-Chair of the Asia Pacific Region of WCO which it assumed on 1st July, 2018 for a two-year period.

India, Australia agree to further deepen counter-terrorism co-operation

India and Australia have agreed to further deepen counter-terrorism co-operation through regular exchange of information and sharing of best practices on countering extremism and radicalization.

The two countries held the 11th Meeting of Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism at Canberra yesterday. In a release, the External Affairs Ministry said, the two sides discussed contemporary counter terrorism challenges such as financing of terrorism, the use of the internet for terror purposes, radicalization and Foreign Terrorist Fighters.

India to attend G-7 meet in France

India will be attending the Group of 7 industrialised nations meet organised by France in Biarritz in August along with Australia, Chile and South Africa, in a sign of the recognition of India's growing economic heft in the international arena.

According to analysts, the invitation clearly reflects the strong strategic connect between India and France. The G-7 groups together the **US, Britain, France, Italy, Canada, Japan and Germany**. The grouping had included Russia but it was left out following tensions with Western nations over the annexation of Crimea in 2015.

Indo-French joint naval exercise Varuna 19.1 begins off Goa coast

The first part of the Indo-French joint naval exercise, Varuna 19.1 is being held off the Goa coast from 1 to 10 May 2019. The exercise will see the participation of the French Navy's aircraft carrier FNS Charles de Gaulle, two destroyers, FNS Forbin and FNS Provence, the frigate FNS Latouche-Treville, the tanker FNS Marne and a nuclear submarine.

From the Indian side, the aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya, destroyer INS Mumbai, the Teg-class frigate, INS Tarkash, the Shishumar- class submarine, INS Shankul, and the Deepak-class fleet tanker, INS Deepak, are taking part in the exercise.

Iraq remains top oil supplier to India

Iraq has, for the second year in a row, become India's top crude oil supplier, meeting more than a fifth of the country's oil needs in 2018-19 fiscal year.

According to data sourced from the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Iraq sold 46.61 million tonnes (mt) of crude oil to India during April 2018 and March 2019, 2% more than 45.74 mt it had supplied in 2017-18 fiscal.

India provisionally imported 207.3 mt of crude oil in 2018-19, down from 220.4 mt in the previous financial year.

India, Australia agree to further deepen counter-terrorism co-operation

India and Australia have agreed to further deepen counter-terrorism co-operation through regular exchange of information and sharing of best practices on countering extremism and radicalization.

The two countries held the 11th Meeting of Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism at Canberra yesterday. In a release, the External Affairs Ministry said, the two sides discussed contemporary counter terrorism challenges such as financing of terrorism, the use of the internet for terror purposes, radicalization and Foreign Terrorist Fighters.

Sino-India IT and DT Industry Cooperation Forum 2019 was held in Guiyang, China

Sino-India IT and DT Industry Cooperation Forum 2019 was held in **Guiyang, China**. To create a new chapter in India-China cooperation in the new era of digital transition, 2019 Sino-India IT and DT Industry Cooperation Forum was held on 27th May in Guiyang, China.

The objective was to create a new chapter in India-China cooperation in the new era of the digital transition. To make progress and boost development, the big data, and artificial intelligence, the countries need to have in-depth exchanges. NIIT Technology, Shanghai signed cooperation agreements with Guizhou University and Guiyang Education Bureau.

India and U.S. Hold Bilateral Trade Meeting

India and the United States held the India-U.S. Bilateral Trade meeting in New Delhi . Suresh Prabhu, Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Government of India and Mr. Wilbur Ross, Secretary of Commerce, United States of America co-chaired the bilateral meeting.

India appreciated the UTrade Winds Indo-Pacific Business Forum and Mission initiative 2019, being held at New Delhi. The forum will bring together distributors, representatives and partners and enable them to increase sales by taking part in business-to-business meetings from 8-10th May, 2019, across India.

High-level Bangladeshi delegation visited All India Radio

A high-level Bangladeshi Delegation, headed by Secretary, Ministry of Information, Abdul Malek, visited All India Radio to work out the modalities of operationalising the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the state broadcasters of two countries earlier.

The delegation met Director General of All India Radio, AIR and DG, News Services Division, AIR and other senior officials to discuss the entire gamut of issues.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

India set to launch second mission to the moon Chandrayan-2 in July, says ISRO

After being deferred several times in last one year, India's second mission to the moon – Chandrayaan 2 is now all set to be launched in July.

The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) which had initially planned to launch the mission last year in April, confirmed that the all the modules for the mission would be ready in the next two months. It would be launched from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.

IAF pay homage to Kargil War Martyrs during Operation Safed Sagar

The Indian Air Force (IAF) Chief Air Chief Marshal (ACM) **B.S. Dhanoa** visits Air Force Station in Bhisiana and Sarsawa to pay homage to the air warriors who made supreme sacrifice during Operation Safed Sagar at Kargil

DRDO successfully test-fired the new version of the Akash

DRDO successfully test-fired the new version of the Akash. The Defence Research Development Organization (DRDO) successfully test-fired the new version of the Akash surface-to-air defence missile system with a new indigenously-developed seeker in Balasore off the Odisha coast on 27 May. This is the second successful test of the missile. The medium range multi-target engagement capable missile was developed as part of the Integrated Guided-Missile Development Programme (IGMDP) other than Nag, Agni, Trishul, and Prithvi missiles.

Russia launched the world's largest nuclear-powered icebreaker 'Ural'

Russia launched the world's largest nuclear-powered icebreaker 'Ural'. Russia launched the world's largest nuclear-powered icebreaker 'Ural' at the Baltic Shipyard in St Petersburg in order to improve its ability to tap the Arctic's commercial potential. Russia is preparing for shipping via the Northern Sea Route (NSR). The Ural will be given to Russia's state-owned nuclear energy corporation Rosatom in 2022 after the other 2 ice-breakers Arktika (Arctic) and Sibir (Siberia) enter into service. The Arktika was floated in 2016.

New surface-to-air missile technology reduces radar signature of Navy fleet

The eponymous Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MR-SAM), jointly developed by India and Israel to defend the Navy's warships against incoming anti-ship missiles, achieved a crucial landmark on Friday. MR-SAMs fired simultaneously from different vessels were directed to two different targets by a single warship, allowing a naval flotilla to reduce its give-away electromagnetic signature.

In a statement of confidence in the MR-SAM, which has been developed by the Defence R&D Organisation (DRDO) in cooperation with Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) and manufactured by Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), the defence ministry announced that the missile system would be fitted "on all future major warships of the Indian Navy."

Australia's Qantas Airlines Launches World's First-Ever 'Zero-Waste' Flight

Australia's Qantas Airlines launched the world's first-ever "zero-waste" flight .

The flight from Sydney to Adelaide marked a "significant day" for aviation, Andrew David, CEO of Qantas' domestic division. The airline typically produces about "80 fully-laden Boeing 747 jumbos" of waste per year on its Qantas and Jetstar flights, according to a press release.

IMCOR 2019 began in Port Blair at Andaman and Nicobar Command

IMCOR 2019 began in Port Blair at Andaman and Nicobar Command. The 2019 **Indo-Myanmar coordinated patrol** (IMCOR) is taking place from 20 May to 28 May 2019 in Port Blair at Andaman and Nicobar Command. This is the 8th edition of the coordinated patrol (CORPAT) between India and Myanmar.

CORPAT:

- The coordinated patrol (CORPAT) initiative between the Indian Navy and Myanmar Navy seeks to address issues of terrorism, human trafficking, poaching, illegal fishing, drug trafficking and other illegal activities harmful to interest of both nations.
- The CORPAT series was first started in Mar 2013. Since then it has fostered improved professional interaction and enhanced mutual understanding between the two navies for maritime interoperability.

ISRO successfully launched earth observation satellite RISAT 2B

ISRO successfully launched earth observation satellite RISAT 2B. ISRO launched Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C46) from the first launch pad of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota on its 48th mission, carrying RISAT-2B on 22nd May. The earth observation satellite **RISAT-2B** is capable of observing Earth during the day, night and even under rainy and cloudy conditions.

The launch of the PSLV marks the third launch in 2019. It was the **72nd launch vehicle mission** from Sriharikota and also marked the 36th launch from the first launch pad.

Tech Mahindra signed a defence contract worth Rs.300 crore with Indian Navy

Tech Mahindra signed a defence contract worth Rs.300 crore with Indian Navy. IT major, Tech Mahindra has signed a defence contract worth Rs.300 crore with Indian Navy. This contract is its biggest agreement to date. The IT major will implement RFID-based access control system across all naval bases and ships as part of ‘Armed Forces Secure Access Card (AFSAC)’ Project.

AFSAC will replace the existing paper-based identity card for all Navy personnel, including dependents and ex-servicemen. As part of the AFSAC Project, Tech Mahindra will implement RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) based access control system across all naval bases and ships.

ISRO announces Seven Mega Missions.

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), recently announced its planned seven mega missions, including Chandrayaan-2 (India’s second lunar exploration mission) which will be conducted over a period of next 10 years. The ISRO has also prepared a roadmap for next 30 years.

Out of seven missions Chandrayaan-2, will be flight ready by May 2019 and its spacecraft will be launched in July 2019.

The rest six are classified as..

- Defined Missions – which include XPoSAt (to study cosmic radiation in 2020) and Aditya-L1(to the Sun in 2021).
- Undefined Missions – which include missions which are still in planning stage namely Mangalyaan-2 (or Mars Orbiter Mission-2 in 2022), Lunar Polar Exploration (or Chandrayaan-3 in 2024), Venus mission (in 2023), Exoworlds (exploration outside the solar system in 2028).

SIMBEX-2019: scheduled from 16 May to 22 May 2019.

After the completion of naval exercise IMDEX-19 recently, the Kolkata Class Destroyers Indian Naval ships namely INS Kolkata and INS Shakti are participating in SIMBEX-2019.

SIMBEX (Singapore India Maritime Bilateral Exercise) is an annual bilateral naval exercise between India and Singapore. It is being held from 16 May to 22 May 2019.

Pacific Vanguard naval exercise began near Guam

Pacific Vanguard naval exercise began near **Guam**. The **United States, Japan, South Korea, and Australia** have kicked off first-of-its-kind naval drills near Guam on **May 23**. The Pacific Vanguard exercise brings together more than 3,000 sailors from the four countries to sharpen skills and strengthen practical cooperation at sea.

NewSpace India Limited: ISRO's new Commercial Arm

The Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) new commercial arm called **NewSpace India Limited (NSIL)** was officially inaugurated in **Bengaluru**. on 6 March 2019, the Department of Space (DoS) registered its second commercial entity called NSIL in ISRO. The first commercial venture of DoS was Antrix Corporation Limited, which was set up in September 1992 to market products and services of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

SpaceX successfully launches, deploys 60 internet satellites

SpaceX successfully launches, deploys **60 internet satellites**. SpaceX sent a packed rocket of 60 satellites into space. The launch was the heaviest payload a Falcon 9 rocket has ever launched. The satellites represent the company's ambitious plan to build an interconnected satellite network to beam high-speed internet to anywhere on the planet.

The Falcon 9 rocket launched from the company's pad in Cape Canaveral, Florida. SpaceX deployed the 60 Starlink satellites in a "very low Earth orbit" of 440 kilometers above the surface. The full Starlink network would consist of 11,943 satellites flying close to the planet, closer than the International Space Station.

Musk's SpaceX Launches Falcon Rocket With Dragon Spacecraft

Elon Musk's Space Exploration Technologies Corp. launched its 17th commercial resupply mission to the International Space Station for longtime customer NASA early Saturday.

The Falcon 9 rocket and Dragon space capsule rumbled aloft at 2:48 a.m. local time from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida. Dragon will deliver almost 5,500 pounds (2,495 kilograms) of science supplies and hardware, according to NASA, and is slated to attach to the station on Monday. SpaceX recovered Falcon 9's first stage on a dronship in the Atlantic Ocean.

Microsoft Unveils Its Own Blockchain-Based Service

Joining the Blockchain bandwagon, Microsoft has unveiled fully-managed Azure Blockchain Service that would simplify the formation, management and governance so that businesses can focus on workflow logic and application development. Instead of supporting cryptocurrency transactions, Azure Blockchain Service will let businesses develop their applications on its Cloud-based platform.

Microsoft has also announced a partnership with J.P. Morgan to make "Quorum" (an enterprise-focused version of open-sourced platform Ethereum) the first ledger available in Azure Blockchain Service.

Vodafone Idea signs multi-million dollar IT deal with IBM

India's largest telecom operator Vodafone Idea Ltd announced a five-year multi-million-dollar IT outsourcing deal with tech giant IBM.

“The collaboration will provide Vodafone Idea with a hybrid cloud based digital platform to enable more intimate engagement with its over 387 million subscribers (as of 31 December, 2018), enhancing business efficiency, agility and scale plus simplification of its business processes.

Shaheen-II: successfully test-fired by Pakistan

Pakistan has successfully test-fired a land-based ballistic missile named ‘**Shaheen-II**’. The impact point of missile was in the Arabian Sea. The test was conducted to ensure operational readiness of Pakistan Army’s Strategic Forces Command.

Shaheen-II is a highly capable missile as it fully meets Pakistan’s strategic needs towards maintenance of desired deterrence and stability in region.

JF-17 Fighter Jet: delivered to PAF by China

China has delivered the first overhauled multi-role **JF-17 Thunder fighter jet** to the **Pakistan Air Force (PAF)**. The delivery was part of a project undertaken by two nations more than a decade ago for development and manufacture of the aircraft.

IAF successfully test fired the aerial version of the supersonic BrahMos cruise missile

IAF successfully test fired the aerial version of the supersonic BrahMos cruise missile. The Indian Air Force (IAF) successfully test fired the aerial version of the supersonic BrahMos cruise missile from a **Su-30 MKI fighter aircraft at the Andaman and Nicobar Islands**. The test marked a major milestone to enhance its precision strike capability.

The capability of the missile coupled with the superlative performance of the Su-30MKI aircraft gives the IAF the desired strategic reach.

The US Air Force successfully tested a laser system to shoot down missiles

The US Air Force announced that it has successfully used a laser weapons system to shoot down multiple missiles while in flight. The system is designed to eventually be mounted on aircraft to be used to protect the vehicle from attacks.

The Air Force Research Laboratory conducted the test at the US Army’s White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico in April. The system, called the Self-Protect High Energy Laser Demonstrator (SHiELD), was used from the ground, and was used to shoot down “multiple air launched missiles in flight.”.

Momo-3 is Japan’s first private rocket to reach space

A Japanese aerospace startup successfully launched a small rocket , making it the country’s first privately developed model to reach outer space.

Interstellar Technology Inc. said the unmanned Momo-3 launched from its test site in Hokkaido and reached about 110 kilometers (68 miles) in altitude before falling into the Pacific Ocean after 10 minutes of flight time.

BSNL launches ‘Bharat Fibre’ broadband service in Kashmir Valley

State-owned telecom firm BSNL has become the first operator to start optical fibre-based high-speed broadband service in Pulwama with the launch of ‘Bharat Fibre’, the company said. BSNL provides FTTH service with a monthly charge in the range of Rs 777-16,999 in over 160 telecom districts with a minimum speed of 2 megabit per second (mbps).

Huawei overtakes Apple to become second biggest smartphone maker

Huawei Technologies Co overtook Apple Inc to claim the No. 2 spot in smartphones in the first quarter, moving a step closer to its avowed ambition of displacing Samsung at the top of the market.

The networking giant, shrugging off a barrage of accusations that it aids Chinese espionage (which it’s repeatedly denied), grew shipments 50% from a year earlier, research firm IDC estimates. It was the only name in the top 4 that managed to expand volumes as the overall market slid for the sixth consecutive quarter.

Airtel and Hughes to merge their India VSAT operations

Bharti Airtel has decided to merge its broadband satellite, or VSAT, business with that of market leader Hughes Communications India, to create a stronger no. 1 in the space, in a bid to increase scale, improve operational efficiencies and target new customers in areas such as in-flight connectivity.

Hughes Communications will own 67% share of the new entity while Airtel will own the rest, people familiar with the matter said. They added that the new company will continue to be called Hughes Communications India Ltd., but the name could be changed in future.

Microsoft unveils free ‘ElectionGuard’ tool to help secure U.S. polls

In a bid to help countries ensure secure and verifiable voting, Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella has announced “ElectionGuard” — a free open-source software development kit (SDK).

“ElectionGuard” will enable end-to-end verification of elections, open results to third-party organisations for secure validation, and allow individual voters to confirm their votes were correctly counted, announced Nadella during the keynote at Microsoft Build developer conference.

US Air Force successfully shoots down multiple missiles with a laser

The US Air Force just edged closer to its goal of outfitting aircraft with laser weapons. Testers at the White Sands Missile Range have successfully shot down multiple air-launched missiles using the Self-Protect High Energy Laser Demonstrator (SHiELD), proving that it can hold up under intense situations.

While SHiELD is currently a ground-based behemoth (see below), the finished technology should be portable and rugged enough to be used aboard aircraft.

SPORTS

Indian para-athletes clinch medals at Asian Road para-cycling championships

Indian para-athletes came up with brilliant performance to secure a silver and two bronze medals at the Asian Road para-cycling championships at Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

Divij Shah clinched silver while Asian Para Games bronze medallist Gurlal Singh and Hand cyclist Sudhakar Marathe claimed bronze.

G Sathiyam becomes first Indian to break into top-25 of table tennis world rankings

India's G Sathiyam scaled new heights in his rapidly rising career by becoming the first Indian to break into the top-25 of the latest world ranking list released by International Table Tennis Federation.

Sathiyam rose four spots to be 24th in the ITTF rankings, following his impressive sixth place finish in the Asia Cup in Yokohama earlier this month to secure a place in the World Cup in Chengdu from October 25 to 27. Last week, he was the sole Indian to reach the round of 32 in the World Championships in Hungary.

Twenty two Indian women boxers enter semis of 2nd India Open International Boxing tournament

Twenty two Indian women boxers enter semis of 2nd India Open International Boxing tournament. Twenty-Two Indian women boxers including **MC Mary Kom** have assured medals by entering the Semi-Finals of India Open International Boxing tournament in Guwahati. Ace boxer Mary Kom had an easy win against Nepal's Mala Rai in the Quarter Final last night. She will face compatriot Nikhat Zareen in the much anticipated Semi-Final in the 51 kg category.

Helo becomes team sponsor of Indian Wheelchair Cricket Association for Asia Cup

Helo becomes team sponsor of Indian Wheelchair Cricket Association for Asia Cup. Helo, India's social media platform became team sponsor of Indian Wheelchair Cricket Association(WCA) for Team India for Asia Cup 2019. It was scheduled from May 15 to 18 in **Nepal**. Through this partnership with team India. Helo became the first social media app to host and promote Indian Wheelchair Cricket.

Mary Kom, Sarita Devi win gold at India Open

Six-time world champion **MC Mary Kom and Sarita Devi won gold medals at the second India Open boxing tournament**, which concluded on Friday. India won medals in 52 kg, 81 kg, 91 kg and +91 kg men's categories and 51 kg, 57 kg and 75 kg in women's to conclude the campaign with 12 of the 18 gold medals available.

Messi finishes as Europe's top scorer for 3rd straight year

Barcelona's Argentine forward **Lionel Messi has become the first player to win Europe's Golden Shoe award for three straight years.** Messi scored 36 times for Barcelona, while PSG's French forward Kylian Mbappe ended at the second spot after finishing the campaign on 33 goals. Messi's Barcelona is set to face Valencia in the final of the Copa del Rey.

ICC Rankings: Shakib becomes No.1 ranked ODI all-rounder ahead of World Cup

Shakib becomes No1 ranked ODI all rounder ahead of World Cup. Senior Bangladesh cricketer Shakib Al Hasan jumped to the top of the latest MRF Tyres ICC ODI rankings for all-rounders, which doesn't feature a single Indian in the top-10 chart.

He grabbed the top spot just ahead of the ODI World Cup after showcasing fine form during the tri-nation series in Ireland, which Bangladesh famously won to claim their first title in a multi-nation tournament.

FIFA drops plans to expand Qatar World cup 2022 to 48 teams

FIFA drops plans to expand Qatar World cup 2022 to 48 teams. FIFA has dropped the plan to include a total of 48 teams at the **2022 World Cup in Qatar.** The 2022 edition will remain as originally planned with **32 teams.**

The expansion proposal was proposed and pressed by FIFA's president, Gianni Infantino. In January 2017, FIFA voted unanimously in favour of increasing the World Cup to 48 teams for the 2026 event – which will be held in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Ivo Karlovic-Oldest Man to win a match at the French Open 2019 for 46 years

Ivo Karlovic-Oldest Man to win a match at the French Open 2019 for 46 years. Croatia's **Ivo Karlovic became the oldest man to win a match at the French Open 2019 for 46 years** on 28 May. He beat Spain's fellow veteran Feliciano Lopez in a first-round duel. Forty-year-old Ivo Karlovic became the oldest player to win a match at Roland Garros and defeated 37-year-old Feliciano Lopez to secure 7-6(4), 7-5, 6-7(7), 7-5 in three hours and six minutes to reach the second round at the clay-court Grand Slam for the sixth time.

Johanna Konta loses Italian Open final to Karolina Pliskova in straight sets

Johanna Konta's hopes of winning the Italian Open were dashed as **Karolina Pliskova** powered her way to victory in Rome.

The No 4 seed claimed her second title of the season with a 6-3, 6-4 win over the **British No 1. Pliskova** broke in the second game and although the unseeded Konta made life difficult and managed a breakpoint late-on, the Czech made just five unforced errors to take it 6-3.

Kylian Mbappe voted best top-flight player in France

Paris St-Germain's Kylian Mbappe, who has already scored 32 goals this season, was named both the best player and best Under-21 player for the 2018-19 season on Sunday. German midfielder Dzsenifer Marozsan, who helped Olympique Lyonnais' women's team to a record-extending 13th consecutive league title and fourth straight Champions League crown, was named the best first division female player.

PV Sindhu, Saina Nehwal to spearhead Indian challenge at Sudirman Cup in China

PV Sindhu, Saina Nehwal to spearhead Indian challenge at Sudirman Cup in China. Sudirman Cup tournament will begin at the Guangxi Sports Center Gymnasium in Nanning, China. The Top shuttlers PV Sindhu and Saina Nehwal will spearhead the Indian challenge at this prestigious tournament.

The Indian team will begin their campaign tomorrow against Malaysia in Group 1-D. India reached the quarterfinals twice in the 2011 and 2017 editions but failed to cross the last eight stage. Sudirman Cup is a mixed team Badminton Championship held every two years.

There are 12 elite teams that will take part in the tournament. Each group comprises of three teams, with the top two qualifying for the quarterfinals.

Rafael Nadal claimed the Italian Open 2019 title

Rafael Nadal claimed the Italian Open 2019 title. Rafael Nadal has won a record 34th ATP Masters 1000 title by defeating Novak Djokovic in the Italian Open final 2019. This is his ninth Rome title. Nadal dominated in a 6-0, 4-6, 6-1 win broke a tie with his longtime rival Djokovic.

For his victory, Nadal received 1,000 ATP Ranking points and earned ₹7.5 crore. Djokovic produced an error-strewn performance in his 54th meeting with Nadal.

After three semi-final defeats in Monte Carlo, Barcelona and Madrid, Nadal has returned to his best form ahead of Roland Garros and clinched his first title of the season.

Anirudh and Niki won the 2019 ITF mens Futures tennis title in Uganda

Anirudh and Niki won the 2019 ITF mens Futures tennis title in Uganda. Top seeds **Anirudh Chandrasekar and Niki Poonacha** won the 2019 International Tennis Federation (ITF) men's Futures tennis tournament title in Kampala, Uganda.

The pair defeated Simon Carr and Ryan James Storrie and secured 6-3, 6-4. It was the maiden international title for Anirudh, while it was fourth doubles title for Poonacha.

Laver Cup becomes an official ATP event

Laver Cup, an event played between a 'Europe' team and a 'Rest of the World' team, has been made into an official ATP event. The competition, the first two editions of which were held in Prague and Chicago respectively, is backed by Roger Federer. Notably, this year's edition of the tournament in Geneva will hold no ranking points.

Sethu FC Crowned As Indian Womens League Champions

Sethu FC Crowned As Indian Womens League Champions. **Sethu FC** turned around a first-half deficit to clinch their first ever Indian Women's League trophy **defeating Manipur Police** at the **Guru Nanak Stadium, in Ludhiana, Punjab.**

India international had the first clear chance a little after 10 minutes when she received the ball just inside the box and pulled the trigger. However, she scuffed her instep shot and it lacked any sting. The winger had another good chance when she received the ball from a melee inside the Manipur box, but her shot rolled inches wide of the post.

Lyon beat Barca 4-1 to win 4th consecutive Women's CL title

French side Lyon beat Barcelona 4-1 to lift their fourth consecutive Women's Champions League title on Saturday. Ada Hegerberg, the first female Ballon d'Or winner, scored three times in the first half. Lyon have now won their sixth Women's Champions League title since 2011. "Everyone was ready on the pitch and you could feel that from minute one," Hegerberg said.

Cristiano Ronaldo wins Serie A Player of the Year award

Juventus forward Cristiano Ronaldo was given the 'Serie A Player of the Year' award on Saturday. With this win, Ronaldo has now won the domestic player of the year award in England, Spain, and Italy. The 34-year-old joined Juventus in 2018, leaving Real Madrid as the club's all-time goalscorer, and after having won three consecutive Champions League titles.

Man City become first team to complete English domestic treble

Manchester City defeated Watford 6-0 on Saturday to win their sixth FA Cup title. With this, Manchester City, who also won League Cup and Premier League this season, became the first men's team to complete the English domestic treble. Raheem Sterling scored a hat-trick, while David Silva, Kevin De Bruyne and Gabriel Jesus netted one goal each in the final.

Lewis Hamilton wins Monaco GP, extends championship lead

Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton extended his lead at the top of the Formula One championship table after winning the **Monaco Grand Prix** on Sunday. Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel finished second while Hamilton's teammate Valtteri Bottas was third. Red Bull's Max Verstappen had finished the race in the second position but was placed fourth due to a five-second penalty.

India bags 57 medals at India Open International tournament

India bags 57 medals at India Open International tournament. India bags a total of 57 medals including 12 Gold, 18 Silver and 27 Bronze at India Open International Boxing tournament in Guwahati. **MC Mary Kom, Shiva Thapa, L Sarita Devi, and Naman Tanwar won gold** in their respective finals. This was Mary's second gold in the tournament, having won in 48 kg last year in the capital. On the other hand, Deepak defeated Govind Kumar in 49 kg final while in 52 kg category- Amit Panghal defeated Sachin.

China beat Japan won 2019 Sudirman Cup

China beat Japan won 2019 Sudirman Cup. China won the badminton world mixed-team championship, Sudirman Cup 2019 in Nanning. They beat Japan in men's doubles, women's singles and men's singles and won the title for the 11th time. In the latest Men's singles match Shi Yuqi stunned world champion Kento Momota for 15-21, 21-5, 21-11.

Apurvi Chandela bags gold medal in 10m Air Rifle in ISSF World Cup

Apurvi Chandela bags gold medal in 10m Air Rifle in ISSF World Cup. India won third International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup Rifle and Pistol tournament in Munich, Germany. Apurvi Chandela won gold in the women's 10m Air Rifle competition after a closely-fought contest.

She shot a score of 251 in the final to outshine Wang Luyao of China, who shot **250.8**. This was Apurvi's second ISSF World Cup gold of the year followed by a world record score in New Delhi. After the first round of qualifying in the women's 25m Pistol, Asian Games champion Rahi Sarnobat stood in the second position with a score of 294.

India's Mahesh Mangaonkar won Sekisui Open

India's **Mahesh Mangaonkar** won Sekisui Open. India's Mahesh Mangaonkar for the second time in the Sekisui Open in Kriens, Switzerland. Three years back he had won it the first time. Sekisui Open is a Challenger tour event of the Professional Squash Association (PSA), the world body which governs the sports. Top-seeded Mahesh beat third seed Bernat Jaume of Spain in four games 11-9, 3-11, 11-5, 11-5 yesterday to win his 8th PSA title.

Apurvi Chandela attains world number one spot in women's 10 m air rifle event

Indian shooting ace Apurvi Chandela attained the world number one position in the women's 10 metres air rifle event while compatriot Anjum Moudgil rose to number two after consistent performances in recent years. The rifle ace from Jaipur is among the five Indian shooters to have already secured 2020 Olympics quotas for the country.

Sana Mir becomes the highest wicket-taking spinner in ODI

Pakistan off-spinner Sana Mir has become the most successful women's ODI spinner in history after she took her 147th wicket, highest ever by any spinner in One-day International (ODI) cricket.

Mir had 146 wickets under her belt when she stepped out on the field on Sunday to play against South Africa in the ongoing ICC Women's Championship being played in South Africa. She took only one wicket but the only wicket she took in the match turned out to be the most crucial one as she dismissed Sune Luus, who played a knock of 80 runs.

Mumbai beat Chennai by one run to win record 4th IPL title

Mumbai Indians became IPL champions for the fourth time after defeating Chennai Super Kings by one run in a thrilling final in Hyderabad last night. Last ball dismissal of Shardul Thakur by paceman Lasith Malinga registered final win for Mumbai over Chennai.

Mary Kom, Sarita Devi win gold at India Open

Six-time world champion **MC Mary Kom and Sarita Devi won gold medals at the second India Open boxing tournament**, which concluded on Friday. India won medals in 52 kg, 81 kg, 91 kg and +91 kg men's categories and 51 kg, 57 kg and 75 kg in women's to conclude the campaign with 12 of the 18 gold medals available.

Jaipur to host Asian youth Women Handball Championship

Jaipur will host the 8th Asian Youth Women Handball Championship in which 10 teams, including defending champions South Korea, will be participating.

The general secretary of the Handball Federation of India, Anandeshwar Pandey, said here that it is the first time that the prestigious tournament would be played in the city from August 21 to 30.

Lewis Hamilton wins Monaco GP, extends championship lead

Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton extended his lead at the top of the Formula One championship table after winning the **Monaco Grand Prix** on Sunday. Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel finished second while Hamilton's teammate Valtteri Bottas was third. Red Bull's Max Verstappen had finished the race in the second position but was placed fourth due to a five-second penalty.

Rahi Sarnobat clinched gold in the womens 25m pistol in 2019 ISSF World Cup

Rahi Sarnobat clinched gold in the **womens 25m pistol** in **2019 ISSF World Cup**. Rahi Sarnobat clinched gold in the women's 25m pistol at the season's third International Shooting Sport Federation World Cup in Munich, Germany. By this win, she sealed an Olympic quota place for India in style.

She secured 37 (out of 50 shots) in the final. This is India's first Olympic quota spot in this event. Sarnobat, the Asian Games champion, was second in the final behind compatriot Bhaker. However, once she got the lead, she maintained it till the gold medal shot. Olena Kostevych of Ukraine won silver with 36 hits while Bulgaria's Antoaneta Boneva won bronze with 26.

Saurabh Chaudhary won his second gold medal in 10m Air Pistol event in 2019 ISSF Gold Cup

Saurabh Chaudhary won his **second gold medal in 10m Air Pistol** event in **2019 ISSF Gold Cup**. India's 17-year-old shooter Saurabh Chaudhary broke his own junior and senior world record to win his second gold medal in 10m Air Pistol event in ISSF Gold Cup 2019. Saurabh won 10m Air Pistol event with 246.3 points, breaking his own senior record of 245 points and junior record of 245.5 points. This is Saurabh's second gold in the same event. Saurabh had booked a quota for 2020 Olympics during his maiden World Cup in February.

Lewis Hamilton won Monaco Grand Prix

Lewis Hamilton won **Monaco Grand Prix**. Lewis Hamilton won the Monaco Grand Prix to extend his championship. He defeated Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas. Hamilton struggled with grip and was under constant pressure from Red Bull's Max Verstappen. But earlier he picked up a five-second time penalty.

Barcelona legend Xavi Hernandez announces retirement

Barcelona midfielder Xavi Hernandez has announced that the 2018/19 season will be his final one as a professional footballer. Xavi, who currently plays for Al-Sadd in Qatar, holds the all-time appearances record at FC Barcelona with 767, and scored 85 goals from 1998 to 2015.

Saurav Ghosal, Joshna Chinappa win Asian Championship titles

Saurav Ghosal and Joshna Chinappa won the individual titles in the Asian Squash Championship. Joshna Chinappa, the second seed, successfully defended her title, beating the top seed Annie Au of Hong Kong 11-5, 8-11, 11-6, 11-6 in the summit clash.

Pakistani cricketer Shahid Afridi released his auto-biography, ‘Game Changer’

Pakistan’s former captain and star all-rounder Shahid Afridi recently released his autobiography, titled ‘Game Changer’.

The book, co-authored by Afridi and journalist Wajahat S Khan, details some interesting and exciting information from the cricketer’s life.

Gaurav Solanki, Manish Kaushik Win Gold in Stamm International Boxing Tournament

Gaurav Solanki (52kg) and Manish Kaushik (60kg) delivered a gold medal each as Indian boxers collected a rich haul of two gold, one silver and three bronze to finish their campaign on a high at the XXXVI Feliks Stamm International Boxing Tournament in Warsaw, Poland on Saturday.

The 22-year-old Solanki showed glimpses of the impeccable form that brought him a gold medal from the Commonwealth Games and the Chemistry Cup last year as he outpunched England’s William Cawley 5-0 on his way to the coveted yellow metal.

Chelsea clinched the UEFA Europa League 2019 Cup

Chelsea clinched the UEFA Europa League 2019 Cup. Chelsea clinched the UEFA Europa League 2019 Cup. It scored four goals in a devastating second-half display to beat Arsenal 4-1 on 29 May at the Baku Olympic Stadium in Azerbaijan.

It gave Italian manager Maurizio Sarri a major trophy in his first season in charge and Chelsea a first European title since the 2013 Europa League. The triumph in Baku means Chelsea have won three European titles in seven years, with the Champions League triumph in 2012 followed by their first Europa League victory in 2013.

ICC launches criiiio campaign on eve of World Cup

ICC launches criiiio campaign on eve of World Cup. ICC launched the criiiio campaign on the eve of the men’s World Cup bringing together 460 million people playing cricket globally to celebrate the magnificent diversity of cricket. The ICC to join the social cricket tribe by sharing pictures and videos of where and how they play cricket across the world using the newly launched **#criiiio and visiting criiiio.com**.

International Shooting: Esha-Akull pair strikes silver

India’s Esha Singh and Akull Kumar topped qualification but were beaten by 5.4 points for the gold in junior mixed air pistol event by the German pair of Jan Luca Karstedt and Vanessa Seeger in the International Shooting Competition .

Amul to sponsor Afghanistan in 2019 World Cup

Amul has been announced as the principal sponsor of the Afghanistan cricket team for the upcoming World Cup, slated to be held in England and Wales from May 30.

The logo of brand Amul will appear on the leading arm of the Afghanistan team playing jerseys as well as on the training kits throughout the showpiece event.

Madrid Open: Rafael Nadal beats Felix Auger Aliassime 6-3, 6-3

In Madrid Open, Rafael Nadal, a five times champion in Madrid, beat Canadian teenager Felix Auger Aliassime 6-3, 6-3 to reach the last 16.

In women's singles world number one Naomi Osaka delivered an improved display to reach the quarter-finals of the Madrid Open yesterday, beating Aliaksandra Sasnovich 6-2, 6-3.

Mukesh Kumar wins PGTI Players Championship

Seasoned golfer Mukesh Kumar produced a spectacular and error-free last round of seven-under-65 to win the TATA Steel PGTI Players Championship in Panchkula. The 53-year-old from Mhow won by one shot with a total of 15-under-273 at Panchkula Golf Club.

India to host 4-nation Intercontinental Cup

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) confirmed participation of Syria, North Korea and Tajikistan in the second edition of the Intercontinental Cup, starting on July 7. The venue for the tournament is yet to be decided.

The Blue Tigers come into the competition as defending champions, having won the inaugural edition in June 2018 by defeating Kenya in the final, courtesy a brace from Sunil Chhetri, the Hero of the Tournament. New Zealand and Chinese Taipei were the other two teams in the fray.

Bayern Munich beat Leipzig 3-0 to lift German Cup

Bayern Munich completed a domestic double after **beating Leipzig 3-0** in the German Cup final on Saturday. Bayern's Arjen Robben and Franck Ribery went on late to make their last appearances for Bayern after representing the club for 10 and 12 seasons respectively. Ribery became the only player to play in eight German Cup finals.

Asia-Pacific Diamond Cup: Gangjee finishes tied 39, Asaji wins title

India's Rahil Gangjee finished tied 39th while Viraj Madappa faltered on the final day and ended tied 53rd at the Asia-Pacific Diamond Cup .

Madappa had an 81 in a round where nothing seemed to go right for him, while Gangjee (74) Gangjee started with a double but managed to hold his round. Japan's Yosuke Asaji capped an unforgettable week when he held his nerve to win the tournament by one shot on Mothers' Day at the Sobu Country Club.

Tennis: Novak Djokovic wins Madrid Open title

Top seed Novak Djokovic of Serbia beat Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece 6-3, 6-4 to win his third Madrid Open title.

The world number one was able to improve on his epic 7-6, 7-6 semifinal win over Dominic Thiem of Austria for a more straightforward victory over Tsitsipas, who is still searching for his first Masters 1000 title.

Virat Kohli becomes first cricketer with 100 million social media followers

Virat Kohli becomes first cricketer with **100 million social media followers**. Virat Kohli is the first cricketer in the world ever to break into the 100 million category for followers on social media.

Virat Kohli has Facebook (37.1 million), Twitter (29.4 million) and Instagram (33.5 million) to his name. Football giant from Portugal Cristiano Ronaldo is the most popular sportsperson on the social media with 77 million followers on Twitter, 122 million followers on Facebook and 166 million followers on Instagram.

Asian Football Confederation to have first-ever female referee team to take charge of mens AFC cup

Asian Football Confederation(AFC) to have **first-ever female referee team** to take charge of **mens AFC cup**. Asian Football Confederation(AFC) announced its first-ever female referee team to officiate Men's Continental Club Cup match. The team consists of 3 Japanese referees namely, **Yoshimi Yamashita** and **assistants Makoto Bozono and Naomi Teshirogi**.

The match between Myanmar's Yangon United and Cambodia's Naga World at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon, Myanmar. Prior officiating this match, they served as assistant referees in AFC Cup matches along with Australians Sarah Ho and Alysson Flynn becoming the first in 2014.

Shagun best-placed Indian in women's trap at Changwon Shotgun WC

Shagun Chowdhary shot 65 out of 75 to emerge the best-placed Indian at 34th position after day one of the Women's Trapshooting qualifiers at the International Shooting Sport Federation World Cup Shotgun in Changwon, Korea.

Shagun shot rounds of 21, 21 and 23 to lie at 34th spot with France's Carole Cormenier and China's Wang Xiaojing leading the 59-strong field with scores of 72 each at the year's third Shotgun World Cup stage.

Helo becomes team sponsor of Indian Wheelchair Cricket

Helo, India's social media platform, has announced its partnership with the Indian Wheelchair Cricket Association as the team sponsor for Team India during the Asia Cup 2019, which is scheduled from May 15 in Nepal. This association makes Helo the first social media app to host and promote Indian Wheelchair Cricket on its platform. As part of the

association, Helo will now be the official digital media partner for the team during the tournament.

OBITUARY

Name of the Person Died	Associated Field
John Singleton	Filmmaker. Famous for 'Boyz n the Hood' movie.
Master Hirannaiah	Noted Kannada theatre personality
V. Viswanatha Menon	Former Finance Minister of Kerala
Peter Mayhew	Actor – Famous for his role Chewbacca in Star Wars series
S. Krishnan	The Hindu's former Sports Editor
Maramraju Satyanarayana Rao	Prominent writer and academician
Derek Sippy	Former billiards player, coach and administrator
Prof N.R. Madhava Menon	Educationist, scholar and the pioneering spirit behind modern legal education in India
Seymour Nurse	Wisden Cricketer of the Year & Former Windies batsman
Kirpal Singh	Renowned Sikh historian
Baidyanath Mishra	Renowned economist
Thoppil Mohamed Meeran	Noted novelist and Sahitya Akademi awardee
YC Deveshwar	ITC's longest serving chief
Nebburu Narayana Hegde	Noted Yakshagana 'bhagawatha' (singer)
Hiralal Yadav	Padma Shri awardee & Bhojpuri folk singer
Clement von Franckenstein	British Actor
Doris Day	Hollywood Actress
I. M. Pei	American architecture
Bob Hawke	Former Australian Prime Minister
Niki Lauda	3-time Formula One world champion
Vijaya Mulay	Filmmaker and film historian
Veeru Devgan	Ajay Devgn's father, veteran action director Veeru Devgan
Murray Gell-Man	Nobel Prize winning physicist

IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme
May 1	International Labour Day	Sustainable Pension for all: The Role of Social Partners
May 3	World Press Freedom Day	Media for Democracy: Journalism and Elections in Times of Disinformation
May 4	International Firefighters' Day (IFFD)	
May 5	World Laughter Day	
May 7	World Asthma Day	'STOP for Asthma'
May 7	Border Roads Organisation (BRO)'s 59 th Raising Day	

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May 8	World Red Cross Day	#Love
May 6 to 12, 2019	United Nations Global Road Safety Week	'Leadership for Road Safety'
May 11	National Technology Day	
May 12	International Nurses Day (IND)	'Nurses – A Voice to Lead –Health for All'.
May 15	International Day of Families	Families and Climate Action: Focus on SDG 13
May 20	World Metrology Day	
May 20	World Bee Day	
May 21	Anti Terrorism day in India	
May 23	World Tortoise Day	
May 23	International Day to End Obstetric Fistula	
May 28	Veer Savarkar	
May 28	World Hunger Day	Sustainability.
May 29	International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers	Protecting Civilians, Protecting Peace
May 30	World No Tobacco Day	Make Every Day World No Tobacco Day.