

IMPORTANT

CURRENT AFFAIRS CAPSULE

MARCH 2019

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Table of Contents

Awards & Honours	3
Days & Events	9
International Affairs	11
Personalities in News	17
Books & Authors	17
Government Policies & Schemes	20
Science & Technology	24
Committees & Recommendations	29
Business & Economy	30
Sports.....	42
Defence.....	50
Polity	55
National Affairs	56

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Awards & Honours

Indian origin scientist awarded

- Dr. Rajendra Kumar Joshi was awarded the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award (PBSA) for his contributions in the field of science, education, and medicine.
- Dr. Joshi is a scientist of Indian origin and is based in Switzerland.
- The PBSA is the highest honour conferred on Non-resident Indians by the President of India for their significant contributions towards bringing honour and glory to India.

Source Link: https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/indian-origin-scientist-awarded-119032801159_1.html

NRAI won the best sports federation award

- The National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) was presented the 'Best Sports Federation' Award in the country by the Association Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ASSOCHAM).
- The National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) was founded in 1951 with a view to promote and popularize the shooting sports in India.
- Raninder Singh is the president of NRAI.

Source Link: <https://sportstar.thehindu.com/shooting/nrai-best-sports-federation-award-assochem/article26665342.ece>

Rita to get Career Achievement award

- Veteran actor Rita Moreno will receive the '2019 Peabody Career Achievement Award' in May 2019.
- The Peabody Career Achievement Award is for individuals whose work and commitment to electronic media has left an indelible mark on the field.
- She is one of the 15 people to win the coveted EGOT quartet of elite awards.

Source Link: https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/rita-moreno-to-be-honoured-with-peabody-career-achievement-award-119032900578_1.html

Manu Gulati gets Martha Farrell Award 2019

- Delhi government school teacher, Manu Gulati was honored with the Martha Farrell award for Excellence in Women's Empowerment 2019 in the Most Promising Individual category.
- She won prize money of INR 1,50,000 for promoting gender quality and women's empowerment.
- The Awards were first awarded in 2017 in the memory of Dr. Martha Farrell, a prominent activist for gender equality.

Source Link: <https://www.indiatoday.in/education-today/news/story/delhi-govt-school-teacher-manu-ulati-gets-martha-farrell-award-2019-for-women-empowerment-1488761-2019-03-28>

Turing Awards presented

- Three pioneers in AI, Geoffrey Hinton, Yann LeCun, and Yoshua Bengio has been honored with the Turing Award.
- It is an annual prize awarded by the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) since 1966.
- It is given to the individuals who've made contributions of lasting and major technical importance to the computer field.
- Hinton has been referred to by many as the 'Godfather of AI.'

Source Link: <https://www.theverge.com/2019/3/27/18280665/ai-godfathers-turing-award-2018-yoshua-bengio-geoffrey-hinton-yann-lecun>

Amartya Sen to be honored Bodley Award

- Nobel Prize-winning economist Amartya Sen was awarded the prestigious Bodley Medal.
- It is the highest honor granted by the University of Oxford's world-famous Bodleian Libraries.
- The medal is awarded to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the fields in which the Bodleian is awarded are, including literature, culture, science, and communication.

Source Link: <https://www.indiatoday.in/education-today/notification/story/nobel-prize-recipient-amartya-sen-to-be-awarded-with-oxford-university-s-bodley-award-1488592-2019-03-28>

Croatia honored President Kovind

- President Ram Nath Kovind was honoured with Croatia's highest civilian award, the **Grand Order of the King of Tomislav** on 26 March 2019.
- He is on an 8-day visit to Croatia, Bolivia, and Chile to further strengthen bilateral ties between India and the three countries.
- It is awarded to heads of state for their important contribution towards the development of relations with Croatia.

Source Link: <https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/india/croatia-honours-president-kovind-with-highest-civilian-award-3704631.html>

Cyrus Poonawalla and Rahat Khan to be honored

- Cyrus Poonawalla and singer Rahat Fateh Ali Khan are among 8 people, who will be honoured by the University of Oxford at a ceremony on June 26, 2019.
- The university will also confer the honorary degrees on academics Jennifer Doudna, Andrea Ghez, Shafi Goldwasser, Daniel Kahneman and Simon Wessely, and cellist Yo-Yo Ma.
- Cyrus Poonawalla is the Founder and Chairman of Serum Institute of India.

Source Link: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/oxford-university-to-honour-cyrus-poonawalla-rahaf-fateh-ali-khan/story-tJ9K1cnAI3xXV1G4PLmGWK.html>

Indian Oil companies won ADNOC awards

- A consortium of 2 Indian oil companies, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited and Indian Oil Corporation Limited have been awarded the exploration rights for Abu Dhabi Onshore Block 1.
- The Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, ADNOC, signed agreements awarding the exploration rights on 25 March 2019.
- The award has been endorsed by Abu Dhabi's Supreme Petroleum Council.

Source
Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=ADNOC-awards-onshore-block-to-Indian-consortium&id=361416>

Meghna Gulzar won Best Director

- Meghna Gulzar won the Best Director at Filmfare Awards for her film Raazi, starring Alia Bhatt and Vicky Kaushal.
- Shreya Ghoshal and Arijit Singh won Best Playback Singers for Padmaavat and Raazi respectively.

Source Link: <https://www.filmfare.com/awards/filmfare-awards-2019/winners>

Filmfare awards 2019 announced

- 64th Filmfare Awards were held at Jio Garden, Mumbai on 23 March 2019.
- Raazi won the Best Film and Alia Bhatt received the Best Actress for Raazi.
- Ranveer Singh won Critics Best Actor for Padmaavat.
- Ranbir Kapoor won Best Actor for Sanju.
- Anhadhun won Critcs Best Film.

Source Link: <https://www.filmfare.com/awards/filmfare-awards-2019/winners>

'World of Women' awards presented

- The Hindu World of Women 2019 Awards were given to recognise women who have excelled in various fields.

- Ms. Menon was given The Hindu Lifetime Achievement Award 2019.
- Preethi Srinivasan, founder, Soulfree, who became paralysed below the neck after a freak accident received 'The Hindu Inspiration Award 2019'.

Source
Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/chennai/world-of-women-awards-presented/article26614494.ece>

Awards and Honours

- Sociologist and political psychoanalyst Ashis Nandy was named the recipient of 2019 Hans Kilian Award.
- The Hans Kilian Award was instituted by the Köhler Foundation in Germany.
- Hindi writer Leeladhar Jagudi will be honoured with the Vyas Samman 2018 by the KK Birla Foundation for his collection of poems 'Jitne Log Utne Prem'.

Source
Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/hindi-writer-leeladhar-jagudi-to-be-honoured-with-vyas-samman/article26538279.ece>

Annual TSJA awards announced

- Saina Nehwal was named 'Sportsperson of the Year' at the annual Telangana Sports Journalists Association (TSJA) Awards on 19 March 2019.
- P.V. Sindhu was given the 'Outstanding Performer' Award.
- P. Gopichand was presented the 'Coach of the Year' Award.
- The Indian badminton team was adjudged the 'Team of the Year'.
- The Badminton Association of Telangana was named 'Association of the Year'.

Source Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/sport/other-sports/saina-named-sportsperson-of-the-year-at-tsja-awards/article26587228.ece>

Raghu Karnad won the Windham-Campbell Prize

- Journalist and writer Raghu Karnad won the \$165,000 Windham-Campbell Prize in the non-fiction category for his debut book, The Farthest Field: An Indian Story Of The Second World War.
- Karnad is the second Indian to receive the prestigious prize, since Jerry Pinto won it for his novel, Em And The Big Hoom, in 2016.
- The Windham-Campbell Prize was established in 2013.

Source Link: <https://www.livemint.com/mint-lounge/features/karnad-s-indian-story-gets-him-windham-campbell-prize-in-uk-1552562401820.html>

Kane Williamson gets Sir Richard Hadlee Medal

- Kiwi captain Kane Williamson got Sir Richard Hadlee Medal for Men's Player of the Year on 21 March 2019.
- Williamson also got the Test Player of the Year award and the Redpath Cup for First Class batting.
- Kerr also bagged three awards — the Women's ODI Player of the Year, Phyl Blackler Cup for women's domestic bowling and the Venus Cup for Secondary Schools Female Player of the Year.

Source

Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/sport/cricket/kane-williamson-gets-sir-richard-hadlee-medal-for-mens-player-of-the-year/article26601010.ece>

Vymo won FICCI Award

- Vymo was recognized by FICCI (The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry) at the recently concluded 2nd Edition of the FICCI PICUP Conference for 'Innovation in Artificial Intelligence and Data Analytics'.
- Vymo was earlier awarded the 'AI for All' award in the category 'Empowering Employees with AI' by Microsoft.

Source Link: https://wap.business-standard.com/article-amp/pti-stories/vymo-wins-ficci-award-for-innovation-in-artificial-intelligence-and-data-analytics-119032000219_1.html

Karen becomes 1st woman to win Abel Prize

- Mathematician Karen Uhlenbeck has become the first woman to win the Abel prize.
- Sometimes called the Nobel prize of mathematics, is given to her for the impact of her work on "analysis, geometry and mathematical physics".
- She is also an advocate for gender equality in science and mathematics.
- Abel Prize is named after Norwegian mathematician Niels Henrik Abel.

Source

Link: <https://www.theguardian.com/science/2019/mar/19/american-professor-first-woman-wins-abel-prize-math>

President confers Padma awards

- Folk Singer Teejan Bai, scientist S. Nambi Narayanan were among the 54 noted citizens to be conferred with the Padma award by President Ram Nath Kovind on 16 March 2019.
- Teejan Bai and Naik received the Padma Vibhushan Award.
- The awards were conferred in two ceremonies with 47 dignitaries receiving the honour on March 11, while 54 were honoured on 16 March 2019.

Source

Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/president-confers-padma-awards/article26553849.ece?homepage=true>

Ved Rahi won the Kusumagraj literature

- Film director and novelist Ved Rahi was selected for prestigious 'Kusumagraj' national award for literature.
- The award was instituted by the Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University (YCMOU) in Nashik, Maharashtra.
- Ved Rahi has penned seven novels in Dogri language. He was given Sahitya Akademi award for his Dogri novel, 'Aale' in 1983.

Source Link: https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/kusumagraj-literature-award-for-ved-rahi-119031300347_1.html

BusinessLine Changemaker Of The Year presented

- Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh presented the 'BusinessLine Changemaker Of The Year' award to Union Minister Arun Jaitley on 15 March 2019.
- The award was given to him for successfully introducing the Goods and Services Tax.
- The award was shared by petitioners against Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code, who managed to get the law against same-sex relations quashed in September 2018.

Source Link: <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/businessline-changemaker-of-the-year-after-arun-jaitley-gets-award-from-manmohan-singh-for-gst-a-bjp-2008383>

Kent RO receives best purifier award 2018-19

- Kent RO Systems Pvt. Ltd. received the Best Domestic Water Purifier Award 2018-19 for its RO+UV+UF technology at the Water Digest Water Awards event.
- Water Digest Water Awards is backed by the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation and UNESCO.
- The award honours the Organisations/NGOs/Corporate that has worked to ensure that the efficient use of water resources.

Source Link: https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/kent-ro-receives-the-best-domestic-water-purifier-award-2019-119031400677_1.html

President gives National Grassroots Awards

- President Ramnath Kovind on 15th March 2019, awarded National Grassroots Innovators at Grambharti near Gandhinagar in Gujarat.

- Prakash Singh Raghuvanshi from UP has been awarded lifetime achievement award for his innovations in new varieties of agriculture crops.
- The first prize in Veterinary, Herbal medication for coccidiosis was presented to Periyasami Ramasami of Salem, Tamil Nadu.

Source Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=361016>

Awards and Honours

- Swati Shingade of Pune, Maharashtra won the first prize of DD Mahila Kisan Award for 2018-19.
- Renowned Kathak dancer Seema Mehta was given the 'Nari Shakti Puraskar' award for her contribution towards women empowerment over the last 15 years.

Source
Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Swati-Shingade-bags-first-prize-of-DD-Mahila-Kisan-Award&id=361036>

Padmanaban won Commonwealth Youth Award

- Padmanaban Gopalan, the founder of No Food Waste, was named the winner of the Commonwealth Youth Award for the Asian region in London.
- His initiative runs a geo-mapping platform, which allows users to drop food at located 'hunger spots'.

- It has so far recovered over 650,000 meals across 14 cities and the platform has been used by over 12,000 volunteers.

Source
Link: <https://currentaffairs.adda247.com/padmanaban-gopalan-wins-the-commonwealth-youth-award-for-the-asian-region/>

Gallantry awards conferred

- President Ram Nath Kovind conferred 3 Kirti Chakras and 15 Shaurya Chakras to Armed Forces Personnel on 14 March 2019.
- Two Kirti Chakras and one Shaurya Chakra were given posthumously.
- Fifteen Param Vishisht Seva Medals, one Uttam Yudh Seva Medals and twenty-five Ati Vishisht Seva Medals to senior officers of the Armed Forces were also conferred.

Source
Link: <http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1568803>

Sona Yukti won SEN award

- Skill development and training institute Sona Yukti was given the Social Enterprise Network (SEN) sustainability award for education.
- The award was presented by Young Presidents Organisation to CEO of Sona Yukti Chockalingam Valliappa in Cape Town, South Africa.
- Sona Yukti is the only Indian organisation to be selected as part of the SEN awards for 2018.

Source Link: https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/sona-yukti-gets-global-award-for-equipping-youth-with-skills-119031200636_1.html

VP Naidu to receive doctorate from UN

- The University of Peace honoured Vice President Venkaiah Naidu with the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in San Jose.
- He was honoured for his contribution to the Rule of Law, democracy and sustainable development in India.
- He was the chairman of UN Habitat previously, that seeks to promote affordable housing under the Sustainable Development Goals.

Source Link: <https://www.indiatoday.in/education-today/news/story/vp-venkaiah-naidu-becomes-first-indian-to-receive-honorary-doctorate-from-un-peace-university-1475132-2019-03-11>

MEIL in Limca Records

- Infrastructure giant Megha Engineering Infrastructure Limited (MEIL) has won a place in Limca Book of National Records and Asia Book of Records.
- It was awarded for its outstanding achievement of completing Power Sub Station in a record time of 7 months.
- Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) appreciated MEIL and awarded 'Best Debutant Award' with a Memento and Citation.

Source Link: https://wap.business-standard.com/article-amp/pti-stories/meil-in-limca-records-for-the-fastest-execution-of-power-sub-station-119031100223_1.html

Padma awards conferred on 47 personalities

- 47 prominent personalities were conferred the Padma awards by President Ram Nath Kovind on 11 March 2019.
- Kuldip Nayar, Sukhdev Singh, and S Jaishankar were some of the recipients of the award.
- The Padma Awards, one of the highest civilian awards of the country, are conferred in 3 categories: the Padma Vibhushan, the Padma Bhushan and the Padma Shri.

Source Link: https://wap.business-standard.com/article-amp/pti-stories/president-confers-padma-awards-on-47-inspiring-personalities-119031100287_1.html

Acko wins Golden Peacock Award

- ACKO General Insurance was awarded the coveted Golden Peacock Innovative Product Award – 2019, for their contextual microinsurance product -Ola Ride Insurance.
- The award was presented to Biresh Giri, Appointed Actuary & CRO, Acko in the presence of global business leaders in Dubai.
- Acko introduced the revolutionary Ola Ride Insurance, a first of its kind in the Indian market in March 2018.

Source Link: <https://www.siasat.com/news/acko-conferred-golden-peacock-award-innovative-product-1475530/>

Priyanka Dubey gets Chameli Devi Jain Award

- Priyanka Dubey, a bilingual correspondent with the BBC, was named for the Chameli Devi Jain Award for an Outstanding Woman Journalist for the year 2018.
- She was chosen for her multi-faceted, investigative and interrogative reportage.
- The Chameli Devi Jain Award has been awarded to women journalists for the past 37 years for upholding standards of excellence through a sustained body of work.

Source Link: https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/bbc-journalist-priyanka-dubey-gets-chameli-devi-jain-award-119030700881_1.html

India won 1st prize at ITB, Berlin

- The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India has won the First Prize in the category of 'TV Cinema Spot' at the prestigious international 'Golden City Gate Tourism Awards 2019'.
- The Awards are given annually in various categories related to the Tourism and Hospitality sectors.
- The annual award ceremony took place at ITB Berlin, the world's leading tourism trade show.

Source Link: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1568436>

TVS Motor won sustainability award

- TVS Motor Company won the 'Green Era Award for Sustainability' on 4 March 2019 at Lisbon in Portugal.
- It also won the 'Quality and Business Excellence Award'.
- The awards are based on the conclusion of the research team of Otherways Management and Consulting in France.
- The companies chosen were ranked against criteria such as investment attraction, high technologies, and management methods.

Source Link: https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/tvs-motor-wins-international-sustainability-award-119030400650_1.html

Assam government announces cultural awards

- Assam government announced that the 'Srimanata Sankardeva Award 2017' will be conferred on Satriya exponent Basistha Dev Sarma of Barpeta Satra.
- It also declared that the 'Madhavdev Award' 2016 will be given to Jugadananda Chandra Goswami of Mayamora Dinjoy Satra.
- The 'Kalicharan Brahma Award' 2018 will be given to the Satradhikar of Borongajuli Srimanta Sankardev Satra

Source Link: https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/assam-government-announces-awards-in-the-field-of-culture-119030800812_1.html

'Ratnagarbha' conferred on 10 mothers

- On the occasion of International Women's Day, Ten successful mothers, whose children have become achievers in their fields of work, have been awarded 'Ratnagarbha' award on 8 March 2019.
- The mothers of billiards icon Sourav Kothari, filmmaker Kaushik Ganguly were among those who were given the award.

- The award was instituted by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Source Link: https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/ratnagarbha-conferred-on-10-mothers-119030900184_1.html

Nari Shakti Puraskar 2018 awarded

- President of India, Ram Nath Kovind presented the Nari Shakti Puraskar 2018, in New Delhi, on International Women's Day, i.e. 8 March 2019.
- Nari Shakti Puraskar is the highest civilian honor for women in India held in Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- This year, 44 awardees were selected out of around a thousand nominations received by the Ministry.

Source
Link: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1567726>

Indore: Cleanest city 3rd time in a row

- Indore bagged the cleanest city award for the 3rd straight year under Swachh Survekshan 2019.
- President Ram Nath Kovind presented Swachh Survekshan-2019 Awards in New Delhi.
- New Delhi Municipal Council area got the cleanest small city award.
- Uttarakhand's Gauchar was adjudged as the Best Ganga Town in the survey.

Source
Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Indore-adjudged-cleanest-city-in-Swachh-Survekshan-for-3rd-year-in-row&id=360650>

Nobel prize in literature to be awarded twice

- 2 Nobel prizes in literature will be awarded in 2019, to make up for the lack of one in 2018, as announced on 5 March 2019.
- Last year's Nobel was withheld for the first time since 1949 after the Swedish Academy was hit with a sexual misconduct scandal.

Source
Link: <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2019/mar/05/nobel-prize-in-literature-twice-swedish-academy>

Arata won Pritzker Architecture Prize

- Japanese architect Arata Isozaki was awarded this year's Pritzker Architecture Prize, known internationally as the highest honour in the field, on 5 March 2019.
- Founded in 1979, the prize honours each year a living architect or architects whose work demonstrates talent and vision.

- Isozaki is credited with bringing together the East and West in his innovative designs.

Source
Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/entertainment/art/arata-isozaki-of-japan-wins-pritzker-architecture-prize/article26440746.ece>

Indian Bank received Best Bank Award

- Public sector Indian Bank bagged the Best Bank Award from the Tamil Nadu government on 3 March 2019.
- It was awarded for meeting the needs of women's self-help groups (SHGs).
- Chief Minister of the state K Palaniswami handed over the award to the executive director of the bank M K Bhattacharya.

Source
Link: <https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/companies/indian-bank-receives-best-bank-award-3603451.html>

Abhinandan will be awarded Mahavir Award

- IAF Wing Commander, Abhinandan Varthaman will be the 1st recipient of the 'Bhagwan Mahavir Ahimsa Puraskar' instituted by the Akhil Bharatiya Digambar Jain Mahasamiti.
- He shot down a Pakistani Air Force jet F-16 with an R-73 air-to-air missile in a dogfight on February 27.
- He will be awarded on April 17, 2019. The award has a cash prize of Rs. 2.51 lakh, citation, and memento.

Source Link: https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/iaf-pilot-abhinandan-varthaman-to-be-awarded-with-bhagwan-mahavir-ahimsa-puraskar/story-GiK9UnxsuTL9hlqAfA46SM.html?utm_campaign=full_article&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=inshorts

DRDO Chief got Missile Systems Award 2019

- DRDO Chief G Satheesh Reddy was conferred with the prestigious 'Missile Systems Award 2019' for his leadership role in the Indian missile programmes.
- The award was conferred by American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics.
- The award recognises excellence in developing or implementing missile systems technology, and for inspired leadership of missile systems programs.

Source Link: <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/drdo-chief-receives-american-award-for-missile-technology-development-2001716>

OSDMA won the SKOCH Award

- The Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA) won the SKOCH Award 2018 for its achievements in the field of disaster management.
- The award covers the areas of finance, governance, banking, disaster management, technology, economics, and inclusive growth.
- The OSDMA also received an Order-of-merit in the Gold category for constructing 879 multipurpose cyclone and flood shelters.

Source Link: https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/osdma-bags-skoch-award-119030200103_1.html

Thanga gets AB Vajpayee Life Time award

- Thanga Darlong was conferred Atal Bihari Vajpayee Life Time Award by the Tripura government on 1 March 2019.
- He is a tribal musician, who plays Rosem, a flute like tribal musical instrument made of bamboo.
- In January 2019, he was conferred the prestigious Padma Shri award for his contribution to the field of music.

Source Link: https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/nonagenarian-tribal-musician-gets-ab-vajpayee-life-time-award-119030200141_1.html

25th Prime Minister's Trophy presented

- 25th Prime Minister's Trophy for Excellence in Performance of Integrated Steel Plants for 2016-17 was presented in New Delhi on 1st March 2019.
- The objective of the award is to give recognition to outstanding performance in integrated steel plant sector of the national economy.
- The award is presented in 4 categories, of which the best performance gets Rs.2 crore as prize money.

Source Link: <http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1566603>

Days & Events

World Tuberculosis Day: 24 March

- World Tuberculosis Day is observed every year on 24 March.
- The aim of the day is to raise public awareness about the devastating health, social and economic consequences of TB, and to step up efforts to end the global TB epidemic.
- The theme of World TB Day 2019 - 'It's time'.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) has launched a joint initiative 'Find. Treat. All. #EndTB'.

Source Link: <https://www.who.int/news-room/events/detail/2019/03/24/default-calendar/world-tb-day-2019>

World Down Syndrome Day observed: March 21

- Recognizing the need to support people suffering from Down Syndrome, the WHO on 20th December 2007, recognised March 21st as 'World Down Syndrome Day'.
- World Down Syndrome Day 2019 theme is "Leave no one behind".
- Down Syndrome is a genetic disorder causing delayed physical and mental growth in individuals.
- Children or adults suffering from Down Syndrome have lower IQ.

Source Link: <https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/un/down-syndrome-day>

International World Water Day

- International World Water Day is held annually on 22 March.
- It focuses attention on the importance of freshwater and advocating for the sustainable management of freshwater resources.
- The theme for World Water Day 2019 is 'Leaving no one behind,' which is the central promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Source Link: <https://www.worldwaterday.org/>

April: Delaware Sikh Awareness Month

- Delaware Governor John Carney signed an executive proclamation naming April 2019 as the 'Delaware Sikh Awareness and Appreciation Month'.
- This was done in recognition of the contribution of the small but influential Sikh community in the economic and social milieu of the state.

Source Link: https://wap.business-standard.com/article-amp/pti-stories/delaware-declares-april-2019-as-sikh-awareness-and-appreciation-month-119032000130_1.html

Important Days

- World Sparrow Day is observed every year on 20 March to raise awareness to save sparrow and other common birds.
- International Day of Happiness is observed every year on 20 March. The theme for 2019 is 'Happier Together'.

Source Link: <https://currentaffairs.adda247.com/international-day-of-happiness-20-march/>

Global Recycling Day

- Global Recycling Day is held on March 18 every year.
- Global Recycling Day was created in 2018 to help recognise, and celebrate, the importance recycling plays in preserving our precious primary resources and securing the future of our planet.
- It is a day for the world to come together and put the planet first.
- The theme of 2019 as 'Recycling into the Future'.

Source

Link: <https://www.globalrecyclingday.com/about/>

World Consumer Rights Day: 15 March

- World Consumer Rights Day is celebrated every year on 15 March as part of an initiative by Consumer International.
- It was inspired by President John F Kennedy, who was the first leader in the world to address the issue of consumer rights in a special message sent to the US Congress on 15 March 1962.
- The theme for World Consumers day 2019 is 'Trusted Smart Products'.

Source

Link: <https://www.news18.com/news/india/world-consumer-rights-day-2019-know-your-rights-this-years-theme-and-more-2067193.html>

World Kidney Day celebrated

- World Kidney Day (WKD) is observed annually on the second Thursday in March.
- It is celebrated to create awareness on the importance of the kidneys and reducing the frequency and impact of kidney disease.
- The theme of WKD 2019 is 'Kidney Health for Everyone Everywhere', which calls for universal health coverage for prevention and early treatment of kidney disease.

Source

Link: <http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1568777>

8 March: Women's Day

- International Women's Day is observed across the world on March 8.
- It is a global day that celebrates social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women.
- International Women's Day 2019 campaign Theme - #BalanceforBetter.
- International Women's Day 2019 Theme: Think equal, build smart, innovate for change.

Source

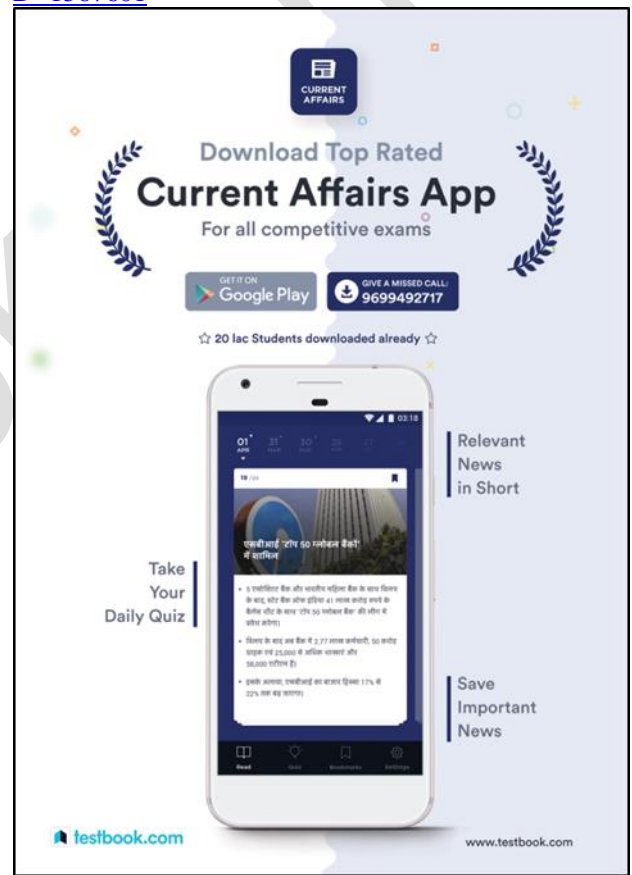
Link: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2019/3/statement-ed-phumzile-international-womens-day-2019>

Janaushadhi Diwas: 7 March

- Janaushadhi Diwas is being celebrated across the country on 7th March 2019.
- PM Narendra Modi addressed 5000 Janaushadhi stores across the country through video-conferencing on the occasion.
- More than 5050 Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana Kendras are functional in 652 districts.

Source

Link: <http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1567601>



World Wildlife Day : 3 March

- World Wildlife Day is observed every year on 3 March.
- The theme for 2019 is 'Life below water: for people and planet'.
- The aim of the day is to celebrate and raise awareness of the world's wild fauna and flora.
- On this day, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) was adopted.

Source

Link: <http://www.un.org/en/events/wildlifeday/background.shtml>

1 March: Zero Discrimination Day

- Zero Discrimination Day is observed on March 1 and it aims to address the issue of discrimination faced by people across the world.
- The theme for Zero Discrimination Day 2019 is 'Act to change laws that Discriminate'.
- It was launched by UNAIDS Executive Director Michel Sidibé on February 27, 2014, with a major event in Beijing.

Source

Link: <https://www.latestly.com/lifestyle/festivals-events/zero-discrimination-day-2019-theme-significance-of-the-day-that-promotes-equality-and-denounces-discrimination-668956.html>

International Affairs

EU approves ban on single use plastics

- The European Parliament has approved a law banning a wide-range of single-use plastic items, such as straws, cotton buds, and cutlery, by 2021.
- The law stipulates that 10 single-use plastic items will be banned in order to curb ocean pollution.
- The new plans come after it was found that plastics make up more than 80% of marine litter, which has disastrous effects on wildlife and habitats.

Source

Link: <https://edition.cnn.com/2019/03/28/europe/eu-single-use-plastics-ban-intl-scli/index.html>

Tesla builds its largest energy storage system

- In a bid to reduce energy demand and provide emergency backup power to trains in Japan, Tesla has developed its largest power storage system in Asia.
- According to Tesla, it has installed a bank of 42 Powerpacks at a train station in Japan's Osaka that can provide sufficient backup power to safely move a train.
- The power storage system is also the fourth largest in the Asia-Pacific region.

Source Link: <https://www.businessinsider.in/tesla-builds-its-largest-energy-storage-system-in-asia/articleshow/68607466.cms>

Oslo: First city to get charging stations

- Norway's capital Oslo will become the first city in the world to install wireless charging systems for electric taxis.
- The project will use induction technology, with charging plates installed in the road at taxi ranks linking to receivers installed in the vehicle.

- From 2023 onward all taxis in Oslo will have to be zero emission.

Source Link: <https://auto.ndtv.com/news/oslo-becomes-the-first-city-in-the-world-to-get-wireless-charging-systems-for-evs-2012267>

Shanghai: World's first district with 5G

- Shanghai has become the world's first district using both 5G coverage and broadband gigabit network.
- 5G is the next generation of cellular technology with download speeds that are 10 to 100 times faster than 4G LTE networks.
- 5G also enables high-definition transmissions in real time and will bolster development in the internet of things industry.

Source Link: https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/shanghai-becomes-world-s-first-district-with-5g-coverage-119033000289_1.html

World's longest salt cave found in Israel

- Israeli cave explorers discovered the cave named Malham, the world's longest salt cave with striking stalactites near the Dead Sea.
- Previously, Iran's N3 cave held the record.
- The cave named Malham is stretched over 10 km.
- It runs through Mount Sodom, Israel's largest mountain, and spills out to the southwest corner of the adjacent Dead Sea.

Source Link: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-47731943>

Saudi arms export ban extended

- Germany has extended by six months an embargo on weapons exports to Saudi Arabia, instituted in October 2018.
- It is extended by six months from March 31 to September 30, 2019.
- Berlin reacted to Khashoggi's murder at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul last October by declaring a freeze on weapons sales to Saudi Arabia and other countries involved in the Yemen war.

Source

Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Germany-adds-six-months-to-Saudi-arms-export-ban&id=361545>

Venezuela Juan barred from public office

- Venezuela has barred opposition leader Juan Guaido from holding public office for 15 years.
- The decision was taken following an investigation that shows irregularities in his financial records.

- The decision will be for the maximum period established in the decree with the scope, courage and strength of the law against corruption.

Source

Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Venezuela%20%80%B2s-Juan-Guaido-barred-from-public-office-for-15-years&id=361544>

UNSC's resolution to fight terrorist financing

- UNSC has unanimously passed the first-ever resolution ordering members to enforce laws against terror financing.
- UNSC resolution demands all states "ensure that their domestic laws and regulations establish serious criminal offenses" to collect funds or financial resources to terrorist groups or individual criminals.
- Nations that fail to carry out the resolution would face U.N. sanctions.

Source Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=361543>

Nepal Investment Summit to be organised

- The Government of Nepal is organizing Nepal Investment Summit 2019 on March 29 -30, 2019 in Kathmandu.
- The main objective of the event is to project Nepal as a favourable investment destination.
- 77 projects worth 31.93 billion dollars in various sectors will be showcased and 12 MoUs will be signed during the summit.
- KP Sharma Oli is the PM of Nepal and will inaugurate the summit.

Source

Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Nepal-Investment-Summit-to-be-organised-on-March-29-30&id=361496>

US circulated draft resolution

- The US circulated a draft resolution to UN Security Council to blacklist Masood Azhar, Chief of Pakistan-based terrorist group Jaish-e-Mohammad.
- The draft resolution condemns the Pulwama attack and says that Azhar will be added to the UN Al-Qaeda and Islamic State sanctions blacklist.
- The resolution is backed by France and Britain which joined the US in pushing for sanctions against Azhar.

Source

Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=US-circulates-draft-resolution-at-UNSC-to-blacklist-JeM-chief-Masood-Azhar&id=361506>

Lakes beneath Antarctic glacier found

- Australian researchers have discovered huge underwater lakes beneath the largest glacier in east Antarctica.
- The lakes were detected by scientists setting off small explosives 2m below the surface of the Totten glacier and listening to the reflected sound.
- The Totten glacier is 30 km wide and up to 2 km thick, and has the potential to raise sea levels by 7 m.

Source

Link: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/mar/26/australian-researchers-find-huge-lakes-beneath-largest-east-antarctic-glacier>

Apple partnered for Apple Card

- Apple announced a new credit card called the Apple Card recently.
- The company has partnered with **Goldman Sachs and Mastercard** for payment handling and processing.
- Apple's partner Goldman Sachs would not sell data to the third party for marketing and advertisement. The service would only be available in the US, starting summer.

Source

Link: <https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/trends/apple-partners-with-goldman-sachs-and-mastercard-for-apple-card-3701551.html>

World's largest e-waste recycling hub opened

- The world's largest e-waste recycling facility has opened in **Dubai**.
- Located at the Dubai Industrial Park, the 280,000 square feet plant will process Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE), IT asset disposition (ITAD), and refrigerant gas.
- It has a processing capacity of 100,000 tonnes of total integrated waste per year, of which 39,000 tonnes is e-waste.

Source

Link: <https://www.thehansindia.com/technology/tech-news/worlds-largest-e-waste-recycling-hub-has-opened-in-this-city--515351>

Comoros President re-elected

- Comoros President **Azali Assoumani** was re-elected on 27 March 2019 according to results published by the electoral commission of the Indian Ocean archipelago.
- Azali was way ahead of his closest rival Mahamoudou Ahamada, who garnered only 14.62% of the ballots cast.
- Comoros is a volcanic archipelago off Africa's east coast, in the warm Indian Ocean waters of the Mozambique Channel.

Source

Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Comoros->

[President-Azali-Assoumani-re-elected-with-over-60% 25-of-votes&id=361468](https://www.testbook.com/news/president-azali-assoumani-re-elected-with-over-60-25-of-votes&id=361468)

Apple announced Apple TV Plus

- Apple announced its Apple TV Plus streaming service along with a handful of original TV shows that are in the works, on 25 March 2019.
- However, it left key details such as price, a release date, or a real sense of the company's strategy.

Source

Link: <https://www.theverge.com/2019/3/25/18281333/apple-tv-plus-streaming-many-questions-missing-details-event-2019>

Apple Card introduced

- Apple announced Apple Card on 25 March 2019, an innovative, new kind of credit card created by Apple.
- It has been designed to help customers lead a healthier financial life.
- It is built into the Apple Wallet app on the iPhone, offering customers a familiar experience with Apple Pay and the ability to manage their card right on the iPhone.

Source

Link: <https://www.apple.com/newsroom/2019/03/introducing-apple-card-a-new-kind-of-credit-card-created-by-apple/>

Thailand held its first election after 5 years

- Thailand held its first general election after five years of military rule.
- The military ousted an elected government in a coup in 2014.
- About 51.4 million people voted in the election.
- It will appoint 500 members to the House of Representatives, the lower house of the Parliament.

Source

Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/voting-underway-in-thailands-first-election-since-2014-coup/article26624569.ece>

Oman signs agreement with USA

- Oman has signed an agreement with the USA that allow American ships and warplanes to take advantage of his ports and airports.
- The framework agreement is aimed at bolstering Omani-American military relations.
- The agreement will allow the US forces to take advantage of the facilities offered at some of the Sultanate's ports and airports during visits of the US military vessels and aircraft.

Source

Link: <https://www.thenational.ae/world/mena/oman-signs-agreement-allowing-us-military-to-use-its-ports-1.840991>

Italy signs new Silk Road protocol with China

- Italy signed a "non-binding" protocol with China to take part in Beijing's new "Silk Road".
- Italy became the first G7 country to sign up for the massive project.
- The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) or the Silk Road Economic Belt is a development strategy adopted by China involving infrastructure development and investments in 152 countries.

Source

Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/italy-signs-new-silk-road-protocol-with-china/article26621435.ece>

Islamic State group loses Syria

- The US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) says the Islamic State's control is over after the militants were defeated in Syria.
- IS retains a presence in the region and has affiliates in several other countries such as Nigeria, Yemen, Afghanistan, and the Philippines.
- The Kurdish-led SDF alliance began its final assault on IS in March 2019.

Source

Link: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/world-news/white-house-islamic-state-territory-in-syria-eliminated/articleshow/68528134.cms>

Pak to receive a loan of \$2.1 billion

- Pakistan will receive over US\$ 2 billion loans from China by 25 March 2019 to provide a boost to its ailing economy.
- The funds will be deposited in the State Bank of Pakistan.
- The loan facility will further strengthen foreign exchange reserves and ensure the balance of payment stability.
- Pakistan has received USD 1 billion each from Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

Source

Link: <https://www.businesstoday.in/current/world/pak-to-receive-a-loan-of-usd-21-billion-from-china/story/329969.html>

European Union delays Brexit

- The European Union has agreed to postpone Brexit from 29 March 2019.
- EU leaders agreed to delay Brexit after the UK Parliament twice overwhelmingly rejected the deal that was agreed

with the EU on how to withdraw from the bloc and voted against a no-deal exit.

- More than 17 million Britons voted in favor of leaving the EU in a 2016 referendum.

Source Link: <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-47665289>

US will recognise Israel's Golan Heights

- US President Donald Trump announced that the US will recognise Israel's sovereignty over the Golan Heights.
- Golan Heights was captured by Israel from Syria in 1967.
- Previous US administrations have treated Golan Heights as occupied Syrian territory, in line with UN security council resolutions.

Source

Link: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/mar/22/trump-provokes-global-anger-by-recognising-israels-claim-to-golan-heights>

Oxford Dictionary includes word 'chuddies'

- Chuddies, the Indian English word for underwear, is among 650 new entries recognised as official English words by the definitive Oxford English Dictionary (OED) in the latest update.
- Chuddies made popular in the UK by the popular sitcom starring British Indian actors.
- It is defined as short trousers, shorts.

Source Link: https://wap.business-standard.com/article-amp/pti-stories/oxford-english-dictionary-includes-chuddies-in-latest-update-119032100504_1.html

New Zealand Bans Assault Weapons

- New Zealand has imposed an immediate ban on assault weapons following the Christchurch massacre that claimed the lives of 50 mosque-goers.
- Prime Minister of New Zealand Jacinda Ardern announced assault rifles and military-style semi-automatic weapons would be banned with immediate effect.
- It is done to ensure that nothing like Christchurch massacre ever occurs in the nation again.

Source

Link: https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/in-new-zealand-broad-support-for-ban-on-assault-weapons-following-massacre/2019/03/21/ca58d25a-4b4c-11e9-8cfc-2e5d0999c21e_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.c1f707fe7049

UAE announced pan-Arab body

- 11 Arab states including Saudi Arabia, Algeria and Morocco signed on to the first regional team to cooperate on a space programme.
- The pan-Arab team's first project is 'a satellite that Arab scientists will work on from here in the UAE'.
- The astronaut programme would make the UAE one of only a handful of states in the Middle East to have sent a person into space.

Source Link: https://wap.business-standard.com/article-amp/pti-stories/uae-announces-pan-arab-body-for-space-programme-119031901091_1.html

Astana to be renamed as Nursultan

- Kazakhstan's Parliament voted to rename the country's capital Astana as Nursultan in honour of longtime ruler Nursultan Nazarbayev, a day after he resigned as President.
- Kazakhstan's new interim President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev proposed renaming the capital.
- Astana replaced Kazakhstan's largest city Almaty as the capital in 1997.

Source

Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Kazakhstan-to-rename-country%26%2339%3bs-capital-Astana-as-Nursultan&id=361224>

Hawaii to ban plastics at restaurants

- Hawaii would be the first state in the US to ban most plastics at restaurants under legislation that aims to cut down on waste that pollutes the ocean.
- In the US, 500 million plastic straws are used and thrown out every day.
- 95 percent of plastic packaging worldwide is thrown out after being used once.

Source Link: https://wap.business-standard.com/article-amp/pti-stories/hawaii-weighs-first-in-nation-plastic-bans-at-restaurants-119031900285_1.html

U.K. lifts cap on PhD-level work visas

- The United Kingdom has lifted the 'restricted cap' which was imposed in 2011 by the government has been lifted for student visas.
- Currently, Ph.D. holders who apply for Tier 2 work visas are limited by a restriction of only 20,700 visas per year.
- It will be implemented from the beginning of September 2019, but the cap of 20,700 will stay till 2021 for official reasons.

Source

Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/uk-lifts-cap-on-phd-level-work-visas/article26536679.ece>

Mozambique city of Beira hit by Cyclone Idai

- Cyclone Idai, which is carrying heavy rains and winds of up to 177 km/h, made landfall at the port city of Beira on 14 March 2019.
- The cyclone has now moved west towards Zimbabwe.
- Beira is the fourth-largest city in Mozambique and its port sits on the mouth of the Pungwe River, that runs to Zimbabwe.
- Mozambique is the third most at-risk country in Africa when it comes to extreme weather.

Source Link: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-47576831>

Australia to launch military exercises

- Australia will launch a seven-nation Indian Ocean military exercise from 18 March 2019.
- The exercise will start in Sri Lanka.
- Some 1,000 Australian security personnel in four naval ships and a military aircraft will participate in the biggest joint exercise yet with their Sri Lankan counterparts.

Source Link: https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/australia-to-launch-indian-ocean-military-exercises-from-colombo-119031500779_1.html

General Wolters new NATO supreme commander

- US Air Force General Tod Wolters was nominated to become the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's (NATO) Chief.
- The North Atlantic Council has approved the nomination of General Tod Wolters.
- General Wolters is currently serving as Commander, United States Air Forces Europe, United States Air Forces Africa and Allied Air Command.

Source Link: https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/us-general-wolters-new-nato-supreme-commander-119031501113_1.html

Argentina, Colombia to co-host Copa America

- Argentina and Colombia are poised to co-host the 2020 Copa America after South America's ruling body CONMEBOL once again ruled out a US proposal to host the tournament.
- The decision marks the first time in the modern Copa America era that the tournament will be split between two countries.

Source Link: https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/argentina-colombia-set-to-be-co-hosts-of-2020-copa-america-119031400211_1.html

Russia issued a commemorative coin

- The Bank of Russia has issued a commemorative coin to mark five years since Russia staged a disputed referendum in Ukraine's Crimea.
- The Bank of Russia has issued a base metal coin in denomination of 5 rubles.
- The face value of the coin also features an illegally-built bridge to connect the peninsular to mainland Russia.

Source Link: <https://bnn-news.com/russia-commemorates-annexation-of-crimea-with-coin-worth-eur-0-07-198253>

10 countries added in tax blacklist

- The European Union expanded its tax haven blacklist by 10 countries, adding the UAE and Bermuda on 12 March 2019.
- The list, now 15 countries long, was first drawn up in 2017 in wake of several scandals, including the Panama Papers.
- 7 countries will be moved back from a greylist because reform commitments had not been met. These are Aruba, Belize, Bermuda, Fiji, Oman, Vanuatu and Dominica.

Source Link: https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/eu-adds-10-countries-including-uae-to-tax-blacklist-119031200656_1.html

US set to become net exporter of oil: IEA

- The USA will become a net exporter of oil from 2021, a development which should reinforce global energy security.
- New technology that allows for extracting oil and gas from shale rock formations has led to a boom in oil production in the US in recent years.
- The IEA forecasts the US will account for 2/3rds of the increase in global oil production.

Source Link: <https://www.livemint.com/news/world/us-set-to-become-net-exporter-of-oil-iea-1552320835523.html>

International News

- Palestinian President Mahmud Abbas appointed Mohammad Shtayyeh as Prime Minister on 10 March 2019.
- An Ethiopian Airlines flight, 'Boeing 737 Max' from Addis Ababa to Kenya's capital Nairobi crashed early on 10 March 2019 with 149 passengers and eight crew members on board.

Source Link: https://wap.business-standard.com/article-amp/pti-stories/palestinian-president-appoints-ally-shtayyeh-as-new-pm-119031000483_1.html

Malaysia becomes a member of ICC

- Malaysia has become the 124th member of the International Criminal Court (ICC).
- The ICC is the world's only permanent war crimes court and aims to prosecute the worst abuses when national courts are unable or unwilling.
- The headquarters of International Criminal Court is in The Hague, Netherlands.
- Malaysia's capital is Kuala Lumpur and its currency is Malaysian Ringgit.

Source Link: <https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asia/malaysia-joins-international-criminal-court-icc-11312826>

Sadiq Khan named UK Politician of the Year

- London Mayor Sadiq Khan was named the Politician of the Year at the Annual Political and Public Life Awards presented by Britain's 'Asian Voice' weekly newspaper.
- He was awarded for his ongoing contribution to the political life.
- UK defence secretary Gavin Williamson was named as Cabinet Minister of the Year and Indian-origin politician Priti Patel named as Conservative Party MP of the Year.

Source Link: https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/london-mayor-sadiq-khan-named-uk-politician-of-the-year-119030900164_1.html

Marshall Islands to launch digital currency

- The Marshall Islands will launch a digital currency named 'SOV' this year.
- The Marshall Islands government partnered with Neema, the Israel-based company, to develop the digital currency.
- The Marshall Islands, a tiny Pacific atoll nation with a population of just 55,000, passed legislation in 2018 to develop digital currency as legal tender.

Source Link: https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/marshall-islands-to-launch-digital-currency-this-year-119030900117_1.html

OECD cut global growth forecast

- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development lowered its forecast for global economic growth to 3.3% for 2019.
- It is down from 3.5% it predicted in November.
- High policy uncertainty, ongoing trade tensions, and further erosion of business and consumer confidence contributed to the slowdown.
- OECD revised growth estimates lower in almost all of the countries in the G20 group.

Source Link: https://wap.business-standard.com/article-amp/pti-stories/oecd-cuts-global-growth-forecast-over-trade-brexite-uncertainty-119030600687_1.html

U.S. closed Jerusalem consulate

- The US officially shuttered its consulate in Jerusalem, downgrading the status of its main diplomatic mission to the Palestinians by folding it into the US Embassy to Israel.
- The consulate functioned as a de facto embassy to the Palestinians for decades.
- The symbolic shift hands authority over U.S. diplomatic channels with the West Bank and Gaza to Ambassador David Friedman.

Source Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/us-closes-jerusalem-consulate-demoting-palestinian-mission/article26428169.ece>

Senegal's President Macky Sall won second term

- On 28 February 2019, Senegal's President Macky Sall won a second term of five years.
- He got 58% of the vote in the poll in which he faced four candidates from other parties.
- He was first elected as President of Senegal in 2012.
- Senegal is an African country and its capital is Dakar and currency is West African CFA Franc.

Source Link: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/02/electoral-commission-senegal-macky-sall-wins-term-190228142430894.html>

United States slaps new sanctions on Venezuela

- The United States has imposed new sanctions on Venezuela.
- The sanctions were imposed a day after Russia and China vetoed a US and European resolution at the UN Security Council.
- The US imposed sanctions on the members of President Nicolas Maduro's security forces.
- The US also revoked the visas of 49 Venezuelan officials and their family members.

Source

Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=United-States-slaps-new-sanctions-on-Venezuela&id=360446>**UNSC designates Hamza under its sanctions list**

- The United Nations Security Council has designated Hamza bin Laden under its sanctions list.
- He is the son of Osama bin Laden and is now subject to a travel ban, assets freeze, and an arms embargo.
- A reward of a US\$ 1 million was announced for information leading to his capture.
- Saudi Arabia revoked the citizenship of Hamza bin Laden via a royal decree in November 2018.

Source

Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=United-Nations-Security-Council-designates-Hamza-bin-Laden-under-its-sanctions-list&id=360445>**7th RCEP ISSM was held in Cambodia**

- The 7th Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Intersessional Ministerial Meeting (7th RCEP ISSL MM) was held on 2 March 2019 in Cambodia.
- The meeting was chaired by Chutima Bunyapraphasara, Acting Minister of Commerce of Thailand.
- RCEP is a proposed Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between 10 countries of ASEAN and their six FTA partners.
- Cambodia's capital is Phnom Penh.

Source

Link: <http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1566835>**Books & Authors****'Indian Fiscal Federalism' book launched**

- N.K. Singh, Chairman, 15th Finance Commission, launched the book 'Indian Fiscal Federalism'.
- The book is written by Dr. Y. V. Reddy, former Governor of RBI and Chairman of the 14th Finance Commission of India along with Dr. G. R. Reddy, Advisor (Finance) to the Government of Telangana.

Source

Link: <http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1569807>**Navin Chawla's new book launched**

- Former Chief Election Commissioner of India Navin Chawla's book 'Every Vote Counts' was launched by former Vice President of India, Hamid Ansari in New Delhi.
- This book is about how the electoral machinery works in India.
- The book explains about India is on the cusp of change.

Source

Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/elections-uphold-values-of-democracy-hamid-ansari/article26621476.ece>**Suresh Prabhu released a coffee table book**

- Minister for Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu released a Coffee Table Book- Cruising New Heights- Flying For All on 7 March 2019.
- The Publication throws light on the outstanding achievements made in the civil aviation sector during 2018.
- It brings out various innovative policy initiatives like drone ecosystem roadmap, green aviation policy, Rupee Raftar for financing and leasing of aircrafts.

Source

Link: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1567943>**Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas released**

- A compilation of selected speeches of PM Narendra Modi, titled Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas was released by Arun Jaitley on 8 March 2019.
- Spanning 5 volumes, the books, brought out by Publications Division, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, were released both in Hindi & English.
- It reflects the vision of the PM of seeing all citizens of the country as one.

Source

Link: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1567884>**Book on 'Mann Ki Baat' released**

- A book titled, 'Mann Ki Baat - A Social Revolution on Radio' was released by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley in New Delhi on 2 March 2019.
- The book is a compendium encompassing 50 editions of the 'Mann Ki Baat' programme by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on All India Radio.
- The book is published by Rupa, in collaboration with BlueKraft Digital Foundation, a not-for-profit organisation.

Source Link: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/life-style/books/features/now-a-book-on-mann-ki-baat-unveils-modis-thinking/articleshow/68214794.cms>**Personalities in News****Sanath Jayasuriya banned for 2 years**

- Former Sri Lankan Cricket captain, Sanath Jayasuriya has been banned from cricket for two years.
- He admitted breaching two counts of the ICC Anti-Corruption Code.

- Sri Lankan cricket has been under investigation by ICC for last few years.

Naresh Goyal and Anita Goyal exit Jet Airways

- Jet Airways founder and principal promoters Naresh Goyal, and his wife Anita Goyal stepped down from the board and left the airline they founded nearly 25 years ago.
- The current CEO Vinay Dube is expected to stay on and steer Jet out of the current crisis.

Source

Link: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/transportation/airlines/-aviation/naresh-goyal-his-wife-anita-goyal-to-exit-jet-airways-today/articleshow/68554990.cms>

Jimmy is the longest-living U.S. President

- Former President Jimmy Carter became the longest-living president in United States history on 22 March 2019.
- Jimmy Carter is the USA's 39th President.
- He has broken the previous record held by the late President George H.W. Bush, who died in November 2018.

Source

Link: <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/03/22/us/politics/how-old-is-jimmy-carter.html>

Nirav Modi arrested by London Police

- A UK court remanded the fugitive jeweller Nirav Modi, in custody till March 29, 2019.
- Nirav was arrested in Holborn on 20 March 2019. He is the main accused in the 13,500 crore rupees PNB scam case.
- His arrest came days after a London court issued an arrest warrant against him in response to a request by the Enforcement Directorate for his extradition in a money laundering case.

Source

Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Nirav-Modi-arrested-by-London-Police%3b-remanded-in-custody-till-Mar-29&id=361219>

Jagmeet Singh entered Canada Parliament

- Indian-origin Jagmeet Singh created history in Canada by making debut in the House of Commons as the first non-white leader of a major opposition party in the country.
- Singh, the leader of the New Democratic Party, was elected in federal by-elections held on February 25, 2019.
- His arrival coincided with the induction of a senior woman member into Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's cabinet.

Source

Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Indian->

[origin-Jagmeet-creates-history%2c--enters-Canada-parliament&id=361205](http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Jagmeet-creates-history%2c--enters-Canada-parliament&id=361205)

Gauri Sawant: 1st transgender ambassador

- The Election Commission appointed transgender social activist Gauri Sawant as one of the 12 election ambassadors from Maharashtra.
- Following the Supreme Court order, transgenders got the right to vote for the first time in 2014.
- There are 113, 184, and 123 registered transgenders in constituencies of Bhiwandi, Kalyan, and East Mumbai respectively.

Source

Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Mumbai-social-worker-Gauri-Sawant-becomes-first-transgender-election-ambassador&id=361202>

Kazakhstan President resigned

- Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev announced his resignation after nearly 30 years in power.
- He had ruled the country since it emerged from the collapse of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s.

Source

Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Kazakhstan-President-resigns-after-nearly-30-years-in-power&id=361198>

Japan's Uncle Olympics passed away

- Businessman Naotoshi Yamada, known as 'Uncle Olympics', passed away due to heart failure recently.
- He attended all 14 summer Olympics from the 1964 Tokyo Games to the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Games.
- He stood out among the audience as he often wore a traditional Japanese jacket and a golden hat while cheering loudly and waving the Japanese flag.

Source

Link: <https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20190318/p2a/00m/0na/012000c>

MP appoints its first transgender govt officer

- In a first in Madhya Pradesh, the state has appointed a transgender government officer.
- Sanjana Singh recently joined as the personal secretary of the director of social justice and disabled persons welfare.
- Before her present posting, Sanjana had become the first para-legal volunteer of District Legal Services Tribunal and was also a nominated member of the Lok Adalat of the tribunal

Source

Link: <https://www.news18.com/news/india/madhya-pradesh-appoints-its-first-transgender-government-officer-2064805.html>

Neomi Rao to become federal judge: US

- The US Senate has voted to confirm Indian-origin Neomi Rao as a judge on the DC Circuit Court of Appeals.
- Rao will replace Brett Kavanaugh who was confirmed to the US Supreme Court in October last year.
- The 45-year-old, who was nominated by US President Donald Trump, currently heads the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs.

Source Link: https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/us-senate-confirms-indian-american-neomi-rao-as-judge-of-appeals-court-119031400130_1.html

Supreme Court set aside ban on Sreesanth

- The Supreme Court has set aside the life ban on cricketer S Sreesanth, imposed by the BCCI.
- The disciplinary committee of the BCCI may reconsider within three months the quantum of punishment to be given to Sreesanth.
- The disciplinary committee of the Board of Control for Cricket in India, BCCI imposed the ban on Sreesanth for his alleged involvement in the 2013 IPL spot-fixing scandal.

Source

Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=SC-overturns-life-ban-on-cricketer-S-Sreesanth&id=361014>

Greta nominated for Nobel Peace Prize

- Greta Thunberg, the Swedish schoolgirl who has inspired an international movement to fight climate change, has been nominated to receive Nobel Peace Prize 2019.
- If she wins, she would be the youngest recipient since Pakistan's Malala Yousafzai, who was 17 when she received the prize.
- She was nominated by three Norwegian MPs.

Source Link: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-47568227>

Japanese woman officially named oldest person

- A 116-year-old Japanese woman named Kane Tanaka was honored as the world's oldest living person by Guinness World Records.
- She was born on 2 January 1903.
- The previous oldest living person was another Japanese woman, Chiyo Miyako, who passed away in July 2018, aged 117.

Source Link: <https://news.sky.com/story/worlds-oldest-person-is-116-year-old-japanese-woman-11659795>

Sadiq Khan named UK Politician of the Year

- London Mayor Sadiq Khan was named the Politician of the Year at the Annual Political and Public Life Awards presented by Britain's 'Asian Voice' weekly newspaper.
- He was awarded for his ongoing contribution to the political life.
- UK defence secretary Gavin Williamson was named as Cabinet Minister of the Year and Indian-origin politician Priti Patel named as Conservative Party MP of the Year.

Source Link: https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/london-mayor-sadiq-khan-named-uk-politician-of-the-year-119030900164_1.html

World's youngest self-made billionaire: Kylie

- Kylie Jenner was named the youngest self-made billionaire of all time by Forbes magazine.
- Jenner, 21, made it onto the annual Forbes list of billionaires after debuting her Kylie Cosmetics online in 2015.
- Forbes said she is both the world's youngest billionaire and also the youngest self-made billionaire ever.

Source

Link: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/natalierobehmed/2019/03/05/at-21-kylie-jenner-becomes-the-youngest-self-made-billionaire-ever/>

Mukesh Ambani is 13th richest in world: Forbes

- Richest Indian, Mukesh Ambani jumped six positions to rank 13th on Forbes World's Billionaire list.

- Amazon founder Bezos with \$131 billion remained the world's richest person followed by Bill Gates and Warren Buffett.
- Ambani saw wealth soar from \$40.1 billion in 2018 when he was placed 19th richest in the world, to \$50 billion to be rank at 13th in 2019.

Source

Link: <https://www.livemint.com/companies/people/mukesh-ambani-is-13th-richest-in-world-forbes-1551800293643.html>

Abhinandan will be awarded Mahavir Award

- IAF Wing Commander, Abhinandan Varthaman will be the 1st recipient of the 'Bhagwan Mahavir Ahimsa Puraskar' instituted by the Akhil Bharatiya Digambar Jain Mahasamiti.
- He shot down a Pakistani Air Force jet F-16 with an R-73 air-to-air missile in a dogfight on February 27.
- He will be awarded on April 17, 2019. The award has a cash prize of Rs. 2.51 lakh, citation, and memento.

Source Link: https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/iaf-pilot-abhinandan-varthaman-to-be-awarded-with-bhagwan-mahavir-ahimsa-puraskar/story-GiK9UnxsuTL9hlqAfA46SM.html?utm_campaign=full_article&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=inshorts

Abhinandan Varthaman returns home

- Indian Air Force Wing Commander, Abhinandan Varthman arrived in India on 1 March 2019.
- He was handed over to Indian authorities by Pakistan at Attari-Wagah border.
- He was captured by Pakistani authorities on 27 February 2019 after an aerial engagement between the 2 countries.
- A suicide bomb attack was carried in Pulwama, J&K in February 2019 that killed approx 40 paramilitary troops.

Source Link: <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/iaf-pilot-abhinandan-varthaman-shifted-to-indian-air-force-hostel-after-medical-check-up-2001645>

Naresh Goyal resigns as Chairman

- Jet Airways' founder Naresh Goyal has agreed to step down as chairman of the airline's board.
- Mr. Goyal, who founded the full-service carrier 25 years ago, has also agreed to reduce his 51% stake.
- He would continue to be a part of the company in some capacity even after stepping down as chairman.

Source Link: <https://www.ndtv.com/business/jet-airways-founder-naresh-goyal-agrees-to-step-down-as-chairman-report-2000820>

Government Policies & Schemes

Telangana govt. unveils portal for MSMEs

- A digital portal named Telangana State GlobalLinker (ts-msme.globallinker.com) was launched by Telangana government on 27 March 2019.
- The portal for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) will provide them a digital profile, including an online product catalog and e-commerce store.
- It will also allow access to global networking opportunities towards identifying buyers and suppliers.

Source

Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Hyderabad/govt-unveils-portal-for-msmes/article26657168.ece>

UMMEED launched by Care Hospitals

- CARE Hospitals in association with Piramal Swasthya announced the launch of community-based cancer screening programme UMMEED.
- It has been launched to detect early cancer and reduce mortality due to it.
- It is expected to reduce the impact of cancer burden in the state of Telangana through early detection of oral, breast and cervical cancers in rural areas.

Source

Link: <https://www.expresshealthcare.in/news/care-hospitals-in-association-with-piramal-swasthya-launches-ummeed/410452/>

Bharat Consumption scheme launched

- ICICI Prudential AMC launched ICICI Prudential Bharat Consumption Scheme on 26 March 2019.
- The scheme aims to benefit from the Indian consumption story, considered as one of the fastest growing consumption markets globally.
- The offer will open on March 26 and close April 9, 2019.
- The scheme is an open-ended equity scheme following the consumption theme.

Source

Link: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/stocks/news/icici-prudential-amc-to-launch-bharat-composition-scheme/articleshow/68567225.cms>

Schemes and Campaigns

- System for TB Elimination in Private Sector (STEPS) scheme was launched on 24 March 2019 to mark the World TB Day.
- YSR Congress party launched the Jagan Anna Kanuka campaign on 24 March 2019 to make voters aware of Navaratnalu, nine promises made by YSRCP and its benefits.

Source

Link: <https://www.aninews.in/news/national/politics/ysr-cp-launches-jagan-anna-kanuka-campaign-to-make-people-aware-of-navaratnalu20190324205437/>

CBSE launches app Shiksha Vani

- Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) launched its podcast app, 'Shiksha Vani'.
- It will be used to send out major announcements made by the board and is expected to be the quickest way to information.
- The first official circular on the app confirmed the beginning of the evaluation process of the 2019 Board Examinations.

Source

Link: <https://indianexpress.com/article/education/cbse-launches-podcast-app-shiksha-vani-available-in-play-store-5636923/>

Bill for total liquor prohibition in Mizoram

- Mizoram assembly passed a bill to bring back total prohibition of liquor in the northeastern state after four years.
- The state government decided to prohibit the manufacture, import, sale, and consumption of liquor for the common people for their general health.
- Earlier total prohibition was in force in Mizoram from 1997 to 2015.

Source Link: https://wap.business-standard.com/article-amp/pti-stories/bill-passed-to-bring-back-total-prohibition-in-mizoram-119032100478_1.html

'Conquer Exam, Be a Warrior' App launched

- Indian Institute of Public Health Gandhinagar has developed a mobile application called as 'Conquer Exam, Be a Warrior'.
- It is made in collaboration with the National Mental Health Program, Department of Health and Family Welfare, Gujarat.
- This application creates awareness as well as help students to analyze their weak points and overcome from the exam pressure by providing assistance.

Source

Link: <https://www.aninews.in/news/business/mobile-app-developed-by-iiphg-phfi-to-combat-exam-pressure20190318170846/>

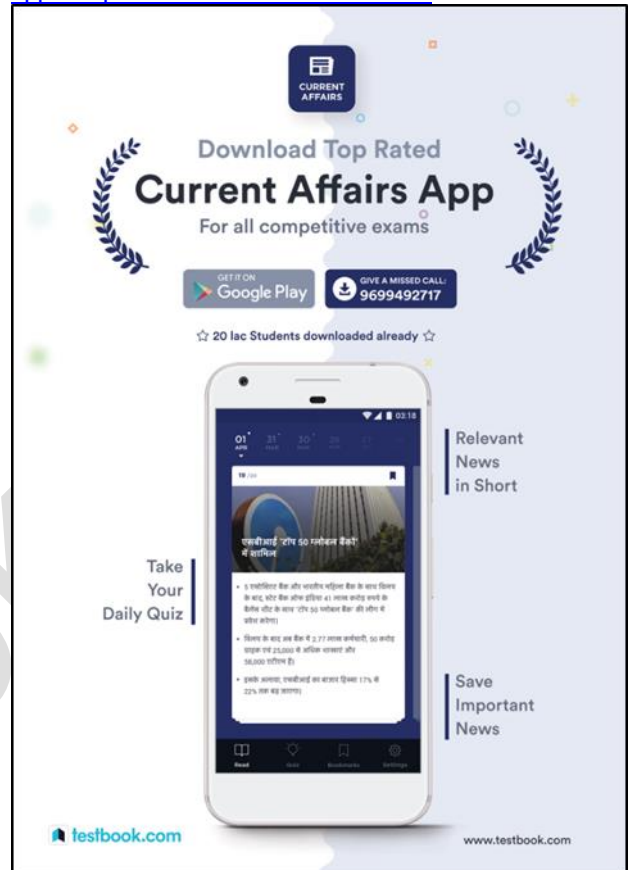
ECI to launch Observer App

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) will launch the Observer App, a mobile application, that will help poll observers to submit reports.

- The poll observers will get all the important notifications and alerts through the 'Observer App'.
- It will also help them get their deployment status and download the ID card.

Source

Link: <https://www.dailypioneer.com/2019/india/mobile-app-for-poll-observers-launched.html>



Pulse Polio Programme for 2019 launched

- On 9 March 2019, President Ram Nath Kovind launched the Pulse Polio programme for 2019.
- Children of less than five years across the country will be given polio drops as part of the drive of Government of India to sustain polio eradication from the country.
- The programme was launched on the eve of National Immunisation Day which is observed on 10 March 2019.

Source

Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=President-Kovind-launches-Pulse-Polio-programme-for-2019&id=360790>

Yuvashree Arpan scheme launched in West Bengal

- 'Yuvashree Arpan' scheme was launched in West Bengal on 6 March 2019.
- Under the scheme, 50000 youth in the state will receive financial assistance of Rs 1 Lakh for setting up an enterprise.

- The MSME department of the state government will be funding the scheme.

Source Link: <http://www.uniindia.com/yuvashree-arpan-mamata-announces-new-scheme-for-employment-of-youth/east/news/1520180.html>

Free milk scheme launched in Uttarakhand

- Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat launched the 'Mukhyamantri Anchal Amrit Yojana' in Dehradun on 7 March 2019.
- Under the scheme, 2.5 lakh children at 20,000 Anganwadi kendras in the state will be given 100 ml milk twice a week for free.
- Flavoured, sweet, skimmed milk powder will be made available to the 20,000 Anganwadi kendras across the state under the Amrit Yojana.

Source Link: <https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/uttarakhand-cm-launches-free-milk-scheme-for-anganwadi-children-1472485-2019-03-07>

Scheme for construction workers launched

- The Maharashtra government launched 'Atal Aahar Yojna' for construction workers in the state on 7 March 2019.
- Under the yojana, construction workers will be provided nutritious and hygienic food at their workplace for just Rs 5.
- The Yojana will be implemented in some areas of the state on a pilot basis and later its scope will be expanded.

Source Link: https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/maharashtra-govt-launches-scheme-for-construction-workers-119030701142_1.html

Centre approves strategy to create carbon sink

- The government of India approved a strategy for creating an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent through forest and tree cover by 2030.
- The strategy will help in fighting against climate change.
- Carbon sinks are natural or artificial reservoirs that absorb and store the atmosphere's carbon dioxide through physical and biological mechanisms.

Source Link: <https://www.financialexpress.com/lifestyle/science/centre-approves-strategy-to-create-carbon-sink-of-3-billion-tonnes-from-forests-by-2030/1509824/>

Strategy document UNNATEE launched

- Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) launched a strategy document titled 'UNNATEE' (Unlocking National Energy Efficiency potential) on 8 March 2019.
- It describes a framework and implementation strategy to establish a clear linkage between energy supply-demand scenarios and energy efficiency opportunities.
- The document addresses India's environmental and climate change mitigation action plan.

Source Link: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1568321>

India Cooling Action Plan launched

- Ministry for Environment, Forest and Climate Change launched 'India Cooling Action Plan' (ICAP) on 8 March 2019.
- ICAP is a 20-year road map (2018 to 2038) to address the cooling requirements for all sectors such as buildings, cold chain, transport and refrigeration.
- It aims to reduce cooling demand across sectors by 20% to 25% and reduce refrigerant demand by 25% to 30% by 2037-38.

Source Link: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1568328>

e-Dharti app launched

- e-Dharti app, a new online system where all the 3 main modules- Conversion, Substitution, and Mutation have been made online, was launched recently.
- The public can now submit their applications online by visiting L&DO website.
- e-Dharti Geo Portal, another important application on which L&DO has started working, is GIS-based mapping of approx 65000 properties.

Source Link: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1567945>

Scheme to rebate state embedded taxes

- The Union Cabinet approved the scheme to rebate state and central embedded taxes to support the textile sector.
- This will enable the Government to take various measures for making exports of apparel and made-ups zero-rated.
- At present, apparel and made-ups segments are supported under the Scheme for Rebate of State Levies (RoSL).

Source Link: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1567806>

Government to launch I-STEM portal

- The center is all set to launch a national portal 'I-STEM' of publicly-funded research facilities and equipment.
- It will enable easy and timely access of resources to researchers working anywhere in the country.
- The web portal is developed by scientists from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru and is expected to be officially launched soon.

Source

Link: <https://www.livemint.com/science/news/govt-to-launch-portal-of-publicly-funded-research-facilities-1551895341867.html>

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Bharat Electronics launches SWAGAT

- Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), presented SWAGAT – the Automatic Fare Collection Gating System.
- Modi launched the system as part of the inaugural of Phase-I of the Ahmedabad Metro.
- SWAGAT is an initiative by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in collaboration with BEL and Centre for Development of Advanced Computing with the support of DMRC, NPCI, and SBI.

Source

Link: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/logistics/bharat-electronics-launches-swagat-automatic-fare-collection-gating-system/article26437351.ece>

NABL launched Quality Assurance scheme

- NABL launched a scheme called Quality Assurance Scheme (QAS) for Basic Composite (BC) Medical Laboratories (Entry Level) in February 2019.
- The scheme will help to bring quality at the grass root level of India's health system.
- The base criterion of the scheme is based on the requirements enlisted in Gazette notification dated 18th May 2018 by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW).

Source

Link: <http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1567599>

Government introduced transport scheme

- The government introduced the Transport and Marketing Assistance (TMA) scheme on 5 March 2019.
- It will provide financial assistance for transport and marketing of agriculture products.
- Under the scheme, the government would reimburse a certain portion of freight charges and provide assistance for marketing of agricultural produce.

Source Link: https://wap.business-standard.com/article-amp/pti-stories/govt-brings-transport-scheme-to-boost-agri-exports-to-reimburse-freight-cost-through-dbt-119030500980_1.html

PM Shram Yogi Mandhan Yojana launched

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Mandhan Yojana at Gandhinagar.
- This is a national pension scheme for workers and labourers of unorganised sector.
- It will provide a monthly pension of 3000 rupees to the employees of the unorganised sector after 60 years of age.
- The scheme will benefit 10 crore workers in unorganised sector.

Source

Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=PM-Modi-to-launch-Pradhan-Mantri-Shram-Yogi-Mandhan-Yojana%2c-other-projects-in-Gujarat-today&id=360566>

PM on 2-day visit to Gujarat

- PM Narendra Modi is on a 2-day visit to Gujarat from 4 March 2019.
- He will launch the Pradhan Mantri Shram-Yogi Maandhan Yojana (PM-SYM) and inaugurate the first phase of 6-km-long Ahmedabad Metro service.
- He will also lay foundation stones for Umiya Dham temple and launch SAUNI water scheme.

Source

Link: <https://www.news18.com/news/politics/pm-narendra-modi-to-launch-several-projects-in-gujarat-during-his-2-day-visit-starting-today-2054421.html>

Rice Knowledge Bank launched

- 'Rice Knowledge Bank - Assam', an agriculture web portal was launched on 28 February 2019.
- The portal is a part of the World Bank funded project-Assam Agri-business and Rural Transformation (APART).
- The portal dedicated to enhancing knowledge on rice production techniques and technologies, best production practices and state agriculture facts.

Source

Link: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/rice-knowledge-bank-launched-under->

[world-bank-funded-assam-agribusiness-rural-transformation-apart-project/articleshow/68206606.cms](http://www.testbook.com/world-bank-funded-assam-agribusiness-rural-transformation-apart-project/articleshow/68206606.cms)

STARS Scheme launched by HRD Ministry

- Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) launched STARS – Scheme for Translational and Advanced Research in Science to fund science projects.
- The ministry has approved funds worth Rs 250 crore for the scheme.
- These funds will be utilised to sponsor about 500 science projects.
- The project will be coordinated by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore.

Source

Link: <https://indianexpress.com/article/education/national-science-day-hrd-ministry-launched-rs-250-crore-scheme-stars-to-fund-science-projects-5604639/>

Cabinet approves phase 2 of FAME scheme

- The Cabinet Committee of Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved a Rs 10,000 crore package for the second phase of Faster Adoption & Manufacturing of Electric (and hybrid) vehicles (FAME) scheme on February 28.
- Phase 2 will continue for three years till 31 March 2022.
- FAME II will focus on the electrification of public transportation including 'shared transportation'.

Source

Link: <https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/india/cabinet-approves-rs-10000-crore-package-for-phase-ii-of-fame-scheme-3596961.html>

Cabinet approves Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN yojana

- The Union Cabinet approved the 'Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN Yojana' (Jaiv Indhan- Vatavaran Anukool fasal Awashesh Nivaran) on 28 February 2019.
- The aim of the scheme is to provide financial support to Integrated Bioethanol Projects using lignocellulosic biomass and other renewable feedstock.
- The Yojana will be supported with total financial outlay of Rs.1969.50 crore for 5 years.

Source

Link: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1566711>

Scheme for knitwear sector launched

- Textile Minister, Smriti Irani launched a scheme for development of Knitting and Knitwear Sector under PowerTex India in New Delhi on 28 February 2019.
- Yarn bank scheme, solar energy scheme, group work shed scheme, and creation of new service centers are few of its components.

- Combined SFC of PowerTex India Scheme and Knitwear Scheme were approved with an outlay of Rs. 487.07 crores.

Source

Link: <http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1566646>

Science & Technology

Google launches global council for AI

- Google launched a global advisory council to consider ethical issues around artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies.
- The 8 member council includes technology experts, digital ethicists, and people with public policy backgrounds.
- The group is meant to provide recommendations for Google and other companies and researchers working in areas such as facial recognition software.

Source

Link: <https://indianexpress.com/article/technology/tech-news-technology/google-launches-global-council-to-advise-on-ai-and-tech-ethics-5646568/>

Electric potential of thundercloud measured

- For the first time in the world, researchers at the GRAPES-3 muon telescope facility in Ooty have measured the electrical potential, size, and height of a thundercloud that passed overhead on 1 December 2014.
- At 1.3 gigavolts, this cloud had 10 times higher potential than the previous record in a cloud.
- Clouds have negative charges along with their lower side and positive charges on top.

Source Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/ootys-muon-detection-facility-measures-potential-of-thundercloud/article26619932.ece>

C-DAC announces Tech Conclave 2019

- Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) will host 2 days 'Technology Conclave' on 4 and 5 April 2019 at Pune.
- Exascale Computing, Microprocessor and Quantum Computing, AI & Language Computing, IoE, and Dependable and Secure Computing and Next Generation Applied Computing will be discussed at the conclave.
- C-DAC is the implementing agencies of the National Supercomputing Mission.

Source Link: https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/c-dac-announces-tech-conclave-2019-119033000181_1.html

IIT Delhi developed AI system for malaria

- Researchers at IIT Delhi have developed an AI-based electronic hardware system to detect malaria, tuberculosis, intestinal parasite, and cervical cancer in milliseconds.
- The system can be used for healthcare access in resource-constrained areas with limited access to human specialists.
- The long-term impact would be to enable future deployment of the platform in rural areas.

Source

Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/iit-delhi-develops-ai-based-system-to-detect-malaria-other-diseases/article26647656.ece>

A-Sat missile destroyed live satellite

- India has entered its name as an elite space power. An anti-satellite weapon A-SAT, successfully targeted a live satellite in 3 minutes on a low earth orbit.
- Till now only the US, Russia and China have achieved this; now India is the **4th** country to achieve this feat.
- **Mission Shakti** was a difficult target to achieve which was completed successfully within 3 minutes of launch.

Source Link: <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/pm-narendra-modi-address-to-nation-1553666395099.html>

Apple partnered for Apple Card

- Apple announced a new credit card called the Apple Card recently.
- The company has partnered with **Goldman Sachs and Mastercard** for payment handling and processing.
- Apple's partner Goldman Sachs would not sell data to the third party for marketing and advertisement. The service would only be available in the US, starting summer.

Source

Link: <https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/trends/apple-partners-with-goldman-sachs-and-mastercard-for-apple-card-3701551.html>

Chandrayaan 2 to carry laser instruments

- India's lunar mission Chandrayaan 2, scheduled to launch in April, will carry NASA's laser instruments that allow scientists to make precise measurements of the distance to the Moon.
- In Chandrayaan - 2 Mission, a 3,890-kg Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft will orbit around the Moon to study its conditions and collect data of its topography, mineralogy and exosphere.

Source Link: [https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/chandrayaan-2-will-carry-nasas-laser-](https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/chandrayaan-2-will-carry-nasas-laser-instruments-to-moon/article26640826.ece?homepage=true)

[instruments-to-moon/article26640826.ece?homepage=true](https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/chandrayaan-2-will-carry-nasas-laser-instruments-to-moon/article26640826.ece?homepage=true)

DRDO satellite to be launched on April 1

- ISRO will launch an advanced electronic intelligence satellite EMISAT, developed by DRDO on April 1, 2019.
- It will be used to sniff out enemy radars and for collecting imagery and communication intelligence.
- Its characteristics are - help monitor the activities of enemy radars and sensors deployed along the border and know the exact topography of enemy areas.

Source

Link: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/drdo-sat-that-will-sniff-out-enemy-radars-to-be-launched-on-april-1/articleshow/68551896.cms>

Device developed to detect the temp drop

- A bracelet, Bempu, has been developed which gives out alerts whenever newborn's body temperature drops, a condition called hypothermia seen in newborns with low birth weight.
- Bempu, an acronym for baby temperature, is a made in-India hypothermia alert device and was innovated in 2016 by Ratul Narain.
- When worn by a newborn, the blue light on the bracelet flashes if the temperature is normal.

Source

Link: <https://www.newsrain.in/news/68506811/Bracelets-from-Bengaluru-saving-babies-in-Papua-New-Guinea>

NASA discovers pulsar speeding through space

- NASA discovered a pulsar hurtling through space at nearly 4 million km/h.
- It is so fast that it could travel the distance between Earth & the Moon in just 6 minutes.
- Pulsars are super dense, rapidly spinning neutron stars left behind when a massive star explodes.
- This one, dubbed PSR J0002+6216, has a radio-emitting tail pointing towards the expanding debris of a recent supernova explosion.

Source Link: <http://www.ddinews.gov.in/sci-tech/nasa-discovers-pulsar-speeding-through-space>

Evidence of water found on asteroid Benu

- Scientists have discovered evidence of abundant water-bearing minerals on the surface of the near-earth asteroid Benu.
- Data from NASA's OSIRIS-REx spacecraft that is currently orbiting the asteroid confirm the presence of aqueously altered, hydrated minerals on its surface.
- Scientists say similar objects may have seeded the earth with water and organic materials.

Source

Link: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/science/evidence-of-water-particle-plumes-found-on-asteroid-bennu-nasa/article26592859.ece>

UAE announced pan-Arab body

- 11 Arab states including Saudi Arabia, Algeria and Morocco signed on to the first regional team to cooperate on a space programme.
- The pan-Arab team's first project is 'a satellite that Arab scientists will work on from here in the UAE'.
- The astronaut programme would make the UAE one of only a handful of states in the Middle East to have sent a person into space.

Source Link: https://wap.business-standard.com/article-amp/pti-stories/uae-announces-pan-arab-body-for-space-programme-119031901091_1.html

Google unveiled Stadia

- Google unveiled a video-game streaming platform called Stadia, positioning itself to take on the traditional video-game business.
- The platform will store a game-playing session in the cloud and lets players jump across devices operating on Google's Chrome browser and Chrome OS.
- Google made the announcement at the Game Developers Conference in San Francisco.

Source Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/technology/gadgets/google-unveils-stadia-a-video-game-streaming-platform/article26592293.ece>

Scientists successfully levitate objects

- Scientists have designed a way to levitate and propel objects using only light, by creating nanoscale patterns on the objects' surfaces.
- Though still theoretical, the work is a step toward developing a spacecraft that could reach the nearest planet outside of the solar system in 20 years, powered and accelerated only by light.

Source

Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Scientists-successfully-levitate-objects-with-light&id=361203>

Water-resistant electronic skin created

- Scientists have created a self-healing electronic skin that could be used in to develop a range of devices from water-resistant touchscreens to aquatic soft robots.
- The material has been developed by researchers from the National University of Singapore (NUS) and the University of California.

- The electronic skin is created by printing the novel material into electronic circuits.

Source Link: https://wap.business-standard.com/article-amp/pti-stories/water-resistant-electronic-skin-with-self-healing-abilities-created-119031900442_1.html

A gel to selectively remove oil or water

- A natural biopolymer, chitosan, which is water-soluble, has been chemically modified by researchers at the IIT Guwahati.
- It can selectively remove either an oil or water phase from an oil-water mixture.
- The researchers have also made it possible to switch the chitosan-based material's property from being extremely water-repelling to extremely oil-repelling and vice-versa.

Source Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/a-gel-to-selectively-remove-oil-or-water/article26556540.ece>

Device which creates water from thin air

- Scientists have developed a novel solar-powered harvesting system that absorbs moisture from the air and converts it into clean, usable water.
- It relies on hydrogels, gel-polymer hybrid materials designed to be 'super sponges' that can retain large amounts of water.
- The technology could be used in disaster situations, water crises or poverty-stricken areas and developing countries.

Source Link: <http://ddnews.gov.in/sci-tech/new-solar-powered-device-creates-water-thin-air>

83 supermassive black holes discovered

- Astronomers discovered 83 quasars powered by supermassive black holes 13 billion light-years away from the Earth.
- The finding is published in The Astrophysical Journal.
- Supermassive black holes, found at centers of galaxies, can be millions or even billions of times more massive than Sun.
- A supermassive black hole becomes visible when gas accretes onto it, causing it to shine as a quasar.

Source

Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Astronomers-discover-83-supermassive-black-holes-13-billion->

[light-years-away-from-Earth&id=360985](#)

Indian Ocean exploration: Live broadcast

- A British-led scientific mission to document changes taking place beneath the Indian Ocean has broadcast its first live, television-quality video transmission from a 2-person submersible.
- The first transmission came from 60 meters (200 feet) down. The new broadcast uses cutting-edge wireless technology.
- Monsoon storms and underwater current continued to present a challenge at greater depths.

Source

Link: <https://www.telegraphindia.com/world/indian-ocean-exploration-mission-makes-historic-broadcast/cid/1686686>

Gender-neutral AI voice developed

- A Denmark-based team created a voice nicknamed Q that was presented at the South by Southwest (SXSW) creative festival in Texas and is designed to be perceived as neither male or female.
- Barking orders at a digital device that responds in a woman's voice can reinforce sexist stereotypes, according to the team.

Source

Link: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/magazines/panache/breaking-sexist-stereotypes-experts-develop-gender-neutral-ai-voice-for-digital-assistants/articleshow/68372775.cms?from=mdr>

Water molecules observed on Moon

- Scientists, using NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO), observed water molecules moving around the dayside of the Moon.
- This would help them learn about the accessibility of water that can be used by humans in future lunar missions.
- Scientists have hypothesised that hydrogen ions in the solar wind may be the source of most of the Moon's surface water.

Source

Link: [http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Scientists%2c-using-NASA%26%2339%3bs-Lunar-Reconnaissance-Orbiter-\(LRO\)-observe-water-molecules-moving-around-dayside-of-Moon&id=360882](http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Scientists%2c-using-NASA%26%2339%3bs-Lunar-Reconnaissance-Orbiter-(LRO)-observe-water-molecules-moving-around-dayside-of-Moon&id=360882)

IBM to train 1m female students in India

- IBM will collaborate with Central and State governments to upskill around 1 million female students over a period of 3 years.
- They will be trained in the fields of Maths, Engineering, and Science and Technology.
- As part of its engagement with the government, around 4,000 mentors and 6 Lakh mentees will benefit from IBM's AI-powered mentor platform which will include 5 lakh women students.

Source

Link: <https://www.livemint.com/politics/policy/ibm-to-train-over-1-million-female-students-in-india-in-3-years-1552318751717.html>

Guided PINAKA successfully test fired

- Defence Research and Defence Organisation (DRDO) successfully test fired the Guided PINAKA from Pokhran ranges on 11 March 2019.
- The weapon system is equipped with state-of-the-art guidance kit comprising of an advanced navigation and control system.
- The indigenously developed Guided Pinaka by DRDO will significantly boost the capability of the artillery to make precision hits.

Source

Link: <http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1568552>

First exoplanet spotted by Kepler confirmed

- The scientists have confirmed the existence of the exoplanet named Kepler-1658 b.
- The exoplanet was the first spotted by NASA's Kepler space telescope in 2011.
- It is a massive hot Jupiter that rotates around its star every 3.85 days.
- Kepler-1658 b is 50% more massive and three times larger than the Sun.

Source

Link: <https://indianexpress.com/article/technology/science/first-exoplanet-kepler-spotted-finally-confirmed-5615155/>

ISRO and CNES signed agreement

- ISRO and its French counterpart CNES signed an agreement on 6 March 2019 to set up a joint maritime surveillance system in the country in May.
- The 2 nations will explore putting up a constellation of low-Earth orbiting satellites that will track the movement of ships globally.
- The 2 agencies have put up 2 climate and ocean weather monitoring satellites Megha-Tropiques & SARAL-AltiKa.

Source Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/isro-french-agency-seal-agreement-on-maritime-security/article26451948.ece>

ISRO to receive training for Gaganyaan

- ISRO experts will receive training for the 'Gaganyaan' project at Toulouse Space Centre, France from March 2019.
- The experts will also be trained at CADMOS, the center for development of microgravity applications and space operations, and MEDES Space Clinic in France.
- The space agencies of India and France signed an agreement to build a constellation of satellites for maritime surveillance.

Source Link: <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/isro-experts-to-receive-training-for-gaganyaan-project-in-france-cnes-1551884273560.html>

CERN approved new experiment

- CERN Research Board approved a new experiment designed to look for light and weakly interacting particles at the LHC.
- FASER (Forward Search Experiment), will complement CERN's ongoing physics programme, extending its discovery potential to several new particles.
- It will search for a suite of hypothesised particles including dark photons.

Source

Link: <https://home.cern/news/news/experiments/faser->

cern-approves-new-experiment-look-long-lived-exotic-particles?utm_campaign=fullarticle&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=inshorts

Ajit Kumar appointed BARC chief

- Scientist Ajit Kumar Mohanty was appointed Director of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) on 6 March 2019.
- He has been appointed for a period of 3 years and is at present Director, Physics Group in BARC and Director, Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics.
- The BARC is India's premier nuclear research facility based in Mumbai.

Source

Link: https://repository.inshorts.com/articles/en/PTI/907f5927-3c5c-4382-b7c5-f31a0dead8a3?utm_campaign=fullarticle&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=inshorts

Google launched new app

- Google unveiled a new app 'Bolo' on 5 March 2019 that aims to help children in primary school learn to read in Hindi and English.
- The free app, which is being launched in India first, uses Google's speech recognition and text-to-speech technology.
- The app features an animated character 'Diya', who encourages children to read stories aloud and helps if the child is unable to pronounce a word.

Source Link: https://wap.business-standard.com/article-amp/pti-stories/google-launches-bolo-to-tutor-children-to-read-hindi-english-119030600314_1.html

ISRO launched Young Scientist Programme

- ISRO launched a special programme for School Children called "Young Scientist Programme" "YUva Vigyan Karyakram" (युविका).
- It is primarily aimed at imparting basic knowledge on Space Technology, Space Science and Space Applications to the younger ones.
- It will be of around two weeks duration during summer holidays and students of the 9th standard are eligible for it.

Source

Link: <http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1567344>

Crew Dragon Rocket launched

- SpaceX launched an unmanned Crew Dragon craft from Florida to the International Space Station on 2 March 2019.
- It is a milestone for Elon Musk's goal of enabling humans to live on other planets.

Source

Link: <https://www.livemint.com/science/news/spacex-launches-crew-dragon-rocket-in-first-test-of-craft-to-carry-humans-1551522940946.html>

Committees & Recommendations

MHA sets up Terror Monitoring Group

- On 29 March 2019, the Ministry of Home Affairs formed a Terror Monitoring Group (TMG).
- The TMG will take coordinated action in all registered cases that relate to terror financing and terror-related activities and bring them to a logical conclusion.
- The TMG will be chaired by Additional Director General of Police, CID of J&K Police.

Source

Link: <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/mha-sets-up-terror-monitoring-group-to-check-flow-of-illegal-funds-in-kashmir-5649526/>

DDC constitutes a 17-member committee

- The Dialogue and Development Commission (DDC) has set-up a 17-member high-level committee on reforming higher education in Delhi.
- The committee will be chaired by DDC vice-chairperson Jasmine Shah.
- It will recommend goals, metrics, policies, and actionable plans for reforming Delhi's higher education system within a year.

Source

Link: <https://www.news18.com/news/india/dialogue-commission-sets-up-high-level-panel-to-reform-higher-education-in-delhi-2062785.html>

RBI Governor chaired the panel of regulators

- Markets regulator SEBI, insurance regulator IRDAI, and Pension Fund Regulator PFRDA, along with senior officials of the finance ministry discussed key issues faced by the economy.
- The meeting of the sub-committee of the Financial Stability and Development Council was chaired by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das.
- They also reviewed the functioning of state-level coordination committee.

Source Link: https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/rbi-guv-headed-panel-of-regulators-discuss-issues-concerning-economy-119031401119_1.html

Panel formed to keep tab on fake news

- Several committees are formed to keep watch on instances of paid and fake news.

- The committees have been formed in coordination with Information and Public Relations Department.
- Pre-certification is mandatory for any political party or candidate to advertise in electronic media or e-papers.
- Media Certification and Monitoring Committee (MCMC) will be formed in all 33 districts of Rajasthan.

Source Link: https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/panels-formed-to-keep-tab-on-fake-news-media-ads-in-rajasthan-119031401162_1.html

IRDAI and NHA form a joint working group

- Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) and the National Health Authority (NHA) has formed a Joint Working Group (JWG).
- The joint working group will be chaired by Dinesh Arora, Deputy CEO of NHA.
- The JWG will recommend measures to help improve the implementation of the Centre's Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY).

Source

Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/irdai-nha-form-joint-working-group-on-ayushman-bharat/article26450028.ece>

3-member panel to mediate in Ayodhya dispute

- A Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court appointed 3-member panel to mediate in Ayodhya dispute on 8 March 2019.
- The panel consists of former Supreme Court judge F.M.I. Kalifulla as Chairman, Art of Living founder Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, and Sriram Panchu, a senior advocate with experience in alternative dispute resolution.
- The mediation will start in Faizabad district of Uttar Pradesh.

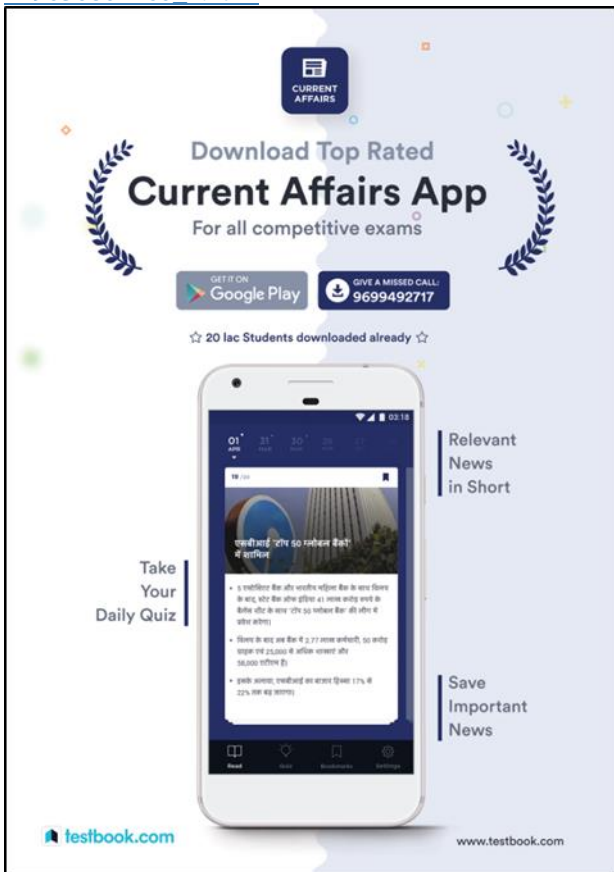
Source Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/sc-appoints-3-member-panel-to-mediate-in-ayodhya-dispute/article26477403.ece>

Committee formed to examine insurance scheme

- The government of India has set up a 5 member committee to examine issues related to framing of a structured scheme for providing insurance cover to advocates.
- The committee will be headed by Legal Affairs Secretary Alok Srivastava.
- The committee will also have one representative each from the Bar Council of India and the State Bar Councils.

Source Link: https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/legal-affairs-secretary-to-head-committee-on-insurance-scheme-for-lawyers-119031401119_1.html

119030801260_1.html



Source

Link: <https://www.businesstoday.in/current/corporate/adani-becomes-first-indian-port-operator-to-record-200-million-tonnes-cargo-movement-in-2018-19/story/331493.html>

BoB to develop agri-digital platform

- Bank of Baroda will develop an agri-digital platform called 'Baroda Kisan' in order to provide solutions for all major agricultural requirements.
- Six companies -- Skymet Weather Services, Weather Risk Management Services, BigHaat, Agrostar India, EM3 Agri Services and Poorti Agri Services -- have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the bank for this project.

Source Link: https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/bob-to-develop-agri-digital-platform-inks-6-mous-119032600707_1.html

Interest rate on small-savings unchanged

- The Finance Ministry has decided to keep the interest rate unchanged on small savings schemes for the 3 month period beginning 1 April 2019.
- The announcement covers small-saving schemes such as the Post Office Saving Accounts, Post Office Time Deposits, National Saving Certificates (NSC) etc.
- The unchanged interest rate means the NSC (5 years) and the PPF (15 years) will fetch 8% interest.

Source

Link: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/govt-keeps-small-savings-schemes-rates-unchanged-for-q1-fy20/article26675893.ece>

RBI clears Rs 19,240 crore CCL for Punjab

- The RBI cleared Rs 19,240.91 crore towards Cash Credit Limit (CCL) for Punjab for the purchase of wheat in the Rabi marketing season.
- The release of the CCL would facilitate the state government in making timely payments to farmers against purchases of food grains in the current season.
- The central government has fixed the minimum support price (MSP) of wheat at Rs 1,840 per quintal.

Source Link: https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/rbi-clears-rs-19-240-crore-ccl-for-punjab-for-rabi-marketing-season-119032901248_1.html

RBI sets NBFC-MFIs' average base rate

- The RBI has set the average base rate to be charged from borrowers by Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) and Micro-Finance Institutions (MFIs) at 9.21% for the first quarter of the next fiscal.

RBI constitutes task force under Usha Thorat

- The RBI announced a task force to examine issues related to offshore rupee markets and recommend policy measures to ensure the stability of the external value of the domestic currency.
- It will be headed by its former deputy Governor Usha Thorat.
- The eight-member task force will assess the causes behind the development of the offshore rupee market.

Source

Link: <https://www.livemint.com/industry/banking/rbi-constitutes-task-force-under-usha-thorat-on-offshore-rupee-markets-1551361002549.html>

Business & Economy

Adani port handles 200 million tonnes cargo

- Adani Port and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) has become the first Indian port operator to handle cargo movement of 200 million tonnes (MT) in 2018-19.
- APSEZ, a part of globally-diversified Adani Group, is the largest port developer and operator in India.
- APSEZ's includes Mundra, Dahej, Kandla and Hazira, Dhamra in Odisha, Mormugao in Goa, Visakhapatnam, and Kattupalli and Ennore in Chennai

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- The RBI comes out with the average of the base rates of the five largest commercial banks for the purpose of arriving at the interest rates to be charged by NBFC-MFIs to its borrowers.

Source Link: https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/rbi-sets-nbfc-mfis-average-base-rate-at-9-21-for-apr-jun-119032901125_1.html

In Q3, current account deficit narrows to 2.5%

- As per the Reserve Bank of India's data, India's current account deficit (CAD) for the third quarter narrowed to 2.5% of the GDP compared with 2.9% in the preceding quarter.
- In absolute terms, CAD was \$16.9 billion in Q3 compared with \$19.1 billion in the second quarter.
- However, on a year-on-year basis, CAD in the October-December period widened from 2.1% or \$13.7 billion.

Source Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-business/in-q3-current-account-deficit-narrows-to-25/article26683012.ece>

RBI set to bring back 'exotic currency bets'

- After a decade, the Reserve Bank of India is set to lift the ban on 'exotic currency derivatives'.
- They are the double-edged, fancy products that were banned in 2007-08 amid allegations of mis-selling.
- Shaktikanta Das is the Governor of RBI.

Source Link: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/for-ex/das-led-rbi-set-to-bring-back-exotic-currency-bets/articleshow/68607216.cms>

Government to infuse Rs 5,042 crore into BoB

- The Finance Ministry has decided to infuse Rs 5,042 crore into state-owned Bank of Baroda.
- It is done ahead of the merger of two other public sector lenders Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank with Bank of Baroda.
- The merger of Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank with Bank of Baroda would be effective from April 1, 2019.

Source Link: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/govt-to-infuse-rs-5042-cr-into-bank-of-baroda/article26661452.ece>

NTPC raised \$ 450 million

- NTPC launched a medium-term notes (MTN or bond) issue to raise \$450 million as a part of its \$6 billion (approx ₹41,400 crore) MTN programme.

- The MTNs are also known as bonds in the overseas markets. The issue would close on 3 April 2019.
- The funds raised through this issue will be used for capital expenditure by the company.

Source Link: <https://www.livemint.com/market/stock-market-news/ntpc-launches-medium-term-bonds-to-raise-rs-3-105-crore-1553683168165.html>

Shares can be transferred in only demat

- Transfer of shares of listed companies can be done only in the demat form from 1 April 2019, as said by SEBI on 27 March 2019.
- Shares in the demat form would help in maintaining a transparent record of shareholding at companies amid rising concerns over beneficial ownership of entities.
- The move does not prohibit an investor from holding the shares in physical form even after April 1.

Source Link: <https://www.livemint.com/market/stock-market-news/from-1-april-shares-can-be-transferred-in-demat-form-only-sebi-1553705414813.html>

SEBI defers implementation of norms

- Sebi deferred implementation of revised norms pertaining to royalty payment by listed companies to related parties by 3 months, on 27 March 2019.
- The implementation of a provision of the amended norms has been deferred till June 30, 2019.
- The amendments were made to Sebi (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 - payment relating to royalty and brand usage.

Source Link: <https://www.livemint.com/market/stock-market-news/sebi-defers-implementation-of-amended-norms-for-royalty-payment-1553699075565.html>

Tata to invest in GMR unit

- The Tata group has made its first investment in India's burgeoning airports sector by buying 20% stake in the GMR group's airports vertical.
- GMR Infrastructure Limited (GIL) announced that it has raised ₹8,000 crore from 3 investors in its airport vertical, GMR Airports Limited (GAL).
- The investment brings multiple strategic benefits and will pave the way for restructuring of the business.

Source Link: <https://www.livemint.com/companies/news/tatas-enter-airports-business-to-invest-in-gmr-s-unit-1553662412490.html>

ITC sold John Players to Reliance

- ITC has sold its John Players apparel brand and related trademarks and intellectual property to Reliance Retail.

- Launched about 2002, the apparel brand started with men's shirts and was later extended to jeans, tees, and trousers.
- ITC will now focus on the premium-end through its WLS stores.

Source Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/business/itc-sells-john-players-brand-to-reliance-retail/article26646203.ece>

Rail Vikas Nigam to launch IPO

- Rail Vikas Nigam Limited, a Miniratna company incorporated by the Ministry of Railways, will open its initial public offering for subscription on March 29, 2019.
- The price band for public issue, which will close on April 3, 2019, is fixed at Rs 17-19/share.
- A discount equivalent to 50 paise per share on the final offer price will be offered to retail investors and employees, respectively.

Source
Link: <https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/ipo/rail-vikas-nigam-to-launch-ipo-price-band-fixed-at-rs-17-19share-3702311.html>

RBI slapped Rs 2 crore penalty on PNB

- The Reserve Bank of India slapped a penalty of **Rs 2 crore on Punjab National Bank** for non-compliance of regulatory directions with regard to SWIFT operations.
- SWIFT is a global messaging software used for sharing information on inter-bank transactions by financial entities.
- RBI had earlier imposed penalties worth 71 crore rupees on 36 public, private and foreign banks for non-compliance.

Source
Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=RBI-slaps-Rs-2-crore-penalty-on-PNB&id=361450>

Stakes sold

- Prudential Corp. Holdings Ltd will sell a 3.7% stake in ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Co. Ltd, on 26 & 27 March 2019.
- Fortis Healthcare Ltd is facilitating the sale of stakes owned by private equity investors in its SRL Diagnostics unit.
- Kalpataru Power Transmission Ltd (KPTL) signed an agreement to acquire a 85% equity stake in Linjemontage I Grastorp AB (LMG) for a value of \$24 million.

Source
Link: <https://www.livemint.com/companies/news/pruden>

<https://www.livemint.com/companies/news/prudential-to-sell-3-7-stake-in-icici-prudential-via-an-offer-for-sale-1553544073430.html>

SEBI modified commissions

- Sebi reviewed and modified the commission as well as disclosure norms for the mutual fund industry on 25 March 2019.
- The move came after Sebi in October 2018 asked the asset management companies (AMC) to adopt full trail model of commission in all schemes.
- The commission will be paid from AMC's books and only the first SIP(s) purchased by the new investor will be eligible for upfronting.

Source Link: <https://www.livemint.com/mutual-fund/mf-news/sebi-modifies-commissions-disclosure-norms-for-mutual-fund-industry-1553528778104.html>

Delhivery gets \$413 million funding

- Logistics startup Delhivery Pvt. Ltd has secured \$413 million in a funding round led by the SoftBank Vision Fund.
- Delhivery plans to use it to expand its presence to 20,000 pincodes by the first quarter of FY20 from 15,000 pincodes.
- Delhivery was founded in 2011 by Barua, Mohit Tandon, Bhavesh Manglani, Suraj Saharan and Kapil Bharati.

Source Link: <https://www.livemint.com/companies/startups/-413-million-funding-helps-delhivery-enter-coveted-unicorn-club-1553426910855.html>

India gold imports dip 5.5%

- India's gold imports dipped about 5.5% in value terms to \$29.5 billion in April-February 2018-19, which is expected to keep a lid on the current account deficit.
- Total gold imports in the corresponding period of 2017-18 stood at \$31.2 billion, according to commerce ministry data.
- India is one of the largest gold importers in the world.

Source
Link: <https://www.livemint.com/market/stock-market-news/india-gold-imports-dip-5-5-during-apr-feb-to-29-5-billion-1553440448813.html>

Government garnered Rs 700 crore

- Sale of 'enemy shares' and buyback of stocks by CPSEs together yielded the government over ₹11,300 crore.
- This helped the exchequer mop up ₹85,000 crore from disinvestment in the current fiscal- the second highest receipt ever.

- Enemy property refers to the assets left behind by people who migrated to Pakistan or China and are no longer citizens of India.

Source Link: <https://www.livemint.com/market/stock-market-news/govt-garners-rs-700-crore-through-first-ever-sale-of-enemy-shares-1553445197910.html>

EverSource Capital to invest \$ 1 billion

- EverSource Capital is looking to invest over \$1 billion in renewable energy investments through its Green Growth Equity Fund.
- The National Investments and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) of India and the UK government are anchor investors in Green Growth Equity Fund.
- EverSource made an investment, jointly infusing \$330 million along with NIIF and UK's CDC, into Ayana Renewables in February 2019.

Source Link: <https://www.livemint.com/industry/energy/eversource-capital-to-invest-1-billion-in-india-s-renewable-energy-sector-1553448516881.html>

Yarn Bank set up for weavers

- A yarn bank has been set up at the Mysore Powerloom Silk Manufacturers Cooperative Society on Avenue Road to benefit the state's weavers.
- The bank will supply pure silk yarn and zari to weavers who subscribe.
- The bank, regardless of the price rise in the open market and the menace of middlemen, ensures a steady supply of yarn to the weavers from southern Karnataka.

Source Link: <https://www.deccanherald.com/city/bengaluru-infrastructure/yarn-bank-set-up-to-help-weavers-in-crisis-724963.html>

Foreign investors to pay higher taxes

- Changes in the Sebi listing and prevention of insider-trading regulations, revisions in the double-taxation avoidance agreements with Mauritius and Singapore are set to come into effect from April 1.
- The changes in DTAAs give India the right to tax capital gains arising on Indian equity shares sold by a Singapore or Mauritian resident.
- India amended DTAAs with Singapore and Mauritius in 2016

Source Link: <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/foreign-investors-to-pay-higher-taxes-starting-from-april-1-1553402525553.html>

Ola cabs back on Bengaluru roads

- The Karnataka government announced that it had revoked the suspension handed to Ola.
- It is done two days after it issued a notice banning the cab-hailing service from operating in the state for six months.
- Ola services were suspended by Karnataka transport dept for running bike taxis without permission.

Source Link: <https://www.livemint.com/companies/startups/ola-cabs-back-on-bengaluru-roads-as-karnataka-govt-lifts-ban-1553429188161.html>

SIB to raise up to ₹250 crore

- On 20 March 2019, South Indian Bank said it will raise up to ₹250 crore by issuing Basel III-compliant bonds.
- The bonds will be rated, unsecured, redeemable, non-convertible, Basel III is compliant and lower tier 2 bonds up to ₹150 crore.
- The bonds would bear face value of ₹1 lakh each.

Source Link: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/south-indian-bank-to-raise-up-to-250-cr-via-basel-iii-compliant-bonds/article26590773.ece>

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MCCIL recognised as a Third-Country CCP

- Metropolitan Clearing Corporation of India Ltd (MCCIL), an arm of Metropolitan Stock Exchange of India, received recognition as a Third-Country Central Counterparty (TC-CCP) by Bank of England.
- It will enable MCCIL to offer clearing services to UK-based entities.
- There are currently seven clearinghouses recognized by SEBI including BSE's Indian Clearing Corporation Ltd and NSE Clearing Ltd.

Source Link: <https://www.devdiscourse.com/article/business/448191-metropolitan-clearing-corporation-of-india-ltd-first-to-receive-recognition-as-tc-ccp-by-boe>

RBI to reform WMA system for states

- Reserve Bank of India has proposed a rule-based approach in fixing new Ways and Means limits for the state

governments, replacing the previous expenditure-based system.

- It will set up a panel to recommend parameters of the new system which is aimed at preventing automatic monetisation of deficits.
- RBI acts as debt manager for state governments and provides a short-term loan to them.

Source

Link: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/stocks/news/rbi-to-reform-wma-system-for-states/articleshow/68469530.cms>

ICICI Lombard partners with MobiKwik

- ICICI Lombard General Insurance entered into a partnership with MobiKwik to provide cyber insurance cover for the mobile wallet users.
- It aims to provide protection against unauthorised and fraudulent transactions online, across bank accounts, and mobile wallets.
- The insurance can be availed digitally through the app at only ₹99 per month and with a sum insured of ₹50,000.

Source

Link: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/icici-lombard-mobikwik-join-hands-to-provide-cyber-insurance-cover-of-50000/article26568366.ece>

Bank in News

- Canara Bank launched an issuance of 5-year senior unsecured bonds (Medium Term Notes) to the extent of US\$ 400 million under Medium Term Note (MTN) programme, through its London branch on 21 March 2019.
- The RBI rejected IDBI Bank's proposal to change its name following the transfer of controlling 51% stake to LIC from the government of India.

Source Link: https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/canara-bank-issues-bonds-from-london-branch-to-raise-up-to-usd-400-mn-119032200627_1.html

RBI forms panel to make currency notes

- The RBI informed the Bombay High Court that it constituted a 4 member committee to look into the issue of currency notes, which will be helpful to blind people.
- Bombay HC was hearing a petition filed by the National Association of the Blind.
- RBI said that it was in the process of developing a mobile application to help the visually impaired identify the denomination of currency notes.

Source

Link: <http://www.asianage.com/metros/mumbai/230319/>

[rbi-forms-panel-to-make-currency-notes-blind-friendly.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/finance/rbi-defers-launch-of-indas-again-awaits-amendments-to-the-banking-laws-119032300059_1.html)

RBI defers launch of IndAs again

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has postponed the rollout of the new accounting standards (IndAS) for the second time.
- It is awaiting amendments to the banking laws before adopting the norms.
- The loan-loss provision under the IndAS is recognised based on the expected credit loss (ECL) model.
- The IndAS will further add to banks' compliance burden, especially for loan-loss provisions.

Source Link: https://www.business-standard.com/article/finance/rbi-defers-launch-of-indas-again-awaits-amendments-to-the-banking-laws-119032300059_1.html

Banks and Business

- State Bank of India (SBI) raised Rs. 1,251.30 crore by issuing Basel III-compliant bonds.
- State-owned Power Finance Corporation (PFC) will acquire the entire 52.63 percent shares of the government in REC for Rs 14,500 crore by the month-end, a move that will help the center to meet its disinvestment target.

Source Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-business/sbi-raises-rs-1251-cr-via-tier-i-bonds/article26615030.ece>

Employment generation in formal sector high

- According to the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) payroll data, net employment generation in the formal sector touched a 17-month high of 8.96 lakh in January 2019.
- The EPFO has been releasing payroll data from April 2018, covering the period starting September 2017.
- The EPFO manages social security funds of workers in the organised and semi organised sector in India.

Source Link: <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/job-generation-in-formal-sector-touches-17-month-high-epfo-data-2011532>

Government exceeds disinvestment target

- According to the Ministry of Finance, the government has overshot its disinvestment target for the second consecutive year.
- The disinvestment proceeds this financial year crossed Rs. 85,000 crore against Revised Estimate of Rs. 80,000 crore.

- In 2017-18, the government had earned a little more than Rs. 1 lakh crore from disinvestments against a target of Rs. 72,500 crore.

Source Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-business/govt-earns-rs-85000-crore-from-disinvestment-overshoots-target/article26615021.ece>

Xiaomi launches 'Mi Pay' App

- Xiaomi has launched the 'Mi Pay' App.
- The Mi Pay app will be available on Xiaomi devices that run on the Android-based MIUI.
- App is seamlessly integrated across SMS, contacts, scanner, app vault and settings within the MIUI environment.
- Xiaomi has tied up with ICICI Bank for the role of the payment service provider while the NPCI monitored UPI will be the digital wallet interface.

Source Link: <https://www.thenewsminute.com/article/xiaomi-launches-mi-pay-india-take-google-pay-paytm-98662>

Vodafone Idea board approved rights issue

- Shares of Vodafone Idea (VIL), tumbled after its board approved Rs 25,000-crore rights issue, one of the largest in Indian markets.
- The stock recovered after falling as much as 7.6% to Rs 29.6 a piece (close to a 52-week low of Rs 28.8), ending at Rs 33 a piece, up 3% from the previous close.
- VIL shareholders would be able to buy 87 shares for a 60% discount to the current stock price.

Source Link: https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/vodafone-idea-board-approves-rs-25-000-crore-rights-issue-at-60-discount-119032001036_1.html

Exim Bank gave \$ 83 million to Congo

- Exim Bank gave a loan of \$ 83.11 million to Congo to finance three solar power projects in the central African country.
- The loan will be utilised for financing 3 solar photovoltaic power projects with a total capacity of 35 MW in 3 provinces -- Karawa, Mbandaka, and Lusambo.
- Projects covered under the LOCs extended to Congo include hydroelectric power projects, power transmission, and more.

Source Link: https://wap.business-standard.com/article-amp/pti-stories/exim-bank-gives-83-mn-line-of-credit-to-congo-to-finance-3-solar-power-projects-119031900643_1.html

EFIs can trade in commodity derivatives

- Eligible Foreign Investors (EFIs) can participate in commodity derivatives trading on stock exchanges located at the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC).
- This statement was released by SEBI on 18 March 2019.
- The contracts would be cash-settled on the settlement price determined on overseas exchanges.
- Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) is the 1st IFSC in India.

Source Link: https://wap.business-standard.com/article-amp/pti-stories/efis-can-trade-in-commodity-derivatives-on-ifsc-exchanges-119031800852_1.html

Hyundai, KIA to invest \$ 300 million in Ola

- Hyundai Motor Co and KIA Motors Corp will together invest \$300 million in Ola, playing catch-up in the global race to invest in mobility firms.
- Hyundai, Kia, and Ola will collaborate to develop fleet and mobility solutions, electric vehicles and infrastructure specific to the Indian market.
- Ola's other investors include SoftBank Group Corp and Tencent Holdings Ltd.

Source Link: <https://www.ndtv.com/business/hyundai-motor-kia-to-invest-300-million-in-ola-2009645>

Net direct tax collection crossed Rs10 lakh cr

- The net direct tax collection figure crossed the Rs 10 lakh crore mark as on March 16, 2019.
- The net direct tax collection during April-January of this fiscal stood at Rs 7.89 lakh crore as against Rs 12 lakh crore targeted for the entire fiscal of 2018-19.
- The government in the interim Budget revised customs collection target from Rs 1.12 lakh crore to Rs 1.30 lakh crore.

Source Link: https://wap.business-standard.com/article-amp/pti-stories/net-direct-tax-collection-crosses-rs-10-lakh-cr-mark-119031800972_1.html

India's first REIT

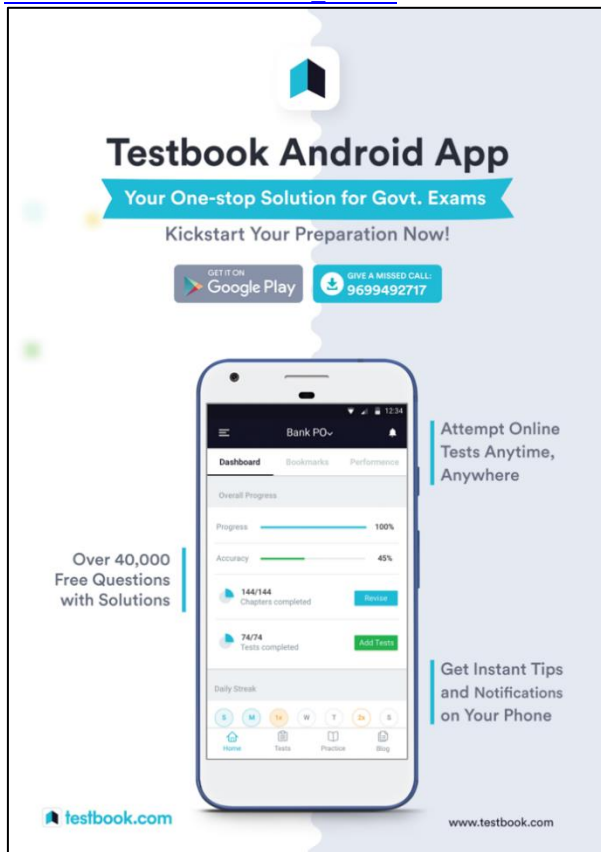
- India's first real estate investment trust (REIT) is going to come up.
- It is backed by Embassy Office Parks, a Bangalore-based real estate developer.
- The first REIT initial public offering (IPO) is open for investment between March 18 and 20, 2019.
- The Embassy Office Parks REIT plans to raise ₹4,570 crore through the IPO.

Source Link: <https://www.livemint.com/money/personal-finance/india-s-first-reit-is-finally-here-should-you-invest-1552826505402.html>

RBI relaxes norms for trade credit

- On 13 March 2019, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) relaxed norms for imports of capital and non-capital goods by raising the trade credit limit to USD 150 million under the automatic route.
- Oil and gas refining & marketing, airline and shipping companies can avail trade credits under the automatic route.
- For others, the limit is up to USD 50 million or equivalent per import transaction.

Source Link: https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/rbi-relaxes-norms-for-trade-credit-119031300949_1.html



Aviva Life Insurance launches Wings Programme

- Aviva Life Insurance has announced the launch of 'Wings' programme on 13 March 2019.
- It is a specially designed mentorship program to empower the female workforce.
- The program is an initiative of the SHE division of the company, for mentoring all the women employees.
- SHE was conceptualised in 2016 by Aviva India's Women Network

Source Link: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/insure/aviva-life-insurance-launches->

[wings-to-empower-women-at-the-workplace/articleshow/68388851.cms?from=mdr](https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/wings-to-empower-women-at-the-workplace/articleshow/68388851.cms?from=mdr)

Brookfield to buy East-West gas pipeline

- Canadian investor Brookfield-led India Infrastructure Trust (InVIT) agreed to buy Mukesh Ambani's East-West gas pipeline for Rs 13,000 crore.
- The East-West pipeline originates at Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh and travels 1,460-kilometers up to Bharuch in Gujarat.
- It transports Reliance Industries Ltd's eastern offshore KG-D6 gas to various customers.

Source Link: https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/brookfield-led-invit-to-buy-ril-s-east-west-gas-pipeline-for-rs-13-000-cr-119031500416_1.html

SBI launches cardless ATM withdrawal

- State Bank of India (SBI) launched YONO Cash on 15 March 2019.
- YONO cash is designed to help SBI customers withdraw cash without a physical debit card.
- ATMs enabled for this service will be termed YONO Cash Point.
- ATM cash withdrawals using SBI's YONO will be secured with two-factor authentication.

Source Link: <https://www.livemint.com/industry/banking/sbi-atm-debit-card-launch-yono-cash-1552646639403.html>

New guidelines on price-sensitive information

- On 15 March 2019, the Reserve Bank of India came out with guidelines to prevent misuse of price-sensitive information by participants in markets for financial instruments.
- Market participants shall not undertake any action with the intention to manipulate the calculation of a benchmark rate or a reference rate.
- The guidelines have come into effect from 15 March 2019.

Source Link: https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/rbi-issues-guidelines-to-prevent-market-abuse-119031500963_1.html

India's trade deficit narrows

- According to data released by the Commerce Ministry, India's exports grew by 2.44% year-on-year to 26.67 billion dollars.
- India's imports declined by 5.4% to 36.26 billion dollars.
- The exports grew on account of higher shipments in sectors such as pharmaceuticals, engineering, and electronics.

- The gap between imports and exports was 12.3 billion dollars in February 2018.

Source

Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=India%26%2339%3bs-trade-deficit-narrows%3b-exports-up-by-2.44%25%2c-imports-decline-by-5.4%25&id=361033>

RBI Governor chaired the panel of regulators

- Markets regulator SEBI, insurance regulator IRDAI, and Pension Fund Regulator PFRDA, along with senior officials of the finance ministry discussed key issues faced by the economy.
- The meeting of the sub-committee of the Financial Stability and Development Council was chaired by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das.
- They also reviewed the functioning of state-level coordination committee.

Source Link: [https://www.business-](https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/rbi-guv-headed-panel-of-regulators-discuss-issues-concerning-economy-119031401119_1.html)

[standard.com/article/pti-stories/rbi-guv-headed-panel-of-regulators-discuss-issues-concerning-economy-119031401119_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/rbi-guv-headed-panel-of-regulators-discuss-issues-concerning-economy-119031401119_1.html)

IDBI categorised as private bank

- IDBI Bank has been categorised as a private sector bank by the Reserve Bank of India, with effect from January 21, 2019.
- The move came following the acquisition by Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).
- SBI, ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank will continue to be identified as Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs).

Source

Link: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/stocks/news/rbi-categorises-idbi-as-a-private-bank/articleshow/68410964.cms?from=mdr>

SBI launched doorstep banking service

- SBI launched a doorstep banking service for senior citizens over 70 years of age and differently-abled customers.
- Eligible customers can avail this service at a nominal fee of 100 rupees per transaction for financial transactions and 60 rupees for non-financial transactions.
- Cash pickup and deliver, check pickup, and checkbook slip, are some of the services that will be provided.

Source Link: <http://www.ddinews.gov.in/business/sbi-launches-doorstep-banking-service-senior-citizens-over-70-differently-abled>

Karur Vysya Bank raised Rs 487 crore

- Karur Vysya Bank raised Rs 487 crore through Basel III compliant bonds to fund its growth plans, on 13 March 2019.
- Basel III is an international regulatory framework with a set of reforms to improve the regulation, supervision and risk management within the banking sector.

Source

Link: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/stocks/news/karur-vysya-bank-raises-rs-487-crore-via-bonds/articleshow/68391762.cms>

RBI to inject \$5 billion liquidity

- RBI will conduct a US dollar /Indian rupee buy/sell swap auction of \$5 billion for a tenor of 3 years on March 26 to inject rupee liquidity for longer duration.
- Under the buy/sell foreign exchange swap, a bank will sell US dollars to the RBI and simultaneously agree to buy the same amount of US dollars at the end of the swap period.
- This will support credit growth and soften bond yields.

Source

Link: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/rbi-to-inject-5-bn-equivalent-long-term-rupee-liquidity-via-buysell-swap-auction/article26524061.ece>

HDFC Bank crossed Rs 6 trillion

- HDFC Bank Ltd crossed the ₹6 trillion market capitalisation for the first time on 13 March 2019, making it only the country's third firm to achieve the milestone.
- HDFC Bank's stock gained for the fifth session in a row, rising as much as 6% during the period.
- Tata Consultancy Services Ltd (TCS) and Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) are the other 2 companies to cross it.

Source

Link: <https://www.livemint.com/companies/news/hdfc-bank-crosses-rs-6-trillion-market-cap-mark-as-shares-hit-record-high-1552464519259.html>

BoI raises Rs 660 crore by selling shares

- Bank of India (BoI) raised Rs 660.80 crore by issuing shares to employees under Employee Share Purchase Scheme (ESPS) on 12 March 2019.
- The bank issued 6,25,52,188 shares of Rs 10 each to eligible employees.
- It offered a discount of 24.28% on the applicable price to the employees and about 94.70% of total employees participated in the scheme.

Source Link: [https://www.business-](https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/bank-of-india-raises-rs-)

[standard.com/article/pti-stories/bank-of-india-raises-rs-](https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/bank-of-india-raises-rs-)

[660-cr-by-selling-shares-to-employees-119031200375_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/industrial-growth-slows-to-1-7-pc-in-january-119031200765_1.html)

76% Indian businesses hit by cyber attacks

- 76% of organizations were hit by online attacks in 2018, as revealed by a new survey '7 Uncomfortable Truths of Endpoint Security' released on 13 March 2019.
- IT managers discovered 39% of the most significant cyber attacks on their organization's servers and 35% on its networks.
- The survey polled more than 3,100 IT decision makers from mid-sized businesses in 12 countries.

Source

Link: <https://www.livemint.com/technology/tech-news/76-indian-businesses-hit-by-cyber-attacks-survey-1552446467488.html>

Retail inflation rose by 2.57%

- Retail inflation rose to a 4-month high of 2.57% in February, mainly driven by higher food prices.
- The retail inflation based on Consumer Price Index (CPI) stood at 1.97% in January and 4.44% in February 2018.
- Food inflation based on CPI, however, was in negative at 0.66%.

Source Link: https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/retail-inflation-rises-to-4-month-high-of-2-57-pc-in-feb-119031200684_1.html

SEBI lifted foreign investment cap

- Markets regulator SEBI withdrew the 20% limit on investments by Foreign Portfolio Investors in corporate bonds of an entity on 12 March 2019.
- In June 2018, SEBI had mandated that no Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) shall have an exposure of more than 20% of its corporate bond portfolio to a single corporate.
- The restriction is being withdrawn in accordance with a circular issued by RBI.

Source Link: https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/sebi-lifts-foreign-investment-cap-in-corporate-bonds-119031200732_1.html

Industrial growth slowed down to 1.7%

- Industrial output growth stood at 1.7% in January on account of slowdown in the manufacturing sector.
- Factory output as measured in terms of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) had grown by 7.5% in January 2018.
- During April-January 2018-19, industrial output grew at 4.4% as against 4.1% in the same period previous fiscal, as per the data released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO).

Source Link: https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/industrial-growth-slows-to-1-7-pc-in-january-119031200765_1.html

DRT transfers UBL shares

- Liquor firm United Breweries Ltd said the Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRT) in Bengaluru has transferred 2.80 percent stake held by Vijay Mallya-linked United Breweries (Holdings) in the company.
- It is worth Rs 1,025 crore.
- According to the BSE data for the December 2018 quarter, United Breweries (Holdings) Ltd (UBHL) held 2.80 per cent stake in UBL.

Source

Link: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/stocks/news/drt-transfers-ubl-shares-worth-over-rs-1025-cr-held-by-ubhl/articleshow/68358676.cms>

RBI to become 10th largest holder of gold

- The RBI is set to become the tenth largest holder of the gold worldwide, displacing the Netherlands.
- It added 6.5 tonnes of gold to its reserves in January, taking its total holding forming part of its foreign exchange reserves to 607 tonnes.
- According to the World Gold Council, India's share of gold held globally has been rising steadily to stand at 6.2% at the end of 2018.

Source Link: https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/rbi-inching-towards-becoming-tenth-largest-holder-of-gold-worldwide-119031100641_1.html

Russian arms export in India fell by 42%

- Russia's arms export to India, fell by 42% between 2014-18 and 2009-2013, according to a SIPRI report.
- Russia accounted for 58% of total Indian arms imports in 2014-2018, compared with 76% in 2009-2013, according to the report.
- The five largest exporters in 2014-18 were the United States, Russia, France, Germany and China.

Source

Link: <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/russian-arms-exports-to-india-fell-by-42-between-2014-18-and-2009-13-report-1552330101285.html>

FMCG sales grew 22% in 2018

- Country's organized grocery stores registered 22% growth in sales, according to Reforming Retail in India report by Nielsen India released in March.
- The market for fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) sold through modern retail stores stood at ₹41,416 crore as of August 2018.

- However, the overall contribution of supermarkets and organized grocery stores remained 10% of overall FMCG sales.

Source

Link: <https://www.livemint.com/industry/retail/fmcg-sales-at-organized-retail-stores-grew-22-in-2018-nielsen-india-report-1552350779531.html>

PNB sanctioned debt worth Rs 689 cr.

- Punjab National Bank sanctioned loans worth ₹689 crore to over 1,600 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) through the psbloansin59minutes.com portal.
- Under the Mudra Yojana, the bank has offered loan to over 2.69 lakh small entrepreneurs this fiscal, till Feb 14, 2019.
- In November 2018, PM announced the launch of the 59 minute loan portal to enable easy access to credit for MSMEs.

Source

Link: <https://www.livemint.com/industry/banking/pnb-sanctions-debt-worth-rs-689-cr-to-1-600-msmes-via-59minute-loan-portal-1552229424139.html>

IDBI Bank to sell Rs. 100 bn of bad loans

- IDBI Bank Ltd., the lender with India's worst-bad loan ratio will sell 100 billion rupees of stressed assets.
- It will be out of the RBI's prompt corrective action framework by September as bad-loan ratio narrows and profits rise.
- IDBI's gross bad loan ratio stood at about 30 percent as of December 31, 2018.

Source

Link: <https://www.livemint.com/industry/banking/the-bank-with-india-s-worst-bad-debt-will-sell-1-4-billion-of-loans-1552273019464.html>

LIC hunts synergies

- Life Insurance Corporation of India and IDBI Bank Ltd. set up a task force to implement synergies.
- This came four months after India's biggest insurer agreed to put more than 200 billion rupees into the troubled lender.
- Sales of insurance policies through bank branches are among immediate areas where gains can be made.
- Hemant Bhargava is acting chairman of LIC.

Source

Link: <https://www.livemint.com/industry/banking/lic-hunts-synergies-with-troubled-idbi-bank-1552279756705.html>

RBI notifies 2% interest subsidy scheme

- On 7 March 2019, RBI notified the norms for banks with regards to 2% interest subvention or subsidy for short-term crop loans during 2018-19 and 2019-20.
- It will be calculated on the crop loan amount from the date of its disbursement up to the date of actual repayment of the crop loan by the farmer.
- For such farmers, the effective rate of short-term crop loans works out to be 4% per annum.

Source

Link: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/rbi-notifies-2-interest-subsidy-scheme-for-short-term-crop-loans/articleshow/68308544.cms>

RBI relaxes norms for white-label ATMs

- The Reserve Bank of India relaxed norms for white label ATM (WLA) operators and allowed them to buy wholesale cash directly from the Reserve Bank of India.
- The RBI also permitted WLA operators to source cash from any bank, including cooperatives and regional rural banks.
- WLAs are owned and operated by non-bank entities on behalf of the banks.

Source Link: https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/white-label-atm-operators-allowed-to-source-cash-directly-from-rbi-119030701170_1.html

RBI slaps penalties on 36 major banks

- The RBI imposed penalties worth Rs 71 crore on 36 public, private and foreign banks on 9 March 2019.
- It imposed penalties for non-compliance with various directions on time-bound implementation and strengthening of SWIFT operations.
- The banks include Bank of Baroda, ICICI Bank, SBI and YES Bank.
- SWIFT is a global messaging software used for transactions by financial entities.

Source Link: https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/rbi-slaps-penalties-on-36-major-banks-for-non-compliance-in-swift-operations-119030801243_1.html

Govt liabilities rise to ₹83.40 lakh crore

- As per the government report, the total liabilities of the government increased to ₹83.40 lakh crore at the end of the December 2018 quarter.
- Public debt accounted for 89.5% of total outstanding liabilities by December 2018.
- During the October-December 2018 period, the central government issued dated securities worth ₹1.27 lakh crore.

Source

Link: <https://www.livemint.com/politics/policy/total-government-liabilities-rise-to-rs-83-40-lakh-crore-in-q3->

SBI links short term loan rates to repo rate

- In a first of its kind, State Bank of India has decided to link the interest rate paid on the savings bank balance of over Rs. 1 lakh to the repo rate.
- It will also link cash credit accounts and overdrafts, with limits above Rs. 1 lakh, to the repo rate.
- The new system will come into effect from 1 May 2019.
- The aim of the system is to increase the effectiveness of monetary transmission.

Source Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-business/sbi-links-savings-account-short-term-loan-rates-to-repo-rate/article26477263.ece>

Government doubled income tax exemption

- The government doubled the income tax exemption limit for gratuity to Rs 20 lakh on 6 March 2019.
- It will benefit lakhs of salaried employees, who are now retiring as well as those who retired over the last 12 months.
- Gratuity Act applies to all employees working in an organisation that employs 10 or more employees during a year.

Source

Link: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/govt-doubles-income-tax-exemption-for-gratuity/articleshow/68295937.cms>

Government announced new 20 rupee coin

- The government announced new Rs 20 coin on 7 March 2019 which will be shaped like a 12-edged polygon (dodecagon).
- The composition of the coin is 65% copper, 20% nickel, and 15% zinc for the outer ring.
- PM Narendra Modi also released the new series of visually impaired friendly circulation coins (Re 1, Rs 2, Rs 5, Rs 10 and Rs 20).

Source

Link: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/government-announces-new-rs-20-coin-things-to-know/articleshow/68298122.cms>

Grasim bought Suktas India for Rs 165 crore

- Grasim Industries Ltd signed an agreement to acquire 100% equity shareholding of Suktas India Pvt Ltd (SIPL) for ₹165 crore on 6 March 2019.
- SIPL will become a wholly owned subsidiary of Grasim after the completion of the transaction.
- SIPL is currently a wholly owned unit of 'SOKTAS Tekstil Sanayi ve Ticaret A.S', a global producer and marketer of fabrics, with its main facilities in Turkey.

Source

Link: <https://www.livemint.com/companies/news/grasim-buys-suktas-india-for-165-crore-1551899776784.html>

CBDT announced relaxed norms for startups

- The income tax department notified the modified norms for startups to enable them to seek 'angel tax' exemption for investments of up to Rs 25 crore.
- The modified norms are aimed at encouraging budding entrepreneurs.
- To avail the exemption a startup will be required to submit a self-declaration about the use of the raised amount to the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade.

Source Link: https://wap.business-standard.com/article-amp/pti-stories/cbdt-notifies-relaxed-norms-for-startups-119030600838_1.html

3 banks fined by RBI

- RBI imposed a fine of ₹2 crore on Allahabad Bank, Rs 1 crore on ICICI Bank, and Rs 1 crore on Yes Bank for non-compliance of norms.
- Yes Bank was fined for non-compliance of directions on Swift.

- Allahabad Bank was fined for non-compliance of directions with regard to Nostro accounts.
- ICICI Bank was fined for delay in compliance with directions related to global messaging software Swift.

Source

Link: <https://www.livemint.com/industry/banking/rbi-fines-allahabad-bank-icici-bank-yes-bank-for-non-compliance-of-norms-1551781587968.html>

RBI slapped fine on 4 banks

- RBI imposed a total monetary fine of Rs 8 crore on 3 banks - Karnataka Bank, United Bank of India and Karur Vysya Bank.
- Banks were charged for non-compliance of directions on Swift messaging software.
- Rs 4 crore fine was imposed on Karnataka Bank, United Bank faced a penalty of Rs 3 crore, and Rs 1 crore fine on Karur Vysya Bank.
- Rs 1 crore was also charged on Yes Bank for the same reason.

Source

Link: <https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/rbi-imposes-rs-8-crore-fine-on-3-banks-for-non-compliance-in-swift-operations-3606861.html>

Essar got nod for shale exploration

- Essar Oil & Gas Exploration and Production Ltd (EOGEP) received environment clearance for exploring shale gas reserves in its Raniganj block in West Bengal.
- The expert appraisal committee (EAC) allowed Essar to drill 20 wells to explore shale gas in its Raniganj CBM block.
- It has been awarded an exploration lease for shale gas, CBM, and hydrocarbons in the Raniganj block.

Source

Link: <https://www.livemint.com/industry/energy/essar-oil-gas-gets-green-nod-for-shale-exploration-in-raniganj-block-1551649952836.html>

Adani Power's Jharkhand SEZ project

- The government has approved Adani Power's ₹14,000-crore Special Economic Zone (SEZ) project in Jharkhand.
- It will export power generated to Bangladesh.
- The group had sought approval for setting up the project over an area of 425 hectares.

Source

Link: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/govt-approves-adani-powers-rs-14000-cr-jharkhand-sez-project/article26423296.ece>

4 banks fined by RBI

- RBI imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 3 crore on Union Bank, Rs 2 crore on Dena Bank and Rs 1 crore each on IDBI and the SBI on 2 March 2019.
- They were charged for non-compliance with various directions.
- The penalty on the Union Bank was imposed for delay in adherence to its directives on 'Time-bound implementation and strengthening of SWIFT-related controls'.

Source

Link: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/rbi-imposes-penalties-on-idbi-dena-bank/articleshow/68234802.cms>

One Nation One Card launched by PM

- PM Narendra Modi launched 'One Nation One Card' in Ahmedabad on 4 March 2019.
- It can be used for paying for travel on any mode of transportation.
- It will enable people to use them either in PoS machines deployed at ticket counters or just use them like Metro Rail smart cards to enter a platform.

Source

Link: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/pm-modi-to-launch-one-nation-one-card-for-all-modes-of-travel-today/articleshow/68247992.cms>

RBI to infuse Rs 25,000 crore into banks

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will infuse Rs 25,000 crore into the banking system through Open Market Operations (OMO).
- The RBI will conduct the purchase of government securities through multi-security auction using the multiple price method.
- The decision on OMO is based on a review of the evolving liquidity conditions in the banking system.

Source

Link: <https://www.businesstoday.in/sectors/banks/reserve-bank-of-india-to-infuse-rs-25000-crore-into-banks-via-omo/story/322660.html>

Manufacturing PMI at a 14-month high in Feb

- According to the Nikkei India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index, the manufacturing activity expanded to a 14-month high of 54.3 in February 2019.
- The rise is due to an increase in sales, output, and employment, according to a private sector survey.
- A reading over 50 denotes an expansion in activity and one below 50 shows a contraction.

Source Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-business/manufacturing-pmi-at-a-14-month-high-of-543-in-feb/article26414062.ece>

SEBI slashes regulatory fee for brokers

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has lowered the regulatory fee that it charges from market intermediaries.
- The move is expected to bring down the overall trading costs for investors.
- The fee that brokers have to pay to SEBI has been reduced by 33.33%, while the fees levied on agri-commodity brokers has been cut by 93.33%.

Source Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-business/sebi-slashes-regulatory-fee-for-brokers/article26414064.ece>

20,000 crore GST evasion detected

- The government detected ₹20,000 crore worth GST evasion so far this fiscal.
- Between April-February 2018-19, GST evasion worth ₹20,000 crore had been detected, of which ₹10,000 crore was recovered.
- A fake invoice worth ₹1,500 crore was detected which was used to claim illegal GST credit of ₹75 crore.

Source
Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/govt-detects-20000-cr-gst-evasion-10000-cr-recovered/article26391476.ece>

GDP growth at 6.6% in December

- India's GDP or gross domestic product growth stood at 6.6% in the quarter ended December 31, 2018, government data showed on 28 February 2019.
- This is the slowest rate of GDP expansion recorded since the quarter ended September 2017, and lower than economists' estimate.
- The growth in GDP during 2018-19 is estimated at 7.0% as compared to the growth rate of 7.2% in 2017-18.

Source Link: <https://www.ndtv.com/business/gdp-growth-data-government-releases-gdp-growth-data-for-december-quarter-2000417>

Amalgamation of DBS bank approved

- RBI approved the amalgamation of 'DBS Bank, India' with 'DBS Bank India' on 28 February 2019.
- DBS used to operate in the 'branch model' and is among the first foreign lenders to come forward and operate as a WOS (wholly owned subsidiary).
- The scheme of amalgamation between the two entities has been sanctioned under the provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

Source
Link: <https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/rbi-approves-amalgamation-of-dbs-bank-3596451.html>

2nd advance estimate released

- The Central Statistics Office (CSO) released the Second Advance Estimates of National Income at Constant (2011-12) and Current Prices for the financial year 2018-19.
- Quarterly Estimates of GDP for the third quarter October-December (Q3), 2018-19 was also released.
- The growth in GDP during 2018-19 is estimated at 7% as compared to the growth rate of 7.2% in 2017-18.

Source
Link: <http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1566663>

Sports

Air Staff Chief felicitated sportsmen

- A ceremony was held at Air Force Station New Delhi on 28 March 2019 to felicitate meritorious sportsmen of IAF who have excelled at National and International arena.
- Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa PVSM AVSM YSM VM ADC, Chief of the Air Staff felicitated 21 sportsmen and seven teams of IAF and gave away the mementos.

Source
Link: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1569800>

Savita to lead Indian Women's Hockey team

- Goalkeeper Savita will captain an 18-strong Indian women's hockey team for the five-match series against Malaysia starting from 4 April 2019.
- She will stand in for regular skipper Rani Rampal, who is nursing an injury.
- The 8-day tour to Kuala Lumpur will have defender Deep Grace Ekka as Savita's deputy.
- Rajani Etimarpu has joined the squad as the second goalkeeper.

Source
Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Savita-Punia-to-lead-Indian-women%E2%80%99s-hockey-team-in-Malaysia-tour&id=361497>

Breakdancing to be added to Olympic 2024

- The Executive Board of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) recommended adding breakdancing, skateboarding, sport climbing and surfing to the 2024 Paris Olympics.
- The addition of these 4 sports to the Paris medal program offers the opportunity to connect with the young generation.

- All 4 sports will be assessed in terms of how they are managed, the integrity of competitions and judging.

Source

Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Breakdancing-makes-next-move-to-Olympic-status-at-Paris-2024&id=361517>

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Manu and Saurabh bagged gold medal

- Manu Bhaker and Saurabh Chaudhary bagged a Gold medal in the 10 m Air Pistol Mixed team event at the 12th Asian Airgun Championship at Taoyuan in Taipei.
- The teenage Indian duo went on to win the five-team final with a score of 484.8 points.
- The duo won the ISSF World Cup stage gold at the same event in Delhi in February 2019.

Source

Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Manu-Bhaker-Saurabh-Chaudhary-bag-Gold-medal-in-10m-Air-Pistol-Mixed-event-at-Asian-Airgun-C%E2%80%99ship&id=361486>

Seamaster 2019 ITTF concluded

- Seamaster 2019 ITTF Challenge Plus, Oman Open, concluded at Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex in Bausher on 25 March 2019.
- Chinese Taipei Lin Yun-Ju, in the title-deciding contest, beat Sweden's Mattias Falck (11-8, 8-11, 11-7, 11-7, 8-11, 11-8).
- Japan's Hina Hayata, the no.9 seed, beat Chinese Taipei's Cheng I-Ching, the top seed, in the final (11-3, 11-5, 7-11, 11-9, 11-8).

Source Link: <https://timesofoman.com/article/1031388>

India's G Sathiyam won bronze medal

- India's top-ranked paddler G Sathiyam won a bronze medal at the ITTF Challenge Plus Oman Open on 24 March 2019.
- It was disappointing for India in women singles as both Madhurika Patkar and Riti Shankar failed to go past the first round of the main draw.

- In men's doubles, Sathiyam and Sharath lost their quarterfinals to the Russian pair of Denis Ivonin and Vladimir Sidorenko 2-3.

Source Link: <https://scroll.in/field/917715/oman-open-table-tennis-sathiyams-impressive-run-earns-him-bronze-archana-kamath-bags-u-21-silver>

Peter Tabichi won Global Teacher Prize 2019

- Peter Tabichi won the Global Teacher Prize 2019.
- Peter was chosen from our top 10 finalists who come from all corners of the globe.
- Peter has dedicated his life to helping others.
- He gives 80% of his teaching salary to local community projects, including education, sustainable agriculture, and peace-building.

Source Link: <https://www.globalteacherprize.org/>

Edin Dzeko reached 100 Bosnia caps

- Bosnia and Herzegovina captain Edin Dzeko became the first player from his country to reach 100 international caps in their opening Euro 2020 qualifier against Armenia on Saturday.
- The 33-year-old was presented with a shirt bearing the number '100', and a bouquet of flowers.
- He made his Bosnia debut on June 2, 2007.
- Dzeko is currently playing his club football for Italian giants Roma.

Source

Link: <http://www.newindianexpress.com/sport/football/2019/mar/24/edin-dzeko-becomes-first-player-to-reach-100-bosnia-caps-1955220.html>

Annual TSJA awards announced

- Saina Nehwal was named 'Sportsperson of the Year' at the annual Telangana Sports Journalists Association (TSJA) Awards on 19 March 2019.
- P.V. Sindhu was given the 'Outstanding Performer' Award.
- P. Gopichand was presented the 'Coach of the Year' Award.
- The Indian badminton team was adjudged the 'Team of the Year'.
- The Badminton Association of Telangana was named 'Association of the Year'.

Source Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/sport/other-sports/saina-named-sportsperson-of-the-year-at-tsja-awards/article26587228.ece>

ESPN CricInfo ties up with IIT Madras

- Sports news website ESPNcricinfo in a partnership with the IIT Madras launched a tool called 'Superstats' for analyzing cricket statistics on 20 March 2019.

- Superstats use data science to give a context to every event in a game, for forecasting and to explore the idea of assessing luck.
- It will analyse data to reveal trends and patterns during different periods of play.

Source

Link: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/science/espncricinfo-and-iit-madras-collaborate-on-data-science-tool-that-analyses-the-game-of-cricket/articleshow/68497423.cms>

Sports

- Formula One racer Valtteri Bottas won the Australian Grand Prix on 17 March 2019.
- Bengaluru FC won the maiden Indian Super League Football title.
- Lasith Malinga will retire from international cricket after 2020 T20 World Cup.
- FIFA banned former Ecuadorian Football Federation (FEF) President Luis Chiriboga for life.

Source

Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/sport/motorsport/valtteri-bottas-wins-australian-grand-prix-for-mercedes/article26560155.ece>

Hockey India launches its Coaching Education

- Hockey India launched its ambitious 'Hockey India Coaching Education Pathway' on 22 March 2019.
- It aims to provide certification to those candidates who are already coaches or wish to pursue coaching as a career option.
- The program consists of a combination of web-based modules and face-to-face interactive courses.

Source Link: https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/hockey-india-launches-its-ambitious-coaching-education-programme-119032200561_1.html

Sports

- According to the Chennai SuperKings' director, the entire ticket proceeds of the inaugural match will be given to the families of CRPF personnel killed in the February 14 terror attack in Pulwama.
- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has allowed Test-playing nations to have the players sport their names and numbers on their jerseys.

Source Link: https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/icc-gives-green-light-to-name-and-jersey-number-in-tests-119032201019_1.html

India won SAFF Women's C'ship for fifth time

- On 22 March 2019, in football, India won the SAFF Women's Championship for the fifth time in a row.
- India defeated Nepal in the final match.
- India's Indumathi Kathiresan and Sabitra Tamang of Nepal remained top scorer of the tournament, both scored four-goal each.
- This is India's 23rd straight victory in the championship since the inception of the tournament in 2010.

Source Link: <http://www.ddinews.gov.in/sports/india-clinches-saff-womens-championship-5th-time-row>

CCFC was crowned the I League champion

- Chennai City Football Club (CCFC) was officially crowned the I-League champion.
- Special awards were given to:
 - Fair play award: Shillong Lajong
 - Top goal scorer: Pedro Manzi (CCFC) and Willis Plaza (Churchill Brothers) (21 goals each)
 - Best goalkeeper: Bilal Khan (Real Kashmir)
 - Best defender: Roberto Eslava (CCFC)
 - Best midfielder: Nestor Gordillo (CCFC)
 - Hero of the League: Manzi

Source

Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/sport/football/ccfc-officially-crowned-champion/article26593289.ece>

Special Olympics World Games

- Special Olympics World Games concluded on 21 March 2019.
- India has bagged 368 medals - 85 Gold, 154 Silver, and 129 Bronze at Special Olympic Games 2019 in Abu Dhabi.
- The next Special Olympic Games are set to take place in Sweden in 2021.

Source

Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=India-bag-368-medals-at-Special-Olympics-World-Games&id=361241>

RR launched academy in England

- Rajasthan Royals tied up with the Star Cricket Academy in Surrey, England to re-launch the facility as the 'Rajasthan Royals Academy'.
- The centre has a state-of-the-art cricket centre named the Jarrett Centre.
- It is an indoor cricket training centre run by former professional batsman Siddharth Lahiri, along with his team of coaches.

Source

Link: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/sports/cricket/ipl/top-stories/rajasthan-royals-launches-academy-in-england/articleshow/68476538.cms>

Tokyo 2020 Olympics torch unveiled

- Organisers of the Tokyo 2020 Olympics unveiled a cherry-blossom shaped torch for the Games.
- The shiny rose-gold torch is 71 centimetres (28 inches) long and weighs 1.2 kilograms (2 pounds 10 ounces).
- Fukushima was chosen as the starting point for the Olympic torch relay.
- The passing of the flame is scheduled to start on March 26, 2020.

Source

Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Tokyo-2020-Olympics-torch-unveiled&id=361234>

Special Olympics World Games

- In Judo, Sonu Kumar from Rohtak, Haryana won the gold medal by winning all three bouts.
- Muskan bagged a silver each in squat and bench press. She also won a gold in deadlifting.
- India has sent a 378-strong contingent that is participating in the 15th edition of the Games.
- The closing ceremony of Special Olympics World Games is scheduled for March 21.

Source

Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=India-bags-188-medals-at-Special-Olympics-World-Games&id=361165>

Abu Dhabi to host T10 league for five years

- Abu Dhabi Cricket, in partnership with Abu Dhabi Sports Council and the Department of Culture and Tourism-Abu Dhabi, has signed a five-year agreement with the organisers of the T10 Cricket League.
- The shortest form of the game will now be played exclusively at Zayed Cricket Stadium.
- The first match of the T10 League 2019 will be held on October 23.

Source

Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Deal-signed-to-host-T10-league-for-five-years-in-Abu-Dhabi&id=361188>

BWF badminton rankings

- Lakshya Sen and Riya Mookerjee broke into the top-100 among Men's and Women's singles players in the latest World Badminton Rankings.
- Lakshya Sen is placed 76th while Riya Mookerjee is placed at 94th.
- In the women's singles rankings, P V Sindhu and Saina Nehwal are at 6th and 9th position respectively.
- Kidambi Srikanth is the best placed Indian in the men's rankings at 7th.

Source

Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=BWF-badminton-rankings%3a-Lakshya%2c-Riya-break-into-top-100&id=361192>

Prajnesh Gunneswaran rose to 84th position

- In Tennis, India's Prajnesh Gunneswaran rose to career-high rank of 84 in the latest men's rankings of the Association of Tennis Professionals(ATP).
- In the Women's Tennis Association rankings, Ankita Raina continues to be India's top-ranked player at 168.
- She was followed by Karman Kaur Thandi, who jumped seven places to 203.

Source

Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=ATP-Rankings%3a-Prajnesh-Gunneswaran-rises-to-career-best-84th-position&id=361155>

McIlroy secured 15th title on PGA Tour

- Rory McIlroy secured his 15th PGA Tour title by winning The Players tourney, coming in two under par at 70 at the TPC Sawgrass.
- It was McIlroy's 23rd career title worldwide, earning him the \$2.25 million purse and getting him into the top slot of the FedEx Cup standings.
- So far in his career, he has won four majors - the 2011 US Open, the 2012 and 2014 PGA and the 2014 British Open.

Source Link: [https://www.business-](https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/mcilroy-secures-15th-title-on-pga-tour-119031800139_1.html)

[standard.com/article/news-ians/mcilroy-secures-15th-title-on-pga-tour-119031800139_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/mcilroy-secures-15th-title-on-pga-tour-119031800139_1.html)

Military bands to perform in CSK-RCB opener

- Military bands will perform at the M. A. Chidambaram Stadium ahead of the opening fixture of the Indian Premier League (IPL).
- BCCI will also contribute Rs. 20 crore for the welfare of the armed forces in the wake of the Pulwama terror attack, where 44 CRPF personnel were killed.
- Indian players had also paid their respects by sporting Army camouflage caps in the third ODI in Ranchi.

Source

Link: <https://sportstar.thehindu.com/cricket/ipl/ipl-news/ipl-2019-csk-rcb-military-bands-coa-ms-dhoni/article26570528.ece>

Gopi Thonakal qualified for World Athletics

- Gopi Thonakal qualified for the World Athletics Championships in marathon, to be held in Doha in September-October 2019.
- He achieved it after finishing 11th in the Seoul International Marathon, clocking his personal best time of 2 hours 13 minutes 39 seconds.

- This was the 2nd best ever by an Indian after the 4-decade old national record of 2 hours 12 minutes held by Shivnath Singh.

Source

Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Gopi-Thonakal-qualifies-for-World-Athletics-Championships&id=361141>

Thiem won his Maiden Masters Title

- Dominic Thiem claimed the biggest title of his career by defeating Roger Federer in the BNP Paribas Open final.
- He secured his first ATP Masters 1000 trophy in his third final appearance.
- Thiem denied Roger Federer a record sixth BNP Paribas Open crown.

Source Link: <https://www.atptour.com/en/news/indian-wells-2019-final-federer-thiem>

Special Olympics

- In Special Olympics, in Roller Skating, Supreet Singh from Haryana in 1000-meter, Rishabh Jain from New Delhi in 1000-meter and Priya Prakash Gada from Maharashtra in 100-meter won a Gold Medal each.
- Amanjot Singh won gold in the squat contest after lifting 385 kg.
- Indian roller skaters bagged 29 medals comprising nine golds, 13 silver, and two bronze.

Source

Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Special-Olympics%3a-India-bags-70-medals&id=361100>

Kohli retains top spot in ICC ODI rankings

- Indian skipper Virat Kohli and pacer Jasprit Bumrah have retained top positions in the latest ICC ODI rankings.
- Kohli remained at the number one spot in the list of batsmen.
- Rohit Sharma remained number two.
- In the team rankings, India is second, behind England.

Source

Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Kohli%2c-Bumrah-retain-top-spots-in-ICC-ODI-rankings&id=361117>

India came second at Asian Youth C'ships

- In Asian Youth Athletics Championships in Hong Kong, boys medley relay team won a gold medal for India.
- Indian youth team finished second in the overall medals tally with a total of 26 medals including eight gold, nine silver, and nine bronze medals.
- China topped the overall medals tally with 31 medals that included 12 gold, 11 silver, and 8 bronze medals.

Source

Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Athletics%3a-India-finishes-second-in-medal-tally-at-Asian-Youth-C%26%2339%3bships&id=361141>

K T Irfan qualified for Tokyo Olympics

- A 29-year-old Indian athlete from Kerala, K.T. Irfan qualified for the Tokyo Olympics.
- He finished fourth in the men's 20-kilometer category at the Asian Race Walking Championships in Nomi, Japan.
- He got qualified for next year's Tokyo Olympics.
- The Two other Indian race walkers, who qualified for the World Championship are Devinder and Ganapati.

Source

Link: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/sports/k-t-irfan-becomes-first-indian-athlete-to-qualify-for-tokyo-olympics/article26559504.ece>

Sports

- Diksha Dagar became only the second Indian woman golfer to win the Ladies European Tour.
- China's Badminton player Shi Yuqi won the Swiss Open Badminton tournament in Basel on 17 March 2019.
- Javelin thrower Annu Rani qualified for the Asian Championships to be held in Doha next month.

Source Link: <https://www.thequint.com/sports/other-sports/diksha-dagar-wins-south-african-open-golf-second-indian-to-win-on-ladies-european-tour>

Dream11 to be official partner for IPL

- On 15 March 2019, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced Dream11, India's biggest sports game, as the official partner for the Indian Premier League (IPL).
- This four-year exclusive partnership will begin with the upcoming IPL 2019 season.
- Additionally, the 'Official Fantasy Game' of IPL will also be powered by Dream11.

Source Link: https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/dream11-to-be-official-partner-for-ipl-119031501030_1.html

Sports

- In Athletics, Kamalpreet Kaur won a gold medal in the women's discus throw event. Kaur also qualified for the Asian Championships in the process on the opening day of Federation Cup in Patiala.
- Shivpal Singh also booked a berth in the next month's Asian Championships in Doha in men's javelin throw by crossing the qualifying standard set by Athletics Federation of India.

Source

Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Kamalpreet-Kaur-wins-gold-in-women%26%2339%3bs-discus->

Asian Youth Athletics Championships

- India bagged 5 medals, including two gold, on the opening day of the Asian Youth Athletics Championships in Hong Kong.
- Philip Maheswaran Thabitha grabbed the first gold for India by winning the boys' 110 metres hurdles.
- Vipin Kumar added the second gold medal for India in the boys' hammer throw.
- Harshita Sherawat, Deepak Yadav, and Ajay are the other three who won silver and bronze medals.

Source Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=361034>

India to host U-17 Women's World Cup in 2020

- On 15 March 2019, International Football Federation (FIFA) President Gianni Infantino announced that India will host the U-17 Women's World Cup in 2020.
- This will be the second FIFA tournament India will be hosting, after the U-17 Men's World Cup in 2017.
- As the host country, India automatically qualified for the U-17 Women's World Cup event.

Source Link: https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/india-to-host-u-17-women-s-world-cup-in-2020-119031600009_1.html

Karnataka won Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy

- Karnataka defeated Maharashtra by 8 wickets in the finals of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy.
- It was played at Holkar Cricket Stadium, Indore.
- Mayank Agarwal scored an unbeaten 85 off 57 balls to help Karnataka win their first ever Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy.

Source

Link: <https://www.news18.com/cricketnext/news/agarwal-l-shines-as-karnataka-clinch-their-maiden-syed-mushtaq-ali-trophy-2066963.html>

Anthem of Special Olympics World Games 2019

- The official song for Special Olympics World Games Abu Dhabi 2019 is titled Right Where I'm Supposed To Be.
- It was revealed for the first time at the Opening Ceremony of the World Games.
- Avril Lavigne's song 'Fly' was the official anthem for the 2015 World Games.

Source

Link: <https://filipinotimes.net/news/2019/03/14/special-olympics-launch-new-anthem-right-im-supposed-avril-lavigne-luis-fonsi-music-artists-tonight/>

Renedy Singh named Neroca FC Coach

- Former India midfielder Renedy Singh was named head coach of Neroca FC, succeeding Spaniard Manuel Retamero Fraile, on 13 March 2019.
- He had a stint as assistant coach of Indian Super League side Pune City FC in the 2015-16 season. He is an AFC - A Licence holder.
- Neroca lost to Real Kashmir 2-3 at home in their final match of the 12th I-League to finish with 26 points (from 20 matches).

Source

Link: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/football/former-india-international-retedy-singh-named-neroca-fc-coach/story-jFPN7dkN9RxjTO6PjAxjrK.html>

Rohit Sharma: 3rd to cross 8000 ODI runs

- Rohit Sharma became the 3rd fastest player to cross 8000 runs in ODI cricket.
- He is also the 9th Indian batsman to do so after Virat Kohli, Sourav Ganguly, Sachin Tendulkar, MS Dhoni, Rahul Dravid, Virender Sehwag, Yuvraj Singh and Mohammed Azharuddin.
- He surpassed MS Dhoni as the player to record for most ODI sixes for India.

Source

Link: https://indianexpress.com/article/sports/cricket/roh-it-sharma-sourav-ganguly-8000-odi-runs-india-vs-australia-5th-odi-5625029/?utm_campaign=fullarticle&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=inshorts

Indian Oil won Gold Cup

- Indian Oil retained their Bombay Gold Cup Hockey crown on 13 March 2019.
- They defeated Punjab and Sind Bank (PSB) 9-7 via penalty shootout in the summit clash.
- Bharat Petroleum's Darshan Gawkar was adjudged as the most promising player of the tournament and received a cheque of Rs 10,000 awarded by the Sports Journalists' Association of Mumbai.

Source Link: https://wap.business-standard.com/article/amp/pti-stories/indian-oil-retain-gold-cup-hockey-crown-raghunath-shines-119031300814_1.html

Special Olympics Worlds Games 2019 began

- Special Olympics World Games 2019 is being held from March 14-21, 2019 in UAE.
- It made history by welcoming a record-breaking 200 nations ahead of the Games.
- Of the 200 nations, 195 will compete in the Games and 5 will observe.
- It is being held in West Asia for the first time. 7,500 athletes will take part in 24 Olympic-style sports over 7 days.

Source

Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Special-Olympics-World-Games-2019-makes-history&id=360960>

Zinedine reappointed as coach of Real Madrid

- Zinedine Zidane has been re-appointed as the coach of Spanish football club Real Madrid till 2022.
- He replaced Santiago Solari, who was sacked after less than five months in charge.
- Zidane resigned from the club after leading it to three consecutive Champions League titles.

Source

Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Zinedine-Zidane-re-appointed-as-coach-of-Spanish-football-club-Real-Madrid-till-2022&id=360886>

India to take on Maldives in 5th SAFF

- Defending champion India will take on the Maldives in the 5th South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Women's Championship in Biratnagar, Nepal on 13 March 2019.

- In the 6-team competition, India has been drawn in Group B with Maldives and Sri Lanka. Host Nepal has been kept in Group A with Bangladesh and Bhutan.
- India remained unbeaten in 19 matches from last 4 editions of the championship.

Source

Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=5th-SAAF-Women%26%2339%3bs-Championship-begins-in-Nepal&id=360898>

GoDaddy partnered with ICC

- GoDaddy announced its partnership with International Cricket Council (ICC) as the official sponsor for the upcoming men's cricket World Cup on 12 March 2019.
- The 2019 World Cup will be held in the UK from May 30 to July 14, 2019.
- Under the partnership, GoDaddy will get visibility on the ground, perimeter of the boundary, side screen during the matches.
- MS Dhoni is its brand ambassador.

Source Link: https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/godaddy-partners-with-icc-as-official-sponsor-for-cricket-world-cup-2019-119031200660_1.html

Tejaswini won women's 50m rifle event

- Tejaswini Sawant of Maharashtra won the 4th national selection trial in the women's 50m rifle 3 positions event on 12 March 2019.
- She defeated Punjab's Anjum Moudgil and scored 458.0, while Anjum scored 457.1.
- Army's Sandeep Singh won the men's 10m air rifle (T4 trial) with a score of 250.0.
- In the men's 25m centre fire pistol, Gurpreet Singh, representing Army, won with 583.

Source Link: https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/tejaswini-wins-women-s-50m-rifle-3-positions-ahead-of-moudgil-119031200729_1.html

Molinari won the Arnold Palmer

- Francesco Molinari of Italy topped an international leaderboard at Bay Hill.
- He won the Arnold Palmer Invitational in fine style, with three Englishmen, a Spaniard, a Northern Irishman and two South Koreans all within the top-10.
- He is 36-year-old and world number 10 player.

39

- The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports granted provisional recognition to All India Carrom Federation (AICF) as National Sports Federation with immediate effect.
- It will facilitate the participation of Indian Athletes in the forthcoming National/International competitions.
- The recognition means granting a major role to AICF for development of the Carrom sport in India.

Source

Link: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1568270>

KIFI recognised as NSF by Sports Ministry

- Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports granted provisional recognition to Kudo International Federation India (KIFI) as National Sports Federation with immediate effect.
- The recognition means granting a major role to KIFI Association for promotion and Development of Kudo sport in India.
- Kudo is an official Japanese Cultural Budo sport under the same category as Judo, Aikido, and Kendo.

Source

Link: <http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1567658>

Ronnie O’Sullivan breaks record

- Snooker legend Ronnie O’Sullivan (UK) has become the first snooker player to make 1,000 competitive centuries.
- The five-time world champion reached the landmark during the last frame of the Players Championship final in Preston, UK.

Source

Link: <http://www.guinnessworldrecords.com/news/2019/3/ronnie-o-sullivan-becomes-first-snooker-player-ever-to-reach-1000-century-breaks>

Kavinder fetched gold in GeeBee

- Kavinder Singh Bisht (56kg) struck gold at the 38th GeeBee Boxing Tournament in Helsinki, Finland on 10 March 2019.
- Shiva Thapa (60kg), Govind Sahani (49kg), Mohammed Hussamuddin (56kg) and Dinesh Dagar (69kg) claimed silver medals in the event.
- Sumit Sangwan (91kg), Sachin Siwach (52kg) and Naveen Kumar (+91kg) claimed bronze medals.

Source Link: https://wap.business-standard.com/article-amp/pti-stories/kavinder-fetches-gold-4-silver-medals-for-india-at-finland-boxing-tourney-119031000410_1.html

AICF recognised as National Sports Federation

Shikha, Jhulan in top 5 women's ODI rankings

- 2 Indian bowlers, Jhulan Goswami, and Shikha Pandey joined the top 5 club in the latest ICC women's cricket rankings for ODI bowlers issued on March 4, 2019.
- Shikha Pandey was placed joint 3rd along with South Africa's Dane van Niekerk.
- Veteran pacer Jhulan Goswami topped the latest ICC women's cricket rankings.

Source

Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Jhulan%2c-Shikha-in-top-five-in-women%26%2339%3bs-ODI-rankings&id=360554>

ICC's Cricket Committee head: Anil Kumble

- The ICC has reappointed former Team India captain Anil Kumble as the chairman of ICC's Cricket Committee during its quarterly meet in Dubai.
- Kumble, who has been the chairman of the committee since 2012, will be serving for a final three-year term.
- Kumble had replaced former Windies' captain Clive Lloyd in 2012.

Source

Link: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/sports/cricket/news/anil-kumble-reappointed-as-chairman-of-the-icc-cricket-committee/articleshow/68237078.cms>

Bajrang Punia won gold in Bulgaria

- Wrestler Bajrang Punia won a gold medal in 65 KG freestyle in Bulgaria.
- The tournament, Dan Kolov-Nikola Petrov was held in Ruse.
- He overpowered Jordan Oliver of USA by 12-3 in the final on March 2, 2019, and secured the maximum ranking points from the tournament.
- This is his 10th medal in international tournaments since the 2017 World Championships in Paris.

Source

Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Wrestler-Bajrang-Punia-wins-gold-in-Bulgaria&id=360518>

Roger Federer claims 100th title

- Roger Federer won the Dubai Tennis Open for the 8th time on 2 March 2019.
- He defeated Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas in the final match.
- With this win, he claimed the 100th title of his remarkable career.
- He is the second male player to win 100 singles titles after American Jimmy Connors, who won 109 titles.

Source

Link: http://www.espn.in/tennis/story/_/id/26119203/roger-federer-defeats-stefanos-tsitsipas-claim-100th-singles-title

K.L. Rahul only Indian in top 10 batsmen

- K L Rahul was the only Indian to feature in the top 10 batting list in the latest ICC T20 International Players Rankings released on 27 February 2019.
- Afghanistan's Hazratullah Zazai jumped 31 spots to be placed at career-best seventh position.
- In the ICC Men's T20 International Team Rankings, India has retained their second position.

Source

Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=K.L.-Rahul-only-Indian-in-top-10-batsmen-in-T20-rankings&id=360380>

Defence

Suraj Berry took over the eastern command

- Rear Admiral Suraj Berry took over the Command of Eastern Fleet of Indian Navy in Visakhapatnam on 30 March 2019.
- Rear Admiral Suraj Berry was commissioned on 01 January 1987 and is a specialist in Gunnery and Missile Warfare.
- He was awarded the Vishisht Seva Medal (Meritorious Service Medal) in 2006 for services during the Tsunami Relief operations in Sri Lanka/ Maldives.

Source

Link: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1569877>

GRSE: 1st shipyard to build 100 warships

- Garden Reach Ship Builders and Engineers Ltd (GRSE) became the first Indian shipyard to build and deliver 100 warships.
- GRSE Chairman and Managing Director, Rear Admiral (Retd) V K Saxena, formally handed over the 100th warship, 'IN LCU L-56', to the Indian Navy.
- GRSE had handed over its 99th warship, 'ICGS Priyadarshini' -- an advanced 'Fast Patrol Vessel' -- to the Indian Coast Guard.

Source

Link: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/grse-becomes-first-indian-shipyard-to-deliver-100-warships/articleshow/68649651.cms>

INS Magar departed with relief material

- INS Magar, an amphibious warfare vessel, departed from Mumbai for Port Beira in Mozambique with essential relief material for the cyclone ravaged areas.
- It is carrying 300 T of relief supplies including essential medicines, anti – epidemic drugs, food provisions, repair and rehabilitation equipment, and temporary shelters.
- It is also carrying a naval Chetak Light Utility Helicopter.

Source

Link: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1569773>

Malaysian PM interacts with IAF team

- Malaysian PM Mahathir Mohamad interacted with the Indian Air Force team and sat in a Tejas aircraft during the ongoing Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace (LIMA) Exhibition.
- The Indian Air Force is participating in LIMA with LCA-Tejas aircraft for the first time.
- Along with the Tejas, the Indian Navy's Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) Corvette INS Kadmat is also participating in LIMA.

Source

Link: https://www.aninews.in/news/world/asia/malaysia-n-pm-interacts-with-hal-iaf-teams-at-lima-1920190327231530/?utm_campaign=fullarticle&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=inshorts

AUSINDEX to be held from April 2 to 16th

- Third Installment of the Joint Naval Exercise of India and Australia AUSINDEX is to be held off the coast of Vishakhapatnam from April 2 to 16, 2019.

- The exercise will focus on anti-submarine warfare, as part of efforts to ramp up bilateral naval cooperation in the strategic Indian Ocean region.
- The exercise will feature the deployment of Australian personnel on Indian ships and vice versa.

Source Link: <https://www.thestatesman.com/india/india-australia-hold-joint-exercise-maritime-security-2-april-1502741322.html>

INS Kadmatt to participate in LIMA 2019

- Indian Navy's **INS Kadmatt** will participate in the 15th edition of Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition, LIMA-19.
- Vice Admiral Karambir Singh, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command, and the Chief of Naval Staff designate, would lead the Indian delegation.
- **INS Kadmatt** was commissioned into the Indian Navy in **January 2016**.

Source

Link: <https://www.businesstoday.in/current/economy-politics/ins-kadmatt-to-participate-in-maritime-and-aerospace-exhibition-in-malaysia/story/331025.html>

1st Indian Army Expedition flagged off

- 1st Indian Army Mountaineering Expedition to Mt Makalu (8485m) was flagged off by Director General Military Training on 26 March 2019.
- It comprises five Officers, two JCOs and eleven OR.
- Mt Makalu, situated in the Himalayas is considered amongst the most dangerous peaks.
- The team will embark for it from New Delhi and will set up 6 camps en route to summit point on Mt Makalu.

Source

Link: <http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1569493>

Rajesh Pendharkar: Flag Officer

- Rear Admiral Rajesh Pendharkar, VSM assumed the charge as the Flag Officer Commanding Maharashtra Naval Area on 25 March 2019.
- His notable sea appointments include Executive Officer of missile corvette INS Kirpan and missile destroyer INS Mysore and command of missile corvette INS Kora.
- He is a recipient of the Vishisht Seva Medal for distinguished service.

Source

Link: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1569498>

Exercise Al Nagah 2019 concluded

- The 3rd edition of Exercise AL NAGAH 2019 concluded at Jabel Al Akhdar training camp, Oman on 25 March 2019.
- It was a joint military exercise between the Indian Army and the Royal Oman Army.
- The two-week long exercise had commenced on 12 March 2019.
- 60 Soldiers of the Indian Army took part in the exercise along with similar strength of pers from the Royal Army of Oman.

Source

Link: <http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1569437>

ABHEDYA facility commissioned at Lonavla

- Admiral Sunil Lanba commissioned a Nuclear, Biological, Chemical Training Facility - ABHEDYA, at INS Shivaji, Lonavla on 25 March 2019.
- It will assist the Indian Navy in providing a realistic simulation of NBC warfare to its personnel.
- The steel structure of the simulator represents the relevant NBC compartment of the ship such as upper decks, citadels, cleansing stations, etc.

Source

Link: <http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1569459>

IAF to induct 4 Chinook helicopters

- The Indian Air Force inducted the first 4 heavy-lift Chinook helicopters on 25 March 2019.
- They are capable of transporting howitzers and troops to forward and high-altitude areas across the country.
- The Chinook is considered one of the most modern heavy lift choppers in the world and can carry goods and cargo of upto 9.6 tonnes.

Source Link: <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/iaf-to-induct-four-chinook-helicopters-today-1553488396713.html>

Govt clears proposal for grenade purchase

- Defence Ministry cleared a major project for the Indian Army for the acquisition of 10 lakh 'Made in India' multi-mode hand grenades on 20 March 2019.
- The new hand grenades will replace the existing inventory, HE-36 grenades manufactured by the Ordnance Factory Board.
- The multi-mode grenades have been developed by the DRDO.

Source Link: <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/proposal-cleared-to-buy-10-lakh-made-in-india-hand-grenades-for-army-2010571>

ICG Vijit visits Sabang

- Indian Coast Guard Ship 'Vijit' became the first-ever Coast Guard ship to visit Sabang, Indonesia on 17 March 2019.
- This visit of the coast guard ship follows from the first-ever-visit of Naval Ship INS Sumitra to Sabang in July 2018.
- Vijit's visit also highlights strengthening cooperation in the area of maritime security and safety between India and Indonesia.

Source Link: https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/vijit-becomes-the-first-indian-coast-guard-ship-to-visit-indonesia-119031800437_1.html

Indian Air Force to participate in LIMA 2019

- Indian Air Force, for the first time, will participate in Langkawi International Maritime Aero Expo (LIMA-2019) in Langkawi, Malaysia from 26 to 30 March 2019.
- It will showcase its indigenously developed LCA fighter aircraft.
- Participation of IAF in LIMA-2019 will provide an opportunity to air-warriors to interact with their Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) counterparts.

Source Link: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1569270>

Indian Navy to provide aid to Mozambique

- The Indian Navy was requested to provide Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) to the local population post-cyclone 'IDAI'.
- INS Sujata, ICGS Sarathi and INS Shardul are providing necessary support to the local administration.
- Cyclone 'IDAI' made landfall at Beira, causing widespread damage and loss of human life in the Central and Northern provinces.

Source Link: http://www.newsonair.com/News?utm_campaign=fullarticle&utm_medium=referral&id=361206&title=Indian-Navy-to-provide-humanitarian-aid-to-cyclone-hit-Mozambique&utm_source=inshorts

India- Sri Lanka joint exercise to be held

- Exercise MITRA SHAKTI, between armies of India and Sri Lanka, will be conducted from 26 March-8 April 2019 in Sri Lanka.
- Troops from 1st Battalion of the BIHAR Regiment of the Indian Army and Gemunu Watch Battalion of Sri Lankan Army would be jointly undertaking the exercise.

- The aim of the exercise is to build and promote close relations between the armies of both countries.

Source Link: <http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1569085>

33rd India-Indonesia Corpat commenced

- The 33rd edition of the India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (IND-INDO CORPAT) is being held from 19 March- 4 April 2019 in Port Blair.
- The ship and aircraft from both the countries would undertake patrolling on the respective sides of 236 nautical miles long International Maritime Boundary line.
- The 33rd IND-INDO CORPAT is coinciding with 70 years of India-Indonesia diplomatic ties.

Source Link: [The 33rd IND-INDO CORPAT, also coinciding with 70 years of India-Indonesia diplomatic ties, will contribute towards the Indian Navy's efforts to consolidate inter-operability and forge strong bonds of friendship across the seas.](#)

Operational Readiness Exercise reviewed

- The Chief of Naval Staff (CNS), Admiral Sunil Lanba debriefed the recently concluded annual Theatre Level Readiness and Operational Exercise (TROPEX) in Kochi.

- Commanders-in-Chief of all the three naval Commands, attended and participated in the discussions held at the Naval Base, Kochi.
- The review of TROPEX 2019 was undertaken to assess operational readiness of the Indian Navy.

Source

Link: <http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1569041>

AFINDEX-19 to begin from March 18

- A 10-day long Africa-India Joint Field Training Exercise (AFINDEX-19) between the Indian Army and 16 African nations will be conducted from 18 to 27 March 2019.
- The exercise will be conducted in Pune, Maharashtra.
- The aim of the exercise is to train the participating contingents in Humanitarian Mine Assistance (HMA) and Peace Keeping Operations (PKO) under the United Nations Charter.

Source Link: https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/india-africa-joint-field-training-exercise-to-kick-off-on-march-18-119031400624_1.html

MPATGM successfully test fired

- DRDO successfully test fired Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) for the second time on 14 March 2019 in the ranges of Rajasthan desert.
- It is an indigenously developed, low weight, fire and forget missile.
- MPATGM is incorporated with advanced features including state-of-the-art Imaging Infrared Radar (IIR) Seeker with integrated avionics.

Source

Link: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1568837>

US-India joint exercise to be conducted

- As a part of the US-India security partnership, the US military forces and the Indian National Security Guard (NSG) will carry out joint exercises in Hyderabad.
- The key intent is to be well prepared and deploy actions to tackle crisis that may endanger public health and safety.
- The exercise will be overseen from the US Embassy, New Delhi and US Special Operations Pacific Command in Hawaii.

Source

Link: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/us-army-nsg-to-conduct-joint-exercises-in-hyderabad/article26524573.ece>

Indo-Oman Joint Exercise began

- Indo Oman Joint Exercise Al Nagah III 2019, a joint military exercise between Indian and Royal Army of Oman (RAO), commenced on 13 March 2019 at Nizwa, Oman.
- The Omani contingent was represented by Jabel Regiment of the RAO while the Indian side was represented by troops of 'Tenth Battalion of The Garhwal Rifles Regiment'.

Source

Link: <http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1568781>

Admiral Sunil Lanba on a visit to UK

- Admiral Sunil Lanba, PVSM AVSM ADC Chairman COSC and Chief of the Naval Staff is on an official tour to UK from 12-15 March 2019.
- His visit will consolidate existing maritime cooperation initiatives as well as explore new avenues.
- He will hold discussions with the Chief of Defence Staff, UK in London and the First Sea Lord and Chief of the Naval Staff of the Royal Navy at Portsmouth.

Source

Link: <http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1568527>

Indian defence lab developed combat drugs

- DRDO's medical laboratory has come up with a range of 'combat casualty drugs' that can extend the golden hour till the trooper is shifted to hospital.
- The spectrum includes bleeding wound sealants, super absorptive dressings, and glycerinated salines.
- Chances of survival and minimum disability are highest when effective first aid care is given within the golden hour.

Source

Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Indian-defence-lab-develops-%26%2339%3bcombat-drugs%26%2339%3b-to-reduce-casualties-in-Pulwama-type-attacks%2c-warfare&id=360855>

Russian arms export in India fell by 42%

- Russia's arms export to India, fell by 42% between 2014-18 and 2009-2013, according to a SIPRI report.
- Russia accounted for 58% of total Indian arms imports in 2014-2018, compared with 76% in 2009-2013, according to the report.
- The five largest exporters in 2014-18 were the United States, Russia, France, Germany and China.

Source

Link: <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/russian-arms-exports-to-india-fell-by-42-between-2014-18-and-2009-13-report-1552330101285.html>

Guided PINAKA successfully test fired

- Defence Research and Defence Organisation (DRDO) successfully test fired the Guided PINAKA from Pokhran ranges on 11 March 2019.
- The weapon system is equipped with state-of-the-art guidance kit comprising of an advanced navigation and control system.
- The indigenously developed Guided Pinaka by DRDO will significantly boost the capability of the artillery to make precision hits.

Source

Link: <http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1568552>

India signed a pact with Russia

- On 7 March 2019, India signed a US\$ 3 billion deal with Russia for leasing of a nuclear-powered attack submarine for the Indian Navy for a period of 10 years.
- Under the pact, Russia will have to deliver the Akula class submarine, to be known as Chakra III, to the Indian Navy by 2025.
- It will be the third Russian submarine to be leased to the Indian Navy.

Source

Link: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/india-signs-pact-with-russia-on-chakra-3-attack-submarine/articleshow/68307218.cms>

Permanent Commission to women

- Ministry of Defence has taken steps to ensure implementation of grant of Permanent Commission to Women officers in the Armed Forces.
- Women officers will be granted Permanent Commission in the Indian Army in all the 10 branches where women are inducted for Short Service Commission.
- All branches, in IAF, including Fighter Pilots are now open for women officers.

Source

Link: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=189205>

India and Oman to begin joint exercise

- The 3rd edition of the bilateral joint exercise between India and Oman, Al Nagah 2019 will begin from 12 March 2019 at Jabel Al Akhdar Mountains in Oman.
- It will continue till 25th of March and both the armies will exchange expertise and experience in tactics, weapon handling, and firing.
- The aim of this exercise is to enhance interoperability in counter-terrorist operations.

Source

Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Bilateral->

[joint-exercise-between-India%2c-Oman-to-begin-from-Mar-12&id=360600](http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=joint-exercise-between-India%2c-Oman-to-begin-from-Mar-12&id=360600)

Project BOLD-QIT inaugurated

- Project BOLD-QIT (Border Electronically Dominated QRT Interception Technique) on India-Bangladesh border in Assam was inaugurated on 5 March 2019.
- I&T Wing of BSF undertook the project in January 2018 and completed it in record time.
- Implementation of this project will help BSF to curb all types of cross border crimes and provide respite to the troops from round the clock human surveillance.

Source

Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Rajnath-Singh-to-inaugurate-project-BOLD-QIT-on-India-Bangladesh-border-in-Dhubri%2c-Assam-today&id=360574>

India-Bangladesh began joint exercise

- The 8th edition of joint military exercise Sampriti between India and Bangladesh began on 3 March 2019 in Tangail, Bangladesh.
- 'Sampriti' aims to increase mutual cooperation between the armies of two countries.
- Bangladesh side was represented by 36 East Bengal Battalion, while Indian side was represented by 9th Battalion of the Rajputana Rifles.

Source

Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=India-Bangladesh-begin-joint-military-exercise&id=360532>

Deal with Russia to produce AK-203 rifles

- India signed a deal with a Russian firm to manufacture 7.5 lakh AK-203 rifles, the latest derivative of the AK-47 rifles.
- The AK-203 rifles will be produced at the Indian Ordnance Factory at Amethi's Korwa.
- The new rifles will replace the indigenous INSAS rifles in the Army, Air Force, and Navy.

Source

Link: <https://www.news18.com/news/politics/made-in-amethi-ak-203-to-help-jawans-fight-terrorists-pm-modi-at-his-1st-rally-in-ragas-bastion-2054115.html>

India & Bangladesh held a joint exercise

- Border Security Force (BSF) and Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) held a three-day 'Mainamati Maitree Exercise 2019' at Tripura-Bangladesh Border.
- The exercise concluded on 28 February 2019.
- The exercise is a part of 'Confidence Building Measures' between the two border guards.

- The exercise was named after a hill range situated 8 km west of Comilla township in Bangladesh.

Source Link: <https://indianexpress.com/article/north-east-india/tripura/bsf-bgb-joint-mainamati-exercise-tripura-border-rohingyas-refugees-5605517/>

Defence Appointments

- Air Marshal Raghunath Nambiar was appointed as Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Western Air Command of the Indian Air Force on 1 March 2019.
- Rajiv Dayal Mathur was appointed as the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Eastern Air Command of the Indian Air Force on 1 March 2019.

Source Link: https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/air-marshall-nambiar-decorated-for-gallantry-in-kargil-ops-appointed-aoc-in-c-of-western-command-119030101124_1.html

Polity

Deposits ordinance does not cover gold schemes

- The Centre's recent ordinance banning unregulated monthly deposit schemes will not affect the ongoing monthly schemes operated by jewelry and chit fund firms.
- Called the 'Banning of Unregulated Deposit Scheme Ordinance', it was promulgated by President Kovind during the last week of February 2019.
- It is done to save gullible investors from losing money to Ponzi and fake deposit schemes.

Source
Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/business/deposits-ordinance-does-not-cover-gold-schemes/article26656425.ece>

Goa government passed floor test

- The Goa government, under the new CM Pramod Sawant, passed the floor test in the legislative assembly by 20 to 15 votes.
- The support of at least 19 MLAs was required to pass the test.
- The BJP-led coalition government garnered support of 20 MLAs -- 11 from the BJP, three MLAs each from the MGP and the GFP and three independents.

Source
Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Goa-govt-under-new-CM-passes-floor-test&id=361195>

Goa CM Pramod Sawant to face floor test

- Newly-appointed Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant will face a floor test in the Assembly on 20th March 2019.

- Governor Mridula Sinha has convened a special session of the Assembly for the government to prove its strength.
- A floor test is primarily taken to know whether the executive enjoys the confidence of the legislature.

Source
Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Goa-CM-Pramod-Sawant-to-face-floor-test&id=361195>

Mizoram Assembly passed a bill

- The Mizoram Assembly passed the Mizoram Maintenance of Household Registers Bill, 2019 on 18 March 2019.
- The bill seeks to detect foreigners illegally residing in the northeastern state, that shares an over 700-km border with Bangladesh and Myanmar.
- The measures proposed under the legislation are intended to provide a credible individual identification system.

Source Link: https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/mizoram-assembly-passes-bill-to-detect-illegal-foreigners-119031800879_1.html

2 Amendment Regulation approved by Cabinet

- The Union Cabinet approved Promulgation of the Daman and Diu Civil Courts (Amendment) Regulation, 2019 and the Dadra and Nagar Haveli (Civil Courts and Miscellaneous Provisions) Amendment Regulation, 2019 under Article 240 of the Constitution.
- The move will be helpful in bringing uniformity in Judicial Service.

Source
Link: <http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1568706>

Reservations in Odisha and MP

- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced 33% quota for women in the allocation of Lok Sabha tickets of BJD party.
- Madhya Pradesh Congress government issued an ordinance to raise the reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) from 14% to 27%.

Source
Link: https://www.aninews.in/news/national/politics/nav-eeen-patnaik-declares-33-quota-for-women-in-allocation-of-bjd-lok-sabha-tickets20190310130833/?utm_campaign=fullarticle&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=inshorts

Lok Sabha polls from 11 April- 19 May

- Elections to the 17th Lok Sabha will be conducted in 7 phases across the country from April 11 to May 19.

- The Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) machines, a total of 17.4 lakh units, will be used for the first time at all stations.
- The Model Code of Conduct came into effect immediately on the announcement of the schedule.

Source Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/lok-sabha-polls-from-april-11-to-may-19/article26491453.ece>

Bhagwan Lal Sahni to head NCBC

- Bhagwan Lal Sahni, a BJP leader from Bihar's Muzaffarpur, assumed charge as the chairman of the newly constituted National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC).
- The NCBC was given constitutional status by Parliament in 2018.
- Kaushalendra Singh Patel, Sudha Yadav, and Achary Talloju have been appointed as members of the commission.

Source Link: https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/bjp-leader-from-muzaffarpur-bhagwan-lal-sahni-to-head-ncbc-119030100699_1.html

National Affairs

Tashigang is world's highest polling station

- Tashigang, a small Himachal Pradesh village at an altitude of 15,256 feet, is now the highest polling station in the world.
- The polling station falls in Buddhist-dominated Lahaul-Spiti, one of the 17 assembly segments that form the Mandi Lok Sabha seat, the second largest constituency in India.
- The polling station covers two villages— Tashigang and Gete.

Source Link: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/lok-sabha-elections/lok-sabha-elections-2019-at-15-256-ft-tashigang-in-himachal-pradesh-is-world-s-highest-polling-station/story-6zVzCy2JmQ6SdbPnH285rL.html>

Union Cabinet approves continuation of BRCP

- The Union Cabinet approved the continuation of the Biomedical Research Career Programme (BRCP).
- BRCP has made it attractive for high-quality Indian scientists working abroad to return to India.
- BRCP has increased the number of locations geographically within India where world-class biomedical research is undertaken.

Source Link: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1569633>

Facebook launches tools for general elections

- Facebook launched two new India-specific tools called 'Candidate Connect' and 'Share You Voted' on 26 March 2019.
- Both the tool will help to boost civic engagement during the general elections.
- While 'Candidate Connect' will help people learn more about candidates, the 'Share You Voted' will provide people with polling information and enable them to announce and celebrate their vote.

Source Link: <https://www.news18.com/news/tech/facebook-candidate-connect-and-share-you-voted-tools-to-boost-engagement-ahead-of-lok-sabha-elections-2079125.html>

EC comes up with PWD app

- In Maharashtra, the Election Commission has come up with a mobile application called 'PWD' for making voting easier.
- The app would facilitate Divyang voters special facilities including wheelchairs, ramps, and transport from home at polling booths during the Lok Sabha elections.
- The largest group among Divyang voters across Maharashtra are those suffering from visual impairment.

Source Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=EC-comes-up-with-PWD-app-for-over-two-lakhs-Divyang-voters-in-Maharashtra&id=361387>

NTPC to set up floating solar power plant

- National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) is setting up a 25 MW floating solar power plant in its water storage reservoir at NTPC-Simhadri in Visakhapatnam.
- The floating solar power plant is being set up as part of the company's efforts to diversify into the solar segment.
- NTPC is also setting up a Flue-Gas Desulphurisation plant (FGD).

Source Link: https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/ntpc-to-set-up-25-mw-floating-solar-power-plant-at-simhadri-119032901083_1.html

Govt gives GI tag to five coffee varieties

- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade has awarded a Geographical Indication (GI) tag to five varieties of Indian coffee.
- The coffee varieties are Coorg Arabica coffee from Karnataka, Wayanad Robusta coffee from Kerala, Chikmagalur Arabica from Karnataka, Araku Valley Arabica from Andhra Pradesh, and Bababudangiris Arabica coffee from Karnataka.

Source Link: https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/govt-gives-gi-tag-to-five-coffee-varieties-119032901101_1.html

ECI collaborates with Indian Railways

- Election Commission of India (ECI) and Indian Railways have collaborated for Voter Awareness campaign for Lok Sabha Election 2019.
- ECI will utilize four long-distance Trains to carry voter awareness and motivational messages.
- The Train displays Voter Helpline number and the National Voters' Services Portal besides motivational messages urging people to Vote.

Source

Link: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1569856>

Assam CEO launches 'Enajori' initiative

- Assam Chief Electoral Officer Mukesh Sahu launched the 'Enajori' initiative in Guwahati.
- It is a joint initiative of CEO Assam and Social Welfare Department with an objective to make Lok Sabha Elections accessible to Persons with Disability (PwD) voters.
- In Assam, the Bongaigaon district administration has developed a mobile app Sankalp to particularly reach out to the first-time voters.

Source

Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Assam-CEO-Mukesh-Sahu-launches-Enajori-initiative-in-Guwahati&id=361552>

Coffee Board activated marketplace

- Commerce Secretary, Dr. Anup Wadhawan, launched blockchain based coffee e-marketplace through video conferencing in New Delhi on 28 March 2019.
- This pilot project will help integrate the farmers with markets in a transparent manner.
- It will also reduce the number of layers between coffee growers and buyers and help farmers double their income.

Source

Link: <http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1569797>

Assam launched initiatives to educate voter

- Assam State government has launched initiatives to educate voters.
- Folk song competitions, quiz programmes and appeals by celebrities are some of the initiatives being undertaken by the election office in Assam for attracting peoples.
- Polling stations with low female voter turn-out have been identified and 'mahila voter rallies' are being held.

Source

Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/assam-launches-initiative-to-educate-voters/article26657756.ece>

IIT Delhi developed AI system for malaria

- Researchers at IIT Delhi have developed an AI-based electronic hardware system to detect malaria, tuberculosis, intestinal parasite, and cervical cancer in milliseconds.
- The system can be used for healthcare access in resource-constrained areas with limited access to human specialists.
- The long-term impact would be to enable future deployment of the platform in rural areas.

Source

Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/iit-delhi-develops-ai-based-system-to-detect-malaria-other-diseases/article26647656.ece>

Indo-Ger Dev Corp help in waste segregation

- The Indo-German Development Corporation, GIZ, will help the North Delhi Municipal Corporation carry out waste segregation activities.
- The tie-up is for a five-year period during which time the development corporation will provide technical assistance such as training.
- The company is already engaged in a waste segregation project called 'Alag Karo' in Gurgaon.

Source

Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/indo-german-development-corporation-to-help-in-waste-segregation/article26647684.ece>

Vedanta reported oil discovery

- Cairn Oil and Gas, a subsidiary of Anil Agarwal-led Vedanta Ltd, announced an oil discovery in its Krishna Godavari basin block in the Bay of Bengal on 27 March 2019.
- Cairn India had won the KG-OSN-2009/3 block in June 2010 during the edition of the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP).
- The first exploration well A3-2 drilled in the block was a gas discovery.

Source

Link: <https://www.livemint.com/industry/energy/vedanta-reports-oil-discovery-in-kg-basin-1553695879135.html>

Mentioning of caste in FIRs barred

- Punjab and Haryana High Court barred the mentioning of caste in the FIRs.
- The court directed its judicial officers and the governments of Punjab, Haryana and the Union Territory of Chandigarh,

to not mention the caste of the accused, victims or witnesses in any of the proceedings before it.

Source

Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Punjab-%26-Haryana-High-Court-bars-mentioning-of-caste-in-FIRs&id=361485>

Distance programmes in agriculture prohibited

- The University Grants Commission (UGC) has prohibited imparting distance degree programmes in agriculture.
- As per UGC Open and Distance Learning Regulations, 2017, professional programmes such as medicine and engineering are not permitted to be offered in distance mode.
- YCMOU and IGNOU are among the institutions offering degree and diploma programmes in agriculture science.

Source

Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=UGC-prohibits-imparting-distance-degree-programmes-in-agriculture&id=361491>

Creation of additional posts approved

- The Union Cabinet approved the creation of additional posts of 3 Judicial Members and 3 Technical Members in the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT).
- The posts will be created in Level 17 (Rs.2,25,000/- fixed plus allowances as admissible).
- This will ensure to meet the mandate provided to NCLAT by the Finance Act, 2017, and the Companies Act, the IBC, 2016.

Source

Link: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1569524>

CWC land to be acquired by Telangana govt

- The Union Cabinet approved the acquiring of 372 sq. yards out of 10 acres of land including the compound wall in the eastern side of Central Water Commission land by the Telangana Government.
- This would be done for improvement of Radial Road No.30 by widening of road with nil charges.
- A Center of Excellence is proposed to be constructed over the allotted land.

Source

Link: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1569528>

A-Sat missile destroyed live satellite

- India has entered its name as an elite space power. An anti-satellite weapon A-SAT, successfully targeted a live satellite in 3 minutes on a low earth orbit.

- Till now only the US, Russia and China have achieved this; now India is the **4th** country to achieve this feat.
- **Mission Shakti** was a difficult target to achieve which was completed successfully within 3 minutes of launch.

Source Link: <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/pm-narendra-modi-address-to-nation-1553666395099.html>

No clinical trials in India for new drugs

- New drugs approved for use in select developed markets will be automatically allowed in India if the global trials included Indian patients.
- The new Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules, 2019, has done away with the formality of conducting local trials.
- It will reduce the time taken by the company to introduce the drug in India and prevent duplication of studies.

Source

Link: <https://www.livemint.com/industry/manufacturing/no-clinical-trials-in-india-for-new-drugs-approved-in-select-developed-markets-1553553711444.html>

Gandhi's health records published

- Mahatma Gandhi's health files, published for the first time, reveal that he ailed from high blood pressure, weighed 46.7 kg at a height of 5 feet 5 inches (recorded in 1939).
- These facts related to his health have been published for the first time in a special edition the Indian Journal of Medical Research (IJMR) on 'Gandhi and Health @ 150' by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

Source

Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/gandhis-health-records-are-published/article26636345.ece>

RBI appointed 5-member committee

- RBI appointed 5-member committee under the chairmanship of Nandan Nilekani to further deepen digital payments and enhance financial inclusion through Fintech.
- The RBI has requested the committee to give recommendations in 3 months in this regard.
- This was announced at the inaugural event of Fintech Conclave organized by Niti Aayog in New Delhi on 25 March 2019.

Source

Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=RBI-appoints-five-member-committee-to-deepen-digital-payments&id=361367>

Vijaywada Railway station got gold rating

- Vijayawada railway station, one of the busiest railway junctions in the country, has received Gold Rating by the Indian Green Building Council.

- Council Chairman Meka Vijaya Sai presented the gold rating shield to Divisional Railway Manager R Dhananjayulu on 25 March 2019.
- The station boasts of 100% LED lighting, five star rated fans, pumps and motors, and solar water heating systems.

Source Link: <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/vijaywada-railway-station-gets-gold-rating-for-green-measures-2012813>

CBSE to introduce AI, Yoga as new subjects

- The CBSE will introduce artificial intelligence (AI), early childhood care education and yoga as new subjects in school curriculum from the upcoming academic session.
- The CBSE is introducing AI as an optional 6th subject at Class IX from the session 2019-2020 onwards.
- yoga and early childhood education as elective subjects will be introduced at senior secondary level.

Source Link: <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/cbse-to-introduce-artificial-intelligence-yoga-as-new-subjects-1553438844479.html>

Yarn Bank set up for weavers

- A yarn bank has been set up at the Mysore Powerloom Silk Manufacturers Cooperative Society on Avenue Road to benefit the state's weavers.
- The bank will supply pure silk yarn and zari to weavers who subscribe.
- The bank, regardless of the price rise in the open market and the menace of middlemen, ensures a steady supply of yarn to the weavers from southern Karnataka.

Source Link: <https://www.deccanherald.com/city/bengaluru-infrastructure/yarn-bank-set-up-to-help-weavers-in-crisis-724963.html>

Karnataka Bank reported fraud to RBI

- Karnataka Bank reported a fraud to RBI amounting to Rs 13.26 crore in the fund-based working capital facility extended to SRS Finance.
- The fraud was on account of diversion of funds.
- SRS Finance is a non-banking financial corporation (NBFC) with focus on corporate finance and investments, and the consumer finance business.

Source Link: <https://www.businesstoday.in/current/corporate/karnataka-bank-reports-rs-13-crore-fraud-to-rbi/story/330403.html>

FinTech Conclave 2019 held

- NITI Aayog organised a day-long FinTech Conclave at Dr. Ambedkar International Center, New Delhi on 25th March 2019.
- The objective is to shape India's continued ascendancy in FinTech, build the narrative for future strategy and policy efforts.
- It hosted more than 300 representatives from the leading Financial Institutions including HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, SBI Card, Tata Capital and FinTechs.

Source Link: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1569350>

84% reduction in TB deaths in India

- India achieved an 84% reduction in tuberculosis deaths among people living with HIV by 2017.
- It is the highest recorded decline among over 20 nations and it is also three years ahead of the 2020 deadline.
- World Health Organisation estimates have shown that globally, TB deaths among people living with HIV have fallen by 42% since 2010.

Source Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=India-achieves-84-%25-reduction-in-TB-deaths-among-HIV-patients%3a-UN&id=361356>

Threats to bumphead Parrot Fish in Andaman

- Bumphead parrotfish, *Bolbometopon muricatum*, is an important component of coral reef ecosystem but is highly endangered globally.
- It is categorized as 'vulnerable' in the Red List of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- A group of researchers recently studied the distribution, abundance, and dangers to this species in the waters of Andaman and Nicobar islands.

Source Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/protected-areas-matter-to-bumphead-parrotfish/article26619712.ece>

SAIL launches smart garbage bins

- Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL) has launched smart garbage bins made of SAIL Salem stainless steel.
- These smart garbage bins will be able to send a signal to the garbage collection vehicle about the 'fill-up' position of the bin, aiding better cleaning and lower human intervention.
- These will be installed in underground Reinforced Cement Concrete (RCC) pits at the Smart Garbage Station.

Source Link: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/>

[sail-launches-smart-garbage-bins-made-of-steel/article26567992.ece](https://www.testbook.com/news/sail-launches-smart-garbage-bins-made-of-steel/article26567992.ece)

Karnataka govt bans Ola Cabs for 6 months

- The Karnataka government's transport department suspended app-based Ola Cabs's aggregator license for 6 months.
- The Ola is charged with running bike taxis in violation of license conditions and violated government rules.
- Aggregator means a person who is an aggregator or operator or an intermediary/market place who canvasses or solicits or facilitates passengers for travel by taxi.

Source

Link: <https://www.indiatoday.in/business/story/karnataka-a-transport-department-ola-cabs-suspend-bans-6-months-1484105-2019-03-22>

President Kovind to visit Croatia

- President Ram Nath Kovind will visit Croatia, Bolivia, and Chile from 25 March 2019.
- He will participate in India-Bolivia business forum meeting and interact with students.
- He will meet President and Prime Minister of Croatia and discuss the issues of mutual interest.
- The capitals of Croatia, Bolivia, and Chile are Zagreb, Sucre, and Santiago.

Source

Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=President-Kovind-to-visit-Croatia%2c-Bolivia-and-Chile-from-Mar-25&id=361286>

Intain Fintech to launch blockchain product

- Intain Fintech, an AI and block chain-based software products firm, will be launching 'eMulya', an intelligent block chain.
- It facilitates efficient, secure and trustworthy asset securitisation transactions for NBFCs in India by end-2019.
- Intain has its global AI Lab in Pune with 10 people and it will hire 15 more staff in Chennai for this purpose.

Source Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/business/intain-fintech-to-launch-software-product-in-india/article26601090.ece>

Deepest shaft cave discovered in Meghalaya

- India's deepest shaft cave Krem Um Ladaw has been discovered in Meghalaya's East Khasi Hills district.
- The cave has a 105 m deep shaft entrance passage.
- This comes a year after the world's longest sandstone cave Krem Puri was discovered in Meghalaya.
- With all these discoveries, Meghalaya has become one of the top caving regions of the world.

Source Link: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/india-s-deepest-shaft-cave-discovered-in-meghalaya/story-Rq3CvusaKJXHFe6BRZnzM.html>

15th Finance Commission to visit Mizoram

- The Fifteenth Finance Commission shall be visiting the State of Mizoram on 25-26 March 2019.
- This will be the 20th State that the Commission will be visiting.
- As part of its visit, the Commission will be holding detailed meetings with Chief Secretary and Senior officers of the State and will be given a presentation by the State Department of Finance, Urban Development, and Rural Development.

Source

Link: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1569175>

Gauri Sawant: 1st transgender ambassador

- The Election Commission appointed transgender social activist Gauri Sawant as one of the 12 election ambassadors from Maharashtra.
- Following the Supreme Court order, transgenders got the right to vote for the first time in 2014.
- There are 113, 184, and 123 registered transgenders in constituencies of Bhiwandi, Kalyan, and East Mumbai respectively.

Source

Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Mumbai-social-worker-Gauri-Sawant-becomes-first-transgender-election-ambassador&id=361202>

Ice Stupas created

- Over 12 villages in Ladakh have built Ice Stupas in various villages.
- In each Ice Stupa, at least 30-50 lakh litres of water is saved. This is apart from the naturally saved water in the slopes of mountains.
- With the technical and material support by the Himalayan Institute of Alternatives Ladakh (HIAL), village youths enthusiastically participated in building the ice Stupas.

Source

Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Special-Stamp-on-Ice-Stupa-released&id=361166>

Spicejet got IATA membership

- SpiceJet joined global airlines' grouping IATA as a member, becoming the first Indian low-cost carrier to get the membership.

- The International Air Transport Association (IATA) represents more than 290 airlines, including Air India, Jet Airways and Vistara.
- The IATA membership is significant on account of SpiceJet's plans for rapidly expanding its international footprint.

Source Link: https://wap.business-standard.com/article-amp/pti-stories/spicejet-becomes-first-indian-low-cost-airline-to-join-iata-119031900840_1.html

Conclaves concluded

- The 14th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnerships concluded in New Delhi on 19th March 2019. The three-day conclave was organised by the Ministry of Commerce in association with Confederation of Indian Industry and EXIM Bank of India.
- Ministry of Steel organised a two-day Vigilance Conclave in New Delhi which concluded on 19th March 2019.

Source Link: <http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1569116>

Military bands to perform in CSK-RCB opener

- Military bands will perform at the M. A. Chidambaram Stadium ahead of the opening fixture of the Indian Premier League (IPL).
- BCCI will also contribute Rs. 20 crore for the welfare of the armed forces in the wake of the Pulwama terror attack, where 44 CRPF personnel were killed.
- Indian players had also paid their respects by sporting Army camouflage caps in the third ODI in Ranchi.

Source Link: <https://sportstar.thehindu.com/cricket/ipl/ipl-news/ipl-2019-csk-rcb-military-bands-coa-ms-dhoni/article26570528.ece>

Mizoram Assembly passed a bill

- The Mizoram Assembly passed the Mizoram Maintenance of Household Registers Bill, 2019 on 18 March 2019.
- The bill seeks to detect foreigners illegally residing in the northeastern state, that shares an over 700-km border with Bangladesh and Myanmar.
- The measures proposed under the legislation are intended to provide a credible individual identification system.

Source Link: https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/mizoram-assembly-passes-bill-to-detect-illegal-foreigners-119031800879_1.html

Name change of Nagaland village

- The Centre gave its consent for changing the name of Mangkhi village in Tuensang district of Nagaland to Mungankhun village.
- The central government has given its 'no-objection' to rename 22 villages, towns and railway stations across the country since December 2017.
- Some of the cleared proposals are Arikkod as Areekode in Malappura, Kerala and Laxman Garh as Adawala in Rajasamand, Rajasthan.

Source Link: https://wap.business-standard.com/article-amp/pti-stories/centre-s-nod-to-name-change-of-nagaland-village-119031800926_1.html

i-help launched in Assam

- The 'i-help' initiative to promote digital electoral literacy in Assam was launched in view of the forthcoming Lok Sabha poll.
- It is a joint initiative of the office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) and Common Service Centres (CSC).
- The CSCs are internet-enabled access points spread throughout the country delivering various government and non-government digital services to the citizens.

Source Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/i-help-initiative-launched-in-assam/article26574359.ece>

EC sets pre-poll deadline for manifestos

- Election Commission barred political parties from releasing election manifestos 48 hours before both single and multiphase polling.
- In a multi-phased poll, the silence period of the last 48 hours may be on in certain constituencies while the campaign is ongoing in other constituencies.
- It also said that during the silence period, political leaders should refrain from addressing the media.

Source Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/elections/lok-sabha-2019/election-commission-bars-parties-from-releasing-manifestos-in-last-48-hours-before-polling/article26555792.ece>

GI tag for Coorg Arabica Coffee & four others

- The Geographical Indications Registry has granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag to Coorg Arabica Coffee, Wayanad Robusta Coffee, Chikmagalur Arabica Coffee, Araku Valley Arabica Coffee, and Bababudangiris Arabica Coffee on 1 March 2019.
- Coorg Arabica Coffee is grown specifically in Karnataka.
- GI tag is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin.

Source

Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/chennai/gi-tag-for-coorg-arabica-coffee-four-others/article26538215.ece>

Health ministry calls for ban on e-cigarettes

- The union health ministry has called for Juul Labs Inc's electronic cigarettes to be blocked from entering the country.
- Juul has plans to launch its products in India by late 2019.
- In February 2019, drug regulator told all states to ensure that e-cigarettes were not sold or manufactured in their region.
- More than 900,000 people die each year in India due to tobacco-related illnesses

Source

Link: <https://www.livemint.com/politics/policy/health-ministry-calls-for-blocking-e-ci-maker-juul-s-entry-into-india-1552662975625.html>

NGT suspends expansion of thermal plant

- The Principal Bench of National Green Tribunal (NGT) has suspended the expansion plan of the thermal plant of Udupi Power Corporation Ltd. (UPCL) at Yellur in Udupi district on 15 March 2019.
- The thermal power plant got the Environmental Clearance of 1 August 2017.
- The thermal plant project was challenged in 2004 by the Nandikur Janajagrithi Samithi, an NGO.

Source Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/national-green-tribunal-suspends-expansion-of-thermal-plant/article26550791.ece>

IIT Kharagpur to adopt AWS Educate Programme

- The Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur will adopt Amazon Web Services (AWS) Educate programme.
- This will help students gain cloud computing skills in artificial intelligence (AI).
- The programme is Amazon's global initiative to provide students and educators with the resources needed to accelerate cloud-related learning.

Source Link: https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/iit-kharagpur-to-adopt-amazon-web-services-educate-programme-119031600188_1.html

West Nile Virus fever patient reported

- The government of India sent a special medical team to Malappuram district of Kerala from where a confirmed case of West Nile Virus (WNV) fever, a mosquito-borne disease was reported.

- Birds are the natural hosts of WNV and it spreads to human by Culex mosquitoes.
- The symptoms include fever, headache, tiredness, body aches, nausea, vomiting, and swollen lymph glands.

Source

Link: <https://www.livemint.com/science/health/centre-sends-medical-team-to-malappuram-to-assess-west-nile-virus-situation-1552565535973.html>

A task force to address mental health issues

- Indian Psychiatric Society (IPS) has formed a task force to tackle mental health issues of college-going students.
- As India is set to have a large population below 25 years by 2020, experts predict a spurt in cases of depression, anxiety, and suicides.
- The task force consists of three senior psychiatrists: Dr. Kersi Chavda, Dr. Avinash Desouza, and Dr. Amrit Patojoshi

Source

Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/mumbai/a-task-force-to-address-college-students-mental-health-issues/article26525922.ece>

Dolphin numbers dropped in Gandak

- A count of the Ganges River Dolphin in rivers, Gandak and Ghaghara, has revealed the presence of 280 dolphins.
- The number of dolphins recorded in a 324-km stretch of Gandak river was 155.
- The last survey carried out in 2009-10 had recorded the presence of 257 dolphins in the same stretch.
- In a 99-km stretch of Ghaghara river in Bihar, researchers found the presence of 125 dolphins.

Source Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/dolphin-numbers-drop-in-gandak/article26537009.ece>

FINE inaugurated by President

- President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the Festival of Innovation and Entrepreneurship (FINE) in Gandhinagar in Gujarat on 15 March 2019.
- FINE is an initiative to recognise, respect, showcase, reward innovations and foster supportive ecosystem for innovators.
- It is aimed at providing a platform for innovators for building linkages with potential stakeholders.

Source

Link: <http://www.smetimes.in/smetimes/news/top-stories/2019/Mar/14/prez-entrepreneurship43800.html>

First workshop on IEMF held

- The NITI Aayog and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) organized the first workshop on development of the India Energy Modelling Forum.
- it has been envisaged as a pan-stakeholder platform for debating ideas, scenario-planning & discussing India's energy future.
- The 2-day workshop was held with the support of the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL).

Source

Link: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1568841>

MCA released national guidelines

- The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) came up with national guidelines on Responsible Business Conduct (NGRBC).
- For this purpose, the National Voluntary Guidelines on Social, Environmental and Economic Responsibilities of Business, 2011 (NVGS) have also been revised.
- MCA is also in the process of developing India's National Action Plan on Business & Human Rights (NAP) by 2020.

Source

Link: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/mca-releases-national-guidelines-on-business-conduct/article26523904.ece?homepage=true>

Airbus India launched programme for women

- Airbus India launched an ambitious programme for women professionals who want to return to corporate careers after a sabbatical or maternity leave.
- 'Fly Again' was launched on International Women's Day (March 8, 2019).
- It will support Airbus India in meeting its requirement for talent as well as increase diversity and inclusion at the workplace, contributing to long-term business success.

Source

Link: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/airbus-india-launches-programme-for-women-to-return-to-careers-after-sabbatical-maternity-leave/article26520338.ece>

2 Amendment Regulation approved by Cabinet

- The Union Cabinet approved Promulgation of the Daman and Diu Civil Courts (Amendment) Regulation, 2019 and the Dadra and Nagar Haveli (Civil Courts and Miscellaneous Provisions) Amendment Regulation, 2019 under Article 240 of the Constitution.
- The move will be helpful in bringing uniformity in Judicial Service.

Source

Link: <http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1568706>

BoB launched child daycare facility

- Bank of Baroda launched Crèche – Child Daycare facility within its Mumbai Corporate Office premises on 12 March 2019.
- It will bear 60% of costs for each child, the rest to be borne by parents.
- The larger objective is more representation of women employees in senior positions.
- The daycare is an initiative in creating an environment that is conducive to working women and parents.

Source

Link: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/bank-of-baroda-launches-child-daycare-facility-at-hq/article26508649.ece>

YouTube launched music streaming services

- YouTube launched its paid service, YouTube Premium and music streaming app, YouTube Music, in India.
- It will be available for Rs 129 a month, and will also include membership to YouTube Music Premium.
- The service will offer an ad-free experience with background play and offline downloads for millions of videos on YouTube, as well as access to all YouTube Originals.

Source

Link: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/media/entertainment/media/youtube-launches-music-streaming-services-in-india/articleshow/68382420.cms>

Facebook to support start-ups

- Facebook launched Facebook Hubs, an initiative to foster innovation and offer support for budding entrepreneurs on 12 March 2019.
- It will extend support for start-up community by hosting mentor hours and conducting trainings, workshops, discussions across 20 locations in India.
- The locations are Delhi, Goa, Gurugram, Noida, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Pune, and Navi Mumbai.

Source

Link: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/info-tech/facebook-hubs-to-support-start-ups/article26514402.ece>

Boeing 737 Max 8 aircraft to be grounded

- The Directorate General of Civil Aviation decided to ground Boeing 737 Max 8 aircraft with immediate effect.

- The decision came in the wake of Ethiopian Airlines crash on 10 March 2019 in Addis Ababa killing all 157 people on board.
- Spice Jet has around 12 Boeing 737 Max 8 aircrafts in its fleet, while Jet Airways has five in the country.

Source

Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=DGCA-decides-to-ground-Boeing-737-Max-8-aircraft-with-immediate-effect&id=360924>

76% Indian businesses hit by cyber attacks

- 76% of organizations were hit by online attacks in 2018, as revealed by a new survey '7 Uncomfortable Truths of Endpoint Security' released on 13 March 2019.
- IT managers discovered 39% of the most significant cyber attacks on their organization's servers and 35% on its networks.
- The survey polled more than 3,100 IT decision makers from mid-sized businesses in 12 countries.

Source

Link: <https://www.livemint.com/technology/tech-news/76-indian-businesses-hit-by-cyber-attacks-survey-1552446467488.html>

12 states banned e-cigarettes

- Following an advisory from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare issued in 2018, 12 states in India have banned Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS).
- These include Punjab, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Jharkhand.
- ENDS emits nicotine, the addictive component of tobacco products.

Source Link: <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/12-states-ban-e-cigarettes-health-ministry-urges-all-to-follow-1552447122172.html>

New frog species found in Kerala

- A star-speckled frog species with several features resembling frogs found in South America and Central Africa was discovered in the Western Ghats in Wayanad, Kerala.
- The frog has been named *Astrobatrachus Kurichiyana* after the indigenous community living of Kurichiyarmala.
- An analysis revealed that the frog separated from its near relative almost 60 to 70 million years ago.

Source Link: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/found-new-frog-in-old-hot-spot/story-d1p2wCJsDOUZ054yOfUodM.html>

IoT India Congress 2019 to be held

- IoT (Internet of Things) India Congress, will be held in Bengaluru from August 22-23, 2019.
- It will include tracks on segments such as healthcare, manufacturing, smart cities, energy, cybersecurity, skills and development, IoT Standards, and agriculture.
- The announcement of the 4th edition of it was made by the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) IoT Panel at a conference.

Source Link: https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/internet-of-things-india-congress-2019-to-be-held-on-aug-22-23-119031200313_1.html

J&K got its 1st palliative care centre

- Jammu & Kashmir got its first centre for palliative care programme and treatment of cancer patients on 12 March 2019.
- It has been set up under the national palliative care programme by AIIMS, New Delhi and the Union health ministry and the Asia Pacific Hospice Palliative Care Network, Singapore.
- Palliative care focuses on relieving and preventing the suffering of patients.

Source Link: https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/j-k-gets-its-first-palliative-care-centre-for-cancer-patients-119031200745_1.html

Arecanut got its first GI tag as Sirsi Supari

- For the first time in the arecanut sector, 'Sirsi Supari' grown in Uttara Kannada has received the Geographic Indication (GI) tag.
- It is cultivated in Yellapura, Siddapura and Sirsi taluks.
- The arecanut has unique features like a round and flattened coin shape, particular texture, taste.

Source

Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/arecanut-gets-its-first-gi-tag-for-sirsi-supari/article26503635.ece>

Wood snake rediscovered by scientists

- A species of wood snake that wasn't seen for 140 years has resurfaced in a survey conducted by scientists in the Meghamalai Wildlife Sanctuary.
- The species, endemic to the Meghamalai forests and the Periyar Tiger Reserve landscape, was rediscovered by R. Chaitanya.
- It was last spotted and recorded by British military officer and naturalist Colonel Richard Henry Beddome in 1878.

Source Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/wood-snake-last-seen-in-1878-rediscovered-by-scientists/article26505577.ece>

Harappan trove discovered

- Archaeologists have stumbled upon a massive burial site dating back to the Harappan civilization, around 360 km from Dholavira in Kutch district, Gujarat.
- The excavation was done jointly by the Kutch University and Kerala University near Khatia village of Lakhpat taluka.
- Estimated to be around 4,600-5,200 years old, the burial site is 300 m x 300 m-big with more than 250 graves.

Source

Link: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/experts-discover-harappan-trove/articleshow/68366282.cms>

India's Internet base crossed 500m mark

- The internet user base in India exceeded 500 million mark and is likely to reach 627 million by end 2019, according to the Kantar IMRB ICUBE report.
- The number of internet users is estimated to be 566 million as of December 2018, registering annual growth of 18%.
- Bihar showed the highest growth in new internet user additions across urban and rural areas; registering growth of 35% over 2018.

Source

Link: <https://www.livemint.com/industry/telecom/internet-users-exceed-500-million-rural-india-driving-growth-report-1552300847307.html>

Collection of 3 lakh clothes made record

- A campaign by Lakshyaraj Singh Mewar, member of erstwhile royal family of Udaipur, has received a donation of over three lakh clothing items.
- It created a Guinness World Record for the largest collection of clothes for donation.
- Over 76,000 people donated the clothes, which were distributed to the needy.
- The campaign reached out to over 120 schools, 15 colleges, and 30 NGOs.

Source

Link: https://repository.inshorts.com/articles/en/PTI/30278cdd-ccf8-4c6c-a627-0d4aedfef815?utm_campaign=fullarticle&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=inshorts

Reservations in Odisha and MP

- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced 33% quota for women in the allocation of Lok Sabha tickets of BJD party.

- Madhya Pradesh Congress government issued an ordinance to raise the reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) from 14% to 27%.

Source

Link: https://www.aninews.in/news/national/politics/nav-eeen-patnaik-declares-33-quota-for-women-in-allocation-of-bjd-lok-sabha-tickets20190310130833/?utm_campaign=fullarticle&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=inshorts

India's 1st LGBTQ clinic inaugurated

- India's first HIV treatment centre and holistic clinic for the LGBTQ community was inaugurated by Humsafar Trust in Mumbai.
- The centre will give free counseling and provide Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART).
- ART is the use of HIV medicines to treat the infection and is recommended for everyone who is infected with virus and delays the progression of the disease.

Source Link: https://www.timesnownews.com/mirror-now/society/article/humsafar-trust-inaugurates-indias-first-lgbtq-clinic-one-stop-hiv-treatment-centre-in-mumbai/379881?utm_campaign=fullarticle&utm_medium=referral&utm_source=inshorts

CBDT paved way for offshore managers

- The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has started paving way for offshore fund managers to relocate to India for managing their offshore funds.
- This is being done for the public markets space, mainly foreign portfolio investors (FPI) structures.
- This will also boost flows into India as fund managers will be closer to the 'deal ecosystem'.

Source

Link: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/cbdt-allows-offshore-fund-managers-to-operate-from-india/article26488491.ece>

3 special observers appointed for J&K

- The Election Commission formed a 3-member committee to assess the situation on the ground in Jammu and Kashmir.
- The 3 members of the committee are two retired IAS officers Noor Mohammed and Vinod Zutshi and a retired IPS officer, A.S. Gill.
- EC will be regularly and on a real-time basis monitoring the situation in the state and the decision of holding Assembly elections will be taken soon.

Source

Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=EC->

[appoints-three-special-observers-for-Jammu-and-Kashmir&id=360839](#)

11 new regional DD channels launched

- Prasar Bharati launched 11 state Doordarshan channels, including five for northeast through DD Free Dish, on 9 March 2019.
- This was done to widen the reach and accessibility of the government broadcaster.
- Chhattisgarh, Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Uttarakhand got their own DD channels on satellite network through DD Free Dish.

Source Link: <https://www.zeebiz.com/companies/news-prasar-bharati-launches-11-new-regional-dd-channels-89500/amp>

Data usage in India to grow by 2022

- India's data consumption is expected to grow at a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 72.6% to 10,96,58,793 MB by 2022.
- Video streaming constitutes roughly 65-75% of the traffic, as per the Nokia Mobile Broadband Index 2018.
- Internet penetration is increasing in India, and mobile internet penetration is set to reach 56.7% in 2022 from a mere 30.2% in 2017.

Source Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-business/data-usage-in-india-to-grow-at-73-cagr-by-2022-study/article26491291.ece>

Pulse Polio program launched in Nagaland

- The Nagaland Health and Family Welfare Department launched the first round of 'Intensive Pulse Polio Immunization' programme on 10 March 2019.
- It is targeting to administer polio drops to all eligible children upto 5 years throughout the state in 2274 polio booths.
- More than 17 cr. children below 5 years across the country will be given polio drops as part of the central government's drive.

Source Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/intensive-pulse-polio-immunization-prog-launched-in-nagaland/article26491701.ece>

Doon-Mussoorie ropeway project foundation laid

- Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat laid the foundation stone for the Dehradun-Mussoorie ropeway project on 6 March 2019.
- Poma, a French company which manufactures cable-driven projects, will provide the technical support to the project.

- It will shorten the one-hour zigzag drive to just 15 minutes from Purkul village the base camp at Dehradun to Mussoorie.

Source Link: https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/cm-rawat-lays-foundation-stone-for-doon-mussoorie-ropeway-project-119030601261_1.html

'One Delhi' mobile app launched

- The Delhi government launched 'One Delhi' mobile application on 5 March 2019.
- The application will provide a real-time location of bus stops and buses through which commuters can easily locate the nearest bus stops, number of buses, and routes.
- The app will be updated every 45 minutes with information related to bus and metro routes.

Source Link: <https://www.dailypioneer.com/2019/state-editions/one-delhi-to-give-you-real-time-dtc-bus-info.html>

Marayoor jaggery received GI Tag

- The Marayoor jaggery, the traditional and handmade product from Idukki district, received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag from the government of India.
- This jaggery is made from sugarcane and no chemicals are added during the manufacturing process.
- It is dark brown in colour, high in sweetness and iron, with less sodium content and insoluble impurities.

Source Link: <https://www.thenewsminute.com/article/sweet-victory-idukki-s-marayoor-jaggery-gets-gi-tag-97960>

PM Modi inaugurated PDUIA in Greater Noida

- The Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Institute of Archaeology (PDUIA) in Greater Noida on 9 March 2019.
- The Institute of Archaeology (IA) is an academic wing of Archaeological Survey of India under the Ministry of Culture.
- The aim of this Institute is to provide an opportunity for students to achieve excellence in the field of archaeology.

Source Link: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1568268>

Andhra and Madhya Pradesh got new NCLT benches

- The Government of India has approved the establishment of two new benches of National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) for the faster disposal of cases.
- The benches will be established at Amaravati in Andhra Pradesh and the other at Indore in Madhya Pradesh.

- The jurisdiction of the Bench at Amaravati will be the state of Andhra Pradesh and that of Indore will be the state of Madhya Pradesh.

Source

Link: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1568287>

Foundation stone for KV corridor laid

- PM Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of corridor and beautification at Kashi Vishwanath Temple at Varanasi on 8 March 2019.
- This temple corridor will be a role model for all temples and their safety and security.
- All rules, standards and ethical values mentioned in our Shastras have been kept in mind while preparing the model of this corridor.

Source

Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=PM-Modi-lays-foundation-stone-of-Kashi-Vishwanath-corridor&id=360721>

Creation of post of Technical member approved

- The Union Cabinet approved the creation of the Post of Technical Member in Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT), Mumbai.
- The post will have a pay scale of Rs. 2,25,000/- (fixed) or Level 17 of the Pay Matrix as per the 7th Pay Commission.
- Creation of the post will facilitate the creation of an additional bench in SAT, thereby allowing speedy disposal of the increased number of appeals in SAT.

Source

Link: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1567816>

Cabinet approved Kiru Hydro Electric Project

- The Cabinet Committee approved the investment sanction for construction of Kiru Hydro Electric (HE) Project (624 MW) in Jammu & Kashmir.
- The project is located on River Chenab in Kishtwar district of J&K and will be implemented at an estimated cost of Rs.4287.59 crore.
- The project is envisaged as a Run of River (RoR) Scheme, designed complying with the requirements of Indus Water Treaty 1960

Source

Link: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1567751>

Advanced braking systems mandatory

- Ministry of Road Transport & Highways mandated advanced braking systems and technologies for improved road safety and reducing accidents.
- The provision will be binding on all vehicles with 9 seats and above as per a notification issued on 7 March,19.
- The existing vehicles will be required to adopt new provisions from April 2021, while new vehicles, from April 2022 will have these pre-fitted.

Source

Link: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1568007>

FMBAP approved by the Cabinet

- The Union Cabinet approved the Flood Management and Border Areas Programme (FMBAP) for Flood Management Works in the entire country.
- River Management Activities and works related to Border Areas were also approved for the period 2017-18 to 2019-20 with a total outlay of Rs.3342.00 crores.
- FMBAP Scheme will be implemented for effective flood management, erosion control, and anti-sea erosion.

Source

Link: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1567798>

400 acre wetland became dust bowl in 6 months

- A wetland habitat in Uran, near Mumbai that drew a variety of birds, has been completely flattened with dirt and debris.
- Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) was accused of carrying out illegal reclamation at the Dastan Phata wetland.
- A huge biodiversity area has been lost in 6 months and action against JNPT officials will be taken.

Source

Link: <https://mumbaimirror.indiatimes.com/mumbai/cover-story/400-acre-wetland-becomes-a-dust-bowl-in-6-months/articleshow/68295106.cms>

Govt banned import of solid plastic waste

- The Centre amended the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016.
- This was done to include a prohibition on the import of solid plastic waste even in special economic zones (SEZ) and by export-oriented units (EOU).
- The amendment has been done keeping into consideration the 'Ease of Doing Business' and boosting 'Make in India' initiative.

Source

Link: <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/govt-bans->

[import-of-solid-plastic-waste-by-sezs-eous-1551881532014.html](http://www.testbook.com/import-of-solid-plastic-waste-by-sezs-eous-1551881532014.html)

Web Wonder Women felicitated

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development hosted a felicitation event for Web Wonder Women in New Delhi on 6 March 2019.
- It was organised to celebrate the exceptional achievements of women, who have been driving social reforms via social media.
- 30 women, who were selected after an extensive research process, were honoured by the Minister for Women and Child Development, Maneka Gandhi.

Source

Link: <http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1567639>

Sonbhadra tops NITI Aayog's ranking

- Sonbhadra, Sahibganj, and Chatra topped the ranking of aspirational districts by Niti Aayog for the December-January period of 2018-19.
- The rankings measured the incremental progress made by 112 aspirational districts in December 2018-January 2019 across six developmental areas.
- Of 115 aspirational districts, only 112 participated in the survey.

Source Link: https://wap.business-standard.com/article-amp/pti-stories/3-jharkhand-districts-top-in-niti-s-development-ranking-119030600562_1.html

Odisha announced assistance for craftsmen

- As a token of appreciation towards the craftsmen, the Odisha government launched a scheme Mukhya Mantri Karigar Sahayata on 6 March 2019.
- The scheme will provide them with monthly assistance.
- Craftsmen with over 10 years of experience and annual income below Rs 1 lakh would be eligible to get an assistance of Rs 800 a month.
- Those above 80 years would get Rs 1,000 monthly allowance.

Source Link: https://wap.business-standard.com/article-amp/pti-stories/odisha-govt-announces-financial-assistance-for-craftsmen-119030600549_1.html

65% hate crimes against Dalits

- 65% hate crimes against Dalits were documented by Amnesty India's interactive Halt the Hate website.
- Of the 218 documented incidents, 142 were against Dalits, 50 against Muslims, and 8 each against Christians, Adivasis and transgender people.
- For the 3rd straight year, Uttar Pradesh recorded the highest number of reported crimes, with 57 such incidents.

Source

Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/65-of-hate-crimes-against-dalits-amnesty/article26440412.ece>

PM visited Karnataka, Tamil Nadu

- PM Narendra Modi visited Kalaburagi in Karnataka and Kancheepuram in Tamil Nadu on 6 March 2019 to launch various development projects.
- He dedicated to the nation the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal Terminal and ESIC Hospital and Medical College, Bengaluru.
- He also unveiled multiple projects in roadways, railways, and energy sector at Kancheepuram in Tamil Nadu.

Source

Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=PM-Modi-to-visit-Karnataka%2c-Tamil-Nadu-tomorrow&id=360590>

Azadi Ke Diwane museum inaugurated

- Minister of State for Culture and Environment, Dr. Mahesh Sharma inaugurated 'AzaadikeDiwane' museum at Red Fort, Delhi on 5 March 2019.
- It is created by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and pays homage to all unsung heroes of freedom struggle of the nation.
- The museum is 5th in the series of recently inaugurated museums in the Red Fort Complex including Subhash Chandra Bose museum.

Source

Link: <http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1567364>

Handloom Haat at Janpath inaugurated

- Textiles Minister Smriti Irani inaugurated the refurbished Handloom Haat at Janpath in New Delhi on March 5, 2019.
- The main objective of the Haat is to provide infrastructure support to handloom agencies to augment their sales of handloom products.
- She also launched 3 projects besides this, which are Trend Forecasting, Design Innovation Incubator and Textiles, and Crafts Repository.

Source

Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Smriti-Irani-inaugurates-refurbished-Handloom-Haat-at-Janpath%2c-New-Delhi&id=360578>

Uttarakhand to set up CoE for Himalayan Fibre

- The Uttarakhand government has decided to set up a center of excellence for Himalayan fiber in Almora district of Kumaon.

- It will be set up with support from the Northern India Textile Research Association (NITRA) - Ghaziabad.
- NITRA, under the Union Ministry of Textile, will set up a training institute for developing fiber products at the Centre.

Source Link: https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/uttarakhand-to-set-up-centre-of-excellence-for-himalayan-fibre-119030400325_1.html

Project BOLD-QIT inaugurated

- Project BOLD-QIT (Border Electronically Dominated QRT Interception Technique) on India-Bangladesh border in Assam was inaugurated on 5 March 2019.
- I&T Wing of BSF undertook the project in January 2018 and completed it in record time.
- Implementation of this project will help BSF to curb all types of cross border crimes and provide respite to the troops from round the clock human surveillance.

Source Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Rajnath-Singh-to-inaugurate-project-BOLD-QIT-on-India-Bangladesh-border-in-Dhubri%2c-Assam-today&id=360574>

1000 MW NTPL project dedicated to nation

- Coal Minister Piyush Goyal dedicated to the nation a 1,000-megawatt (MW) thermal power project of Neyveli Tamil Nadu Power Ltd (NTPL) on 4 March 2019.
- He also dedicated 150-MW solar power projects of NLC India Ltd (NLCIL) in Tamil Nadu.
- The 1,000-MW coal-fired thermal power project of NTPL is a joint venture between NLCIL and TANGEDCO with equity participation of 89:11.

Source Link: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/power/piyush-goyal-dedicates-to-nation-1000-mw-thermal-power-project-of-ntpl/articleshow/68256244.cms>

BHEL to set up EV charger network

- BHEL will be setting up a network of solar-based electric vehicle chargers on the Delhi-Chandigarh highway.
- The project will be covered under the Department of Heavy Industry's FAME scheme (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid) & Electric Vehicles in India).
- EV chargers would allay range-anxiety among the electric vehicle users and bolster their confidence for inter-city travel.

Source Link: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/ind>

[l-goods/svs/engineering/bhel-setting-up-solar-based-ev-charger-network-on-delhi-chandigarh-highway/articleshow/68251480.cms](https://www.business-standard.com/article/svs/engineering/bhel-setting-up-solar-based-ev-charger-network-on-delhi-chandigarh-highway/articleshow/68251480.cms)

96% usage of toilets under Swachh Bharat

- The National Annual Rural Sanitation Survey (NARSS) 2018-19, found that 96.5% of the households in rural India who have access to a toilet use it.
- The survey also re-confirmed the Open Defecation Free (ODF) status of 90.7% of villages.
- The survey was conducted between November 2018 and February 2019, covering 92040 households in 6136 villages across the country.

Source Link: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/96-usage-of-toilets-under-swachh-bharat-shows-survey-by-an-independent-verification-agency/articleshow/68265399.cms>

Air pollution costing India \$30 billion/year

- Air pollution due to crop stubble burning in northern India causes an economic loss of \$30 billion annually, as per a study unveiled on 4 March 2019.
- Researchers from the US-based International Food Policy Research Institute found that living in districts with air pollution from crop stubble burning can cause acute respiratory infection (ARI).
- This is first of its kind study.

Source Link: <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/air-pollution-from-crop-stubble-burning-costing-india-billion-annually-study-1551682436123.html>

New airports inaugurated

- PM Narendra Modi will launch civilian flight operations from Hindon airbase on 8 March 2019. He will also inaugurate the 9.4 km-long Dilshad Garden-New Bus Adda section of Delhi Metro's Red Line.
- Sindhudurg airport in Parule-Chipi area of Maharashtra's Konkan region was inaugurated by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Union Civil Aviation Minister Suresh Prabhu on 5 March 2019.

Source Link: <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/delhi-s-second-airport-at-hindon-metro-s-new-corridor-to-start-from-friday-1551759022871.html>

Guinness Book of World Record for Kumbh Mela

- The Prayagraj Kumbh Mela 2019 secured a place in the Guinness Book of World Records.
- It set the record for the largest crowd management, largest sanitation drive and largest painting exercise of public sites.

- The festival began on January 14 and concluded on March 4, 2019, with the sixth and final Shahi Snan on the occasion of Maha Shivratri.

Source Link: <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/prayagraj-kumbh-mela-enters-guinness-book-of-world-records-2002131>

Hailakandi: Top aspirational district

- Assam's Hailakandi district has shot up to number 1 from the 52nd position, among the aspirational districts of the country as per a new report by the Niti Aayog.
- It ranked 1st among the 112 aspirational districts of India based on the performance during November-December 2018 and January 2019.
- Deputy commissioners of awarded districts would receive an additional allocation on 6 March 2019.

Source Link: https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/assam-s-hailakandi-top-aspirational-district-niti-aayog-study-119030100953_1.html

Essar got nod for shale exploration

- Essar Oil & Gas Exploration and Production Ltd (EOGEPL) received environment clearance for exploring shale gas reserves in its Raniganj block in West Bengal.
- The expert appraisal committee (EAC) allowed Essar to drill 20 wells to explore shale gas in its Raniganj CBM block.
- It has been awarded an exploration lease for shale gas, CBM, and hydrocarbons in the Raniganj block.

Source Link: <https://www.livemint.com/industry/energy/essar-oil-gas-gets-green-nod-for-shale-exploration-in-raniganj-block-1551649952836.html>

2 New Rail projects flagged off

- Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis flagged off 11.28 km long 2nd phase of the Chembur-Wadala-Jacob Circle of Mumbai monorail network on 3 March 2019.
- PM Narendra Modi flagged off the Tejas Express between Madurai and Chennai, with two commercial stops.

Source Link: <https://www.businesstoday.in/top-story/pm-modi-flags-off-new-tejas-express-the-fastest-train-between-chennai-madurai/story/323654.html>

CISF set new Guinness World Record

- Central Industrial Security Force achieved a Guinness world record feat in single line bicycle parade to mark the 50 years of the paramilitary force on March 3, 2019.
- The new record was created at the Yamuna Expressway in Noida.

- Personnel of CISF rode 1,327 bicycles non-stop with a uniform distance between bicycles in a single line.
- The parade covered 3.2 km distance non-stop.

Source Link: <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/with-parade-of-over-1-300-bicycles-cisf-sets-new-guinness-world-record-2002047>

Aadhar, voluntary ID proof in banks

- President Ram Nath Kovind gave his assent to an ordinance that allows voluntary use of Aadhaar as ID proof for opening bank accounts and buying SIM cards.
- The ordinance will omit Section 57 of the Aadhaar Act relating to the use of Aadhaar by private entities.
- The changes entail a civil penalty of up to Rs. 1 crore on entities that violate the provisions of the Aadhaar Act.

Source Link: <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/president-nod-to-ordinance-for-use-of-aadhaar-for-bank-accounts-sim-2002055>

PM on 2-day visit to Gujarat

- PM Narendra Modi is on a 2-day visit to Gujarat from 4 March 2019.
- He will launch the Pradhan Mantri Shram-Yogi Maandhan Yojana (PM-SYM) and inaugurate the first phase of 6-km-long Ahmedabad Metro service.
- He will also lay foundation stones for Umiya Dham temple and launch SAUNI water scheme.

Source Link: <https://www.news18.com/news/politics/pm-narendra-modi-to-launch-several-projects-in-gujarat-during-his-2-day-visit-starting-today-2054421.html>

Gwalior: Centre for Disability Sports

- A Centre for Disability Sports will be set up at Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh.
- It will ensure the effective participation of Persons with Disabilities in sports activities.
- It is being developed by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- It will have an Outdoor Athletic Stadium, Indoor Sports Complex and Aquatic Centre.

Source Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Centre-for-Disability-Sports-to-be-set-up-at-Gwalior&id=360514>

Kalashnikov rifles unit inaugurated in Amethi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a Kalashnikov rifles manufacturing facility at Amethi in Uttar Pradesh on 3 March 2019.
- The facility has been set up by Indo-Russia Rifles Pvt Ltd.

- Indo-Russia Rifles Pvt Ltd is a joint venture between India's Ordnance factory and a Russian firm.
- The facility will produce the last series of Kalashnikov rifles in the Korwa Ordnance Factory.

Source Link: https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/pm-modi-to-launch-kalashnikov-rifles-unit-in-amethi-119030200390_1.html

Heat Wave 2019: Workshop on Preparedness held

- A National workshop on Preparedness, Mitigation, and Management of Heat Wave was conducted in Nagpur on 27 and 28 February 2019.
- It was conducted by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and the Government of Maharashtra.
- The workshop aims to sensitise States on the need of preparing and implementing specific Heat Action Plans in line with NDMA's national guidelines on Heat Wave.

Source Link: <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=188997>

Government extends ban on SIMI

- The government of India has extended the ban on the Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI).
- It was involved in a series of terror acts in the country, for five years.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs termed the SIMI as an unlawful association.
- The decision has been taken as the organisation continues to indulge in subversive activities.

Source Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Government-extends-ban-on-SIMI&id=360415>

2nd Edition of ISL Dictionary launched

- The 2nd Edition of Indian Sign Language (ISL) Dictionary was launched in New Delhi on 27 February 2019.
- The dictionary was developed by Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC) under the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.
- The first edition of the dictionary with three thousand words was launched in March 2018.

Source Link: <http://newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=360327>

Guinness Book of World Record created by DEPwD

- A National Conference on "Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS)" was inaugurated in Gujarat on 1 March 2019.

- '7th Guinness Book of World Record' was created by Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) on 28 February 2019 at Bharuch, Gujarat.
- The record was created for implanting 'Modern Artificial Limbs (Legs)' on 260 Divyangjans within eight hours.

Source Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Shashank-Shekhar-wins-10-km-race-of-Nepal%26%2339%3bs-COAS-Open-Marathon-and-Run-for-Fun-in-Kathmandu&id=360455>

Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue to be held

- The second edition of Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD) - 2019 will be held on 5 and 6 March 2019 in New Delhi.
- The aim of the IPRD is to focus attention on the Indo-Pacific, as a maritime geographical-entity.
- It is organised by the Indian Navy and the National Maritime Foundation.
- The IPRD 2019 is based on five themes would be addressed in five sessions spread over two days.

Source Link: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1567131>

IRCTC launches IRCTC iPay

- The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) launched its own payment aggregator system, iPay.
- It will provide an improved online digital payment convenience and ease of doing business to passengers availing online travel services through the IRCTC website.
- This will help reduce the gap between IRCTC and banks which will lead to a substantial reduction in payment failures.

Source Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/business/irctc-launches-payment-aggregator-irctc-ipay/article26397228.ece>

Government to celebrate 'Poshan Pakhwada'

- The Government of India will celebrate the first anniversary of 'POSHAN Abhiyaan' by organising Poshan Pakhwada across the Country.
- The Pakhwada will be launched on International Women's Day, 8th March, 2019.
- The Ministry of Women & Child Development is the nodal ministry for coordinating activities during the month.

Source Link: <http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1566901>

Blast-proof LPG cylinders to be launched

- A new breed of blast-proof composite Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylinders will soon be available in India.
- Confidence Petroleum India Limited and Time Technoplast Limited announced the launch of their brand 'GoGas Elite' in Mumbai.
- The lightweight cylinders are manufactured using composite material and are non-corrosive, UV-protected & 100% recyclable.

Source

Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/mumbai/your-kitchen-will-soon-be-safer-with-blast-proof-lpg-cylinders/article26391862.ece?homepage=true>

Foundation stone laid for NIUM

- AYUSH Minister Shripad Yesso Naik laid the foundation stone of National Institute of Unani Medicine, NIUM at Ghaziabad on March 1, 2019.
- Once established, the 200-bedded hospital will be one of the largest institutes of Unani Medicine in North India.
- The institute is an extension of the existing NIUM at Bengaluru and will be developed on a 10-acre area, costing about 300 crore rupees.

Source

Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=AYUSH-Minister-to-lay-foundation-stone-for-National-Institute-of-Unani-Medicine&id=360373>

Aadhaar Amendment Bill cleared

- The Cabinet approved the promulgation of an ordinance to allow voluntary use of Aadhaar as identity proof for opening bank account on 28 February 2019.
- It was necessitated as the Aadhaar Amendment bill, passed by the Lok Sabha on January 4, 2019.
- It will give effect to changes in the Aadhaar Act such as giving a child an option to exit from the biometric ID programme after 18 years of age.

Source Link: <https://thewire.in/government/modi-govt-clears-aadhaar-amendment-bill-through-ordinance-route>

PM launched projects in Tamil Nadu

- PM Narendra Modi launched 5 National Highways projects worth 3000 crore rupees in Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu on March 1, 2019.
- He also launched a Road Safety Park and Transport Museum.
- He dedicated to the nation the 2 and 4 laning of the Madurai-Ramanathapuram section of NH-87.
- In Visakhapatnam, he addressed a public meeting "Praja Chaitanya Sabha" at the Railway grounds.

Source

Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=PM-Modi-to-launch-various-projects-in-Tamil-Nadu&id=360387>

J&K approved 10% reservation for general sect

- The Union Cabinet has approved the Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Amendment Order, 2019.
- It will serve the purpose of application of a relevant provision of the constitution as amended through the constitution (77th Amendment) act, 2019 for J&K.
- It will extend the reservation of up to 10% for the economically weaker section.

Source

Link: <http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Cabinet-approves-10%25-reservation-for-general-category-poor-in-J%26K&id=360391>

4-lane bridge approved on Brahmaputra

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved construction of 4-lane bridge on South Bank on NH-127 B in the State of Assam/Meghalaya.
- The total length of the bridge will be 19.282 km.
- The bridge will be built under the scheme of North-East Road Network Connectivity Project Phase-03.
- Its construction over river Brahmaputra will save huge travel distance from 205.3 km to only 19.282 km.

Source

Link: <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1566783>

DDRS organised by DEPwD

- A National Conference on Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) was organized on 1 March 2019.
- It was organized by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi.
- Its objective was to sensitize the stakeholders of the scheme.

Source

Link: <http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1566642>