

NATIONAL

Centre Hikes Import Duty on Wheat from 30% to 40%

- The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has hiked the customs duty on wheat to 40 percent from 30 percent in order to curb imports and protect the domestic industry.
- The government aims to restrict import of wheat so that domestic prices of wheat do not come under pressure as the wheat output in the country is expected to scale a record high this year.
- The wheat's minimum support price (MSP) or the price at which the government buys from farmers has been raised by 6% at Rs 1,840 per 100 kg in 2019, from Rs 1,735 in 2018, in order to fix the support price at a minimum of 1.5 times the production cost.

Indian Army Inks Pact with NHPC to Construct Tunnels on China & Pakistan Borders

- The Indian Army has signed an MoU with National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited (NHPC) to construct tunnels on borders with China and Pakistan to store ammunition and other war-related equipment.
- The project includes construction of three tunnels on China border while one will be built along the Pakistan border.

CPWD Forms M K Sharma Led Panel to Formulate Design Policy for Building Construction

- The Central Public Works Department (CPWD) has constituted an 8 member expert committee under the chairmanship of CPWD's Additional Director General M K Sharma, to formulate a design policy for building construction and infrastructure development.
- The design policy will guide engineers in construction of buildings and infrastructure development and thus revive building construction and infrastructure development at all levels in the CPWD.

INTERNATIONAL

Sri Lankan President announced ban on face veil after Easter attacks

- Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena announced a ban on covering of the face with burqa, veil or in any manner that prevents identification of the person.
- With this, Muslim women will not be allowed to wear any form of face veils in public until further notice.
- On April 21, on the occasion of Easter, nine suicide bombers carried out a series of blasts that tore through three churches and three luxury hotels in Sri Lanka, killing 253 people.
- The Islamic State has claimed the responsibility of the attacks, but the government has blamed the local Islamist extremist group, National Thowheeth Jamaath (NTJ).

Global Food Policy Report-2019 released

- International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) has recently released Global Food Policy Report-2019.
- IFPRI's flagship report reviews the major food policy issues, developments, and decisions of 2018, and considers challenges and opportunities for 2019.
- This year's Global Food Policy Report highlights the urgency of rural revitalization to address a growing crisis in rural areas.
- Rural population account for 45.3% of the world's total population and at least 70% of the world's population remains extremely poor.
- Nearly 50% of rural youth all over the world do not have any formal job they are either unemployed or under-employed.

Nirmala Sitharaman Participates in SCO Defence Ministers' Meet in Bishkek

- The Defence Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman is on a three days visit to Bishkek in Kyrgyzstan to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers' Meet.
- The SCO meeting is being held in the run-up to the SCO summit, which is expected to take place in June 2019.

ECONOMY

RBI extends ombudsman scheme to non-deposit taking NBFCs

- The Reserve Bank of India has extended the NBFC Ombudsman Scheme 2018 to Non-Deposit Taking Non-Banking Financial Companies with assets size of Rupees 100 crore or above.

- NBFC's excluded from the ambit of NBFC Ombudsman:
- Non-Banking Financial Company –
- Infrastructure Finance Company (NBFC-IFC),
- Core Investment Company (CIC),
- Infrastructure Debt Fund-Non-Banking Financial Company (IDF-NBFC)
- Offices of the Non-Banking Financial Companies Ombudsman are present in four metro centers viz. Chennai, Kolkata, Mumbai and New Delhi for handling complaints.
- Maximum Award under NBFC Ombudsman: Rs 10 lakh.

SEBI reduces Net worth Requirements for Clearing Corporations in IFSC to Rs 100 Crore

- SEBI has announced that the minimum Net worth Requirements for Clearing Corporations in International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) over a period of three years from the commencement of operations should be at least Rs 100 Crore. This has been reduced from Rs 300 crore earlier.
- However, the minimum net worth requirement for Clearing Corporations in International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) over a period of three years is still Rs 50 crore.

Canara Bank launches 'Webassurance' with 4 life insurance products

- Public Sector Bank, Canara Bank in association with its life insurance partner, Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance has announced the launch of 'Webassurance'.
- 'Webassurance' will enable the bank's customer to purchase life insurance products from the bank's website. Four life insurance products of Canara HSBC OBC Life would be made available to customers of Canara Bank.

HDFC Bank and Max Bupa launch 'AnyTimeHealth' machines to distribute health insurance products

- HDFC Bank and Max Bupa (insurance company) have launched a "AnyTimeHealth (ATH)" machines.
- ATH machine is completely automated, technology-based model which allows customers to avail health assessment and buy a policy instantly, without any manual intervention.

IRDAI Constitutes Committee Under Suresh Mathur to Review Microinsurance Regulatory Framework.

- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has set up a 13-member committee to review the regulatory framework on microinsurance and recommend measures to increase the demand for these insurance products.

PERSON IN NEWS

Dilip Kumar Appointed as Officer on Special Duty in Office of Lokpal

- Senior IAS officer Dilip Kumar has been appointed as the Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in the office of Lokpal. This is the first official appointment of a bureaucrat in Lokpal.
- Chairperson of Lokpal -Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose.

Air Marshal RKS Bhadauria to Take Charge as Vice Chief of the Air Staff From May 1

- Air Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria will take over as the Vice Chief of Indian Air Force from May 1, 2019 and would be looking after all the air operations being carried out by the force.
- He will succeed Air Marshal Anil Khosla who is superannuating on April 30, 2019.

AIFF Appointed Isac Doru as its Technical Director

- All India Football Federation (AIFF) has appointed Romanian coach Isac Doru as the new technical director of the Indian national football team.

Claire Polosak becomes the First woman umpire in men's ODI Cricket

- Claire Polosak from Australia has become the first woman umpire in the men's ODI.
- She was the umpire in the ICC World Cricket League Division 2 match between Oman and Namibia.
- She was also the first woman umpire to officiate in a men's domestic List A game in 2017. She is 31 years old.

SPORTS AND GAMES

Vinesh Phogat, Bajrang Punia recommended for Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award

- The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) on April 29, 2019 recommended the names of Bajrang Punia and Vinesh Phogat for the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award 2019.

Bajrang Punia becomes first Indian wrestler to fight at New York's Madison Square Garden

- Bajrang Punia became first Indian wrestler to be invited by American wrestling body for a special fight at iconic Madison Square Garden in New York, United States.

Dominic Thiem Defeats Daniil Medvedev to Win Barcelona Open 2019

- The third seed Dominic Thiem defeated seventh seed Daniil Medvedev of Russia 6–4, 6–0 to claim the 2019 Barcelona Open.

Petra Kvitova Clinches Stuttgart's Porsche Grand Prix 2019

- World number three Petra Kvitova beat Estonian Anett Kontaveit 6-3 7-6(2) to win Stuttgart's Porsche Grand Prix 2019 held in Stuttgart, Germany .
- This was the second title of the year for the Czech based Kvitova while the 27th of her career.

Valtteri Bottas wins 2019 Azerbaijan Grand Prix

- Mercedes racing driver Valtteri Bottas won the 2019 Azerbaijan Grand Prix on April 28, 2019.
- With this, the Finnish player claimed the Formula One world championship lead from teammate Lewis Hamilton, who was second.

2019 Asian Boxing Championship in Thailand

- The ASBC Asian Confederation Boxing Championships was held in Bangkok, Thailand.
- This was the first time when both the Women's and Men's Championship took place simultaneously at the Asian Championships.
- India ended the event with 13 medals which included 2 gold, four silver and seven bronze medals.
- Gold Medal Winners: Pooja Rani – 81-kg category, Amit Panghal – 52-kg category.

Kento Momota Clinches Single's Title at 2019 Badminton Asia Championships

- The 2019 Badminton Asia Championships was held at Wuhan Sports Center Gymnasium in China.

Winners List

Event	Gold	Silver
➤ Men's singles	Kento Momota (Japan)	Shi Yuqi (China)
➤ Women's singles	Akane Yamaguchi (Japan)	He Bingjiao (China)

2019 Kunming Tennis Open Concluded in China

- The 2019 Kunming Open was a professional tennis tournament held in Anning, China.

List of Winners

- Men's Single – Jay Clarke (United Kingdom)
- Women's Single – Zheng Saisai (China)
- Men's Double – Max Purcell / Luke Saville (Australia)
- Women's Double – Peng Shuai /Yang Zhaoxuan (China)

AWARDS AND HONOURS

Bill & Melinda Gates tops World's 50 Greatest Leaders List by Fortune Magazine for 2019

- The 6th edition of the Fortune Magazine's annual World's 50 Greatest Leaders List for the year 2019 has been topped by Bill & Melinda Gates, for their work with charitable organisation Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.
- New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern is second in the list followed by US special counsel Robert Mueller.

Arunachalam Muruganatham, Creator of Low-cost Sanitary Napkins, Named in Fortune's World Leaders List

- Coimbatore based Arunachalam Muruganatham, inventor of a low-cost sanitary napkins, has been featured on Fortune magazine's list of world's 50 greatest leaders.
- He has been ranked 45 in the list.
- Muruganatham's effort to normalise sanitary napkins in rural households was documented in Akshay Kumar-starrer film Padman and in the documentary Period. End of Sentence, which recently won the Oscar.

Mizoram Kid who Rushed Injured Chick to Hospital Wins PETA Compassionate Kid Award

- Derek C Lalchhanhima, Mizoram based 6 year old boy, who became an overnight sensation on the internet after a photo of him with an injured chick in hospital went viral, has been awarded the 'Compassionate Kid' award by PETA India for being an inspiration to other children.

MISCELLANEOUS**World's first floating nuclear power plant started operations**

- Akademik Lomonosov, the world's only floating nuclear power unit is ready to start commercial operations in Russia.
- The plant was launched by Russia on May 19, 2018 at the St Petersburg shipyard.
- The 'Akademik Lomonosov' is to be the first of a fleet of floating nuclear power stations to be stationed in the Russian Arctic.
- Besides Russia, China is also building a floating nuclear power plant.

INS Kolkata and INS Shakti Reaches South Korea to Participate in ADMM-Plus Maritime Security Exercise

- The Indian naval ships INS Kolkata and INS Shakti reached Busan in South Korea on April 28 to participate in the three days ADMM-Plus Maritime Security Field Training Exercise (FTX).
- The exercise is a part of deployment of the Eastern Fleet to the South China Sea.
- The two ships recently completed the international fleet review in Qingdao, China, as part of the celebrations of the 70th founding anniversary of the Chinese People's Liberation Army Navy.
- The ADMM-Plus countries include ten ASEAN Member States and eight dialogue countries, namely Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, Russia and the United States.

DAY&DATE**World Veterinary Day 2019: April 27**

- The World Veterinary Day is observed on the Fourth Saturday of April every year. In 2019, the day falls on April 27.
- The theme of the 2019 World Veterinary Day is 'Value of Vaccination'.
- The day aims to celebrate the contributions of veterinarians to the health of animals and society.

World Day for Safety and Health at Work: April 28

- The World Day for Safety and Health at Work is observed annually on 28 April to raise awareness for promoting safe, healthy and decent work.
- The day is promoted by the International Labour Organization (ILO) since 2003 to prevent accidents and illnesses at work.
- The theme for 2019 is Safety and Health and the future of work

International Dance Day: April 29

- The International Dance Day is observed globally on April 29 each year to encourage participation and education in dance through events and festivals.
- This day was created by the Dance Committee of the International Theatre Institute (ITI) which is the main partner for the performing arts of UNESCO.

ONE LINER

- PhonePe launched a special keyboard that will allow users to transact conveniently and securely with just a click, anytime and anywhere while using their Android phone. It is the only player in India to introduce this user-friendly feature.
- Raheem Sterling has been named the 2019 footballer of the year by the Football Writers' Association (FWA). Liverpool defender Virgil Van Dijk was announced as the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) young player of the year.
- Cyclonic storm 'Fani' is likely to hit Coastal Odisha & Andhra Pradesh by May 3rd as it intensified into a severe storm and trigger thunderstorms, gusty winds and heavy rains in coastal districts.
- BCCI recently recommended cricketers Mohammad Shami, Jasprit Bumrah, Ravindra Jadeja and Poonam Yadav for the Arjuna award as announced by Committee of Administrators in New Delhi.