

India banks' loans jump 13.2 pct y/y in two weeks to March 29: RBI

- Loans of Indian banks jumped 13.2 percent year-on-year, in the two weeks ended March 29, while deposits rose 10 percent, the Reserve Bank of India's weekly statistical supplement showed.
- Outstanding loans rose 2.14 trillion rupees (\$30.96 billion) to 97.67 trillion rupees in the two weeks ended March 29.

'NIRBHAY' Cruise Missile successfully test red

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test fired indigenously designed Long Range Sub-Sonic Cruise Missile "Nirbhay" from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, Odisha.
- The missile successfully demonstrated its sea-skimming capability to cruise at very low altitudes. The entire flight was fully tracked by a chain of Electro Optical Tracking Systems, Radars and Ground Telemetry Systems deployed all along the sea coast.
- All the mission objectives were met. It was the sixth development flight trial of the missile with an objective to prove the repeatability of boost phase, and cruise phase by using way point navigation at very low altitudes.

Cabinet approves creation of one post of Deputy Comptroller and Auditor General in CAG

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the creation of one post of Deputy Comptroller & Auditor General (Coordination, Communication and Information System) in Pay Level-17 in the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG).
- The Deputy Comptroller & Auditor General will oversee the coordination among State Audits and audit of telecommunication.

IIT Madras Collaborates With GE For India's First 'Cold Spray' SMART Lab

- Indian Institute of Technology, Madras has established a 'Cold Spray' SMART (Surface Modification and Additive Research Technologies) Laboratory in collaboration with General Electric (GE).
- This is the first of its kind High-Pressure Cold Spray (HPCS) facility being installed in any academic institute in India.
- The laboratory was inaugurated at the IIT Madras campus today. The project is funded under 'Uchchar Avishkar Yojana' (UAY) of the Government of India, which is intended to boost collaboration between academia and private sector.

Motor racing: Lewis Hamilton wins Formula One's 1,000th race

- In motor racing, Lewis Hamilton won the Chinese Grand Prix for a record sixth time.
- He seized the overall lead from his Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas in Formula One's 1,000th world championship race. The comfortable win was the 75th of Hamilton's career and second in a row after his lucky triumph in Bahrain two weeks ago.
- Valtteri Bottas was second for his team's third one-two finish in as many races this season. Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel took third place.

Punjab National Bank appoints Rajesh Yaduvanshi as Executive Director

- Punjab National Bank (PNB) on Tuesday said it has appointed Rajesh Kumar Yaduvanshi as the Executive Director of the bank with effect from April 15.
- Yaduvanshi brings with him a diversified experience of over 3 decades in the banking industry, having held senior positions in the banking sector both in India and abroad, the bank said.
- He has also worked with Dena Bank in capacity of the Executive Director. Yaduvanshi, having 34 years of banking career, had joined PNB as a management trainee in 1985.

UN owes India USD 38 million for peacekeeping operations: UNSG report

- The United Nations owes India USD 38 million, the highest it has to pay to any country, for the peacekeeping operations as of March 2019, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has said as he voiced concern over the world body's deteriorating financial health.

- In his report on improving the financial situation of the world body, he said, as of March 31, 2019, the total amount payable to troop- and police-contributing countries with respect to active peacekeeping missions was USD 265 million. Of this, the UN owes USD 38 million to India, followed by Rwanda (USD 31 million), Pakistan (USD 28 million), Bangladesh (USD 25 million) and Nepal (USD 23 million).

Jet Airways shut down temporarily for want of funds

- Jet Airways (India) Ltd flew its last flight on Wednesday night—9W 2502 from Amritsar to Mumbai—after lenders declined to hand out emergency funds, bringing the curtains down on an era in which it broke into a state monopoly sector to become India's largest private airline at one point.
- It's unclear whether the airline will ever return to the skies, but if it does so, it will be under a new ownership structure.

India, UK sign 'step change' defence MoU

- India and the United Kingdom this week signed a memorandum of understanding on defence and security equipment described as a 'step change' in the long-standing defence relationship between the two countries.
- The agreement follows a visit by India's chief of naval staff, Admiral Sunil Lanba, to HMS Queen Elizabeth in Portsmouth in March, and HMS Dragon's visit to Goa in December last year, where the ship took part in the naval exercise, the Konkan Series. The defence equipment MoU was signed by Air Marshal Richard Knighton on behalf of the UK's ministry of defence and Barun Mitra, additional secretary (defence production) in India's ministry of defence.

India, Pakistan held meeting to discuss issues related to Kartarpur corridor

- India and Pakistan held a meeting to discuss various issues related to the speedy completion of the proposed Kartarpur corridor from Dera Baba Nanak shrine in Gurdaspur district in Punjab to Gurudwara Darbar Sahib in Pakistan's Narowal.
- The meeting was proposed by India and was agreed upon by Pakistan.
- Experts and technicians from both countries discussed the timing of the completion of the bridge, alignment of roads and engineering aspects of the proposed crossing points. Kartarpur is located in Pakistan's Narowal district across the Ravi, about 4 km from the Dera Baba Nanak.

Second Edition of Indo-Vietnam Bilateral Exercise 'IN – VPN BILAT EX' concludes

- The Indian Navy held the second edition of the bilateral maritime exercise between Indian Navy and Vietnam Peoples' Navy at Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam during April 13-16, 2019.
- The exercise was undertaken as a part of the ongoing Overseas Deployment of Eastern Fleet ships to South East Asian countries.
- INS Kolkata under the command of Captain Aditya Hara and INS Shakti under the command of Captain Sriram Amur participated in the exercise. The maiden edition was conducted in May 2018 at Da Nang, Vietnam.

PIO Keshav Raghavan-led team's CubeSat to be sent to space by NASA

- Person of Indian Origin (PIO) Keshav Raghvan has been chosen to lead the team CubeSat to be sent to space by NASA. CubeSat is a mini research satellite to detect cosmic rays, flown into space on future missions.
- The researchers from the Yale Undergraduate Aerospace Association (YUAA), led by 21-year-old Keshav Raghavan, are among the 16 teams across the country whose CubeSats will be flown into space on missions planned to launch in 2020, 2021 and 2022.

UN cultural experts offer to help in rebuilding Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris

- UN cultural experts have offered to help in rebuilding the iconic structure of the Notre Dame cathedral in Paris.
- The announcement came after the UNESCO World Heritage Centre Director Mechtild Rossler visited the site on April 16, 2019 after it caught fire.

- The Cathedral is part of the World Heritage Site officially known as “Paris, Banks of the Seine”, inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1991.’
- The cathedral’s construction began in the 1160s extending for more than a century, is considered to be the finest example of the French Gothic style of architecture.

Astronomers Discover Third Planet in the Kepler-47 System

- A team of scientists led by San Diego State University has discovered a third planet in a two-star system named Kepler-47, which is seven times the size of the Earth and the largest in its system.
- To study of this system, team used NASA’s Kepler space telescope to find the Neptune-to-Saturn-size planet orbiting between two previously known planets. The planets in the Kepler-47 system were detected via the “transit method.”

2020 Tokyo Olympic organising committee unveils details of Olympic Competition Schedule

- The 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic organizing committee unveiled a detailed schedule of Olympic competitions, including setting the start times of some finals.
- The 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic will feature a record 33 sports and 339 events from July 24 to August 9, 2020.
- The preliminary events for softball and women’s football will be held on July 22, 2020, two days before the opening ceremony.

RBI proposes to allow fintech start-ups to test regulatory sandbox

- The Reserve Bank of India Thursday proposed that fintech start-ups could set up regulatory sandbox or live-testing of innovative products and services in segments such as retail payments, money transfer, artificial intelligence and data analytics in the financial sector.
- A regulatory sandbox (RS) usually refers to live-testing of new products or services in a controlled and test regulatory environment for which regulators may or may not permit certain regulatory relaxations for the limited purpose of the testing.

Srei Equipment Finance, Bank of Baroda to co-lend through iQuippo platform

- Srei Equipment Finance Limited (SEFL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Srei Infrastructure Finance Limited (Srei), and Bank of Baroda, announced a strategic alliance to offer joint loans for infrastructure equipment under a co-lending arrangement.

Saudi Aramco to buy 25% stake in Reliance’s refining & petrochemical business

- Saudi Aramco, a Saudi Arabian national petroleum and natural gas company, is in talks to acquire 25 percent stake in Reliance Industries’ refining and petrochemicals businesses.
- However, both Aramco and Reliance declined to comment on the issue. This stake sale of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) would fetch around USD 10-15 billion, valuing Reliance’s refining and petrochemicals businesses at around USD 55-60 billion.

World Heritage Day 2019 observed

- World Heritage Day, also known as the ‘International Day for Monuments and Sites’, was observed across the world on April 18, 2019 with an aim to create awareness among the people to conserve and protect the valuable assets and cultural heritage across the world.
- The theme of World Heritage Day 2019 was ‘Rural Landscapes’.

Sri Lanka successfully launches its first satellite ‘Raavana-1’

- Sri Lanka on April 18, 2019 launched its first satellite ‘Raavana-1’ into space from the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport at NASA’s Wallops Flight Facility on Virginia’s East Shore.

Resilient Cities Asia-Pac Congress 2019 held

- The 4th Resilient Cities Asia-Pacific (RCAP) 2019 Congress was organised by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability and hosted by South Delhi Municipal Corporation from April 15 to 17, 2019 in New Delhi.
- It offered cities and regions from Asia-Pacific a variety of innovative solutions that build resilience to climate change at the sub-national level. The event also offered a combination of

high-level planarians and technical sessions on the implementation and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and the New Urban Agenda of 2016.

NASA's Cassini found lakes of liquid methane on Saturn's moon Titan

- Before Cassini's final plunge into Saturn's largest moon in 2017, NASA's Cassini spacecraft gathered radar data revealing that the small liquid lakes in Titan's northern hemisphere are surprisingly deep, perched atop hills and filled with methane.
- The new findings, published in Nature Astronomy, are the first confirmation of just how deep some of Titan's lakes are (more than 300 feet, or 100 meters) and of their composition.

Nepal successfully launches its 1st satellite NepaliSat-1 into space

- Nepal successfully launched its first satellite NepaliSat-1 into space from Virginia in the United States. The satellite was developed by the Nepalese scientists. NepaliSat-1 is a low orbit satellite.
- It will be stationed at the International Space Station for a month and then it will be sent to orbit the earth. NAST initiated the launch of the country's own satellite under the BIRDS project of the Japanese Kyushu Institute of Technology.
- The BIRDS project has been designed in association with the United Nations and aims at helping countries launch their first satellite.

Jaideep Sarkar appointed as India's next High Commissioner to S Africa

- Jaideep Sarkar has been appointed as India's next High Commissioner to South Africa. External Affairs Ministry said in New Delhi that he is expected to take up the assignment shortly. Sarkar, a 1987-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, is currently serving as India's ambassador in Bhutan. He served in Indian Missions in Tokyo, Seoul and Bangladesh as well.

TIME's 100 most Inuential People list released

- The TIME's 100 Most Influential People-2019 list was released in 2019 naming the world's most influential pioneers, artists, leaders, titans and icons of the year.
- Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani, public-interest litigators Arundhati Katju and Menaka Guruswamy, who spearheaded a historic legal battle for LGBTQ rights in India, are among the Indians who have been included by TIME in its 100 most influential people in the world list.
- The list includes Indian-American comedian and TV host Hasan Minhaj, US President Donald Trump, Pope Francis, Chinese President Xi Jinping, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, iconic golfer Tiger Woods and Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg.

Wrestler Bajrang regains world no. 1 spot

- India's Bajrang Punia has regained the world number one spot in the men's 65kg freestyle category, as per the latest rankings issued by United World Wrestling on April 17, 2019.
- The 25-year-old, who had won gold in the Asian Games and Commonwealth Games and a silver in the World Championships in 2018, secured 58 ranking points ahead of Akhmed Chakaev of Russia, who has 21 points.

Airtel Payments Bank Launches Two-Wheeler Insurance with Bharti AXA

- Airtel Payments Bank on launched a two-wheeler insurance product in association with Bharti AXA General Insurance.
- This two-wheeler insurance product offers up to 70 per cent savings on annual premium, personal accident cover, protection against third-party liabilities and inspection free renewal through a fast, simple and paperless process, a company statement said here. Customers can also avail towing services at no extra cost on claim intimation, in the event the insured vehicle breaks down.

Indian peacekeepers awarded UN Medal of Honour for their service in South Sudan

- The UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) 2019 honoured 150 Indian peacekeepers, serving the mission, with Medals of Honour for their supreme dedication and sacrifices in Malakal, South Sudan.

9. Name the first Indian small finance bank, which received prestigious Celent Model Bank 2019 Award in Financial Inclusion category, for 'Redesigning Lending to Reach Small Businesses' .
 (a) ESAF Small Finance Bank (b) Equitas Small Finance Bank
 (c) Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (d) Fincare Small Finance Bank
10. Who was appointed as the Goodwill Ambassador of Street Child Cricket World Cup 2019?
 (a) M.S. Dhoni (b) Sourav Ganguly (c) Mithali Dorai Raj (d) Virat Kohli
11. Who was appointed as the brand ambassador of redBus?
 (a) Allu Arjun (b) Mahendra Singh Dhoni (c) Amitabh Bachchan (d) Mahesh Babu
12. Which non profit organization has partnered with International cricket council (IC(C) to launch the #OneDay4Children, a tournament-wide campaign for children, at the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2019?
 (a) United Nations Office for Project Services (b) UNICEF
 (c) Save the Children (d) UNESCO
13. Google opens first Artificial Intelligence lab in which African country?
 (a) Kenya (b) Ghana (c) Algeria (d) Sudan
14. World Health Organization (WHO) raised alarm over a ____ % increase in the case of measles globally in the first quarter of 2019 compared with last year
 (a) 220 % (b) 280 % (c) 250 % (d) 300 %
15. PwC appoints whom as its new chief people officer?
 (a) Padmaja Alaganandan (b) Yashodhara Srivastava (c) Mrunali Anne (d) Saritha Chandran
16. Which among the following banks appoints Rajesh Yaduvanshi as Executive Director?
 (a) Syndicate Bank (b) Bank of Baroda (c) Punjab National Bank (d) Allahabad Bank
17. What is the name of the Bilateral Navy exercise that was held between India and Vietnam in Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam?
 (a) IN-VPN BILAT EX (b) IND-VTNM BILAT NAVY EX
 (c) IND-VTNM EX (d) IND-VTNM BILAT EX
18. Where was the Debrief of Indian Navy coastal defence exercise "Sea Vigil", chaired by Vice Admiral MS Pawar held?
 (a) Pune (b) Kolkata (c) Mumbai (d) New Delhi
19. Name the quasi-cryptocurrency, launched by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for better understanding of blockchain technology and the function of crypto assets.
 (a) Monero (b) Litecoin (c) Ethereum (d) Learning Coin
20. Name the space agency, that is set to launch the first-ever "Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART)" mission to redirect an asteroid in 2021.
 (a) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
 (b) Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)
 (c) China National Space Administration (CNSA)
 (d) National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
21. What was the theme of the World Haemophilia Day 2019?
 (a) Theme – 'Outreach and Identification' (b) Theme – 'Healthy Sleep, Healthy Aging'
 (c) Theme – 'I Am and I Will' (d) Theme – 'Bridging health and social care'
22. When was Mahaveer Janma Kalyanak celebrated?
 (a) April 14 (b) April 15 (c) April 16 (d) April 17
23. Name the former president of Peru who kills himself to avoid arrest over bribery allegations recently.
 (a) Calvin Coolidge (b) Harry Truman (c) Gerald Ford (d) Alan Garcia
24. What was the theme of the World Heritage Day 2019?
 (a) Theme – "Rural Landscapes" (b) Theme – "Hear the Future"
 (c) Theme – "Towards a Common Future" (d) Theme – "Weather-ready, climate-smart"

25. Name the Spacecraft, which is used by NASA to find "Ligeia Mare", the second largest known body of liquid on Saturn's moon Titan.
 (a) Voskhod (b) Cassini (c) Space Shuttle (d) Vostok
26. Which country launched its first ever satellite 'Raavana-1' from the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport at NASA's Wallops Flight Facility on Virginia's East Shore?
 (a) Srilanka (b) Bangladesh (c) Indonesia (d) Myanmar
27. Name the first ever satellite of Nepal launched by CygnusNG11 in Virginia, USA.
 (a) NepaliCube-1 (b) NepaliQAF-1 (c) Nepalicom-1 (d) NepaliSat-1
28. TIME Magazine has published "TIME's 100 Most Influential People list 2019" recently, the list divides people into _____ categories?
 (a) Five (b) Six (c) Three (d) Four
29. What is the rank of India as per the World Press Freedom Index 2019?
 (a) 138 (b) 140 (c) 141 (d) 150
30. Which arab city is set to host 15th edition of G20 Summit in the year 2020, which will be the first G20 Summit in Arab world?
 (a) Algiers, Algeria (b) Damascus, Syria (c) Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (d) Rabat, Morocco
31. Which country's border trade route was suspended from Jammu & Kashmir LOC by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) of Indian government recently?
 (a) Bhutan (b) Pakistan (c) Bangladesh (d) China
32. When was Good Friday also known as Holy Friday or Black Friday observed?
 (a) April 18 (b) April 17 (c) April 16 (d) April 19
33. What is the name of the book containing English translation of the 100 year old classic Punjabi poem about Jallianwala Bagh massacre?
 (a) Drummer Hodge (b) Poets of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre
 (c) Poems about war (d) Khooni Vaisakhi
34. Name the former president of West Indies cricket Board (WICB) who passed away recently.
 (a) Phillip Hughes (b) Patrick Rousseau (c) Wasim Raja (d) Darryn Randall
35. Cricket all-rounder, Con de Lange passed away. He belongs to which country?
 (a) England (b) Ireland (c) Scotland (d) Wales
36. Name the international organization, which has released the guidelines on the usage of digital health technology to boost health of the people.
 (a) Union of International Associations (b) United Nations
 (c) UNESCO (d) World Health Organization(WHO)
37. Which of the following warships will participate in the Chinese International Fleet Review (IFR) maritime parade in Qingdao?
 i. INS Kolkata ii. INS Arihant iii. INS Kalvari iv. INS Shakti
 (a) Option i & ii (b) Option i & iv (c) Option iii & ii (d) Option iv & ii
38. Name the NASA's first female astronaut candidate, who passed away at the age of 88 in Florida.
 (a) Jerrie Cobb (b) Sharon Christa McAuliffe (c) Mya Lecia Naylor (d) Georgia Engel
39. Name the journal, which has published about the first molecule of the universe- Helium hydride ion (HeH+) that is formed 380,000 years after the big bang.
 (a) Journal of Biology (b) Science (c) The Lancet (d) Nature
40. Research team of which institute has identified a new method to detect breast and ovarian cancer recently?
 (a) IIT Delhi (b) IIT Roorkee (c) IIT Kharagpur (d) IIT Kanpur
41. Name the person who was designated as the member of Railway Board under Signal & Telecom department.
 (a) Girish Pillai (b) V.P. Pathak (c) N. Kashinath (d) Arun Kumar

42. Who was the first Indian female scientist to be elected as a Fellow of the royal Society (FRS) in the UK?
 (a) Tessy Thomas (b) Rohini Godbole (c) Aditi Pant (d) Gagandeep Kang
43. Name the Padma Bhushan awardee, who was honoured by inducting into the 2019 list of new fellows of the UK's Royal Society.
 (a) Yusuf Hamied (b) Manjul Bhargava (c) Anant Parekh (d) Akshay Venkatesh
44. Which insurance company has received ISO 31000:2018 certification by TUV India?
 (a) Bharti AXA General Insurance
 (b) Cholamandalam MS General Insurance Company Limited
 (c) HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company Limited
 (d) New India Assurance Co. Ltd.
45. Name the head of the committee, who propose the concept of Regulatory Sandbox (RS) .
 (a) Viral V Acharya (b) Chetan Ghate (c) Pami Dua (d) Sudarshan Sen
46. Who has been inducted to board of directors in Paytm Payments Bank?
 (a) Vaibhav Goel (b) Sundararajan (c) Sairee Chahal (d) Ashit Ranjit Lilani
47. Name the person, who was appointed as the general secretary of Judo Union, Asian governing body.
 (a) Mukesh Kumar (b) Obaid Al-Anzi (c) Obaid Alenezi (d) Mohammed Bin Thaloub
48. Which Indian accident was inducted into the International Labour Organisation (ILO) report titled "The Safety and the Health at the Heart of the Future of Work- Building on 100 years of Experience"?
 (a) Bhopal Gas Tragedy (b) Floods in Tamil Nadu
 (c) Heatwaves in AndhraPradesh (d) Bihar Nor'wester Storm
49. Which entity has appointed Ravinder Kumar Passi as Chairman?
 (a) India Trade Promotion Organisation
 (b) Export Promotion Council for Handicraft (EPCH)
 (c) Federation of Indian Export Organisations
 (d) UK Trade & Investment
50. Which entity has become India's first retail company to cross Rs.1 lakh crore annual revenue milestones?
 (a) Reliance Retail (b) Future Group
 (c) Aditya Birla Retail (d) Avenue Supermarts Ltd

ANSWER KEYS

1	d	11	b	21	a	31	b	41	c
2	b	12	b	22	d	32	d	42	d
3	c	13	b	23	d	33	d	43	a
4	d	14	d	24	a	34	b	44	b
5	b	15	a	25	b	35	c	45	d
6	a	16	c	26	a	36	d	46	c
7	b	17	a	27	d	37	b	47	a
8	d	18	d	28	a	38	a	48	a
9	d	19	d	29	b	39	d	49	b
10	c	20	d	30	c	40	b	50	a