

NATIONAL

Naval Commanders' Conference - 2019 began at New Delhi

- The first edition of Naval Commanders' Conference of 2019 has begun in New Delhi.
- The three days conference is the apex forum within the Service for interaction between the Naval Commanders.
- It will provide the higher naval leadership a forum to discuss the emerging challenges in the maritime domain.

India Ranks 19 out of 28 Nations in 2019 Index of Cancer Preparedness by EIU

- India (score - 64.9) has been placed at 19th spot out of 28 countries in the Index of Cancer Preparedness (ICP) 2019 created by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).
- Australia (score - 90.6) has topped the ICP list with a, followed by the Netherlands (score- 89.9) and Germany (88.7).
- The Index of Cancer Preparedness (ICP) presents data on 45 indicators that are relevant to cancer control.

India Ranks 80 in Global Talent Competitiveness Index 2019

- India was ranked 80 out of 125 countries in the Global Talent Competitiveness Index (GTCI) 2019. The theme of this year's report was 'Entrepreneurial Talent and Global Competitiveness'.
- Switzerland was ranked number 1 on the list.

MOU signed between Ministry of AYUSH and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research

- MOU was signed between the Ministry of AYUSH and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), New Delhi for cooperation in research and education in areas of traditional systems of medicine and its integration with modern science.
- AYUSH- Ayurveda, Yoga & naturopathy, Unani, Siddha & Homoeopathy

INTERNATIONAL

Emergency Imposed in Sri Lanka

- Sri Lankan Government imposed emergency in the country following bomb attacks on churches and hotels.
- The government also declared a national day of mourning on 23 April.
- 8 Indians are among 31 foreigners killed in the terror attacks.

Indonesia Releases Special Stamp on Theme of Ramayana

- Indonesia has released a special commemorative stamp on the theme of Ramayana to mark the 70th anniversary of the establishment of its diplomatic ties with India.
- It featured a scene from Ramayana in which Jatayu valiantly fought to save Sita.
- It is designed by Indonesian sculptor Bapak Nyoman Nuarta.

Mount Agung volcano in Bali resort island erupted

- Mount Agung on Indonesia's resort island of Bali has erupted again (last eruption in 1963).
- The volcano's status remains on alert, or level three of four possible levels and authorities continue to impose a 4-kilometre exclusion zone.
- Thousands of masks have been distributed to the communities amid the fears of the ashes impacting human respiratory.
- Mount Agung is situated in Karangasem district and about 70 km from tourist hub Kuta.

Saudi Arabia to host the G20 leaders' summit in November 2020

- Saudi Arabia (first G20 meeting in the Arab world) will host the G20 summit on 21-22 November 2020 in its capital Riyadh.
- First-ever 'Japan' will host this year's G20 summit in Osaka (28-29 June 2019).
- The G20 (Group of Twenty) is an international forum for the governments and central bank governors from 19 countries and the European Union.
- It was founded in 1999 with the aim to discuss policy pertaining to the promotion of international financial stability.

Abu Dhabi International Book Fair: India to be featured as the official Guest of Honour

- In UAE, thousands of literature enthusiasts and industry professionals around the world are expected to attend, the upcoming Abu Dhabi International Book Fair, ADIBF 2019.

- The 29th edition of the book fair will take place from April 24- 30, 2019 at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre.
- India will be featured as the official Guest of Honour, with much of the fair's programming dedicated to reflecting and showcasing the diversity and richness of the country's culture.

ECONOMY

RBI Announces Rs. 25,000 crore OMO in May

- The Reserve Bank announced a Rs. 25,000-crore liquidity injection through OMOs in May that will be undertaken in two equal tranches.
- RBI repurchased bonds of over Rs. 2.8 lakh crore during the last fiscal year.
- OMO- Open Market Operation

SBI General Insurance Launches Cyber Defence Insurance

- SBI General Insurance has launched Cyber Defence Insurance to protect businesses from financial and reputational losses due to cyber attacks.
- In the initial phase, the focus will be on SMEs and mid-market businesses.

RBI Approves Proposal of HDFC for Holding 9.9% Stake in Bandhan Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has given its nod to HDFC Ltd for acquiring up to 9.9% stake in Bandhan Bank following the Gruh Finance deal.
- Gruh Finance was taken over by Bandhan Bank in a share-swap deal in January.

TCS Modernises 1.5 Lakh Post Offices in Multi-Year Deal

- India's largest IT company TCS deployed an integrated solution for India Post, modernising over 1.5 lakh post offices in the country.
- This was carried out under Rs. 1,100-crore multi-year contract & created the world's largest distributed e-postal network.

SBI launches India's first 'Green Car Loan' to promote use of EVs

- State Bank of India (SBI)- on the occasion of World Earth Day, launched India's first 'Green Car Loan' (Electric Vehicle), to encourage customers to buy Electric Vehicles.
- SBI Green Car Loan (Electric Vehicle) scheme that comes with the longest repayment period of up to eight years, is a strategic inclusion to the bank's auto loan segment, offered with zero processing fee for the first six months of the launch.

Kotak Bank launches debit card-based e-mandate on NPCI's API platform

- Kotak Mahindra Bank has announced the launch of an industry-first debit card-based authentication solution on NPCI's e-Mandate API platform.
- Kotak becomes the first Destination Bank to go live with Net Banking and Debit Card-based e-mandate authentication, the bank said in a statement adding that the capability will enable its customers to create electronic mandates (similar to the erstwhile eNACH with Aadhaar + OTP) via both the Debit Card and Net Banking channels.
- This allows Kotak to go live as a sponsor or acquirer bank for corporates and merchants seeking recurring payments.

Govt raises authorised capital of Allahabad Bank to Rs 8,000 cr

- The government has increased its authorized capital by Rs 5,000 crore to Rs 8,000 crore for Allahabad Bank.
- The central government after consultation with the Reserve Bank of India has increased the authorised capital of the bank from Rs 3,000 to Rs 8,000 through Gazette Notification.
- The increase in authorised capital will help enable the bank to raise further fund up to a maximum ceiling of Rs 8,000 crore.

RBI puts into circulation Rs 50 banknotes signed by Governor Shaktikanta Das

- The Reserve Bank of India has put into circulation Rs 50 denomination banknotes signed by Governor Shaktikanta Das.
- The design of these notes is similar in all respects to Rs 50 banknotes in Mahatma Gandhi new series.
- All banknotes in the denomination of Rs 50 issued by the Reserve Bank in the past will continue to be legal tender.
- The note bears the motif of 'Hampi with Chariot' on the reverse that depicts India's cultural heritage.

- It has the Ashoka pillar emblem on the right side of the obverse and bears the year of printing on the reverse side.

BEML and Syndicate Bank sign MoU

- Syndicate Bank and BEML Limited, a 'Miniratna' Public Sector Undertaking, have signed an MOU for financing Earth Moving and Construction Equipment manufactured by BEML.
- Under the MOU, BEML will nominate Syndicate Bank as a preferred financier for financing its customers.

PERSON IN NEWS**Vinod Zutshi appointed as special observer for Tripura**

- Former deputy Election Commissioner Vinod Zutshi was appointed as a Special Observer for Tripura where polling is being held in the third phase of the Lok Sabha Elections 2019.
- The Election Commission had earlier postponed polling in the Tripura (East) Lok Sabha seat, saying the prevailing law and order situation there is not favorable for holding free and fair polls.

Twitter appointed Manish Maheshwari as new India MD

- Manish Maheshwari (CEO of Network18 Digital) has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) of Twitter (U.S.-based microblogging platform) for India operations. Mr. Maheshwari takes over from interim head Balaji Krish.
- Twitter is an American online news and social networking service on which users post and interact with messages known as "tweets".

Ukrainian Comedian Volodymyr Zelenskiy Wins Ukraine Presidency

- Ukrainian comedian Volodymyr Zelenskiy, who played the president in a TV series won the country's presidential election.
- Ukraine Capital- Kyiv Currency- Hryvnia

Puranik Yogendra Becomes 1st Indian-Origin Person to Win Election in Japan

- Puranik Yogendra has become the 1st Indian-origin person to win an election in Japan, having gotten elected to Tokyo's Edogawa Ward assembly.
- Edogawa Ward boasts the highest number of Indian residents among Tokyo's 23 wards.

Rajendra Kumar Nayak took over as the 52nd Controller General of Defence Accounts.

- He was Additional Controller General of Defence Accounts, Defence Accounts Department in the Ministry of Defence before taking over as the CGDA.
- Sanjay Mitra is the defence secretary of India.

AWARDS AND HONOURS**Amartya Sen Chair announced by London School of Economics**

- The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) has announced the creation of the Amartya Sen Chair in Inequality Studies, named in honour of the India-born economist, philosopher and Nobel laureate, who was Professor of Economics at LSE from 1971-82.
- The public announcement of the chair was made during LSE's biannual Amartya Sen Lecture.

Swacchta Pakhwada Awards-2019 conferred on All India Radio, Publication Division & Children's Film Society of India

- All India Radio and the Publication Division and Children's Film Society of India were awarded with the Swacchta Pakhwada Awards-2019.
- Press Council of India, Press Information Bureau and BECIL were also mentioned during the award ceremony for their efforts during the Swacchta Pakhwada.

Malayalam Film Bhayanakam Won The Best Cinematography Award at Beijing International Film Festival

- Malayalam film Bhayanakam (Fear) directed by Jayaraj won the best cinematography award at the Beijing International Film Festival. The cinematography was done by Nikhil S Praveen.

SPORTS AND GAMES**Bajrang Punia wins Gold in Asian Wrestling C'ship**

- India's Bajrang Punia (World number-1) logged 10 points in a row in the gold medal bout to reclaim his Asian Championship crown.
- He defeated Kazakhstan's Sayatbek Okassov 12-7 in a nail-biting 65kg men's freestyle final.

Asian Badminton Championships begins at Wuhan in China

- The Asia Badminton Championships has begun at Wuhan Sports Center Gymnasium in China.
- 255 players from 21 nations are participating in this edition and the total prize money is USD 400,000.
- The 2019 Badminton Asia Championships is the 39th edition of the Badminton Asia Championships.

The 23rd edition of the Asian Athletics Championship began in Doha, Qatar on April 21, 2019.

- The four-day event will see participation from 63 nations across the world.

MISCELLANEOUS**UAE's Hope Probe project bound for Mars is 85% complete**

- The UAE Space Agency and Mohammed bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC) have announced that 85% of the Hope Probe project has been completed.
- Currently undergoing intensive testing with less than 500 days are remaining for the launch.
- The probe is scheduled to reach Mars by 2021, coinciding with the 50th anniversary of the UAE's formation.
- It is a small unmanned spacecraft weighing around 1.5 tonnes with fuel, about the size and weight of a small car.

DAY&DATE**Global Earth Day 2019:22 April**

- Global Earth Day-2019 was observed on 22 April, 2019 to support and protect environment of the earth.
- This year's theme is – Protect Our Species. This theme emphasis to protect planet and preserve its environment.

World Book and Copyright Day 2019:23 April

- The World Book and Copyright Day was observed across the world on April 23, 2019 to highlight the power of books and to promote UNESCO's vision of knowledge societies that are inclusive, pluralistic, equitable, open and participatory for all citizens.
- This year, UNESCO designated Sharjah as the World Book Capital for 2019. With the slogan "Read – you are in Sharjah", the programme focuses on six themes: Inclusivity, Reading, Heritage, Outreach, Publishing and Children.

National Panchayati Raj Divas: 24 April

- The 'National Panchayati Raj Divas' being observed on 24th April every year across India.
- This day marks the passing of the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 that came into force with effect from 24 April 1993.

Obituary

- Legendary Bengali Folk Singer Amar Paul Passed Away
- Mountaineer Rama Sengupta Paul Passed Away

ONE LINER

- The Supreme Court directed the Gujarat Government on April 23, 2019 to give Rs 50 lakh compensation, a job and accommodation to Bilkis Bano. She was gang raped during the 2002 riots in the Gujarat.
- Sunil Kumar Gautam felicitated with Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant Award for 2018-19.
- Gagandeep Kang becomes first Indian woman Royal Society Fellow.