

NATIONAL

Centre announces assistance of Rs 1,000 cr for cyclone hit Odisha

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced a further release of Rs 1,000 Crore for assistance to the Fani affected state Odisha on May 06, 2019.
- Earlier Rs 341 crores had been provided to Odisha as an advance to its State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF).

e-Governance Services and IIT-Kanpur agreement to upscale Unnat Bharat Abhiyan

- e-Governance Services India Limited, an initiative of Common Service Centre's (CSC), a special purpose vehicle under the Ministry of Electronics & IT, has tied up with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur to upscale Unnat Bharat Abhiyan.
- Unnat Bharat Abhiyan is an initiative of the Ministry of HRD.
- It aims to find solutions to accelerate sustainable growth in rural India.
- Under the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, IIT-Kanpur has brought together 15 leading higher education institutions from Uttar Pradesh.

India Invited to attend G7 Summit 2019 in France

- The 45th edition of the G7 summit will be held, in Biarritz, Nouvelle-Aquitaine, France.
- The G-7 members include US, UK, France, Italy, Canada, Japan and Germany.
- This year, India has been invited to attend the Group of 7 industrialised nations meet along with Australia, Chile and South Africa.

INTERNATIONAL

Russian President Vladimir Putin signs controversial internet bill into law

- President Vladimir Putin on May 1, 2019 signed a new measure into law that will allow Russian authorities to isolate the country's internet from the rest of the world and create a new national network.
- The 'sovereign internet' bill aims to expand government control over the Internet.
- Russian lawmakers insist the new law is necessary to ensure the security of Russia's online networks, while critics argue that the vaguely worded bill gives new censorship powers to government monitors.

Almost half of World Heritage sites could lose their glaciers by 2100: Study

- Glaciers are set to disappear completely from almost half of World Heritage sites if business-as-usual emissions continue, according to the first-ever global study of World Heritage glaciers, co-authored by scientists from the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- The sites are home to some of the world's most iconic glaciers, such as the Grosser Aletschgletscher in the Swiss Alps, Khumbu Glacier in the Himalayas or Greenland's Jakobshavn Isbrae.
- The study, 'Disappearing World Heritage glaciers as a keystone of nature conservation in a changing climate', combines data from a global glacier inventory, a review of existing literature and sophisticated computer modelling to analyse the current state of World Heritage glaciers, their recent evolution, and their projected mass change over the 21st century.
- The study also expects that 33% to 60% of the total ice volume present in 2017 will be lost by 2100, depending on the emission scenario.

India re-elected as observer to inter-governmental forum Arctic Council

- India has been re-elected as an observer to inter-governmental forum Arctic Council.
- The Arctic Council promotes cooperation, coordination and interaction among Arctic states on common issues, particularly on sustainable development and environmental protection.

Gujarat Assembly Passes Act to Allow Shops & Businesses Remain Open 24X7

- The Gujarat state Assembly has passed a new Act 'Gujarat Shops and Establishments (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 2019' that will allow shops and other businesses in the state to operate 24 hours.
- The Act came into force from May 1, 2019.

SIPRI Launches Initiative ‘GReVD’ to Measure Violent Deaths Worldwide

- The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) has set up a new initiative named Global Registry of Violent Deaths (GReVD) to establish the annual number of violent deaths worldwide.
- GReVD will track the number of deaths caused by all forms of violence and display these in an open-source database which will eventually help researchers, policymakers and the general public to track trends in violence at global, regional, national levels.
- The initiative aims to monitor the progress on the world’s commitment to ‘significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere’ by 2030 as set out in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically Goal 16.

ECONOMY**RBI imposes fines on prepaid payment instrument issuers for violating norms**

- The Reserve Bank of India announced that it has imposed penalties on five prepaid payment instrument (PPI) issuers, including Vodafone m-pesa and PhonePe, for violation of regulatory norms.
- The central bank said in a statement that in exercise of the powers vested to it under Section 30 of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, the Reserve Bank of India has imposed monetary penalty on five PPI Issuers for non-compliance of regulatory guidelines.
- A penalty of Rs 3.05 crore has been imposed on Vodafone m-pesa and Rs 1 crore each on Mobile Payments, PhonePe, Private and GI Technology.
- A penalty of Rs 5 lakh has also been imposed on Y-Cash Software Solutions. Penalties have also been imposed on Western Union Financial Services Inc and MoneyGram Payment Systems Inc, both US firms, for non-compliance of the guidelines.
- While, a penalty of Rs 29,66,959 has been imposed by the RBI on Western Union Financial Services Inc, USA, a penalty worth Rs 10,11,653 has been imposed on MoneyGram Payment Systems Inc, USA.

RBI directs banks to enhance housing loan limits for eligibility under priority sector lending

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has directed banks to enhance the housing loan limits for eligibility under priority sector lending (PSL) to Rs 35 lakh in metropolitan centres (with a population of ten lakh and above) and Rs 25 lakh in other centres.
- In order to bring the RRBs and SFBs at a level playing field with other Scheduled Commercial Banks, it has now been decided to enhance the housing loan limits for eligibility under PSL.
- Accordingly, in respect of RRBs and SFBs, housing loans to individuals up to Rs 35 lakh in metropolitan centres (with population of ten lakh and above) and Rs 25 lakh in other centres, provided the overall cost of the dwelling unit in the metropolitan centres and at other centres does not exceed Rs 45 lakh and Rs 30 lakh, respectively, will be eligible for classification under PSL.
- Earlier, loans to individuals up to Rs 28 lakh in metropolitan centres and Rs 20 lakh in other centres, were eligible to be classified under priority sector, provided that the cost of dwelling unit does not exceed Rs 35 lakh and Rs 25 lakh, respectively.

Piramal, CPPIB in tie-up for India’s 1st renewables InvIT

- Piramal Enterprises Ltd on Tuesday said it has signed an agreement with Canada’s largest pension fund manager, Canada Pension Plan Investment Board (CPPIB), to co-sponsor India’s first renewable energy-focused infrastructure investment trust (InvIT).
- The InvIT would seek to acquire up to 1.5-2 gigawatts (GW) of stable and long-term cash-generating renewable assets, with a firm focus on diversification of clients of both solar and wind assets as well as the customers of the electricity.

ADB Launched \$5 Billion Healthy Oceans Action Plan

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has launched the ‘Action Plan for Healthy Oceans and Sustainable Blue Economies for the Asia and Pacific region’.
- The initiative was launched at the 52nd Annual Meeting of ADB’s Board of Governors in Fiji.
- The \$5 billion action plan will run between 2019–2024

PERSON IN NEWS**Pakistan appoints IMF official as new central bank governor**

- International Monetary Fund (IMF) economist Reza Baqir has been appointed as the Governor of State Bank of Pakistan. State Bank of Pakistan is the central bank of Pakistan.

Paytm President Bhushan Patil Resigned

- Bhushan Patil, President at Paytm, has quit the company.
- Patil joined Noida-based Paytm in March 2016.

Myntra Ropes In Virat Kohli and Anushka Sharma as its First Official Brand Ambassadors

- Virat Kohli and Anushka Sharma have been appointed as the first official brand ambassadors of Flipkart-owned e-commerce platform, Myntra.
- Myntra has launched its brand campaign name 'Go Myntra-la-la' which includes an ad film starring the star couple to bring alive the joyful experience of shopping.

SPORTS AND GAMES**Apurvi Chandela becomes world number 1 in 10m air rie, Anjum claims second position**

- India's Apurvi Chandela on May 1, 2019 became world number 1 in women's 10m air rifle event, according to the latest rankings released by the International Shooting Sport Federation.
- Hailing from Jaipur, the shooting ace is among the five Indian shooters to have already secured 2020 Olympics quotas for the country.

India's Saurav Ghosal and Joshna Chinappa Wins Asian Individual Squash Championship

- Indian professional squash players Saurav Ghosal and Joshna Chinappa have won the individual titles in the Asian Squash Championship held at Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia.
- The top seed Ghosal defeated the fourth seed Leo Au Chun Ming of Hong Kong to win 2019 Men's Asian Individual Squash Championships.

India Bags 6 Medals at 36th Feliks Stamm International Boxing Tournament in Warsaw

- Indian boxers won total 6 medals at the 36th Feliks Stamm International boxing tournament held in Warsaw, Poland. It included 2 gold, 1 silver and 3 bronze medals.
- The gold medal came from Gaurav Solanki in 52 kg category event and Manish Kaushik in 60 kg event.

AWARDS AND HONOURS**Girl from Nepal dances for continuous 126-hour to set Guinness World Records**

- Bandana Nepal a girl from Nepal danced continuously for 126 hours to set a Guinness World Records on 'Longest Dancing Marathon by an Individual'.
- She broke the record of India girl Kalamandalam Hemlatha who danced continuously for 123 hours and 15 minutes in 2011.

Journalist G D 'Robert' Govender awarded 2019 V K Krishna Menon award

- G D 'Robert' Govender has been awarded the 2019 V K Krishna Menon award posthumously, for his outstanding contribution as a pioneer of decolonised journalism.
- He is an Indian Origin Journalist. He was awarded in UK.

MISCELLANEOUS**99942 APOPHIS asteroid to cruise by Earth in 2029**

- An asteroid named 99942 APOPHIS is on course to pass close to Earth on April 13, 2029.
- This massive asteroid will be visible to the naked eyes when it passes close to Earth. It is a near-Earth asteroid, which will cruise by Earth in 2029, about 31,000 km above the surface. 99942 Apophis is 340 m (about 1100 ft) wide.
- According to NASA it is rare for an asteroid of this size to pass Earth so closely.

INS VELA submarine to be launched for trials

- INS Vela, a Scorpene class submarine will be launched for trials.
- The submarine will be launched by Secretary (Defence Production) at the Mazagon Dockyards Limited (MDL).

ISRO to launch radar imaging satellite 'RISAT 2BR1'

- India is planning to launch its latest radar imaging satellite RISAT 2BR1 towards the end of May 2019 on one of the variants of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) rocket.

- The satellite, RISAT 2BR1, is expected to be launched aboard one of the reusable PSLV rockets on May 22, as per officials of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

ISRO planning to send a probe to study sun in 2020

- The Indian Space Research Organization is planning to send a probe to study the sun early in 2020.
- The information was shared by ISRO chairman Dr K Sivan, who said that currently scientists are exploring possibilities to study more about Sun and the probe named Aditya-L1 will be sent to observe the solar corona, the outer layers of the Sun.
- The satellite would be in a halo orbit around the L1 (Lagrangian point 1) of the Sun- Earth system so that it has the advantage of continuously viewing the Sun without any occultation or eclipses.
- The L1 is 1.5 million kms from the Earth.

SpaceX successfully launched cargo mission to the ISS

- SpaceX has launched a Dragon cargo capsule to orbit to International Space Station.
- This mission was seventeenth routine launch of SpaceX for NASA since 2012.
- Cargo Dragon spacecraft was carrying 2,500 kilograms (5,500 pounds) of supplies for the astronauts on the ISS as part of the CRS-17 mission.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

Autobiography Titled ‘Game Changer’ of Former Pakistani Skipper Shahid Afridi Released

- The autobiography of Pakistan’s former captain and star all-rounder Shahid Afridi was released in India on April 25. The name of the book is ‘Game Changer’.
- It has been co-authored by Afridi and journalist Wajahat S Khan.

DAY&DATE

International Firefighters’ Day: May 4

- International Firefighters’ Day (IFFD) is observed annually on May 4 to commemorate the sacrifices that firefighters make to ensure that their communities and environment are as safe as possible.

World Laughter Day 2019: May 5

- World Laughter Day takes place on the first Sunday of May of every year
- In 2019, the Day was observed on May 5.

OBITUARY

Last Captive White Tiger ‘Bajirao’ at Sanjay Gandhi National Park Passes Away at 18

- Bajirao, the last surviving White Tiger at the Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP) in Borivali, maharashtra passed away at the age of 18.
- He was suffering from chronic ankylosis on left shoulder and chronic senile generalised arthritis for the last four years.
- Bajirao was born at the SGNP in 2001 to Renuka and Sidharth.

ONE LINER

- Centre government has announced that Electric and hybrid vehicle (xEVs) manufacturers will have to indigenise a significant portion of components to avail benefits under a revised set of rules of the phase 2 of the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles (FAME) scheme.
- The Indian Navy launched the fourth Scorpene class submarine “INS Vela” at Mazagon Dockyard in Mumbai.
- Defence ministry has approved the procurement of 10 Kamov Ka-31 Airborne Early Warning and Control helicopters for the Indian Navy. The cost of the deal would be around Rs 3,600 crore and the 10 helicopters would be deployed on the aircraft carriers and warships of the Navy including the INS Vikrant and Grigorovich-class frigates.
- The Volleyball Federation of India appointed Serbian Dragan Mihailovic as head coach of the men’s national team in a move linked to the long term goal of Olympic Games qualification.
- A Japanese aerospace startup funded by a former internet maverick has successfully launched a small rocket into space. Interstellar Technology Inc. says the unmanned MOMO-3 rocket has exceeded 100 kilometers (60 miles) in altitude before falling into the Pacific Ocean.