

NATIONAL

SC directed ECI to increase checking of VVPAT slips

- The Supreme Court directed the Election Commission of India (ECI) to increase the random checking of VVPAT slips from 1 EVM to 5 EVMs in each assembly of a parliamentary constituency in Lok Sabha Elections 2019.

What is VVPAT?

- The Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trails (VVPAT) is a paper slip generated by the Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) every time a voter casts his vote, recording the party to whom the vote was made.
- VVPAT slip counting takes place in the VVPAT counting booths under the close monitoring of the returning officer and direct oversight of the observer.

Army Commanders' Conference 2019 Started

- The biannual Army Commanders' Conference 2019 began in New Delhi.
- The opening address was delivered by the Defence Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman.
- The Army Commanders' Conference is held biannually for formulating important policy decisions through collegiate deliberations.
- It is an important event for planning and execution process of the Indian Army.
- The conference is chaired by the Chief of the Army Staff.

Traditional new year festivities celebrated in several parts of India

- Andhra Pradesh & Telangana: People celebrated Ugaadi across these two Telugu states to mark the beginning of the Hindu Lunar calendar.
- Maharashtra: Gudi Padwa signifies the welcoming of spring. This day marks the beginning of Chaitra Navratri, that lead up to Ram Navami.
- Manipur: Sajibu Nongma Panba Cheiraoba marking the beginning of the new Manipuri calendar was celebrated.

NGT imposes Rs 100 crore penalty on Andhra Pradesh government

- The National Green Tribunal has slapped an interim penalty of Rs 100 crore on the Andhra Pradesh government for inaction to prevent illegal sand mining in the state.
- A bench, headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel, directed the chief secretary of Andhra Pradesh to forthwith prohibit all unregulated sand mining.
- The tribunal directed the state government to deposit Rs 100 crore 'environment compensation' with the Central Pollution Control Board within a month.

INTERNATIONAL

UAE announced long-term visas for best 100 Arab start-ups

- The UAE government has announced granting long-term visas for the top 100 start-ups shaping the fourth industrial revolution.
- The 100 Arab start-ups were selected at the World Economic Forum on the Middle East and North Africa, held in Jordan between 6-7th April.
- According to the World Economic Forum's latest report, 20% of the Arab world's 100 most promising startups are based in the UAE.
- The initiative aims to further integrate the Arab world's most promising start-up entrepreneurs into a national and regional dialogue on pressing challenges.

First Global Conference on Synergies between the 2030 Agenda and Paris Agreement in Copenhagen, Denmark

- The first global multi-stakeholder conference on synergies by (UN DESA) the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the (UN FCCC) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change, was held in Copenhagen, Denmark.

ECONOMY

Lakshmi Vilas Bank announced merger with Indiabulls Housing Finance

- The Board of private sector lender, Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd (LVB) approved its merger with the mortgage financier, Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd in an all stock deal.

Other mergers in similar segment

- Bandhan Bank's acquisition of Gruh Finance (March 2019)
- Merger of Capital First with IDFC Bank(December 2018)
- Merger of Bharat Financial Inclusion with IndusInd Bank(March 2018)

NTPC Signed Rs 2,000 crore Term Loan pact with Canara Bank

- The National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has inked a term-loan agreement with Canara Bank to raise Rs 2,000 crore.
- This loan has a door to door tenure of 15 years and will be utilised to part finance the capital expenditure of the NTPC.

UPI transaction charges have been reduced by NPCI for promoting the uses

- For promoting the adoption of Unified Payments Interface (UPI), the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has reduced the transaction fees up to Rs 1,000 by 60%.

Key Points:

- For UPI transactions up to Rs.1,000, the charge has been cut to 10 paise from 25 paise, and for transactions above Rs.1,000 has been retained at 50 paise.
- This will help the service providers like banks and third-party applications to boost UPI and at the same time will also help the consumers in the long run as more cash backs and incentives can get offered.
- At present Google Pay, Paytm and PhonePe are aggressively promoting UPI by offering case back and other benefits.

PERSON IN NEWS

Praful Patel becomes first Indian to be elected as member of FIFA Executive Council

- Praful Patel, the President of All India Football Federation has become the first Indian to be elected as a member of the FIFA Executive Council.
- Patel's term in the council will be for a period of four years, from 2019 to 2023.

Justice Pradeep Nandrajog

- He took oath as the new Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court.
- He was administered the oath by Maharashtra Governor C Vidyasagar Rao at the Raj Bhavan.

Keshav Murugesh takes over as Nasscom Chairman

- NASSCOM (National Association of Software and services companies), an IT industry body has appointed Keshav Murugesh, CEO of WNS Global Services Group as its Chairman for 2019-20.
- Nasscom also designated Pravin Rao, Infosys COO UB as its Vice Chairman for 2019-20.

Anwar Haleem appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

- Shri Anwar Haleem, IFS (Indian Foreign Service, batch of 1991 is appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. He will succeed Mrs. Shubhdarshini Tripathi.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

ESPN, the one-stop destination for all things sports, has announced the winners of its 2nd annual

- Multi-Sport Awards, recognizing achievements across various sport disciplines in 2018.

Here is the complete winners list :

- Sportsperson of the Year (Male) : Neeraj Chopra (Athletics)
- Sportsperson of the Year (Female) : P V Sindhu (Badminton)
- Comeback of the Year : Saina Nehwal (Badminton)
- Coach of the Year : Jaspal Rana (Shooting)

- Emerging Sportsperson of the Year : Saurabh Chaudhary (Shooting)
- Team of the Year : Women's team (Table tennis)
- Match of the Year : Amit Panghal vs Hasanboy Dusmatov (Boxing)
- Differently-abled athlete of the Year : Ekta Bhyan (Para-athletics)
- Moment of the Year : Women's 4x400m relay
- Lifetime Achievement Award : Pradip Kumar Banerjee (Football)

Tata Steel wins 'Global Slag Company of the Year' award

- Tata Steel has been named as the 'Global Slag Company of the Year' at the 14th Global Slag Conference and Exhibition 2019.
- The award was presented to Tata Steel for its innovative practices in development of new applications for **Steel by-products (Slag)**.

Around 5000 Konyak women dance to set a Guinness World Record at Mon, Nagaland

- In the programme organized at Mon (Nagaland) during the Aoleang Monyu festival (usually held between 1st April to 3rd April every year) around 5000 Konyak Naga women in their traditional attire attempted to set a Guinness World Record for the 'Largest Traditional Konyak Dance'.

SPORTS AND GAMES

Lin Dan won 2019 Malaysian Open Badminton singles title

- Chinese veteran Lin Dan (36-years) has won the Malaysian Open Badminton singles title in the men's final at Axiata Arena Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. He defeated countryman Chen Long 9-21, 21-7, 21-11.
- Lin Dan is a two-time Olympic champion, five-time World champion, as well as a six-time All England champion.
- In the women's singles final top seed Tai Tzu Ying (Taiwan) saw off Japanese Akane Yamaguchi 21-16, 21-19.
- The 2019 Malaysia Open (9th) badminton tournament took place at Axiata Arena in Malaysia.

World's oldest soccer player Isaak Hayik sets Guinness record

- Israel's soccer player Isaak Hayik (73-years) broke the record after playing as a goalkeeper in an afternoon game with Israel's Ironi Or Yehuda soccer club.
- The Iraqi-born keeper was officially recognised in an award ceremony attended by representatives from the Guinness World Record organisation.

Virat Kohli becomes all-time leading IPL scorer

- Virat Kohli overtook Suresh Raina to become the leading run-scorer in the Indian Premier League.
- Up against Kolkata Knight Riders, Kohli also became the 2nd fastest after Chris Gayle to reach 8000 T20 runs.
- Till date, Virat Kohli and Suresh Raina are the only two players to score 5000 runs in the IPL. Both men got to the landmark this year.
- Rohit Sharma (Mumbai Indians) is 3rd in the list of most runs in the IPL with 4600 runs.
- David Warner (Sunrisers Hyderabad) is 4th with 4278 runs.

MISCELLANEOUS

- **Micromax co-founder Rahul Sharma has announced his new venture Revolt Intellicorp Pvt Ltd that will be making smart electric two-wheelers and connected devices.**

Morocco –US Joint Exercise AFRICAN LION 2019 started in Morocco

- The 15th edition of the Morocco- US sponsored exercise "African Lion 2019", took place in Morocco.
- The annual Military exercise materialized in the region of Agadir, Tifnit, Tan-Tan, Tata and Ben Guerir with the participation of thousands of military personnel.

- It was jointly organized by the United States Command for Africa (AFRICOM) and Moroccan Royal Armed Forces (FAR).

A new seller-funding programme named “Amazon Wings” was launched by Amazon India

- A new seller-funding programme named “Amazon Wings” has been launched by Amazon India in partnership with Mumbai based Ketto, a crowd-funding platform to help the small businesses and entrepreneurs to raise funds through latter.

DAY&DATE

6 April: International Day of Sport for Development and Peace

- The International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (IDSDP) was observed across the world on April 6, 2019.
- The date commemorates the inauguration of the first ever Olympic games of the modern era in Athens, Greece in 1896.

7 April: World Health Day

- The World Health Day was observed across the world on April 7, 2019.
- The day marked the 71st anniversary of the World Health Organization.
- The theme of World Health Day 2019 was ‘Universal Health Coverage: Everyone, Everywhere’.

Obituaries

2002 Medicine Nobel Prize Winner Brenner passed away

- Biologist Sydney Brenner (92-years) passed away in Singapore.
- Brenner discovered fundamental steps in how cells use DNA to make the proteins that enable life.

ONE LINER

- The Indian Army has discovered the wreckage of a World War II vintage US Air Force aircraft in Arunachal Pradesh’s Roing district.
- The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) along with Sky Running Association of India organised the National Sky Running Championship (junior and senior categories) at Mountaineering and Skiing Institute of ITBP at Auli in Uttarakhand.
- National Cardiology Conference 2019 has been started at Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of medical sciences in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
- Tata Steel bagged the “Global Slag Company of the Year” award at the 14th Global Slag Conference and Exhibition 2019, for its innovative practices in the development of new applications for Steel by-products (Slag).
- ‘Chennai Central’ has been renamed as ‘Puratchi Thalaivar Dr M G Ramachandran Chennai Central’ after Dr. ‘MG Ramachandran’.