

## NATIONAL

### Kandhamal Haldi (turmeric) gets GI tag

- Kandhamal haldi (turmeric) produced by the tribal farmers in Odisha's Kandhamal district received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- Kandhamal turmeric, originally grown by tribal people in Kandhamal, is famous for its medicinal properties.
- The GI (Geographical Indication) tag ensures that none other than those registered as authorized users (or at least those residing inside the geographic territory) can use the popular product name.

### 84th Foundation Day of Odisha celebrated on 1st April

- Odisha celebrates its Foundation day on 1st April every year to commemorate the sacrifices of people for the formation of Odisha province in 1936.
- The Odisha Day is also known as "Utkal Divas".
- Earlier, Odisha was a part of Bihar; it became the first state to be formed on the linguistic basis in 1936.

### NuGen Mobility Summit 2019

- The International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT) will organise a NuGen Mobility Summit, 2019, at Manesar, NCR.
- NuGen Mobility Summit is a biennial event being organised by the International Centre for Automotive Technology in collaboration with SAE-NIS.
- More than 2500 participants and over 250 exhibitors are expected to take part in the Summit.

### 'Disturbed Area' tag extended for 3 Arunachal districts

- The Union Ministry of Home Affairs on April 1, 2019 extended the "disturbed area" tag under the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) for three districts of Arunachal Pradesh for another six months. These 3 districts are Tirap, Changlang and Longding.
- The Government withdrew the "disturbed area" tag partly from three other districts bordering Assam including Namsai, Lower Dibang Valley and Lohit district and lifted AFSPA from these 3 districts.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Japan unveils the name of Its New Imperial Era 'Reiwa'

- Japan's government has unveiled an era name, "Reiwa," for soon-to-be Emperor Naruhito, who will succeed the Chrysanthemum throne on 1st May.
- The name 'Reiwa' which consists two Chinese characters, the first meaning 'good' or 'beautiful' as well as 'order' or 'command' and the second meaning 'peace' or 'harmony'.
- The country's current era, Heisei, will end in April.

### US approved sale of 24 MH 60 Romeo Seahawk helicopters to India

- It is considered the world's most advanced maritime helicopter.
- The choppers will provide the Indian defence forces with the capability to perform anti-surface and anti-submarine warfare missions.

### Bolivia joined International Solar Alliance

- Bolivia signed the framework agreement to join the International Solar Alliance during the visit of Indian President.
- The ISA is a major initiative of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in contributing to the implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement through the rapid and massive deployment of solar energy.

## ECONOMY

### Paytm Money receives Sebi approval to start stock broking services

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has given approval to Paytm Money to start offering broking services.
- Paytm Money is the investment and wealth management platform of the mobile payments company.

### Kotak Mahindra Bank becomes the first lender to Charge for UPI Use

- Kotak Mahindra Bank (Kotak) will charge customers for UPI transactions starting 1st of May 2019.
- For each Kotak Bank account, the first 30 UPI fund transfers will be free, after which a charge will be levied on all fund transfers from the bank account.
- The bank will charge Rs 2.50 per transaction for an amount value below or equal to Rs 1,000, and Rs 5 per transaction will be levied for a payment value above Rs 1,000.
- Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is an instant real-time payment system developed by National Payments Corporation of India facilitating inter-bank transactions.

### Government infused Rs 205 crore into Bank of Maharashtra

- Government infused a capital of Rs. 205 crore into the state owned Bank of Maharashtra in lieu of preferential allotment of shares.

### ADB cuts India's growth rate from 7.6% to 7.2% in 2019-20

- The ADB (Asia Development Bank) in its publication Asian Development Outlook 2019 has demoted growth forecasts for India and Southeast Asia for 2019.
- For India, it has been downgraded by 40 basis points to 7.2% for fiscal year 2019-20 .

### Bank of Baroda becomes the 3rd largest bank after its merger with Dena Bank & Vijaya Bank

- The merger of Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank into Bank of Baroda has come into effect.
- With this amalgamation, Bank of Baroda becomes the India's second largest public sector bank and third largest commercial bank after State Bank of India (SBI) and HDFC Bank.
- Now the number of public sector banks (PSBs) has been reduced to 18.

### Reliance Mutual Fund partnering with Google, becomes the first Indian company to launch voice-based financial transactions

- Reliance Nippon Life Asset Management (RNAM) has joined hands with Google to enable the customers of Reliance Mutual Fund to carry out voice-based financial transactions.
- With this, RNAM becomes the first company in India, to provide conversational interface that would help customers regarding funds transactions.
- In the first phase, the functionality would be launched in Reliance Simply Save app for the customers.

### Anti-Dumping Duty has been imposed on the import of Solar Components from four nations

- In order to safeguard domestic players against cheap shipments, Department of Revenue, Government of India has imposed anti-dumping duty on the import of certain solar cell components from China, Malaysia, Saudia Arabia and Thailand for a period of 5 years.

## PERSON IN NEWS

### Eicher Motors appoints Vinod Dasari as Royal Enfield CEO

- Eicher Motors Ltd. has appointed 'Vinod K. Dasari' as the chief executive officer (CEO) of Royal Enfield.
- Mr. Dasari will also join the board of Eicher Motors as an executive director with immediate effect.

**Hero Chairman Pawan Munjal honoured with the Asian Tour with a ‘Special Achievement Award’**

- Hero MotoCorp Chairman, Dr. Pawan Munjal has been honoured by the Asian Tour with a “Special Achievement Award” for his contributions to Asian Golf, at the concluding ceremony of Hero Indian Open Golf tournament, held at Gurugram, Haryana.

**BOOKS AND AUTHORS****Garuda Prakashan launches 'Saffron Swords' and 'Modi Again'.**

- The Garuda Prakashan Private Limited (Indian Publishing Company) has launched its book ‘Saffron Swords- Centuries of Indic Resistance to Invaders’.
- The book ‘Saffron Swords- Centuries of Indic Resistance to Invaders’ has been written by Manoshi Sinha Rawal.

**SPORTS AND GAMES****India’s first professional Kho-Kho league “Ultimate Kho-Kho” launched**

- The Kho-Kho Federation of India (KKFI) has launched a franchise-based league for the sport named 'Ultimate Kho-Kho'.

**Indian Squash player Saurav Ghosal became the first Indian to move in top 10 Squash world ranking**

- Saurav Ghosal moved up two places to become the first Indian male squash player to break into the top 10 of the latest PSA (Professional Squash Association) world ranking.
- At Present, Joshna Chinappa is India’s best female squash player (Ranked 15th) and Saurav Ghosal is India’s best Male Squash Player (Ranked 10th).

**Former ESPN Star Sports MD Manu Sawhney took his ICC Chief Executive charge**

- Former ESPN Star Sports MD, Manu Sawhney has formally joined International Cricket Council (ICC) as its Chief Executive Officer (CEO).
- David Richardson will continue in ICC until July 2019 to direct the Men’s Cricket World Cup 2019.

**2019 Miami open held in Florida**

- 2019 Miami Open which was the 35th edition of Miami Open, held at Miami Gardens in Florida, USA.

Category	Winner	Runner Up
Men’s Single	Roger Federer (Switzerland)	John Isner (USA)
Women’s Single	Ashleigh Barty (Australia)	Karolina Pliskova (Czech Republic)

**Lewis Hamilton grabs Bahrain Grand Prix 2019**

- Five times world champion Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes captured Bahrain Grand Prix 2019 title by beating Mercedes Valtteri Bottas of Finland who secured second position.
- It was Hamilton’s 74th win of his career and 1st of this season.

**ICC to join hands with Interpol to fight corruption in sport**

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has sought closer working relations with the Interpol to widen the scope of its fight against corruption in the sport.
- The idea is to ensure that players are better educated about the corruptors and Interpol's vast network would be helpful in this.

**MISCELLANEOUS****Batman will become the first Inductee of Comic-Con Museum’s Character Hall of Fame**

- Batman will become the first Inductee of Comic-Con Museum’s Character Hall of Fame, in a ceremony at 50th Annual Comic-Con International in San Diego, USA on 17th July 2019.

**China launched its 2nd Generational data relay satellite, Tianlian II-01**

- China successfully launched its first second generational data relay satellite named Tianlian II-01 with the help of a Long March-3B Carrier rocket from Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in Sichuan Province.
- It was the 301st mission of the Long March carrier rocket series.

**India's 'Hump-backed mahseer', freshwater fish added in "Critically Endangered" list**

- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species added hump-backed mahseer, also known as 'Tor remadevii' or 'tiger of water' in critically endangered species list.
- It is freshwater fish endemic to the Western Ghats of South India and only found in Kaveri River basins including Kerala's Pambar, Kabini and Bhavani rivers. The maximum length of this fish can reach upto 150 cm and maximum weight till 90 kg.
- The headquarters of ICUN Red List is in United Kingdom
- The headquarters of ICUN is in Gland, Switzerland.

**WhatsApp launches 'tipline' to tackle rumours ahead of elections**

- WhatsApp launched a new service named as 'tipline'.
- It allows users to submit for review messages they think are misleading or carry unsubstantiated information, in the latest of a series of steps to curb misinformation on the messaging platform.
- Users can send suspicious messages to the 'tipline phone number' to validate the authenticity of claims in those messages, which may be in the form of text, images or videos.

**The State government of Telangana on Wednesday launched a digital business networking portal for MSMEs – Telangana State GlobalLinker ([ts-msme.globallinker.com](http://ts-msme.globallinker.com)) – to digitise over 2.3 million MSMEs of the State.**

**DAY&DATE****World Autism Awareness Day: April 2**

- World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD) is observed annually on April 2 to raise awareness about people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), globally.
- The theme for 2019 was "Assistive Technologies, Active Participation".

**ONE LINER**

- Registration of pilgrims for Amarnath Yatra (two-month long) began through 442 branches of Punjab National Bank, Jammu & Kashmir Bank and YES Bank across the country.
- India and Ukraine have discussed bilateral trade featuring the importance of exports and imports between the 2 countries. The deliberation was part of the 4th Meeting of India-Ukraine Working Group on Trade and Economic Cooperation (IU-WGTEC) held in New Delhi.
- The 260-foot Maitri Bridge, the longest suspension bridge over the Indus River at Choglamsar village in Leh was opened to the public.