

An illustration at the top of the page shows a stack of books on the left and three writing instruments (a pencil, a pen, and a marker) on the right, all rendered in a simple, stylized blue and white line-art style against a yellow background.

March 2019

**MONTHLY
ONE LINER
GK DIGEST**

CONTENTS

NATIONAL EVENTS	2
INTERNATIONAL EVENTS	4
STATE EVENTS.....	4
SPORTS	6
DEFENCE	7
AWARDS AND HONOURS.....	7
APPOINTMENTS	8
COMMITTEES.....	8
GOVT. SCHEME	9
Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN Yojana	9
Gram Samridhi Yojana	9
e-Dharti App and Portal:	9
Mukhyamantri Anchal Amrit Yojana:	9
Atal Aahar Yojana:.....	10
IMPORTANT DAYS	10
BANKING AND FINANCIAL AWARENESS.....	11
Index And Reports.....	14
Global Wellness Index	14
Consumer Confidence Index	14
IQAir AirVisual 2018 World Air Quality Report	14
National Annual Rural Sanitation Survey	14
Monster Salary Index:.....	15
Trends in International Arms Transfers-2018 Report	15
World Gold Council Report	15
World Happiness Report 2019	15
Global Economic Outlook by Fitch.....	15
World Airport Traffic Rankings 2018	16
Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2018	16
Global Energy Transition Index.....	16
Space and Science	16
MISCELLANEOUS	17

MONTHLY ONE-LINER GK DIGEST MARCH 2019

NATIONAL EVENTS

Azaadi Ke Diwane' museum built by the Archaeological Survey of India has been inaugurated on the Red Fort premises.

- It is dedicated to the unsung heroes of the country's freedom struggle.
- The museum stands fifth in a series after Subhash Chandra Bose Museum; INA museum; Yaad-e-Jallian museum; Museum on 1857 (on the country's first war of Independence) Drishyakala (a museum on Indian Art) — on the sacrifices of India's freedom fighters

NITI Aayog and Adobe as a part of Atal Innovation Mission have signed a Statement of Intent to collaborate on enhancing digital literacy and creativity skills.

- Digital Disha Programme across 100 schools under the Atal Tinkering Labs will be opened under this programme
- Adobe would provide Adobe Spark applications which is a storytelling Creative Cloud application free of charge for education and skill development.

National Mineral Policy 2019 was approved by the Cabinet which aims at more effective regulations.

- The aim of National Mineral Policy 2019 is to have a more effective, meaningful and implementable policy that brings in further transparency, better regulation and enforcement, balanced social and economic growth
- It aims to encourage private sector to take up exploration, encouragement of merger/acquisition of mining entities and transfer of mining leases
- Creation of dedicated mineral corridors to boost private sector mining areas.
- Long-term import export policy for mineral will help private sector in better planning and stability in business
- Reserved areas given to PSUs which have not been used and to put these areas to auction

The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) launched IRCTC iPay

- It is IRCTC's own payment aggregator system to promote government's Digital India initiative.
- It provides payment options like credit card, debit card, UPI (Unified Payment Interface), International Card and an option of IRCTC prepaid card cum wallet, auto debit will also be available soon.

Ayushman Bharat Card to Uber Drivers

- Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Uber to provide free healthcare services to Uber drivers.

- Drivers have to pay Rs 30 to get Ayushman Bharat Card and can avail the benefits – no charges for pre-hospitalisation, hospitalisation and posthospitalisation expenses.
- Ayushman Bharat Yojana or Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana or National Health Protection Scheme or ModiCare is a centrally sponsored scheme launched in 2018, under the Ayushman Bharat Mission of MoHFW in India

One Nation One Card

- PM Modi launches the National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) called “One Nation One Card”
- The main aim of this card is to make the payment system easier for all mode of public transport.
- This initiative was conceived by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs
- It has been launched as part of the National Urban Transport Policy (NUTP 2006) by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

India's first Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) treatment centre and clinic for the LGBTQ community was inaugurated by the Humsafar Trust in Mumbai.

- The clinic will provide free counselling and Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART) used to treat the infection.

Enemy Property Order, 2018:

- The central government has allowed the state governments to put enemy properties into public use.
- The central government has amended the guidelines for disposal of the Enemy Property Order, 2018, to facilitate usages of enemy property by the state government exclusively for public use.
- Enemy properties are the properties of the people who migrated to Pakistan during partition and also to China after the Sino-India war in 1962.

Centre of Excellence for Differently-abled Persons:

- **Hinduja Global Solutions (HGS)** has teamed up with **NASSCOM Foundation**, to launch a centre of excellence in Bengaluru for training differently-abled persons.
- The centre will train a minimum of 100 PwDs making them industry-ready over the next 12 months with a goal to place **at least 50 per cent** of them in companies already sensitised for hiring them.

Cloud Seeding Project – Varshadhare:

- ‘**Varshadhare**’, a cloud-seeding project, was launched in Karnataka to tackle the prospect of a fourth consecutive drought year.
- **Hoysala Projects Pvt Ltd** will carry out the cloud-seeding, will take up the operations from the airports of Hubli and Bengaluru over the next **60 days**.
- Three Doppler radars will detect the rain-bearing clouds and enable their seeding. As part of the seeding strategy, special aircraft will disperse the chemical **silver iodide** as they fly through rain-bearing clouds that will trigger and enhance the precipitation.

Microsoft's Project Sangam

- Microsoft India partnered with The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) to deploy Microsoft's Project Sangam (cloud-hosted, mobile-first community learning platform) to train functionaries and officers across India on Swachh Bharat e-Learning Portal
- Project Sangam empowered the Municipal functionaries by enabling MoHUA to run custom community training courses and track their process, manage content, users and analytics across the program in one place.
- It also provided video-based learning for users who have low-bandwidth supporting offline learning for the Swachh Bharat e-Learning Portal users.

Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules, 2019

- With an aim to promote clinical research, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has notified The Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules, 2019
- The time for approving applications for drugs manufactured in India has been reduced to 30 days and 90 days for those developed outside the country.

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

Zero Value to Mark the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi

- Numisbing Group a UAE based company will release 12 bank notes of zero value which is the first ever limited edition commemorative series to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
- The special notes have been designed by Dubai-based Indian artist Akbar Saheb who is also the main illustrator for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's book "Mann Ki Baat".

Black Hole Coin:

- The **United Kingdom commemorated professor Stephen Hawking** in a new 50 pence coin known as 'Black Hole Coin'.
- It is a commemorative coin and not for circulation as currency.
- It was inspired by Hawking's work on black holes outlined in his bestselling book "**A Brief History of Time**".

STATE EVENTS

Punjab will launch 'Mera Kam-Mera Abhiman' - Employment generation programme for the urban youth in Punjab to "ensure dignity of labour".

- The programme is part of the State government's 'Ghar Ghar Rozgar and Karobar' mission.
- The aim of this mission is to provide one job for each family in a time-bound manner and the scheme would certainly reach out to every household.

Yuvashree Plan II or Yuvashree Arpan has been launched in West Bengal to encourage entrepreneurship among youth.

- Under this Scheme, around fifty thousand Youths who have passed out of ITI and polytechnic institutes will be eligible to get financial support of Rs One Lakh from the state MSME department to set up their own business initiatives.

Mukhyamantri Parivar Samman Nidhi” scheme was launched in Haryana.

- The farmers of the state who cultivate on land with areas up to five acres and the families with an income of less than Rs. 15,000 per month are covered under this scheme
- Each beneficiary family will have to nominate one member of the family who would be eligible for a financial assistance of Rs. 6,000 every
- The scheme provides insurance facilities of- Rs. 2 lakh on natural death for accidental death and permanent disability and Rs. 1 lakh for partial disability.
- permanent disability and Rs. 1 lakh for partial disability.

Category I: Age 18-40 years	Category 2: Age 40 to 60 years
Rs 6000 per year in 3 instalments of rs 2000	Rs 6000 per year in 3 instalments of rs 2000
Rs 36,000 after 5 years of joining	Rs 36,000 after 5 years of joining
On age of 60 year, Rs 3,000 and Rs 15,000	
Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 30,000 after 5 years.	

Karnataka state govt. has launched new water conservation scheme – ‘Jal Amrutha’

- The scheme plans to make people aware about the importance of conserving water
- Karnataka government has declared 2019 as the Year of Water.

Janibili Drinking Water Project was inaugurated for Berhampur and rural areas of Ganjam district in state of Odisha to resolve the drinking water crisis.

- Along with this, Smart park Scheme was also launched for 114 urban centres in the State under which 200 parks will be developed (launched as a part of ‘Unnati’ Yojana).
- UNNATI yojana was launched in 2017 to bring all round inclusive development of urban areas
- The state government has decided to provide 100 percent piped water supply in all wards and LED street lighting to all streets in all urban areas of the state.

Mukhya Mantri Karigar Sahayata

- A new scheme - 'Mukhya Mantri Karigar Sahayata' has been launched in Odisha for providing financial assistance to craftsmen.
- Craftsmen with 10 years of experience with annual income below Rs.1 lakh are eligible to get an assistance of Rs.800 per month.
- The craftsmen above 80 years of age having same annual income and same experience would get Rs 1000 per month allowance.

SPORTS

• **International Shooting Sports Federation**

- India ranked 1st in International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF) World Cup held in New Delhi, India.
- Saurabh Chaudhary and Manu Bhaker claimed gold medal in 10m Air Pistol Mixed team event
- Saurabh Chaudhary finished top of the 10m Air Pistol category
- Apurvi Chandela bagged the gold medal in Women's 10m Rifle
- 16-year-old **Iniyana Panneerselvam** from Tamil Nadu won the Noisiel Open in France and became the 61st Grandmaster for India.
- **Kavinder Singh Bisht** won the gold medal in 56Kg category at 38th GeeBee Boxing Tournament was organized by European Boxing Confederation in Helsinki, Finland.
- **Upamanyu Dutta** bagged the bronze medal in the Laser Standard race for men in the Asian Open Laser Sailing Championship which concluded in Singapore.
- Olympic champion, **Liu Hong**, broke the world record in the 50 km race walk, finishing in 3 hours, 59 minutes and 15 seconds, at the Chinese Race Walk Grand Prix in Huangshan. She became the first woman to break the 4-hour barrier in the event.
- **Annual List of the Most Famous Athlete**
 - An annual list of the most famous athletes on the planet 2019 ESPN World Fame 100 list has placed Cristiano Ronaldo at the top spot.
 - Virat Kohli and MS Dhoni are on the 10th and 13th spot respectively.
- Indian woman golfer Diksha Dagar became the 2nd Indian winner on Ladies European Tour after clinching South African Women's Open in Cape Town.
- India clinched South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Women's Championship 2019 by defeating Nepal in Nepal.
- Veselin Matic is set to be appointed as the new head coach of the Indian men's basketball team.
- Paralympic torch was unveiled by the Tokyo Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (Tokyo 2020) to depict the torch relay. It is in line with the concept 'Share Your Light'. It is modelled after the Japanese Cherry Blossom or "sakura".
- International Olympics Committee (IOC) gave provisional approval for the inclusion of Breakdancing in the Paris Olympics 2024. Apart from this, Surfing, climbing and skateboarding will make their Olympic debuts at the Tokyo 2020 Games.

DEFENCE

- **\$3 Billion Defence Deal with Russia for Chakra III:**
 - India and Russia inked mega defence deal worth over \$3 billion for leasing Akula-class SSN from Russia to replace the INS Chakra
 - It will be a nuclear attack submarine customised and fitted with indigenous communications systems and sensors.
- Africa-India Joint Field Training Exercise (AFINDEX-19) between the Indian Army and 16 African nations will be conducted in Pune.
- India and Sri Lanka will conduct joint military exercise Mitra Shakti VI.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

Awardee	Award
DRDO Chairman G. Satheesh Reddy (with Rondell J. Wilson)	2019 Missile Systems Award by American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA)
Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman	Bhagwan Mahavir Ahimsa Puraskar by Akhil Bharatiya Digambar Jain Mahasamiti
Hailakandi in Assam	Top Aspirational District by Delta ranking report released by NITI Aayog.
Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA)	SKOCH award
Indore	The cleanest city by Swachh Survekshan Awards 2019
Thanga Darlong	First Atal Bihari Vajpayee Life Time Award
Indian Bank	Best Bank Award by Tamil Nadu government for meeting the needs of Women's Self-Help Groups (SHGs).
Arata Isozaki	2019 Pritzker Architecture Prize
Padmanaban Gopalan	Commonwealth Youth Award for the Asian region
Lydian Nadhaswaram	The World's Best' global talent contest for playing piano
Journalist and author Raghu Karnad	One of eight recipients of Yale University's 2019 Windham-Campbell Prize for his book "Farthest Field: An Indian Story of the Second World War"
BusinessLine Changemaker Of The Year	Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley
Swati Shingade	First prize of DD Mahila Kisan Award for 2018- 19
Kathak dancer Seema Mehta	Nari Shakti Puraskar'
American Karen Uhlenbeck	Abel Prize 2019 in mathematics
Marcelo Gleiser	2019 Templeton Prize

Leeladhar Jagudi	Vyas Samman 2018
Saina Nehwal	Sportsperson of the Year' at the annual Telangana Sports Journalists Association
President Ram Nath Kovind	Grand Order of the King of Tomislav
Amartya Sen	Oxford University's Bodley award
Manu Gulati	Martha Farrell Award

- Priyanka Dubey won Chameli Devi Jain Award for Outstanding Woman Journalist of 2018.
- Raghuram Rajan won Yashwantrao Chavan National Award 2018.
- The Biju Patnaik International Airport won Airport Service Quality (ASQ) award 2018.
- India's Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu won Doctor Honoris Causa (Doctor of Philosophy) University for Peace (UPEACE), Costa Rica.
- ACKO General Insurance won Golden Peacock Innovative Product Award – 2019

APPOINTMENTS

Person Appointed	Designation and Organisation
Hasmukh Adhia	Non-Executive Chairman of Bank of Baroda
Nagendra Nath Sinha	Chairman of National Highways Authority of India.
Anil Kumble	Chairman of ICC Committee
Ajit Kumar Mohanty	Director of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre
Randhir Singh	Chairman of the Coordination Committee of the 2022 Hangzhou Asian Games
Kaja Kallas.	First female Prime Minister of Estonia
Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah	President of Olympic Council of Asia.
M. R. Kumar	LIC Chairman
Pramod Sawant	Chief Minister of Goa
Gauri Sawant	First Transgender Election Ambassador

- Soumya Swaminathan appointed as Chief Scientist of the World Health Organisation (WHO).
- Padma Lakshmi appointed as United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Goodwill Ambassador.
- Mohammad Shtayyeh appointed as Prime Minister of Palestine.
- C Lalsawta appointed as First Chairman of Lokayukta in Mizoram.
- Subhash Chandra Garg appointed as Finance Secretary.
- Aamir Khan is Appointed as Brand Ambassador of PhonePe.

COMMITTEES

Committee on Insurance Scheme for Lawyers:

- The committee would also suggest modalities for the implementation of such a scheme and would submit its report within three months.
- The government of India has set up a five-member committee headed by Legal Affairs Secretary Alok Srivastava to examine issues related to framing of a structured scheme for providing insurance cover to advocates.

GOVT. SCHEME

PRADHAN MANTRI JI-VAN YOJANA

- Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas has launched the “Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN (Jaiv Indhan- Vatavaran Anukool fasal Awashesh Nivaran) Yojana for providing financial support to integrated Bioethanol Projects using lignocellulosic biomass and other renewable feedstock.
- The scheme aims to incentivise 2G Ethanol sector and support this industry by creating a suitable ecosystem for setting up commercial projects and increasing Research & Development in this area.

GRAM SAMRIDHI YOJANA

- Ministry of Food Processing Industries is set to launch Gram Samridhi Yojana — to foster the unorganised food processing sector concentrated in rural areas
- Out of Rs 3,000 crore, Rs 1,500 cr is being provided by the World Bank, Rs 1,000 crore by the Union government and Rs 500 crore shall be the state government’s contribution to the project.
- Under this plan, the ministry is expecting to disburse a loan of upto Rs 10 lakh to individual or a group interested in availing the credit facility along with interest subsidy.
- There is a provision for getting subsidy on bank interest by 3% to 5%
- In the initial phase the scheme will be run in Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Punjab for a five-year period and thereafter replicated in other states.

E-DHARTI APP AND PORTAL:

- Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Puri launched e-Dharti app where all the three modules- **Conversion, Substitution and Mutation** related to properties have been made online.
- The payment system in Land and Development Office, L&DO has also been completely digitized.
- Mr Puri also launched **e-Dharti GeoPortal**, through which the lessee of the property will be able to see the basic details of property along with map showing its location.
- This application will not only benefit public but the Government also in getting to know the actual status of its vacant properties, whether there is any **encroachment on the property**.

MUKHYAMANTRI ANCHAL AMRIT YOJANA:

- Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat launched the Mukhyamantri Anchal Amrit Yojana Under this scheme **2.5 lakh children at 20,000 Anganwadi Kendras** in the state will be given **100 ml milk twice a week for free.**

ATAL AAHAR YOJANA:

- The Maharashtra government, the Atal Aahar Yojana to provide good quality and hygienic food to **construction workers** at a highly subsidised rate.
- The Yojana will be implemented in some areas of the state on a pilot basis and later, its scope will be expanded.
- In the first phase, the target is to cover **20,000 workers** and provide them with good quality food at a nominal **cost of Rs five.**

IMPORTANT DAYS

- March 01: Zero Discrimination Day:** Theme 2019 is 'Act to change laws that Discriminate'.
- March 03: World Wildlife Day:** Theme 2019 – “Life Below Water: For people and planet”.
- March 04: National Security Day and National Safety Day.**
- 8th March** is Celebrated as **International Women's Day.** The theme for the year of 2019 is "**Think equal, build smart, innovate for change**"
- 10th March** is celebrated as **National Immunisation Day.** On this day Pulse Polio programme for 2019 has been launched.
- 14th March** is celebrated as **World Kidney's Day.** Theme 2019: **Kidney Health for Everyone Everywhere.**
- February 28: National Science Day:** Theme “Science for people and people for science”.

15 March 2019	World Sleep Day	Healthy Sleep, Healthy Aging
15 March 2019	World Consumer Rights Day	"Trusted Smart Products"
20 March 2019	World Sparrow Day	I Love Sparrows
20 March 2019	International Day of Happiness	Happier Together
21 March 2019	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	Mitigating and countering rising nationalist populism and extreme supremacist ideologies”.
21 March 2019	World Down Syndrome Day	
21 March 2019	World Poetry Day	
21 March, 2019	International Day of Forests 2019	Forests and Education – Learn to Love Forests
22 March 2019	World Water Day	Leave No One Behind.
23 March	Shaheed Divas or Martyr’s Day	-
23 March	World Meteorological Day	The Sun, the Earth and the Weather”

24 March	World Tuberculosis Day	'It's time
27 March	. World Theatre Day	-

BANKING AND FINANCIAL AWARENESS

- According to Central Statistical Office, GDP growth has been revised in the 2018-19 financial year to 7% from the 7.2%.
- IFFCO Tokio General Insurance launched 'Bank Locker Protector Policy', which is the first stand-alone bank locker cover offered by any insurance company.
- Income Tax Department will "only" issue refunds via the e-mode into bank accounts of taxpayers and they should link PAN with their accounts.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has formed Eight-member task force on the offshore rupee market for ensuring the stability of the currency which will be headed by Usha Thorat.
- The portal- PSBloansin59minutes.com has become the largest fintech online lending platform with loan sanctions exceeding over Rs 35,000 crore, as quoted by a report from Credit Suisse.
- Punjab National Bank has been ranked first among Public Sector Banks in the implementation of 'reforms agenda' acc. to EASE Reforms Index
- IDBI Bank and Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) signed a bancassurance agreement under which the lender will offer LIC's insurance products at its branches
- According to Moody's quarterly Global Macro Outlook, Indian economy is expected to grow at 7.3 per cent in 2019 and 2020.
- The government has given a nod to the IDBI Bank to handle import and export transactions with Iran.
- Hitachi Payment Services Pvt Ltd and State Bank of India launched their merchantacquiring joint venture - SBI Payment Services Pvt Ltd (SBIPSPL) for establishing a digital payments platform for India and other countries in the region. SBI has a 74% stake in the joint venture and 26% is with Hitachi Payment Service.

Visually Impaired Friendly Coins:

- PM Narendra Modi unveiled the new series of Visually Impaired friendly coins of in the denominations of **Re 1, Rs 2, Rs 5, Rs 10 and Rs 20.**
- India got the first Rs 20 denomination coin which is shaped in the form of a **12-edged polygon with a design of grains.**
- The coins are designed by the **National Institute of Design.**

RBI Eases Business Guidelines for White Label ATMs:

- Reserve Bank of India has allowed white-label ATM operators (WLAOs) to buy **wholesale cash from the RBI and currency chests**, source cash from any scheduled bank
- WLAOs can buy wholesale cash, **above a threshold of one lakh pieces** (and in multiples thereof) of any denomination

- **Banks can issue co-branded ATM cards** in partnership with the authorised WLAOs, and may extend the benefit of 'on-us' transactions
- WLAOs can **offer bill payment** and interoperable cash deposit services, subject to technical feasibility and certification by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- The operators can **display advertisements** pertaining to non-financial products/services anywhere within the WLA premises.

Childcare Facility by BoB:

- Bank of Baroda has become one of the first Public Sector Banks to launch a crèche/child daycare facility for children (6 months to 6 years of age) of its employees.
- The bank will bear 60% of the cost every month for each employee while 40% will be taken care by the parents.

UBI Join Hands with HDFC Life Insurance:

- **United Bank of India** has signed a bancassurance deal with private life insurer **HDFC Life Insurance Company**.
- Through this partnership, United Bank's customers will be able to take advantage of HDFC Life's expertise in life insurance products, distribution and customer service.

Relaxed Norms for Trade Credit Policy

- In a bid to give a leg-up to oil/ gas refining and marketing, airline and shipping companies, the Reserve Bank of India's amended Trade Credit Policy has allowed them to raise trade credits of up to \$150 million or equivalent per import transaction under the automatic route.
- For others, trade credits (TCs) can be raised up to \$50 million or equivalent per import transaction.

SBI and Bank of China

- State Bank of India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bank of China (BoC), third-largest bank in the world by capital size and one of the major players in the Chinese banking sector, to enhance business synergies between both the banks.

Doorstep Banking by SBI

- State Bank of India (SBI) has launched doorstep banking service for senior citizens over 70 years of age and differently-abled customers .
- Eligible customers can avail this service at a nominal fee of ₹100 per transaction for financial transactions and ₹60 for non-financial transactions
- This service will not be available for accounts operated jointly, minor accounts, and accounts of non-personal nature.

ICICI Lombard and MobiKwik Join Hands

- ICICI Lombard General Insurance, a leading non-life insurance company, has entered into a strategic partnership with MobiKwik, a digital financial services platform, to provide cyber insurance cover for the latter's mobile wallet users.
- The relationship aims to provide protection against unauthorised and fraudulent transactions online, across bank accounts, debit/credit cards and mobile wallets. The cyber-insurance can be availed digitally through the app at only Rs. 99 per month and with a sum insured of Rs. 50,000.
- The policy's validity is only for one month.

IDBI Recognised as Private Bank

- The RBI said that IDBI Bank has been categorised as a private sector bank for regulatory purposes with effect from January 21, 2019.
- This follows Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) acquiring 51 per cent of the total paid-up equity share capital of the bank.

Wings by Aviva Life Insurance

- Aviva Life Insurance has announced the launch of 'Wings', a specially designed mentorship program to empower the female workforce
- The program is an initiative of the SHE division of the company, for mentoring all the women employees.

Bandhan Bank to Acquire Gruh Finance

- Bandhan Bank has got the approval from RBI for the proposed acquisition of Gruh Finance.
- Gruh Finance Limited is a Housing Finance Company (HFC) recognized by the National Housing Bank (NHB).

WhatsApp to Tackle False Information

- WhatsApp has joined hands with NASSCOM Foundation, to tackle the challenge of misinformation. The aim of the partnership is to train 100,000 Indians to spot false information and provide tips and tricks to stay safe on WhatsApp.

MCCIL Becomes a Third-Country Central Counterparty

- Bank of England recognized Metropolitan Clearing Corporation of India Ltd (MCCIL) as a Third-Country Central Counterparty (TC-CCP)
- Metropolitan Clearing Corporation of India Ltd (MCCIL) has become the first clearing corporation in India to receive recognition as a Third-Country Central Counterparty (TC-CCP) by Bank of England for offering various clearing services to UK-based entities. The recognition has been granted under United Kingdom's Temporary Recognition Regime (TRR).

Domestic Systemically Important Banks

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced that SBI, ICICI and HDFC Banks would continue as Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) for 2018.
- SBI in the third bucket was setting aside 0.45 per cent of its assets as an additional capital requirement and have to set aside 0.60 per cent of its risk-weighted assets.
- ICICI Bank and HDFC which are in the fifth bucket are required to set aside 0.20 per cent Bank's capital requirement from 0.15 per cent now.
- RBI had initiated the recognition as D-SIBs from 2015 and places these banks in appropriate buckets depending upon their Systemic Importance Scores (SISs).

INDEX AND REPORTS

GLOBAL WELLNESS INDEX

- Canada ranked as the best country out of the 151 nations evaluated on the basis of 10 indicators according to the Global Wellness Index published by investment firm Letter One.
- Indicators consist of blood pressure, blood glucose, obesity, depression, happiness, alcohol use, tobacco use, exercise, healthy life expectancy and government spending on healthcare
- US has been ranked at 37th position.
- South Africa comes in the last, below Ukraine, Egypt and Iraq

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE INDEX

- India ranked first with the score of 133 among the 63 countries in the Consumer Confidence Index
- Conference Board Global Consumer Confidence Survey is conducted in collaboration with Nielsen.
- Philippines and US ranked at second and third position respectively
- South Korea has the most pessimistic consumers in the world.

IQAIR AIRVISUAL 2018 WORLD AIR QUALITY REPORT

- The IQAir AirVisual 2018 World Air Quality Report was compiled by Greenpeace in association with IQAir AirVisual.
- The index measures the presence of fine particulate matter PM2.5 in the air.
- The five most polluted cities in the world are Gurugram, Ghaziabad, Faridabad, Bhiwadi (India) and Faisalabad (Pakistan).

NATIONAL ANNUAL RURAL SANITATION SURVEY

- As per National Annual Rural Sanitation Survey (NARSS) 2018-19 Survey, 93.1% of rural Indian households now have access to toilets in comparison to 77% last year.

- It was conducted between November 2018 and February 2019, covering 92,040 households in 6,136 villages.
- The survey was commissioned by the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation
- 96.5% of people who had access to toilets, use them.
- Only four states — Goa, Odisha, Telangana and West Bengal — falling short of 100% coverage.

MONSTER SALARY INDEX:

- Men earn 19% more than women in India on an average.
- The gap has narrowed merely by 1% in 2018 from 20% a year ago
- Men (Rs 242.49) earned Rs 46.19 more in comparison to women (Rs 196.3).
- In IT/ITeS, there is a 26% pay gap in favour of men; in manufacturing, men earn 24% more than women; even in healthcare, caring services and social work, men earn 21% more than women.

TRENDS IN INTERNATIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS-2018 REPORT

- The report is published by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)
- The assessment was done for a five-year period (2014-2018).
- India has been superseded by Saudi Arabia and dropped down to become the second largest importer of weapons in the world.

WORLD GOLD COUNCIL REPORT

- As per the latest report by the World Gold Council (WGC), India has the 11th largest gold reserve, with the current holding pegged at 607 tonnes.
- India is the world's largest consumer of gold.
- US is on the top followed by Germany and International Monetary Fund.

WORLD HAPPINESS REPORT 2019

- World Happiness Report is released by United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network
- The report ranked 156 countries on "How happy their citizens perceive themselves to be"
- India ranked at 140th position.
- Finland topped the index followed by Denmark, Norway, Iceland and The Netherlands.
- South Sudan was the last country at 156th position.
- Six Parameters – Income, Freedom, Trust, Healthy Life Expectancy, Social Support and Generosity.

GLOBAL ECONOMIC OUTLOOK BY FITCH

- As per the Global Economic Outlook by Fitch, India's economic growth forecast has been reduced to 6.8% from 7% earlier for FY19-20 (1 April 2019 – 31 March 2020).
- The GDP forecast for FY19 (ending March 2019) has been slashed to 7.2% from 7.8%.

- The Indian economy is expected to do better in FY 21, with growth rate expected at 7.1%

WORLD AIRPORT TRAFFIC RANKINGS 2018

- Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) has now become the world's 12th busiest airport according to the preliminary World Airport Traffic Rankings 2018 released by Airports Council International.
- The ACI report states that the IGI airport witnessed 6.9 crore domestic and international flyers in 2018
- Atlanta-Hartsfield-Jackson Airport kept the top place and handled over 107 million passengers.
- Beijing Airport was at the second position

GLOBAL MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX 2018

- According to the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2018 Report prepared by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, India has reduced its poverty rate drastically from 55% to 28% in 10 years.
- The country still has the largest number of people living in multidimensional poverty in the world – 364 million people and Bihar was the poorest state in 2015-16.
- The report which covers 105 countries states that, 1.3 billion people in the world live in multidimensional poverty.

GLOBAL ENERGY TRANSITION INDEX

- India has secured rank 76th on a Global Energy Transition Index compiled by Geneva-based World Economic Forum (WEF)
- The index ranked 115 economies on how well they are able to balance energy security and access with environmental sustainability and affordability.
- Sweden remains on the top on this annual list followed by Switzerland and Norway in the top three.

SPACE AND SCIENCE

- India has become the fourth nation that has anti-satellite missile technology with successful completion of Mission Shakti that took just three minutes to complete.
- Anti-satellite weapons (ASAT) are space weapons designed to incapacitate or destroy satellites for strategic military purposes.
- Now, India is in league with United Nations, Russia and China.

Young Scientist Programme (Yuvika)

- Indian Space Research Organisation has launched a special programme for School Children called "Young Scientist Programme" "YUva Vigyani KARYakram" from this year, in tune with the Government's vision "Jai Vigyan, Jai Anusandhan".

- The Program aims at imparting basic knowledge on Space Technology, Space Science and Space Applications to the younger ones with the intent of arousing their interest in the emerging areas of Space activities.
- The programme will be of two weeks duration during summer holidays (second half of May 2019) and the schedule will include invited talks, experience sharing by the eminent scientists, facility and lab visits, exclusive sessions for discussions with experts, practical and feedback sessions.
- It is proposed to select 3 students each from each State/ Union Territory to participate in this programme covering CBSE, ICSE and State syllabus.
- Students belonging to the rural area have been given special weightage (20%) in the selection criteria.

MISCELLANEOUS

- India's first Braille laptop has been created by IIT-Delhi Scientists which is known as "DotBook"
- April 2019–March 2020' was declared as Construction-Technology year at two-day Expo-cum Conference on Construction Technology India 2019 (CTI-2019) was held in New Delhi
- Plastic Waste-Free India' Anthem has been produced by Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Smriti Manch (PDUSM) as a part of a campaign to make India plastic-free by 2022.
- Nayantara Sahgal's new novel – 'The Fate of Butterflies' has been unveiled.
- The 8th edition of India-Bangladesh joint military exercise - Sampriti 2019 was hosted at Tangail in Bangladesh.
- Malaysia has become the 124th member of the International Criminal Court (ICC).
- Google has launched a new app called Bolo to help students in India read in Hindi and English and work as a tutor of sorts. The app includes an Assistant called Diya which encourages children with their reading, understanding skill
- As per the latest report by the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC), India has been referred as Key Hub for Illicit Drug Trade.
- Richest Indian Mukesh Ambani ranked at 13th position on the Forbes World's Billionaire list with USD 50 billion wealth, jumping six positions
- World Bank shall provide \$250 million support to the National Rural Economic Transformation Project (NRETP) in order to boost rural income across 13 states on India.
- **Marayoor jaggery from Idukki, Kerala gets Geographical Indication (GI) tag.**
- **Erode Turmeric of Tamil Nadu** has finally received **GI tag** from the Geographical Indication Registry
- **Areca nut sector, 'Sirsi Supari' grown in Uttara Kannada, Karnataka** has received the Geographic Indication (GI) tag.
- The third bilateral joint defence exercise between **India and Oman – Al Nagah III** will be held at Oman.
- **Kane Tanaka, a 116-year-old Japanese woman** born on January 2, 1903, was honoured as the World's Oldest Living person by Guinness World Records.
- The Dictionary of **Martyrs of India's Freedom Struggle (1857-1947)** was released by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

- The famous biennial **Thakurani Jatra** festival began in Berhampur, Odisha.
- The first BRICS Sherpa meeting under the Presidency of Brazil was held in Curitiba, Brazil between 14-15 March 2019.
- Argentina and Colombia are poised to co-host the 2020 Copa America.
- The Special Olympics World Games 2019 began at Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE)
- Indian Railways Integral Coach Factory (ICF) becomes the single largest rail coach manufacturer in the world.
- Paris, Singapore and Hong Kong have jointly been named as the World's Most Expensive cities in 2019, according to Worldwide Cost of Living Survey by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).
- The Government of Indonesia has hosted the first ever High-Level Dialogue on IndoPacific Cooperation (HLD-IPC) in Jakarta. The theme of the HLD was "Towards a Peaceful, Prosperous, and Inclusive Region".
- Google has announced its fully-functional cloud gaming platform titled Stadia.
- Former Chief Election Commissioner of India Navin Chawla has launched its book 'Every Vote Counts'.
- Book - "The Great Disappointment: How Narendra Modi Squandered a Unique Opportunity to Transform the Indian Economy" – has been released by author Salman Anees Soz.
- India emitted 2,299 million tonnes of carbon dioxide in 2018, a 4.8% rise from last year, according to a report by the International Energy Agency (IEA).

