

CURRENT AFFAIRS OF APRIL 2019

Awards

- The Indian writer who has been awarded the Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize 2019 for his literary novel Solo – **Rana Dasgupta**
- The journalist of Pakistan's Dawn newspaper who has been awarded the 71st World Press Freedom Hero Award by the International Press Institute, Vienna (Austria) – **Cyril Almeida**
- The Reuters reporters at present imprisoned in Myanmar, who have been awarded the UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize 2019 – **Kyaw Soe Oo and Wa Lone**
- The Telugu poet who has been awarded the Saraswati Samman 2018 for his collection of poetry Pakkaki Ottigilite by the KK Birla Foundation – **K Siva Reddy**
- The highest civilian award of Russia which has been awarded to the Indian PM Shri Narendra Modi – **Order of the St Andrew, the Apostle**
- The Switzerland based NRI who has been awarded the Pravasiya Bharatiya Samman Award by the President of India – **Dr. Rajendra Joshi**
- The country which has conferred its highest civilian honour named Zayed Medal upon the Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi – **UAE**
- The integrated skill development programme launched by the Government of West Bengal with an annual target of 600,000 persons which has been awarded the World Summit on the Information Society Prize 2019 – **Utkarsh Bangla**

Sports

- The Australian female umpire who has become the first woman to be an umpire in men's one-day international – **Claire Polosak**
- The team which has won the 2nd Marshal of the Indian Air Force Arjan Singh Memorial International Hockey Tournament held in Chandigarh defeating South Central Railway in the finals – **Integral Coach Factory, Chennai**
- The Malayalam film which has won the Best Cinematography Award at the 2019 Beijing International Film Festival – **Bhayanakam**
- The team which has won the 73rd edition of Santosh Trophy football tournament defeating Punjab in the finals – **Services**
- The Indian women's cricketer who has been named Wisden's Leading Women's Cricketer in the World for 2018 – **Smriti Mandhana**
- The Indian cricketer who has been named Wisden's Leading Cricketer in the World for 2018 – **Virat Kohli**
- The former Australian hockey player who has been appointed as the coach of Indian national men's hockey team – **Graham Reid**
- The All India Football Federation president who has become the first Indian to be elected as the member of FIFA Executive Council for a period of 4 years – **Praful Patel**

- The team which has won the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup hockey tournament defeating India in the finals at Ipoh, Malaysia – **South Korea**
- The Thai badminton player who has won the Women's Singles title at the India Open badminton tournament in New Delhi defeating He Bingjiao of China in the finals – **Ratchanok Intanon**
- The Denmark badminton player who has won the Men's Singles title at the India Open badminton tournament in New Delhi defeating India's Kidambi Srikanth in the finals – **Viktor Axelson**

Places

- The city in which the first ever summit of North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un and Russian President Vladimir Putin was held recently – **Vladivostok**
- The African country in which the world's first malaria vaccine RTS, S was launched for children upto 2 years – **Malawi**
- The country which has released a commemorative stamp on the theme of Ramayana to mark 70 years of its diplomatic ties with India – **Indonesia**
- The village in West Imphal district of Manipur which has been tagged as India's first carbon positive settlement – **Phayeng**

Persons

- The former of CEO of Network 18 Digital who has been named the new MD of Twitter in India – **Manish Maheshwari**
- The former television serial comedian who has been elected the new President of Ukraine – **Volodymyr Zelensky**
- The renowned Hindi poet and humorist who passed away on 12 April 2019 – **Pradeep Chaubey**
- The well-known film actress who has been appointed as the industry head of Google India – **Mayuri Kango**

Defence

- The guided missile destroyer launched by the Indian Navy at Mazagaon Dock Shipbuilders, Mumbai is named – **INS Imphal**
- The place in China at which International Fleet Review was held from 21 April with participation of INS Kolkata and INS Shakti of the Indian Navy – **Qingdao**
- The 12th edition of joint military exercise between India and Singapore conducted at Babina Military Station in MP from 08 to 11 April 2019 – **Bold Kurukshetra 2019**
- The Air Force officer who has been appointed the new Chief of Strategic Force Command to replace Air Marshal Jasbir Walia – **Air Marshal NS Dhillon**
- The biennial bilateral maritime exercise conducted by the Navies of India and Australia off the coast of Visakhapatnam from 02 April 2019 – **AUSINDEX 2019**

Miscellaneous

- The rank of India in the Index of Cancer Preparedness 2019 released by Economist Intelligence Unit for 28 countries – **19**
- The HDFC promoted finance company with which the merger of Bandhan Bank has been approved by Competition Commission of India – **GRUH Finance**
- The name given by Hawaiian language professor Larry Kimura to the first ever black hole photographed by Event Horizon Telescope – **Powehi**
- The cloud management tool launched by Google allowing its users to run applications from anywhere is named – **Google Anthos**
- The railway station in North East Frontier Railway zone which has become the first in the country to be awarded ISO certification (ISO-14001) by the National Green Tribunal – **Guwahati**
- The country which has voted anti-corruption activist Zuzana Caputova to be its first female President – **Slovakia**

Launch of PSLV-C45

- Launch date: 01 April 2019 Launch station: SHAR, Sriharikota
- Indian Satellite launched: EMISAT (weight - 436 kg) intended for electromagnetic spectrum measurement.
- Foreign Satellites launched: Bluewalker1 and M6P (Lithuania); Aistechsatsat-3 (Spain); Astrocast-2 (Switzerland); Flock-4A (20 satellites) and Lemur (USA). Total 28

Important Days of April

World Autism Awareness Day: 02 April 2019 Theme: Assistive Technologies, Active Participation Designated by: UN General Assembly First Observed in: 2008	International Day for Monuments and Sites (World Heritage Day): 18 April 2019 Designated by: UNESCO Theme: Rural Landscapes First Observed in: 1983
International Mine Awareness Day: 04 April 2019 Designated by: United Nations General Assembly Theme: United Nations Promotes SDGs - Safe Ground, Safe Home First Observed in: 2006	International Mother Earth Day: 22 April 2019 Designated by: UN General Assembly Theme: Protect our species First Observed in: 2010 Note: Earth Day was first observed in 1970 in the United States and it went global in 1990. The same day was adopted by the UN in 2009 as the International Mother Earth Day.
International Day of Sport for Development and Peace: 06 April 2019 Designated by: United Nations General Assembly First Observed in: 2014	UN English Language Day: 23 April 2019 Designated by: UN Dept of Public Information First Observed in: 2010 Significance: Birthday of William Shakespeare
World Health Day: 07 April 2019 Designated by: World Health Organisation Theme: Universal Health Coverage: Everyone, Everywhere First Observed in: 1950	World Malaria Day: 25 April 2019 Designated by: World Health Organisation First Observed in: 2007 Theme: Zero malaria starts with me

International Day of Human Space Flight: 12 April 2019 Designated by: UN General Assembly First Observed in: 2011	World Intellectual Property Day: 26 April 2019 Designated by: World Intellectual Property Organisation First Observed in: 2000 Theme: Reach for Gold: IP and Sports
World Haemophilia Day: 17 April 2019 Designated by: World Federation of Haemophilia Theme: Reaching out - connect to your community First Observed in: 1989	World Day for Safety and Health at Work: 28 April 2019 Designated by: International Labour Organisation First Observed in: 2003 Theme: Safety and Health and the Future of Work

Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Awards 2019

- Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Award for music and art - **Smt. Sucheta Bhide-Chapekar** (Classical dancer)
- Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Lifetime award (Jeevan Gaurav Puraskar) - **Salim Khan** (Scriptwriter)
- Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Special Award - **Madhur Bhandarkar** and **Helen** for their contribution to Indian Cinema

World Press Freedom Index 2019

Released by: Reporters without Borders

Rank	Country	Rank	Country
1.	Norway	140	India
2.	Finland	142	Pakistan
3.	Sweden	177	China
4.	Netherlands	150	Bangladesh
5.	Denmark	126	Sri Lanka

Launch of satellites by Nepal and Sri Lanka

- Launched from: Virginia Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport
- Launch vehicle: Cygnus spacecraft on Antares 230 Rocket
- 1st satellite of Nepal: **Nepalisat 1**
- 1st satellite of Sri Lanka: **Raavana 1**

Stratolaunch - World's largest airplane

- Built by: Stratolaunch Systems Corp Maiden flight: Mojave desert, California
- Wingspan: 117 metres.
- Number of engines: 6 Boeing 747 engines Fuselage (body): 2
- Designed: To drop rockets and other space vehicles at an altitude of 35,000 feet.
- Note: **Stratolaunch is a company setup by Microsoft co-founder Late Paul Allen NIRF India Rankings 2019**

The President of India released 'NIRF India Rankings 2019' for Higher Education Institutions List of top ranking institute in each category is as follows:

1. Overall: **Indian Institute of Technology, Madras**
2. Management: **Indian Institute of Management, Bengaluru**
3. University: **Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru**
4. College: **Miranda House, Delhi**
5. Pharmacy: **Jamia Hamdard, Delhi**
6. Medical: **All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi**
7. Architecture: **Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur**
8. Law: **National Law School of India University, Bengaluru**
9. Engineering: **Indian Institute of Technology, Madras**