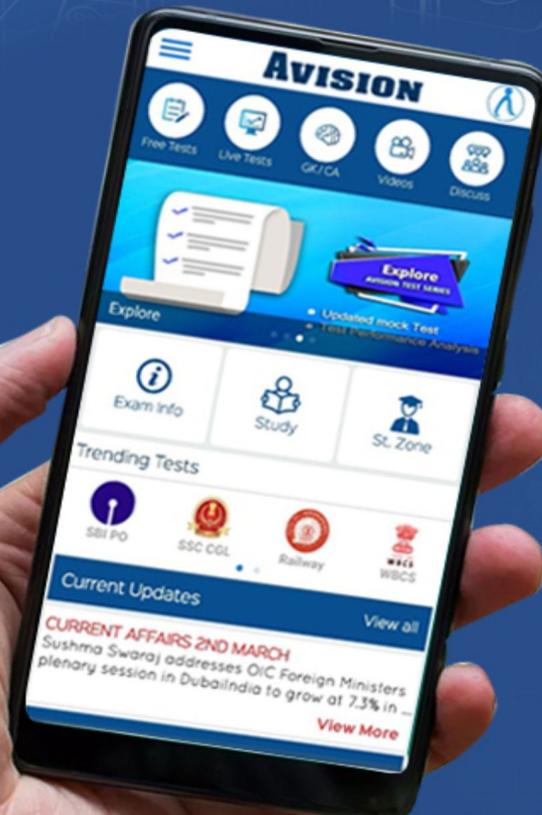


Weekly Current Affairs

14 April – 20 April, 2019

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National News

1. PayU acquires digital payments company Wibmo for \$70 million

- PayU, an online payment service provider and Naspers' fintech arm, announced the acquisition of Wibmo, a Cupertino, CA-based industry leader in digital payment security and mobile payment technologies.
- This acquisition will also help PayU accelerate its credit business by leveraging big data to power credit on various online and offline merchants in partnership with leading lending players.
- Wibmo will continue to operate and serve all of its clients as a wholly-owned subsidiary of Naspers' PayU under the leadership of Govind.

2. Airtel, FICCI Ladies Organisation launch women's safety app

- Telecom operator Bharti Airtel and the FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) launched a safety app My Circle - aimed at aiding women in event of distress or an emergency situation.
- The carrier-agnostic app can be installed by both Airtel and non-Airtel customers.
- "My Circle app enables women to send SOS alerts to any five of their family or friends in 13 languages including English, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, Marathi, Punjabi.

3. India drops down on World Press Freedom Index

- India has dropped two places on a global press freedom index to be ranked 140th out of 180 countries in the annual Reporters Without Borders analysis.
- The World Press Freedom Index 2019', topped by Norway, finds an increased sense of hostility towards journalists across the world. At the bottom of the Index, both Vietnam (176th) and China (177th) have fallen
- one place and Turkmenistan (down two at 180th) is now last, replacing North Korea (up one at 179th).

4. World Health Organization releases guidelines for digital health adoption

- World Health Organization (WHO) released 10 guidelines for how countries can use digital health tools to improve patient care.
- The guidelines were designed to help decision makers in government health departments, the public health sector and other stakeholders.
- The guideline demonstrates that health systems need to respond to the increased visibility and availability of information.

5. CRISIL board gives nod for transfer of ratings business to new subsidiary

- CRISIL Ltd, a diversified global analytics company, will transfer its ratings business to its proposed new wholly-owned subsidiary.

This segregation will have no impact on CRISIL's businesses, and the financial value to CRISIL's shareholders will remain unchanged.

- CRISIL proposes to undertake the transfer of its ratings business through a scheme of arrangement in terms of Section 230 to 232 of the Companies Act, 2013.

6. The 4th Resilient Cities Asia-Pacific Congress 2019 started in New Delhi

- The 4th Resilient Cities Asia-Pacific Congress 2019 organised by the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) and co-hosted by South Delhi Municipal Corporation started in New Delhi.
- The proposed themes that have been recognised for RCAP 2019 are: Integrated climate resilience planning to manage risks and vulnerabilities, Good governance and resilience, Nature-based solutions to adaptation, Climate knowledge brokering.
- It offers a lot of innovative solutions that build resilience to climate change at the sub-national level.

7. Essel World Launches India's First Foreign Interactive Bird Park in Mumbai

- India's first foreign interactive and exotic world park was inaugurated in Mumbai. Bird lovers are up for a treat with this interactive bird park in Mumbai.
- The park is equipped with small ponds for aquatic birds, dense cover of trees for birds to incubate their eggs and a water stream that offers drinking water to birds.
- The park is spread across 1.4 acres and is home to over 500 exotic birds from more than 60 species.

8. Veera'- Indian coast guard offshore patrol vessel deployed by General Bipin Rawat

- Indian Coast Guard vessel Veera has been commissioned by General Bipin Rawat, Chief of Army Staff in the presence of Director General of Indian Coast Guard Rajendra Singh.
- This is indigenously designed and built by Larsen & Toubro Ltd. at its shipbuilding facility at Kattupali in Chennai.
- Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) is commanded by Commandant Girish Datt Raturi and managed by 12 officers and 94 men.

International News & Foreign Affairs

1. New Palestinian authority govt led by PM Mohammed Ishtayeh sworn in

- A new government for the West Bank-based Palestinian Authority has been sworn-in.
- President Mahmoud Abbas picked Mohammed Ishtayeh as the Prime Minister, a move that is being said to have deepened the internal Palestinian divide at a time when prospects for a peace deal with Israel are possibly at their lowest point ever.
- The UN Middle East envoy Nickolay Mladenov has expressed hoped that the new government would receive support to overcome internal divisions.

2. 2019 Pulitzer Prizes Are Announced By Columbia University

- The Pulitzer Prize is an award for achievements in newspaper, magazine and online journalism, literature, and musical composition in the United States.
- Winners were picked in 14 journalism categories plus 7 in arts, letters and music. Each prize gets \$15,000 and the Public Service winner, the South Florida Sun-Sentinel, also received a gold medal.
- 2019 Pulitzer Prize winners: Public service- Staff of the South Florida Sun Sentinel, Criticism -Carlos Lozada of The Washington Post, Editorial writing- Brent Staples of the New York Times.

3. Saudi Arabia to host G20 leaders' summit in November 2020

- Saudi Arabia will host the annual G20 leaders' summit on November 21-22, 2020, in its capital, Riyadh.
- The G20 is made up of 19 of the world's biggest economies, as well as the European Union. It formed in 1999 to discuss policy matters and financial stability.
- Japan will host this year's G20 summit in Osaka, which will be held June 28-29, as well as ministerial meetings in eight cities.

4. Mukesh Ambani among TIME's list of 100 most influential people

- Mukesh Ambani and public-interest litigators Arundhati Katju and Menaka Guruswamy, are among the Indians who have been named by TIME magazine in its prestigious list of the 100 most influential people in the world.
- The list includes Indian-American comedian and TV host Hasan Minhaj, US President Donald Trump, Pope Francis, Chinese President Xi Jinping, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, iconic golfer Tiger Woods and Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg.

5. Israel's President Formally Nominates Benjamin Netanyahu as Prime Minister

- Israel's president formally nominated Benjamin Netanyahu for a fourth consecutive term as prime minister.
- The move was widely expected after Netanyahu's Likud party and its right-wing allies captured a majority of seats in parliamentary elections.
- He became the leader of Likud in 1993 and won the 1996 elections, becoming Israel's youngest-ever Prime Minister, serving his first term from June 1996 to July 1999.

Banking

1. Canara Bank becomes the first public sector bank in India to meet RBI's EMV mandate

- ACI Worldwide, a global provider of realtime electronic payment and banking solutions, announced that Canara Bank has successfully rolled out major new functionality to support EMV card acquiring across its ATM network and Aadhaar Authentication, leveraging ACI's UP Retail Payments solution to achieve market firsts.
- The EMV shift, as in other major global markets, is aimed at reducing lost and stolen card fraud and making counterfeit card fraud more difficult.
- The prime objective of the EMV shift is to reduce fraud of lost and stolen card and make forging of card fraud more difficult.

2. The IMF and World Bank launches "Learning Coin" to explore blockchain technologies

- The two global financial agencies The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank want to gain insights into how blockchain and cryptocurrencies work.
- To get a better understanding of the subject, they launched a private blockchain and quasi-cryptocurrency called "Learning Coin", the Financial Times reports.
- The World Bank and IMF emphasised that this project should not be regarded as a way to promote cryptocurrencies as it is focused on knowledge and educational aspects.

6. Bandhan Bank gets CCI nod for merger with Gruh Finance

- Bandhan Bank has received approval from the Competition Commission of India (CCI) for the proposed scheme of amalgamation of Gruh Finance with the bank.
- Bandhan Bank had, in January, announced the merger of Gruh Finance with it. The move was taken to bring down promoter holding in the bank to 61 per cent from 82.3 per cent.
- The bank, which had received RBI nod for the scheme, had recently got approval from the BSE and the NSE.

3. Exim Bank funds projects worth USD 267 mn in Rawanda

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Stated that Exim Bank has proffered soft loans worth 266.6\$ million to Rwanda for various projects.
- The funding, done in three separate tranches to Rawanda, is to support agricultural projects, development of special economic zones (SEZs) and for financing road project in the African nation.
- According to the agreements, Exim Bank will provide USD 100 million for financing the development of two SEZs and expansion of the Kigali SEZ in Rwanda.

4. RBI proposes to allow fintech start-ups to test regulatory sandbox

- The Reserve Bank of India proposed that fintech start-ups could set up regulatory sandbox or live-testing of innovative products and services in segments such as retail payments, money transfer, artificial intelligence and data analytics in the financial sector.
- The innovative products and services which could be considered for testing under RS include retail payments, money transfer services, marketplace lending, digital KYC and financial advisory services.
- The objective of RS is to provide a formal regulatory programme for testing new products and services with a customers in a live environment.

5. Deutsche Bank appoints Kaushik Shaparia as CEO to succeed Ravneet Gill

- Deutsche Bank appointed Kaushik Shaparia as the chief executive officer for India to succeed Ravneet Gill. Gill left the bank to head private lender YES Bank earlier this year.
- Shaparia served as Asia Pacific Head of Corp-orate Banking Coverage within
- Institu-tio-nal and Treasury Coverage, as well as Global Head of Subsidiary.
Headquarters: Germany

6. IDBI Bank launches paperless account opening facility for NRIs

- Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), living in nearly 40 countries, will now be able to open account in IDBI Bank without submitting paper documents.
- IDBI Bank has launched the 'NRI-Insta-Online' account-opening process for NRIs residing in Financial Action Task Force (FATF) member countries.
- The person will not be required to furnish physical documents and KYC proofs for opening an account with the bank.

New Appointments & Person in News

1. Mithali Raj named goodwill ambassador of Team India at the Street Child Cricket World Cup

- Indian women's cricket team captain Mithali Raj has been named the goodwill ambassador of Team India at the Street Child Cricket World Cup (SCCWC).
- The Street Child Cricket World Cup 2019 SCCWC is the first cricket world cup for street-connected children.
The tournament is being organised by Street Child United (SCU), a UK based
- organization.

2. Dr Suhel Ajaz Khan appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Lebanon

- Dr. Suhel Ajaz Khan presently Deputy Chief of Mission in the Embassy of India, Riyadh, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Lebanon.
- He completed MBBS from Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Medical college, Indore.

1. Chinese Grand Prix 2019: Lewis Hamilton wins F1's 1000th race

- Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes won Chinese Grand Prix, beating teammate and pole sitter Valtteri Bottas with a quicker start from his No. 2 spot on the grid. It was his sixth victory in the Shanghai race.
- Hamilton, the five-time and defending champion, led for the entire race after the quick start for his 75th career victory. It also moved him into the lead in the overall standings after three races.

Science Tech & Defence

1. CMFRI joins hands with ISRO to protect coastal wetlands

- The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) have joined hands to map, validate and protect smaller wetlands in the coastal belt of the country.
- As per the MoU, the two scientific institutes will identify and demarcate wetlands, and restore the degraded wetlands through suitable livelihood options like coastal aquaculture.
- The collaborative move is part of a national framework for fisheries and wetlands recently developed by the National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) project of CMFRI.

2. Airtel confirms it has received conditional nod for merger with TTSL

- Bharti Airtel has confirmed that it has received in-principal approval from the telecom department for merger with Tata Teleservices.
As per the agreement -Airtel will take in the Tata Group-owned telco's consumer mobile operations in 19 telecom circles.
- The deal will allow the Tata Group to rid itself of the loss-making mobility business, which has been a drag on the group's finances.

3. 2nd Edition of Indian Navy-Vietnam Peoples' Navy Bilateral Exercise 'In - VPN Bilat Ex' Concludes

- In the backdrop of the growing maritime engagement between India and Vietnam, the Indian Navy undertook the second edition of the bilateral maritime exercise between Indian Navy and Vietnam Peoples.
- The exercise was undertaken as a part of the ongoing Overseas Deployment of Eastern Fleet ships to South East Asian countries.
- The Indian Navy-Vietnam Peoples' Navy Bilateral Exercise is a significant step in further strengthening mutual confidence and inter-operability as well as sharing best practices between the Indian and the Vietnam Peoples' Navies.

4. NASA's Cassini Reveals Disappearing Lakes on Saturn's Titan Moon

- Fresh findings from NASA's Cassini mission shed light on the bizarre "water cycle" of Saturn's largest moon.
- Scientists suspect the lakes were formed when surrounding bedrock chemically dissolved and collapsed a process which occurs with a certain type of lake on Earth.
- Titan is the most Earth-like body in the solar system. It has lakes, canyons, rivers, dune fields of organic sand particles about the same size as silica sand grains on Earth.

5. Nepal launches its first satellite from USA

- Nepal successfully launched its first satellite NepaliSat-1 into space from America, evoking unbridled excitement among the people and scientists.
- The satellite developed by the Nepalese scientists was launched at 2:31 am (Nepal time) from Virginia in United States, according to Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST).
- NepaliSat-1 is a low orbit satellite which will be in the 400-km distance from the Earth's surface.

6. Gagandeep Kang is the first Indian woman scientist to be elected Royal Society Fellow in 360 years

- Dr Gagandeep Kang, who is purportedly the first woman scientist from India to have received this honour, while Mumbai-born Padma Bhushan awardee Dr Yusuf Hamied was elected as Honorary Fellow.

- Gagandeep Kang is the executive director of Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI), Faridabad.
- Apart from Hamied and Kang, four other Indian scientists became Royal Fellows.

7. Sri Lanka's 1st satellite 'Raavana-1' launched into space

- Sri Lanka's first satellite 'Raavana-1' was launched into space from NASA's Flight Facility on Virginia's east shore. 'Raavana 1' weights around 1.05 kg and the lifespan of the satellite is around one and a half years.
- The satellite was designed and built at the Kyushu Institute of Technology in Japan by two Sri Lankan research engineers.

8. NASA Chooses SpaceX to Launch Asteroid-Walloping Mission

- The company's Falcon Heavy rocket aced its first-ever commercial mission, lofting the huge Arabsat-6A communications satellite and sticking three first-stage booster landings, one of them on a ship at sea.
- The total launch cost for NASA will be about \$69 million, agency officials said.
- NASA announced that SpaceX will fly its Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) planetary-defense mission.

9. India successfully test fires sub-sonic cruise missile 'Nirbhay'

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully test fired 1,000 km strike range sub-sonic cruise missile named 'Nirbhay' from Odisha coast.
- India's Aeronautical Development Establishment has said the cruise missile is India's first indigenously designed and developed long-range missile.
- The successful test of the 1,000 km long range missile will definitely provide a boost to India's defence power.

Important days

1. World Haemophilia Day 2019 observed on 17 April

- Every April 17 World Haemophilia Day is recognised worldwide to increase awareness of haemophilia and other inherited bleeding disorders.
- This is a critical effort since with increased awareness comes better diagnosis and access to care for the millions who remain without treatment.
- On World Haemophilia Day we celebrate the theme of Reaching out - connect to your community.

2. World Lever Day is observed on 19 April

- The World Liver Day (WLD) is observed every year on April 19 to build awareness and understanding importance of liver in human body and how liver ailments are treated.
- The liver, which measures about 1,00 grams in weight and 15 cm in length, is the second largest organ and is key player in our body's digestive system.
- World liver Day 2019 theme is 'Riding New Waves in liver Diagnosis, Staging & Treatment.

Sports

1. Bajrang regains top spot in world wrestling rankings

- India's Bajrang Punia has regained the world number one spot in the men's 65-kilogram freestyle category rankings.
- Punia, who won Gold in the Asian Games and Commonwealth Games as well as a silver in the World Championships last year, secured 58 points ahead of Akhmed Chakaev of Russia.
- The rankings were released by United World Wrestling. He won gold at the Dan Kolov-Nikola Petrov tournament in Bulgaria last month.

2. Mumbai Shuttler Dani Clinches Dutch International badminton title 2019

- Former junior national champion Harsheel Dani rallied from a game down against Mads Christophersen of Denmark to clinch the Dutch International badminton title in The Hague, Netherlands.
- The 22-year-old won the Ghana international crown in 2018 second Karvy All India junior-ranking badminton tournament in 2012.

3. 2nd Marshal Arjan Singh Memorial International Hockey Tournament 2019 Kicks off at Chandigarh

- 2nd Marshal Arjan Singh Memorial International Hockey Tournament is being organised by Air Force Sports Control Board at Astro Turf Hockey Ground.
- The conduct of this Hockey Tournament is a befitting tribute to the legend and way to express our gratitude towards his contribution to the nation.
- Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Maintenance Command as the Chief Guest and declared the tournament open.

Books & Author

