

1-2 April 2019 Current Affairs



1) India's first-ever three-way consolidation of banks came into effect on 1 April 2019 as Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank merged into Bank of Baroda (BoB). BoB overtook which bank to become India's third largest bank? – **ICICI Bank**

(Beating private sector lender ICICI Bank, state-run Bank of Baroda (BoB) on 1 April 2019 become India's third largest bank after its merger with Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank came into effect. The total business of the merged entity stands at around Rs. 15 trillion. On the other hand with around 9,500 branches, BoB ranks second in India across all banks in terms of the number of branches. After the merger, the number of public sector banks (PSBs) has reduced to 19 from 21. BoB is now second largest PSB after SBI while PNB has been relegated to third place)

2) BSE's Sensex on 2 April 2019 closed above mark for the first-time ever? – **39,000 points**

(Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE's) Sensex on 2 April 2019 closed above 39,000 points mark for the first time in history as the index closed on 39,056 points, its highest close ever. It is worth mentioning that BSE's Sensex crossed the 39,000 points mark for the first time ever on 1 April 2019, the first day of the new financial calendar. But the rise in prices could not sustain gains as profit-taking emerged at higher levels.)

3) What will be the name of the new Japanese imperial era set to begin on 1 May 2019, as was announced on 1 April 2019? - **"Reiwa"**

(Japan's current era, Heisei, which began in 1989, will end with Emperor Akihito's abdication and the new era that will start from 1 May 2019 will be known as "Reiwa". While 'Rei' means "good" and "beautiful" as well as "order" or "command", 'Wa' means "peace" or "harmony")



4) Who assumed the charge as the new Chief Executive of the ICC on 1 April 2019? - **Manu Sawhney**

(Manu Sawhney, the ex-CEO of Singapore Sports Hub and ex-Managing Director of ESPN Star Sports on 1 April 2019 assumed charge as the new CEO of the International Cricket Council (ICC). He replaced David Richardson of South Africa, who will remain with the ICC until July 2019 to oversee the delivery of World Cup)



5) Google India head Rajan Anandan announced his resignation on 2 April 2019. He is joining which venture capital entity as its MD? - **Sequoia Capital India**

(Putting an end to his successful eight-year stint at Google, Rajan Anandan, vice president for Google South East Asia and India announced his resignation on 2 April 2019. He is Sequoia Capital India as a Managing Director. Anandan will continue his role at Google until the end of April 2019 while Vikas Agnihotri, Google India's director for sales, will take on the interim role while the company scouts for a new head)

3-8 April 2019 Current Affairs



1) What is the new Repo Rate after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) reduced it in its first bi-monthly monetary policy review of year 2019-20 on 4 April 2019? – **6%**

(The RBI on 4 April 2019 cut its repo rate, or the rate at which it lends to banks, by 25 basis points to 6%. This is the second consecutive rate cut from

RBI under new chief Shaktikanta Das, after a surprise rate cut in February 2019. The RBI also lowered its GDP growth outlook for 2019-20. RBI expects GDP growth at 7.2% for 2019-20, lower than its February projection of 7.4%

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2) India will purchase which naval helicopter of US, as was announced during April 2019? - MH-60 'Romeo' Seahawk

(India and the US agreed to a new defence agreement in which the US will sell 24 multi-role MH-60 'Romeo' Seahawk helicopters to India at an estimated cost of \$2.6 billion. The Lockheed Martin-built helicopters are designed for hunting submarines, targeting ships, and conducting search-and-rescue operations at sea. The helicopters are currently deployed with the US Navy)

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3) Private sector lender Lakshmi Vilas Bank is merging in which entity as was announced on 5 April 2019? - Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd.

(Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd (LVB) on 5 April 2019 announced that its board has approved a merger with mortgage financier Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd in an all-stock deal. The merged entity, to be called Indiabulls Lakshmi Vilas Bank, will be among the top eight private banks in India by size and profitability. LVB operated 569 branches and 1,046 ATMs across 19 states and one Union territory while Indiabulls is involved in providing home loans, loan against property to retail customer including MSMEs and businesses, lease-rental discounting and construction finance.

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4) Which entity overtook JSW Steel Ltd. to emerge as India's largest steel producer for year 2018-19? - Tata Steel

(Tata Steel Ltd.'s Indian steel output rose to a record in its latest financial year thanks to its 2018 acquisition of Bhushan Steel Ltd. assets, potentially

making Tata the country's biggest producer. Production rose 35% to 16.79 million tons in the year ended 31 March 2019. Tata's volumes are a tad higher than the 16.75 million tons targeted by JSW Steel Ltd., which was India's biggest steel mill in the previous fiscal year)

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5) Who was appointed the new CEO of Royal Enfield, the motorcycle brand of Eicher Motors Ltd? - VinodDasari

(Royal Enfield CEO Siddhartha Lal on 4 April 2019 initiated a transition in company by giving up his post and appointing Ashok Leyland Ltd.'s VinodDasari as the CEO of the company. It is worth mentioning that in 1997 Siddhartha's father VikramLal had stepped down as chairman of Eicher Motors and had elevated SubodhBhargava as the group's CEO and chairman. However, within a few years, Siddhartha Lal took over the reins at Royal Enfield, which was then on the verge of closure, and revived it)

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9-12 April 2019 Current Affairs



1) Scientific history was created when astronomers were successful in taking the first ever image of a black hole as was disclosed on 10 April 2019. This iconic photo was taken by which network of eight linked telescopes? - Event Horizon Telescope

(The first-ever picture of a black hole was taken by Event Horizon Telescope (EHT), a network of eight linked telescopes. The black hole photographed is 500 million trillion km away. Prof HeinoFalcke of Radboud University in the Netherlands was the proposer of this experiment while 29-year-old woman computer scientist Katie Bouman led development of a computer programme that made the breakthrough image possible.

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2) Which company has emerged as world's most profitable company after its financial results were disclosed for the first time ever during April 2019? - **Saudi Aramco**

(Saudi Arabia's giant oil company Saudi Aramco results were released by the Saudi Government first time ever on 1 April 2019. The company generated \$111.1 billion in net profits during 2018 and thus making it the world's most profitable company by far. It handily beat Apple (\$59.5 billion in net profits in 2018). Saudi Aramco is by far the biggest energy company in the world, generating nearly \$1 billion a day in revenues.



3) The United States Government on 8 April 2019 designated which Iranian armed corps as a foreign "terrorist organisation"? - **Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps**

(President Donald Trump on 8 April 2019 announced that his government has designated Iran's elite Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) a foreign "terrorist organisation". IRGC is Iran's most powerful security organisation and was set up to protect the country's Shia clerical ruling system after its 1979 Islamic Revolution. This is the first time the US has formally labelled another country's military a "terrorist group".

4) During April 2019 State Bank of India (SBI) bifurcated which important banking region as a separate circle? - **Mumbai Metropolitan Business region**

(SBI on 8 April 2019 launched Mumbai Metropolitan Business region as a separate circle. The new circle has been formed by bifurcating the Mumbai circle. The existing Mumbai circle has been bifurcated to form two circles- Mumbai (metro) and Maharashtra circle - with effect from 1 April 2019. The new circle is the bank's 17th circle. The erstwhile Mumbai circle covering Maharashtra and Goa State was the largest circle under the SBI's National Banking Group.



5) The world's first nationwide 5G mobile network was launched in which country during April 2019? - **South Korea**

(South Korea launched the world's first nationwide 5G mobile networks on 3 April 2019, two days earlier than the previously announced date of 5 April. Three top telecom providers - SK Telecom, KT and LG Uplus - began their 5G services at 11 pm local time on this day.



6) Who was appointed the new chief coach of Indian men's Hockey team by Hockey India (HI) on 8 April 2019? - **Graham Reid**

(Hockey India on 8 April 2019 named Australia's Graham Reid as the new chief coach of the Indian men's hockey team. He was part of the silver-medal winning Australian team at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics. The post was lying vacant since Harendra Singh was removed from the post after India's dismal performance in 2019 FIH Hockey World Cup in January 2019)

13-26 April 2019 Current Affairs



1) Which company successfully deployed an integrated solution for India Post under which over 1.5 lakh post offices in the country were modernized? - **TCS**

(India's largest IT company TCS on 22 April 2019 announced that it had deployed an integrated solution for India Post, modernising over 1.5 lakh post offices in the country. The move, which caters to mail operations, finance and HR functions, created the world's largest distributed e-postal network. This multi-year contract was for Rs. 1,100 crore.



2) The world's first-ever malaria vaccine was launched on 22 April 2019 in which country? – **Malawi**

(The world's first-ever malaria vaccine was launched in a pilot project in Africa's Malawi on 22 April 2019. Called 'RTS,S' (trade name Mosquirix), is to date the only vaccine that has demonstrated it can significantly reduce malaria in children. The project to develop this vaccine was undertaken by GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) and funded by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.)

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3) To look into the allegations of sexual harassment raised by a former employee against Chief Justice of India RanjanGogoi, a three-member committee of the Supreme Court judges was formed on 23 April 2019. Who is heading this committee? - **Justice S.A. Bobde**

(Justice S.A. Bobde, the no. 2 judge in the Supreme Court is heading the 3-member committee of judges to look into sexual allegations leveled against CJJ RanjanGogoi. The other two members of the committee are Justice N.V. Ramana and Justice Indira Banerjee. However, a day later Justice N.V. Ramana opted out of this committee)

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4) What is the name of the screenwriter and comedian who won the 2019 Ukrainian Presidential elections as he out-staged the incumbent Petro Poroshenko on 21 April 2019? – **Volodymyr Zelenskiy**

(41-year old Volodymyr Zelenskiy, a Ukrainian screenwriter, actor and comedian won a landslide victory in Ukraine's presidential election as he won over 70% votes. President Petro Poroshenko conceded the defeat. Zelenskiy is a political novice, apart from playing the role of Ukrainian President in a TV series. He will take over at a time when his country is facing numerous challenges, including a struggling economy and an ongoing war against Russia-backed separatist forces)

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5) What is the name of the company which developed the world's largest aircraft that made its first flight on 13 April 2019? – **Stratolaunch Systems Corporation**

(Stratolaunch Systems Corporation is the name of the American space transportation venture that developed world's largest aircraft with wingspan measures 385 feet. This company was founded by Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen and Burt Rutan. Stratolaunch aircraft's first flight flew on 13 April 2019 from Mojave (California).)

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6) Which iconic anniversary of the JallianwalaBagh Massacre was observed during April 2019? – **100th**

(On 13 April 2019, the 100th anniversary of the JallianwalaBagh Massacre in Amritsar was observed. On 13 April 1919, the British forces led by Brigadier General Reginald Dyer opened fire in JallianwalaBagh in Punjab's Amritsar on the Baisakhi day on thousands of unarmed and peaceful protesters, including women and children, killing hundreds of them. According to Indian sources, over 1,000 people lost their lives and more than hundreds of people were injured. British official records shows about 379 people died in the massacre. This massacre led to outpouring of anger against the British that finally led to their departure from India)

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7) What is the name of Nepal's first satellite that was launched on 18 April 2019? – **NepaliSat 1**

(NepaliSat 1 is the name of Nepal's first-ever satellite. It was from the Virginia-based station of NASA in the United States on 18 April 2018. This satellite will collect information about country's topography and Earth's magnetic field. It has been designed and built at the Kyushu Institute of Technology in Japan by two Nepali students – AbhasMaskey and HariramShreshtha)

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8) During April 2019 who became JamiaMillialIslamia's first-ever woman Vice-Chancellor? - **NajmaAkhtar**

(Delhi's JamiaMillialIslamia got its first woman vice-chancellor as President Ram NathKovind has approved the name of NajmaAkhtar for the post on 11 April 2019. She has four decades of academic scholarship in educational leadership)

9) Which global IT behemoth hit the trillion-dollar valuation mark for the first time ever on 25 April 2019? - **Microsoft Inc.**

(Microsoft hit the trillion-dollar value mark on 25 April 2019 for the first time, becoming the third technology giant to reach the symbolic milestone. At its current levels, Microsoft is the world's most valuable company, ahead of Apple and Amazon, which last year topped \$1 trillion before slipping back)

10) Which team won football's Santosh Trophy for 2018-19 after winning the final on 21 April 2019? - **Services**

(The Services team defeated Punjab in the final of the 2018-19 Santosh Trophy for football on 21 April 2019 by defeating Punjab in the final by 1-0 and thus retained the title. This is overall 6th Santosh Trophy title for services. This tournament is one of the prestigious football tournament in India that was founded in 1941)

27-30 April 2019 Current Affairs



1) On 29 April 2019 which created a new record in Indian aviation history by becoming the first to fly a plane without additional fuel? - **Air India**

(A Boeing 787 Dreamliner flown by Air India from Delhi landed at the Hyderabad airport on 29 April 2019 without provision for additional fuel. This was India's first flight to be operated without carrying any additional fuel. This new procedure is called 'Dispatch with No Destination Alternate'. Regulations require every aircraft to carry additional fuel to fly to an alternative airport in case of flight diversion. However, this procedure is carried out after fulfilling numerous conditions.



2) Former Indian Army Chief General (Retired) Dalbir Singh Suhag was on 25 April 2019 named India's next High Commissioner to which country? - **Seychelles**

(General Suhag (Retd.) was appointed as India's next High Commissioner to the island nation of Seychelles. He was the Army Chief from 1 August 2014 to 31 December 2016. His appointment is being seen in the light of India's attempts to build a coast guard facility in Seychelles' Assumption Island in a bid to increase its presence in the Indian Ocean region. Suhag is replacing Dr.AusafSayeed who was holding the post since February 2017.

3) India's largest vehicle manufacturer Maruti Suzuki is going to stop manufacturing diesel vehicles from which date, as was disclosed by the company on 25 April 2019? - **1 April 2020**

(Maruti Suzuki on 25 April 2019 announced that it will stop manufacturing diesel vehicles from 1 April 2020 when the new BS VI emission norms will be introduced. The high cost of upgrading existing diesel engines to the BS VI norms propelled the company to take such a decision.

4) How much rate of interest on Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) for 2018-19 was approved by the Union Finance Ministry, as was disclosed on 26 April 2019? - **8.65%**

(The Finance Ministry has approved 8.65% rate of interest on EPF for 2018-19 as decided by retirement fund body EPFO. The interest rate on EPF was hiked to 8.65% for the last fiscal from 8.55% provided in 2017-18.

5) Which private sector bank reported its first-ever quarterly loss, as declared on 26 April 2019? - **Yes Bank** (Private sector lender YES Bank posted a net loss of Rs. 1,506.64 crore in the fourth quarter of 2018-19. This was the first net loss for the bank since 2004. The bank's provisions shot up to Rs. 3,661.70 crore for the January to March 2019 quarter, against Rs. 399.64 crore in the same period a year ago)