



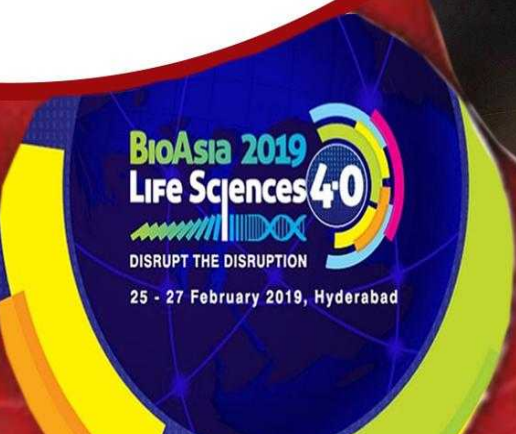
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APRIL - 2019

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Main Office @

Weshine Study Circle

Chromepet, Chennai

Phone: 8939144344, 8939244344

Branch Office @

Weshine Study Circle

Plot No: 47/60, "AK" Block,
7th Main Road, Anna Nagar
Chennai, Tamil Nadu – 600 040.

3rd Floor, West Wing, Gokul Arcarde,
No.2, Sardar Patel Road, Adyar
Chennai, Tamil Nadu – 600 020.

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NATIONAL NEWS

- **Russia awards PM Narendra Modi with highest state honour**
 - Russia awarded its highest state honour ‘Order of St Andrew the Apostle’ to PM Narendra Modi for exceptional services in promoting special and privileged strategic partnership between the **Russian Federation and the Republic of India and friendly relations between the Russian and Indian peoples.**
- **Varanasi: third most polluted city**
 - According to the ‘Political Leaders Position and Action on Air Quality in India 2014 – 2019’ report, the air quality in **Varanasi is ranked third on the WHO’s list of 15 most polluted cities in the world.**
 - Fourteen of the 15 most polluted cities in the world, listed by World Health Organisation (WHO) are in India, of which four are in Uttar Pradesh.
 - **Kanpur is the most polluted city in the world.**
- **Election Commission invokes Article 324 to defer PM Modi biopic**
 - India’s **Electoral Commission** has issued an order to ban display of any biopic or publicity material during Model Code of Conduct, which could sub serve the purposes of any political entity or any individual entity connected to it.
- **Key points**
 - The ban was concerned with the **biopic film on Prime Minister Narendra Modi.**
 - Election Commission has invoked powers under **Article 324 that prohibits** display/exhibit any biopic/publicity material when Model Code of Conduct is in force.
- **India to be Guest of Honour country at ADIBF 2019**
 - UAE has announced that **India will be the Guest of Honour country at the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair, ADIBF 2019**, to be held from 24th to 30th of this month. The fair aims to highlight the UAE’s rich heritage, showcasing its authenticity and modernity, as well as its cultural and literary output.
 - The Indian Pavilion will host Indian writers, authors and literary scholars who will serve as ambassadors for the literature and art of their country.

SPORTS

- **Wisden's Five Cricketers of the Year for 2018**
 - The Wisden has named **Virat Kohli** as the Leading Cricketer of the Year for 2018.
 - **Wisden Cricketer of the Year**
 - India Skipper Virat Kohli is joined by Tammy Beaumont, Jos Buttler, Sam Curran and Rory Burns.
 - Indian player **Smriti Mandhana bagged the Women's Leading Cricketer of the Year.**
 - Rashid Khan of Afghanistan bagged the Leading T20 Cricketer of the Year.
- **Eni Nuraeni: Best Athletic Coach in Asia**
 - Indonesian **Eni Nuraeni** was named by **Asian Athletic Association (AAA)** as the best athletic coach in Asia for the short-haul run category in 2019.
 - It was announced by Indonesian athletic sports association (PB PASI)
 - Eni coaches young sprinter Lalu Muhammad Zohri to win the 100m gold medal in 10.20 seconds in the 2019 Grand Prix Malaysia Open athletics championships.

APPOINTMENTS

- **Vikram Nath appointed as first Chief Justice of new Andhra Pradesh High Court**
 - **Justice Vikram Nath**, the senior most judge of Allahabad High Court, was appointed as the first **Chief Justice** of the newly-constituted **Andhra Pradesh High Court.**
- **Gargi Kaul designated as new Secretary, Defence Finance**
 - On 9th April 2019, **Gargi Kaul**, a 1984-batch officer of the Indian Audit and Accounts Service (IA&AS) was appointed as the **secretary, Defence Finance** as part of a bureaucratic reshuffle. The senior bureaucrat, Kaul currently serving as **Financial Advisor** (Defence Services), **Ministry of Defence.**

- **Karnam Sekar to take over as MD, CEO of Indian Overseas Bank**
 - The government said **Karnam Sekar**, MD and CEO of the erstwhile Dena Bank, **will take over as MD and CEO of Indian Overseas Bank** from July 1. His term will end in June next year. He will work as officer on special duty and whole-time director with IOB till the end of June this year.
 - Also, **R A Sankara Narayanan**, former MD and CEO of Vijaya Bank, will move to **Canara Bank** in the same position. His term will end in January 2020.
 - **Extra info.:**
 - **Indian Overseas Bank Headquarters: Chennai**

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- **A new technique “dual PWS” developed by the researchers to study the movement of cells**
 - On 12th April 2019, a new technique named **dual-PWS**, has been developed by the researchers **to study the movement of cells without** using labels or dyes
- **SpaceX carries out first commercial launch with Falcon Heavy rocket**
 - On 11th April, 2019, SpaceX carried out its first commercial operational mission by launching its Falcon Heavy rocket to place a Saudi telecoms satellite into orbit operated by **Arabsat**.

AWARDS

- **Digital Sukoon founder, Sudhanshu Kumar receives Best Digital Agency award**
 - **Digital Sukoon founder, Sudhanshu Kumar** was honoured with the **Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Nobel Award by International Human Rights Council** at Hotel Sea Princess Juhu Mumbai.
 - Among the awardee, Digital Sukoon was **the Best Digital Agency of the Year 2019** to receive the award.

IMPORTANT DAYS

- **The International Day of Human Space Flight is observed on April 12**
 - The day marks the anniversary of the **first ever human space flight** undertaken by **Yuri Gagarin**, a Soviet citizen on **April 12, 1961**. This day is also celebrated as '**Cosmonautics Day**' in Russia since **1963**.
 - Gagarin's **Vostok 1** space flight executed one orbit around the Earth over 108 minutes and the spacecraft was propelled by Vostok-K launch vehicle.
 - The day was initiated in 2011 by United Nations through resolution, A/RES/65/271.


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