

**Financial Awareness - April 2019**

- SC strikes down as ultra vires the Feb 12 RBI circular that mandates banks to initiate resolution/restructuring of loans of Rs 2,000 crore and above within six months from the date of default
  - RBI sets the limits for Ways and Means Advances (WMA) for the first half of the financial year 2019-20 (April 2019 to September 2019) at Rs 75000 crore.
  - RBI changes disclosure norms for banks on material divergences on provisioning. Banks will now have to disclose their provisions if the divergence found is more than 10% (earlier 15%) of the bank's profit before provisioning and contingencies
  - US approves sale of 24 MH 60 Romeo Seahawk helicopters made by Lockheed Martin to India for USD 2.6 bn
  - India signs agreement with NABCONS (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Consultancy Service) for setting up India-Africa Institute of Agriculture and Rural Development (IAIARD) in Malawi
  - Policy repo rate under LAF (liquidity adjustment facility) cut by 25 basis points to 6.0% from 6.25%. Repo rate is the rate at which the RBI lends money to the commercial banks, in case of any shortfall of funds.
  - Reverse repo rate under the LAF stands adjusted to 5.75% and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate to 6.25%
  - Satish Magar takes over as new national president of Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India (CREDAI)
  - GST revenue collection touches record high level of Rs 106577 crore in March 2019
  - Bank of Baroda (BoB) becomes 2nd largest PSU bank after SBI after merging Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank into itself
  - Lakshmi Vilas Bank to merge with Indiabulls Housing Finance
  - Bank of India to sell 25.05% stake in its insurance JV Star Union Dai-ichi Life Insurance Co for Rs 1,106 crore
  - NASSCOM appoints WNS Global Services Group CEO Keshav Murugesha as its Chairman for 2019-20
  - NIIT Technologies Ltd. signs agreement to acquire Hyderabad-based WHISHWORKS IT Consulting
  - RBI unveils guidelines for banks to set up new currency chests, which include minimum area of 1,500 square feet for strong room
  - SUN Group Chairman Vikramjit Singh Sahney elected new President of International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) – India Hong Kong's stock market overtakes Japan to be world's third largest behind the US and mainland China
  - Google Pay launches gold buying, partners MMTc-PAMP
  - Vikram Kirloskar, CMD of Kirloskar Systems Ltd, appointed new President of CII for 2019-20
  - GIC CMD Alice G. Vaidyan awarded Freedom of the City of London for promoting insurance ties between India and the UK
  - UK, European Union agree to extend Brexit until 31<sup>st</sup> Oct
  - Foreign investment of Indian companies declines 34% to US\$ 20.65 billion in 2018-19 from US\$ 31.53 billion in 2017-18: RBI
  - Online payment service provider PayU announces acquisition of US-based financial technology firm Wibmo for \$70 million
  - Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) prevails over the Bankruptcy Act and insolvency code when it comes to attachment of properties obtained as 'proceeds of crime': Delhi High Court
  - Indians in TIME magazine's list of 100 Most Influential People: Mukesh Ambani, Arundhati Katju & Menaka Guruswamy
  - TCS revamps 150,000 post offices under Rs 1,100-cr deal with India Post
  - Tata Global Beverages Ltd (TGBL) to acquire branded tea business of Kolkata-based Dhunseri Tea and Industries Ltd
  - RBI divests its entire stake in National Housing Bank (NHB) and the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) for Rs 1,450 crore and Rs 20 crore, respectively
  - SC directs RBI to disclose information related to wilful defaulters under RTI Act
  - RBI permits Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPI) to invest in municipal bonds
  - RBI extends coverage of Ombudsman Scheme for non-deposit taking NBFCs having asset size of Rs 100 crore or above
  - Finance Ministry approves 8.65% rate of interest on Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) for 2018-19
- General Awareness - April 2019**
- Air pollution caused over 1.2 million deaths in India in 2017: 'State of Global Air 2019'
  - WhatsApp provides users control on who can add them to groups
  - UAE honours PM Narendra Modi with Zayed Medal – its top civilian honour

- Japan's new imperial era beginning May 1, 2019 named 'Reiwa', Prince Naruhito to succeed his father Emperor Akihito
- Pakistan cricket player Shahid Afridi's biography 'Game Changer' to release on April 30
- Eros Motion Pictures and Benchmark Pictures announce release of a 10 part-original web series on PM called 'Modi: Journey Of A Common Man'. Umesh Shukla is the director of web series
- Vadodara-based artist Raju Baraiya selected 'Glenfiddich's Emerging Artist of the Year 2019
- World Autism Awareness Day observed on April 2 with its theme as 'Assistive Technologies, Active Participation'
- More than 113 million people across 53 countries experienced "acute hunger" in 2018 because of wars and climate disasters: FAO
- Govt extends deadline for linking PAN with Aadhaar by six months till Sept 30
- Cities around the world marked Earth Hour on March 30 by turning off lights at 8:30 p.m. local time in a call for global action on climate change
- Pakistan's High Commissioner to India Sohail Mahmood appointed country's new foreign secretary
- Zuzana Caputova elected first female President of Slovakia
- PSLV-C45 launches EMISAT (electronic intelligence satellite) and 28 other satellite of foreign countries from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota
- Eminent theatre organiser and playwright Kartik Chandra Rath dies in Cuttack at the age of 70
- UAE scraps 'profession' criteria, makes income only requirement for expats to sponsor family
- Pakistan: Military courts cease to function after four years
- Saurav Ghosal becomes first Indian to enter top-10 of men's world squash rankings
- National Maritime Day observed on April 5 with its theme as 'Indian Ocean-An Ocean of opportunity'
- Indian Army Chief General Bipin Rawat inducted into the International Hall of Fame at his alma mater, the Command and General Staff College in Fort Leavenworth (USA)
- Tamil Nadu renames Chennai Central Railway Station as Puratchi Thalaivar Dr MGR Central Railway Station after late Chief Minister and AIADMK founder M.G. Ramachandran.
- Vehicles eligible under the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles II (FAME II) scheme can cumulatively save 5.4 million tonnes of oil equivalent over their lifetime: NITI Aayog
- Former Under Secretary of United States Treasury Department, David Malpass, appointed President of the World Bank Group
- NASA's Parker Solar Probe completes its second close approach to the Sun
- International Day of Sport for Development and Peace observed on April 6
- All India Football Federation President Praful Patel becomes 1st Indian to be elected as member of FIFA Executive Council
- Maldives: President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih's party declares a sweeping victory in the country's parliamentary elections
- World Health Day observed on April 7 with its theme as 'Universal health coverage: everyone, everywhere'
- International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda observed on April 7. Over 800,000 people were slaughtered in genocide from April 7 to July 4, 1994
- The fourth edition of the Indian rankings based on the [National Institutional Ranking Framework \(NIRF\) 2019](#) announced by President Ram Nath Kovind. IIT Madras is best higher education institution, IISc Bangalore is best university, Miranda House (Delhi) is best college
- Vice Admiral Bimal Verma moves Armed Forces Tribunal after being superseded for Navy Chief post but later withdraws his petition challenging his supersession
- SC directs EC to raise random matching of VVPAT slips to 5 booths per assembly segment for LS polls
- Maldives: Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) of President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih wins Parliamentary elections
- Actress Nadja Regin, best known for starring in James Bond films 'From Russia With Love' and 'Goldfinger', dies at 87
- Centre clears the acquisition of 464 T-90 main battle tanks for Indian Army
- Chhattisgarh: BJP MLA Bheema Mandavi and four others killed in Naxal attack in Dantewada
- 54th Valour Day of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) observed on April 9
- India highest recipient of remittances at \$79 billion in 2018: World Bank's Migration and Development Brief Home minister
- Rajnath Singh's biography titled 'Rajneeti' to release in May; written by Gautam Chintmani
- Vikram Nath appointed as first Chief Justice of new Andhra Pradesh High Court
- National Mission for Clean Ganga (Namami Gange) wins 'Public Water Agency of the Year' award at Global Water Summit in London
- RailTel turns 1600 railway stations into RailWire Wi-Fi zone
- Nepal flags off team to remeasure height of Mount Everest
- New Zealand: Parliament votes to ban all types of semi-automatic weapons and assault rifles

- World Homeopathy Day observed on April 10, birth anniversary of the founder of Homeopathy Dr. Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann (born 1755, Germany)
- Virat Kohli and England's Tammy Beaumont, Jos Buttler, Sam Curran and Rory Burns are the 5 Wisden Cricketers of the Year
- SC imposes fine of Rs 20 lakh on West Bengal govt for banning film 'Bhobishyoter Bhoot'
- West Bengal govt. schemes 'Utkarsh Bangla' (skill training of youth) and 'Sabooj Sathi' (cycles for students) win World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) awards of UN
- Colonel Raj Kapoor, the Director who introduced Shah Rukh Khan with TV show 'Fauji' dies at 87
- Professor Najma Akhtar appointed 1st woman vice-chancellor of Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi
- With 57.2 million likes, PM Modi is the most popular world leader on Facebook followed by Donald Trump (23 million likes)
- India's population grew at an average annual rate of 1.2% between 2010 and 2019 to 1.36 billion: UN Population Fund
- WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange arrested at the Ecuadorian Embassy in London after Quito withdrew his political asylum
- Rio Paralympics silver medallist Deepa Malik gets NZ PM's Sir Edmund Hillary Fellowship for 2019
- Russia awards its highest state honour 'Order of St Andrew the Apostle' to PM Modi
- International Day of Human Space Flight was observed on April 12
- Israeli spacecraft Beresheet crashes in attempt to reach moon
- Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo, Reuters journalists jailed in Myanmar, awarded 2019 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano Press Freedom Prize
- Inzamam-ul-Haq (Pakistan) and Mark Boucher (South Africa) elected as the Honorary Life Members of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC)
- New Years on April 14: Vaisakhi (Punjabi) and Puthandu Pirappu (Tamil)
- New Years on April 15: Vishu (Malayali), Rongali Bihu (Assamese), Naba Barsha (Bengali) Nation pays homage to martyrs of Jallianwala Bagh massacre (13.04.1919) on its centenary
- Gopalganj to Raisina-My Political Journey", book co-authored by RJD chief Lalu Prasad and Nalin Verma, released Google opens an artificial intelligence (AI) research laboratory in Accra, Ghana to address economic, political and environmental issues
- English translation of Nanak Singh's 'Khuni Vaishakhi' released to mark Jallianwala Bagh massacre centenary
- Bharti Airtel and FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) launch My Circle safety app for women
- World's largest aircraft, which has a wingspan of 385 feet and is 238 feet long, completes its first flight test in US; developed by Stratolaunch
- Mohammed Ishtaye sworn in as new Palestinian PM in Ramallah
- India successfully test-fires long-range sub-sonic cruise missile 'Nirbhay' from a test range in Odisha
- redBus ropes in M. S. Dhoni as brand ambassador
- inland elections: Social Democratic Party (SDP) wins highest number of seats (40) in the new 200-seat Parliament Eduskunta
- MP: 'Durjanpur' village in Katni district to be renamed as 'Shivdham'
- Boost appoints cricketers Rishabh Pant and Shreyas Iyer as brand ambassadors
- 'Widow of Silence' bags the Grand Jury Award at the 17th edition of the Indian Film Festival of Los Angeles
- 'The Overstory' by Richard Powers awarded Pulitzer Prize for Fiction
- Paris: 850-year-old cathedral Notre-Dame gutted; main structure 'saved'
- NASA's new exoplanet hunter Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) finds Earth-size planet
- Women's cricketer Mithali Raj named goodwill ambassador of the Indian team for the Street Child Cricket World Cup
- Hyundai Motor India unveils its new compact SUV Venue
- Full form of DIPAM: Department of Investment and Public Asset Management
- Bajrang Punia regains World No: 1 spot in men's 65kg freestyle category in United World Wrestling rankings
- Israel: President Reuven Rivlin reappoints Benjamin Netanyahu as PM after election results
- 20 States/UTs have so far joined a pan-India network of single emergency helpline number '112' immediate assistance can be sought by anyone in distress on this number
- Nepal: India rebuilds Chhyoiphel Kundeling monastery in Sindhupalchok district
- Indian Navy launches guided missile destroyer Imphal at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders in Mumbai
- UN observes April 20 as Chinese Language Day
- Civil Services Day observed on April 21
- Sri Lanka: 215 killed as blasts hit 3 churches, 3 luxury hotels on Easter in Colombo, Negombo and Batticaloa
- Indonesia: Mount Agung volcano erupts on Bali Island
- Services beat Punjab in final 1-0 to win Santosh Trophy football title in Ludhiana
- Services beat Punjab in final 1-0 to win Santosh Trophy football title in Ludhiana

- Earth Day celebrated on April 22 with its theme as 'Protect our Species'
- Malawi to spearhead large scale pilot tests for the world's most advanced experimental malaria vaccine called Mosquirix developed by GlaxoSmithKline in partnership with the PATH Malaria Vaccine Initiative
- Asian Wrestling Championship in China: Bajrang Punia wins gold in men's 65 kg, Praveen Rana wins silver in men's 79 kg, Satywart Kadian wins bronze in men's 97 kg
- 2nd edition of Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize awarded to author Rana Dasgupta for his 2010 novel 'Solo'
- Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) stays EC order suspending IAS officer Mohammed Mohsin for checking PM's helicopter in Odisha
- Army starts process to induct women as jawans in military police
- Former Indian Army Chief General Dalbir Singh Suhag appointed High Commissioner of India to Seychelles
- SC appoints its former judge Justice A K Patnaik to probe allegations of larger conspiracy to frame CJI Ranjan Gogoi
- Maruti Suzuki India to discontinue sale of diesel cars from April 2020
- World Malaria Day observed on April 25 with its theme as: 'Zero malaria starts with me'
- Manu Bhaker & Saurabh Chaudhary win gold in 10m Air Pistol Mixed team event
- Anjum Moudgil & Divyansh Singh Panwar win gold in 10m Air Rifle Mixed Team event
- TN: SC stays Justice (Retd.) A. Arumughaswamy Inquiry Committee's probe into the death of former CM J Jayalalithaa
- World Intellectual Property Day observed on April 26 with its theme as 'Reach for Gold: IP and Sports'
- International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day observed on April 26
- Politics of Jugaad: The Coalition Handbook', book authored by journalist Saba Naqvi, released
- US imposes visa sanctions on Pakistan after it refused to take back its citizen deportees and visa over-stayers
- Facebook announces ban on personality quiz apps on its platform
- Cyclone Fani in South East Bay of Bengal likely to turn into a severe cyclonic storm
- National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) asks 5 states to stop the sale of Johnson & Johnson baby shampoo as the product tested positive for formaldehyde
- World Day for Safety and Health at Work observed on April 28
- US remains world's biggest military spender in 2018 with \$649 billion (+4.6%), accounting for 36% of total global military expenditure
- International Dance Day celebrated on April 29