

ISRO launches earth observation satellite RISAT-2B

India successfully placed into orbit a radar imaging earth observation satellite RISAT-2B in a text book style. **PSLV-C46** has successfully injected RISAT-2B in precise orbit. According to Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), India's new earth observation satellite up in the sky will send good clarity images which will be used for agriculture, forestry and disaster management support.

This was **the 72nd launch vehicle** mission from the Sriharikota Range.

Debit card PoS swipes rise 27% as per RBI data

Indians are increasingly using their debit cards to pay merchants directly. As per data from the Reserve Bank of India, debit card swipes on Point of Sales (PoS) terminals jumped more than 27% in March 2019 compared to corresponding period last year. In contrast, ATM withdrawals grew at a slower pace of 15%

UN forecasts global economy to grow 2.7% in 2019

The United Nations has downgraded its forecast for world economic growth, announcing that it expects overall growth of 2.7 per cent this year and 2.9 per cent in 2020.

The UN predicts for 2019 that the United States' economy will grow at 2.3 per cent, while the European Union's overall economy will expand at 1.5 per cent.

UN cuts India's growth rate by 0.6%, but at 7% it retains top spot

In its, UN's World Economic Situation and Prospects report, UN has downgraded India's growth rate for the current fiscal year to 7 per cent, a cut of 0.6 percent from the projection made in January. But then also it continues to be the world's growth leader.

Indian woman doctor gets Global Asian award

Bengaluru-based medical doctor Hema Divakar was honoured with the 'Global Asian of the Year 2018-19' award in Dubai recently for **her yeomen services and contributions to the women's healthcare ecosystem, in India.**

Hema received the award at the Asian Business & Social Forum 2019 under the 'In Service of the Society and the Nation' category.

Oman author Jokha Alharthi wins Booker International Prize

Jokha Alharthi, an author from Oman has won the prestigious Man Booker International Prize for "**Celestial Bodies**", the story of three sisters of a desert country confronting its slave-owning past and a complex modern world. She is the first Arabic-language writer to take the prize.

International Day for Biological Diversity

The International Day for Biological Diversity is a United Nations–sanctioned international day for the promotion of biodiversity issues. It is currently held on May 22. The International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues.

The theme of 2019 International Day for Biological Diversity is “**Our Biodiversity, Our Food, Our Health.**”

India ranked 117th in Kids Right Index

The annual global index named Kids Right Index has ranked countries on the basis of how much they are involved and equipped to improve child rights. **India ranked 117th out of 181 countries.**

Iceland topped the ranking followed by Portugal About Kids Right Index. Kids Rights Index is an initiative started by Kids Right Foundation with Erasmus University, Rotterdam.

Gopal Shrestha becomes first HIV-infected climber to scale Mount Everest

A-56 year-old Gopal Shrestha from Pokhara in Nepal became first HIV infected climber to ascend world’s highest peak, the Mount Everest. Shrestha, once a former national football player climbed Everest in the second attempt. His first attempt was abandoned from the Everest Base Camp due to the earthquake of 2015.

Ruskin Bond launches new memoir titled Coming Round the Mountain on 85th birthday

India’s beloved children’s author Ruskin Bond is celebrating his **85th birthday**, with the release of a new memoir set against the backdrop of the partition. The book titled **Coming Round the Mountain**, released officially by the author at Cambridge bookstores in Mussourie.

Shyam Saran to be conferred with Japan’s ‘Order of the Rising Sun’ award

Former foreign secretary Shyam Saran will be conferred with Japan’s second highest national award for his contributions to strengthen the strategic ties and enhancing mutual understanding between India and Japan.