Qatar Airways celebrates 2019 as another year of great achievement

The national carrier’s strong network expansion, financial strength, and commitment to the unique achievement of the 'World’s Best Airline' award, the Skytrax Award for the World’s Best Airline for a fifth time in 2019

Qatar Airways has achieved a “successful” year of strong network expansion, new aircraft deliveries and the union achievement in the only airline to win the Skytrax Award for the World’s Best Airlines, the middle East and Qatar Airways Cargo, the carrier’s commitment to its customers, the national carrier continues to attract foreign investments on Qatari startups, including IndiGo, LATAM, China Southern and Indias. Continued investment: The portfolio of expansion strategy includes the delivery of several new destinations in the Middle East, the launch of flights to new destinations, the introduction of new aircraft, and the expansion of the Republic of Rwanda. Qatar Airways Cargo concludes its successful year with the delivery of its latest Boeing 777 freighters and launching new freighter destinations Almaty, Guangzhou, and Shanghai. Qatar Airways Cargo expressed its appreciation for the ongoing support from Qatar Petro, staff, and distinguished guests.

Qatar Airways Cargo also placed an order for five more Airbus A350-900s in March. By the close of 2019, Qantas Airways Group Chief Executive Officer and Chief Executive Officer of Qatar Airways Cargo, Akbar Al Baker, said: “2019 was another year of great achievement for Qatar Airways. Qatar Airways continues to celebrate its achievements and that the airline continues to achieve the Skytrax Award for the World’s Best Airlines in 2019. In January, the airline announced its new order for a total of 250th, an Airbus A350-900 in March. By the close of 2019, Qantas Airways Group Chief Executive Officer, Akbar Al Baker, said: “2019 was another year of great achievement for Qatar Airways.”

Airline continued its strategy of investing in the world’s most technologically advanced aircraft to drive its ambitious route network growth. Through the course of the year, 25 aircraft were delivered to its fleet, resulting in the delivery of 25 aircraft to Qatar Airways Cargo. The airline also placed an order for five more Airbus A350-900s in March. In January, the airline announced its new order for a total of 250th, an Airbus A350-900 in March. By the close of 2019, Qantas Airways Group Chief Executive Officer, Akbar Al Baker, said: “2019 was another year of great achievement for Qatar Airways.”

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Huawei says ‘survival’ top priority as sales fall short

China's factory activity grows as easing trade spat revives demand

Huawei says ‘survival’ top priority as sales fall short

Beijing

The People's Bank of China is broadening its interest rate system in another step towards making the country’s financial system more market-oriented – an announcement that has been anticipated by many. India’s announcement last week to freeze Huawei out of its 5G contracts also sent ripples across the globe, though the company was not surprised. Though he said “business remains robust”, Huawei executive Meng Wanzhou, was arrested in Canada on the request of the United States. China’s top telecommunications giant has been under suspicion from the US and other countries for allegedly lying to banks about violating export controls. The backlash against Huawei has only grown since Meng’s arrest, with several companies from selling equipment to Huawei, including Google. The trial is expected to start next year, but US authorities have already taken steps to ensure that Huawei is not able to access Google’s Android operating system. Huawei scaled down its sales forecasts for 2019, saying revenue for 2019 was likely to reach around $125bn. In a New Year’s message to employees, Huawei CEO Ren Zhengfei said that the firm cannot be trusted and its equipment would need to be replaced. The US move against Huawei has raised concerns about the future of 5G technology, which is seen as crucial for the development of a new generation of mobile networks. Despite the US sanctions, Huawei is still the world’s leading manufacturer in 5G technology and has already signed contracts with several countries for 5G networks, including Australia and Japan. The backlash against Huawei has raised concerns about the future of 5G technology, which is seen as crucial for the development of a new generation of mobile networks. Despite the US sanctions, Huawei is still the world’s leading manufacturer in 5G technology and has already signed contracts with several countries for 5G networks, including Australia and Japan. The backlash against Huawei has raised concerns about the future of 5G technology, which is seen as crucial for the development of a new generation of mobile networks. Despite the US sanctions, Huawei is still the world’s leading manufacturer in 5G technology and has already signed contracts with several countries for 5G networks, including Australia and Japan. The backlash against Huawei has raised concerns about the future of 5G technology, which is seen as crucial for the development of a new generation of mobile networks. Despite the US sanctions, Huawei is still the world’s leading manufacturer in 5G technology and has already signed contracts with several countries for 5G networks, including Australia and Japan. The backlash against Huawei has raised concerns about the future of 5G technology, which is seen as crucial for the development of a new generation of mobile networks. The US move against Huawei has raised concerns about the future of 5G technology, which is seen as crucial for the development of a new generation of mobile networks. Despite the US sanctions, Huawei is still the world’s leading manufacturer in 5G technology and has already signed contracts with several countries for 5G networks, including Australia and Japan.
**Tencent gets into global groove with stake in Vivendi’s Universal Music**

**Bloomberg**

The Chinese internet giant has agreed to acquire a 10% stake in the French music giant’s parent company, Vivendi, for €3bn. The deal includes an option to further increase Tencent’s stake in Universal Music. The acquisition is emblematic of the Chinese internet firm’s growing ambitions to expand outside of its domestic market and to disrupt the traditional music industry. Tencent already has a significant presence in the music streaming market in China, and the acquisition of Vivendi's stake could give it a foothold in the global market as well. The deal is expected to boost Tencent’s revenue and strengthen its position in the global music industry.

**India's govt serious about AI privatisation, says minister**

**Gulf Times**

India’s government is serious about privatising all assets related to AI, says Union Minister of State for Science and Technology, Science and Technology, and Earth Sciences, Dr. Jitendra Singh. A committee has been formed to identify non-core assets, which can be privatised, and the process is expected to be completed by January 31, 2020.

**Indian developer calls for bazooka to fight growth woes**

**ET RealEstate**

As the Indian real estate market faces a slowdown, developers are looking for unconventional policy measures to try to boost the sector. Madhur Pandit, the founder of the real estate company Shriram Properties, has called for a residential property development fund of Rs1.3 trillion ($18.3 billion) to boost construction and investment in the sector.

**The year Indian tycoons faced bankruptcies, jail and death**

**ET RealEstate**

In 2019, the year Indian tycoons faced bankruptcies, jail and death, the Indian real estate sector faced a significant slowdown. Many of the country’s biggest and most-storied businessmen who saw their fortunes rise in the first generation finally saw the bankruptcies, jail terms and deaths that come with the end of an era. The collapse of the $2bn empire turned brother against brother, repeatedly under-reported its bad loans, refused to extend funding squeeze, crushing debt-laden businesses that had become accustomed to easy credit. The year ended with a suicide, the founder of India’s biggest coffee chain Cafe Coffee Day had penned a letter that spoke of pressure from lenders, and barred Thapar from accessing securities

**Ambani and Goyal: Falling victim to cut-throat price wars.**

**Gulf Times**

Cut-throat price wars and surging costs pushed Jet deeper into the red. Naresh Goyal, who has pledged some of his Yes Bank shares in exchange for cash in the last few years, is required to save it. The founder of Yes Bank Ltd, which became India’s fourth-largest private lender in 2006, is facing a taking a hit as its assets become collateral for loans. In August, the firm asked him for an accounting scandal forcing the board to remove Thapar. Since the change in operator, the September market-closed on concerns of the firm and banks agree Therper is facing a washout in the market. Other members of the panel are looking after the divestment options of interest (EoI) documents for Air India’s EoI documents for India.”

**Amarnath and Shridhar Singh**

The case of Amarnath and Shridhar Singh, a family of scammers operating in the name of a company named EMI, highlights the need for stricter regulations and better enforcement in the music industry. The court noted that the EMI company was never involved in the transactions and the Singh brothers were only posing as agents of the company. The case raises questions about the effectiveness of the Indian music market regulator in ensuring fair play and transparency in the music industry.
Singapore avoids 2019 recession as it plans supportive budget

Singapore

Singapore managed to avoid a recession in 2019 thanks to a strong focus on economic policies which helped to mitigate the effects of global economic slowdown.

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong—in his National Day message to the people—highlighted his government’s efforts to ensure that Singapore remains a competitive and attractive destination for businesses.

The government has worked hard to maintain the country’s status as a global financial hub and a leading destination for foreign direct investment. It has implemented several measures to support businesses, including tax incentives and regulatory reforms.

One of the key priorities of the government in 2019 was to address economic inequality. It introduced a package of measures to support low-income families and individuals, including increased spending on education and healthcare.

In addition, the government has continued to invest in infrastructure projects to support job creation and economic growth. It has also been working to attract foreign direct investment, particularly from Asian countries.

The Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) has also been active in managing the country’s foreign exchange reserves and managing inflation.

Singapore’s success in avoiding a recession in 2019 is a testament to the government’s commitment to maintaining a stable and competitive economy. However, the country faces challenges in the years ahead, including the need to address social and environmental issues.

The government has committed to working closely with businesses and citizens to ensure that Singapore remains attractive to businesses and expatriates alike. It has also emphasized the importance of innovation and technology in driving economic growth.

In summary, the government’s efforts in 2019 helped Singapore to avoid a recession and maintain its position as a global financial hub. It remains committed to working hard to ensure that the country continues to thrive in the years ahead.
China's stock market has clawed its way from the bottom of the major global index rankings this year, with a more than 35% jump in the main blue-chip index to 3,050,12 points yesterday. The Chinese government’s countermeasures against the coronavirus outbreak have already clawed its way from the bottom of the major global index rankings this year, with a more than 35% jump in the main blue-chip index to 3,050,12 points yesterday. The Chinese government’s countermeasures against the coronavirus outbreak have already.

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Workers load sacks of tea onto a conveyor before blending at the Mbaraki factory in Kenya. (File photo: Reuters)

High prices in recent years spurred investment in tea planting, resulting in Kenya’s tea output soaring to 703,000 tons in 2018—the highest since records began. This has also led to higher prices for tea within Kenya, with the price of tea on the cocoa market in Kenya hitting a record high of KSh 105.00 per kilogram. This has prompted farmers to plant more tea, with the country’s tea production set to hit a new record of 703,000 tons this season, up from 690,692 tons in 2018. However, this increase in production has resulted in a decline in prices, with the price of tea on the cocoa market in Kenya falling to KSh 39.00 per kilogram.

Kenyan tea is bought on the world’s largest tea exchange, the London Tea Auction Centre (LTAC). The auction is held twice a week, and the prices are based on the quality of the tea being sold. The highest-quality teas bring the highest prices, while lower-quality teas sell for lower prices. The auction is open to all buyers, and the prices are determined by supply and demand.

In recent years, Kenya has seen a decline in tea prices due to oversupply and a decrease in demand. This has led to a decline in tea production, with the country’s tea production falling from 703,000 tons in 2018 to 690,692 tons in 2019. However, with the recent increase in production, tea prices are likely to remain stable in the short term.

Tea prices in Kenya are influenced by several factors, including the weather, the quality of the tea, and the demand for tea. The weather is critical to tea production, as it affects the growth of the tea plant. If the weather is favorable, the tea plant grows well, producing more leaves, which leads to higher production and lower prices. Conversely, if the weather is unfavorable, the tea plant grows poorly, leading to lower production and higher prices.

Kenya’s tea production is dependent on rainfall, and the country has experienced a drought in recent years. This has led to a decline in tea production, as the tea plant requires a lot of water to grow. However, with the recent increase in production, tea prices are likely to remain stable in the short term.
Stock markets end final session lower but up sharply on year

S

tock markets mostly trimmed earlier gains in afternoon and af-

even sessions, but rose sharply overall in 2019—thanks to late steps

on record-breaking runs and easing China-US trade tensions.

London’s Benchmark FTSE 100

index closed down 0.89% at 7,342.84

points on Monday, following a sharp

rise in 2019 — the index’s best performance

in a decade.

It dropped 1.41% to 1,419.50 in 2018 as it bounced

from the February seizure and the

50-year anniversary of the 1968

nickel.

Tokyo was shut for a public holiday.

“While market volumes may predict-

ably light, investors continue to brace

for a year-end pullback in activity as Dow-

tomorrow, the market may experience

strong buying from the US-China talks.

The FTSE 100 ended the year

up 1.41% to 1,767.00, but ended the

year up 15.28%.

China mainland stocks gained 0.61% after data showed manufacturing

activity in the world’s second-big-

gest economy grew at a slower- than

expected pace in December.

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Gold's rally stays alive to seal best year since 2010

Bloomberg

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The government had initially shied away from a new tax on carbon dioxide emissions to fight climate change. But it now faces a €25 ($27.85) a tonne levy as part of a broader package to cut emissions.

Germany's populist government, which has long opposed the idea of carbon trading, is set to implement the tax in 2021. It will be levied on industries that emit more than 25,000 tonnes of CO₂ per year.

The tax will be phased in over three years, starting at €10 in 2021, €20 in 2022 and €25 in 2023. Companies will be able to trade permits to offset their emissions, but will face increased costs as the tax rises.

The move follows similar actions by other European countries, including France and Sweden, which have introduced carbon taxes to combat climate change.

Germany's move is part of a broader strategy to reduce its reliance on fossil fuels and shift towards renewable energy sources. The government has set a target of reaching net-zero emissions by 2050.

Gold prices have been driven higher by concerns about the global economy, as well as政治 tensions and uncertainty around the US-China trade war.

Analysts say the rally is likely to continue in 2020, driven by a mix of factors including a weaker dollar, political uncertainty, and a potential economic slowdown.

In an interview with Bloomberg TV, Hannah Anderson, global market strategist at Goldman Sachs, discussed her outlook for gold.

"The economic backdrop remains challenging, with a number of risks on the horizon," she said. "Inflation expectations are low, and central banks are expected to keep policy rates at ultra-low levels for an extended period of time.

"Gold remains a compelling investment choice in this environment," Anderson said. "It offers a haven asset class status and can provide diversification benefits in a portfolio.

Bloomberg

Germans agree to pay a higher national levy on carbon pollution

German energy supplier RWE AG has struck a deal with the government to pay a new levy on carbon pollution.

The deal, announced on Monday, means that RWE will pay a levy of €25 per tonne of CO₂ emitted, starting in 2021. The company will also agree to invest in renewable energy technologies.

The move is part of Germany's broader strategy to reduce its carbon footprint and meet its climate goals. The country has set a target of reducing emissions by 40% by 2022 compared to 1990 levels.

In an interview with Bloomberg TV, RWE CEO Dr. Dietmar Reuter said the deal was a positive step forward.

"This is a significant moment for the energy industry," he said. "It shows that we are committed to making the energy transition happen.

Bloomberg

Irish currency stays put as data show mixed economic outlook

The Irish currency, the euro, has remained relatively stable despite some mixed economic data in recent weeks.

Inflation in Ireland has ticked up slightly in recent months, but unemployment remains low. However, the country's economic growth has slowed in recent quarters, with output growth expected to be weaker this year.

In an interview with Bloomberg TV, economist Dr. John O'Connor said the euro's stability was likely to continue in the short term.

"The euro is likely to stay within a narrow range over the next few months," he said. "The central bank's policy stance is expected to remain accommodative, which should support the currency.

Bloomberg

Trade deals to lift global GDP in 2020

Global trade is expected to rise by 4% in 2020, according to the World Trade Organization (WTO).

The WTO said the increase would be driven by a pickup in trade in services, as well as a recovery in trade in goods. However, the organization cautioned that trade could remain volatile due to trade tensions and uncertainty over the outcome of the US-China trade war.

In an interview with Bloomberg TV, WTO chief economist Dr. Robert Koopman said the trade forecast was positive, but cautioned that policy uncertainty could temper growth.

"Trade policy remains a key driver of global economic performance," he said. "We are optimistic about the prospects for a recovery, but there are risks that could derail the upturn.

Bloomberg

China's economy and currency face pressure

China's economy and currency are facing pressure from a range of factors, including a slowdown in export growth and ongoing trade tensions with the US.

In an interview with Bloomberg TV, economist Dr. Tong Hong said the challenge for policymakers was to support the economy without fueling inflation.

"The challenge is to strike a balance between growth and stability," he said. "We expect the economy to grow at a pace of around 6% in 2020, but we are concerned about the risks to the outlook.

Bloomberg
**Euro, pound inch up as growth optimism cheers investors**

**Russian firms divert oil from Belarus as no 2020 supply deal signed**

**Russian inflation slows again, paving way for more easing**

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*Gulf Times*

**Raging bulls lead palm oil post biggest annual gain since 2016**

**Bloomberg**

**Palladium gains 57% in 2019**

**Bloomberg**

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**Euro, pound inch up as growth optimism cheers investors**

A new deal over euro could be brewing between Russia and Belarus as Russian suppliers divert large volumes of crude to distant United States and China due to finally sign a Phase 1 trade agreement next month, according to investors. The 2020 supply deal signed between Moscow and Minsk has had its share of turbulence as the two countries’ officials have repeatedly delayed signing the contract.

The latest development comes after Moscow and Minsk have had several ofadelaysthisyear,as the former has been faced with a deep low in oil prices. Moscow and Minsk have had several other disagreements over oil supply over the past decade in what is seen as a move to strengthen their ties despite four oil spills to Belarus if they miss the December deadline.

A model of a pipeline is seen at the main entrance to the Gomel Transneft oil pumping station, which moves crude through the Druzhba pipeline westwards to Europe, near Mozyr, some 300km southeast of Minsk. A new dispute over oil could be brewing between Russia and Belarus, which have had several disagreements over oil supply in recent months, though the currency has shed half of this year.

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**Russian firms divert oil from Belarus as no 2020 supply deal signed**

**Bloomberg**

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European gas prices fall as Ukraine, Russia deal averts crisis

ECB’s De Cos says Europe urgently needs an economic overhaul

Google-Oracle copyright fight could lead global punch in ‘20

Bloomberg

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