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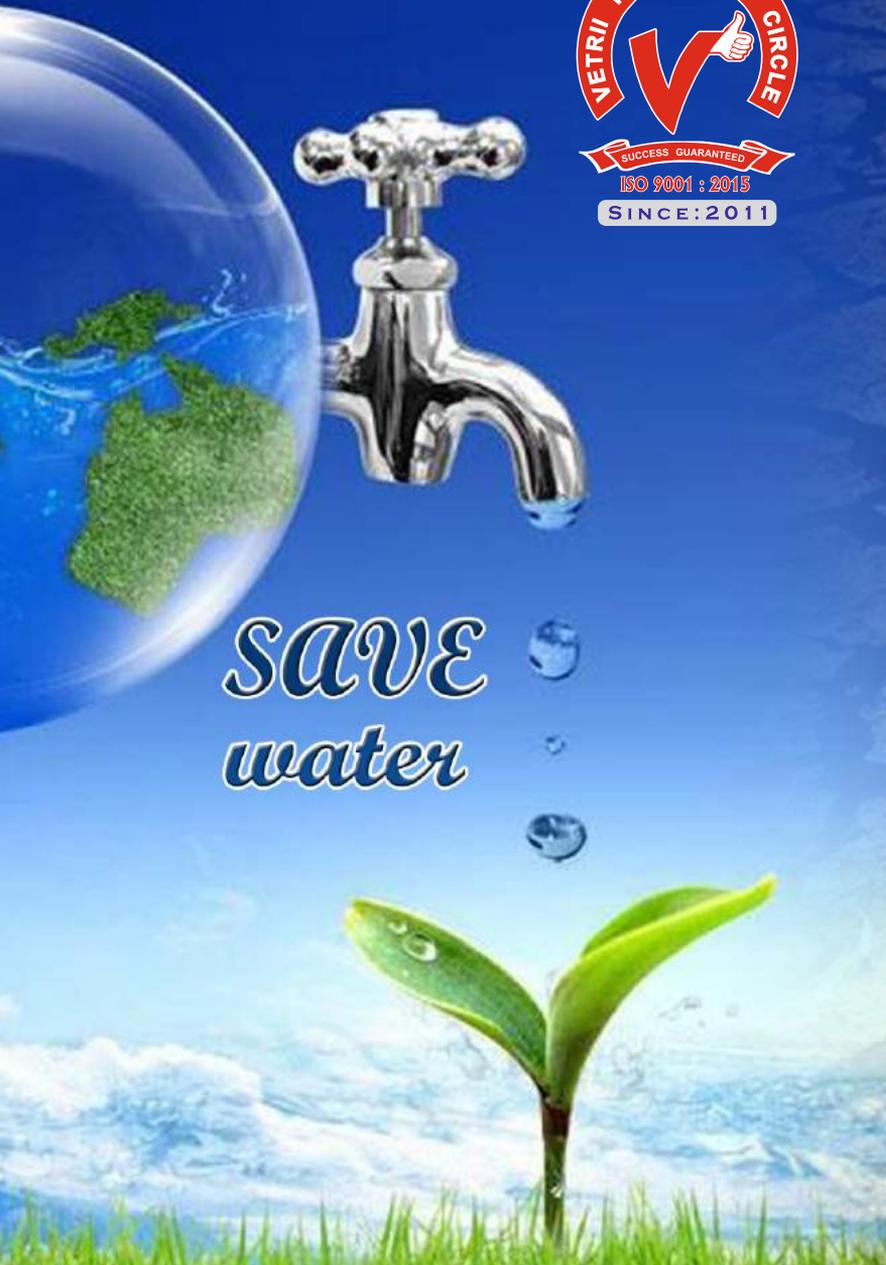
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TNPSC GATEWAY

MONTHLY MAGAZINE FOR TNPSC EXAMS

MARCH - 2019



- ✓ World Water Day - March 22
- ✓ India slips 7 spots and ranked 140th in Happiness Report
- ✓ Indian bank receives best bank award
- ✓ First transgender election ambassador
- ✓ A New species of Frog known as 'Starry Dwarf Frog' found in Western Ghats
- ✓ NASA announced world's first all - female spacewalk
- ✓ Microsoft able to translate digital information into DNA
- ✓ Vijiit' becomes the first indian coast guard ship to visit indonesia
- ✓ Bihar celebrated its 107th foundation day
- ✓ Saudi Arabia became the World's largest importer of weapons
- ✓ Erode Turmeric received GI tag

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My Dear Aspirants,

Greetings to all of you! “What we think we become” said Gautama Buddha. We all have dreams. To turn dreams into reality it takes a lot of determination, dedication, self discipline and hard work.

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Wishing You All The Very Best !!

M. SHUNMUGAM
DIRECTOR
Vetrii IAS Study Circle.

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1. History



1.1 IMPORTANT DAYS

Mar 01

Zero Discrimination day

- It was observed on **1st March** as an **annual worldwide** event that promotes diversity and recognizes that everyone counts.



Keypoints :

- The **UN** first celebrated the day on **1st March, 2014**, after **UNAIDS**, a UN program on human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), launched its **Zero Discrimination Campaign** on **World AIDS Day** on **1st December 2013**.

ICAS Celebrated 43rd “Civil Accounts Day” On 1st March, 2019

- On 1st March 2019, **The Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS)** has celebrated **43rd Civil Accounts Day** at Mavalankar Auditorium, Constitution Club of India, Rafi Marg, New Delhi.

Mar 03

World Hearing Day

- This year, WHO launched an app, **Hear WHO** that will allow people to check their hearing.

Keypoints :

- **World Hearing Day** is observed on **3rd March** every year by Office of Prevention of Blindness and Deafness of the **WHO** (World Health Organization). The Theme for this year's World hearing day is **“Check your Hearing”**.

World Wildlife Day

- **World Wildlife Day** is observed on **3rd March** every year to spread awareness about wildlife. This date was designated as the **World Wildlife Day** on **20 December 2013** at the 68th session of the **United Nations General**

Assembly (UNGA). On this day, the **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)** was signed.

1. The theme for World Wildlife Day 2019 is **'Life below water: for people and planet'**, which corresponds to goal **14** of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which is-Life below water.
2. This is the **first** World Wildlife Day in the history which focuses on life below water.

Mar 04

National Security Day

➤ **National Security Day** also known as **Rashtriya Suraksha Diwas** was celebrated on **4th March** to praise the work of security forces such as army officers, para-military, policemen and commandos.



National Safety Day: 4th March

- **National Safety Day** is observed on **4th March** every year by **National Safety Council of India**. This day is celebrated to make every people safe from issues like Financial Loss, Health problems and environmental problems.

Mar 08

International Women's Day

➤ Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed the **Women and Child Development Ministry** and the **Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Ministry**, which aims to impart skill-training and employment to women.



- The theme for this year is **Think equal, build smart, innovate for change**.
- The WCD Ministry will involve **RMK (Rashtriya Mahila Kosh)** to get majority of women to join the **Mahila e haat** - a digital platform for selling products that are made by women.

Mar 10

50th Raising Day of Central Industrial Security Forces (CISF)

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the **50th Raising Day** of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) at CISF Camp at 5th Battalion Camp at Indirapuram in Ghaziabad.

Mar 11**34th Inception day of NCRB**

- **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)** celebrated its **34th inception day** which was attended by Union Home Secretary, **Rajiv Gauba** as the chief guest.

Keypoints :

- Director of Intelligence Bureau (IB), **Rajiv Gain** was the Guest of Honour.

Mar 12**India Smart Utility Week 2019**

- **Shri AK Bhalla**, Secretary, Ministry of Power inaugurated the **India Smart Utility Week (ISUW) 2019** which is being held in **New Delhi** from **12th March to 16th March 2019**. ISUW 2019 is organized by **India Smart Grid Forum (ISGF)**.

**Mar 12****Dandi March Day**

- **12th March 2019** marks the **89th** anniversary of the Dandi Satyagraha, an act of nonviolent civil disobedience in colonial India led by **Mahatma Gandhi**.

Keypoints :

- Mahatma Gandhi had undertaken a 26-day march from March 12, 1930 to April 6, 1930 as a direct action campaign of tax resistance and nonviolent protest against the British salt monopoly.

Mar 14**World Kidney Day**

- The theme of the World Kidney Day 2019 is **Kidney Health for Everyone Everywhere**.

Keypoints :

- World Kidney Day is an initiative of the **International Society of Nephrology (ISN)** and the **International Federation of Kidney Foundations (IFKF)**.

International day of action for rivers

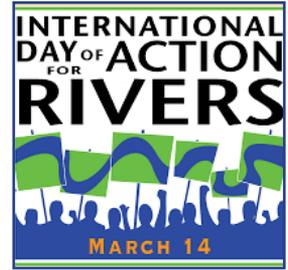
- The 22nd annual International Day of Action for Rivers will take place on March 14, 2019.
- The International Day of action for Rivers is dedicated to solidarity - when

diverse communities around the world come together with one voice to say that our rivers matter.

USEFUL INFO

Theme 2019

'Celebration of the role of women in protecting and managing our rivers'



Mar 12

Dandi March Day

- **12th March 2019** marks the **89th** anniversary of the Dandi Satyagraha, an act of nonviolent civil disobedience in colonial India led by **Mahatma Gandhi**.

Keypoints :

- Mahatma Gandhi had undertaken a 26-day march from March 12, 1930 to April 6, 1930 as a direct action campaign of tax resistance and nonviolent protest against the British salt monopoly.

International Pi Day

- On 14 March Pi Day is celebrated around the world.
- Pi is a symbol used in mathematics to represent a constant.
- It is the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter which is approx, 3, 14.



Mar 15

World Consumer Rights Day

- The theme for this year is **Trusted Smart Products**.

Keypoints :

- The day draws its inspiration from President **John F Kennedy**, who was the first leader in the world to address the issue of consumer rights in a special message sent to the US Congress on 15th March 1962.

World Sleep Day

- Theme for this year was **'Healthy Sleep, Healthy Aging'**.

Keypoints :

- It aims to spread awareness about sleep issues and their effect on our daily lives, prevention and treatment of these issues.

Mar 16**National Immunisation Day**

- India observes National Immunization Day (NID) on 16th March every year.

Keypoints :

- National Immunization Day was first observed on 16th March 1995 when first dose of Oral Polio Vaccine was given.
- The observance of National Immunization Day is an attempt to enhance awareness for the eradication of Polio from planet earth. Every year on this day, millions of children are immunized with the polio vaccine.

Mar 18**Global Recycling Day**

- This year's event will focus on the importance and power of youth, innovation and education in ensuring a brighter future for the world.

Keypoints :

- **The Global recycling Foundation** has announced the second annual **Global Recycling Day** will feature a "Recycling into the Future" theme. The second annual event took place on **March 18th**. The Global Recycling Foundation was formed in October 2018 by **the Bureau of International Recycling (BIR), Brussels**, in an effort to support the promotion of recycling, and the recycling industry, across the world in order to showcase its vital role in preserving the future of the planet.

Ordnance Factories Day**About Ordnance Factories Board**

- Founded: 1775
- Headquarters: Ayudh Bhawan, Kolkata

Keypoints :

- **Ordnance Factories Day** is observed annually on March 18 all over India to commemorate the first production of Ordnance Factory of India. Indian Ordnance Factories are regarded as the backbone of India's Defence production.

Global Recycling Day

- It was created in 2018 to help recognize, and celebrate, the importance recycling plays in preserving our precious primary resources and securing the future of our planet.

Keypoints :

- **Global Recycling Day** is held on **18th March** every year, with an aim to change the mindset of governments, businesses, communities and individuals around the world, to see recyclables as resource – not waste. The theme for Global Recycling Day 2019 was **“Recycling into the Future”**.

Mar 20**World Sparrow day**

- Theme 2019 **“I love sparrows”**.

Keypoints :

- To spread awareness about the house sparrow as well as to educate people about the threat to their population.

International Day of Happiness**1. Theme of International Day of Happiness 2019 is ‘Happier Together’.****Keypoints :**

- Founded by prominent United Nations special advisor **Jayme Illien** and it was celebrated from the year 2013.
- This year also celebrates with a central aim **“ShareHappiness and be Part of Something Amazing.”**

Mar 21**International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**

- Theme 2019 - **“Mitigating and countering rising nationalist populism and extreme supremacist ideologies”**.

Keypoints :

- To raise awareness about the negative consequences of racial discrimination.

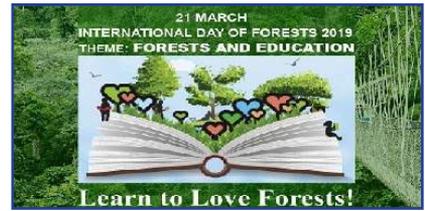
World Down Syndrome Day

- To raise awareness about Down syndrome, **a congenital disorder caused by having an extra 21st chromosome**. This year the focus of the day was on **“Leave no one behind”** by creating opportunities for people with Down syndrome to live fulfilling lives.

International Day of Forests

- Theme for International Day of Forests: **“Forests and Education – Learn to Love Forests”**.

- It has been organized since **2013** by the **United Nations General Assembly** with an aim to raise awareness and educate people about the importance of forest for maintaining the balance of the ecosystem.



World Poetry Day

- In the year **1999 during its 30th General Conference in Paris**, The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) adopted this day to support linguistic diversity and to safeguard endangered languages.

About UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) :

- Director-General – Audrey Azoulay
- Headquarters – Paris, France



World Water Day (WWD)

- **26th World Water Day (WWD)** was celebrated all over the world to focus on the importance of water and educate people to conserve freshwater resources.
 1. Theme for World Water Day 2019 is **“Leaving no one behind”**.
 2. In the year 1993, it was first observed by United Nations General Assembly.

United Nations General Assembly :

- **Headquarters:** New York City, New York, United States
- **Founder:** United Nations
- **Founded:** 1945, New York City, New York, United States



88th Martyrs' Day of Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Shivaram

AIM

- To commemorate the **death anniversary** of three of India's freedom fighter **Bhagat Singh, Shivaram Hari Rajguru and Sukhdev Thapar**.

World Meteorological Day

- The theme 2019 was **“The Sun, the Earth and the Weather”**.
- The day was first observed in 1961.

About World Meteorological Organization :

- Head – David Grimes
- Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland
- Parent organization: United Nations Economic and Social Council

Mar 24**International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims**

- To Honor the memory of victims of gross and systematic human rights violations and to promote the importance of justice.

Key Points:

- **On 21 December 2010**, the **United Nations General Assembly** declared the day as the “International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims”

International Day for Achievers (IDA)

- To honor the achievers who have shown determination and confidence on their journey.
- The achievers can be from any field is honored with awards for motivating people to achieve their goals.

World Tuberculosis Day

- To raise public awareness about the devastating health, social and economic consequences of tuberculosis.
- The **theme** for World Tuberculosis Day 2019 is **‘Its time’** which will draw the attention of the global leaders towards the immediate need to end the global epidemic tuberculosis.

1.2 DEFENCE**SAMPRITI-2019’ COMMENCED AT TANGAIL IN BANGLADESH**

- The eighth edition of joint military exercise **‘Sampriti-2019’** between the armies of **India and Bangladesh** commenced on **3rd March, 2019**, which aimed to increase mutual cooperation and camaraderie with an impressive ceremony in **Tangail, Bangladesh**.



Key Points:

- This exercise will be conducted till **15th March** as a part of the ongoing **India-Bangladesh defence cooperation**.
- The motive behind this exercise is to hone their tactical and technical skills in countering insurgency, counter terrorism and aid to civil authorities for disaster management in an UN peace keeping scenario involving a combined deployment at a battalion level.

EXERCISE AL NAGAH III BEGAN IN THE JEBEL AL AKHDAR IN OMAN

- The **3rd** edition of the series of bilateral joint exercise between the armies of **India** and **Oman**, called **Exercise Al Nagah III**, commenced on 12th March 2019 and will continue till 25th March 2019 at **Jabel Al Akhdar Mountains in Oman** where both the armies will be exchanging expertise in tactics, weapon handling and firing, in order to enhance inter operability in counter-terrorist operations in semi urban mountainous terrain.
- The Indian Army contingent will be represented by **4 Officers, 9 Junior Commissioned Officers and 47 other ranks of 10th Battalion of the Garhwal Rifles** and a similar strength will be showcased by **Jabel Regiment of Royal Army of Oman (RAO)**.



INDIA - AFRICA JOINT FIELD TRAINING EXERCISE AF INDEX-19 TO BE HELD IN PUNE

- The India-Africa Joint Field Training Exercise (AFINDEX-19) will be held between the India Army and 16 African nations in Pune from March 18 to 27.
- The 10-day long joint exercise will be held in two locations in Pune. They are Foreign Training Node at Aundh Military Station and College of Military Engineering in Kirkee.
- Indian Army will be represented by the personnel of Maratha Light Infantry.
- Besides, the personnel from the participating nations of African continent, officers from Rwanda, democratic Republic of Congo and Madagascar would also attend the exercise as Observers.
- The aim of the exercise is to train the participating contingents in Humanitarian Mine Assistance (HMA) and Peace Keeping Operations (PKO) under the United Nations Charter.



GUIDED PINAKA SUCCESSFULLY TEST FIRED BY DRDO AT POKHRAN RANGES

- Defence Research and Defence Organisation (DRDO) successfully test fired the Guided Pinaka weapons system from Pokhran ranges in Rajasthan.
 1. The two rockets, which were tested using the guided **Pinaka** system, succeeded in hitting the **90-km** mark signalling a boost in the efficiency, as the rockets had touched the **70-km** mark in their last trials, held in **May, 2018**.
 2. The weapon system is equipped with state-of-the-art guidance kit comprising an advanced navigation and control system.
 3. The **Telemetry Systems** tracked and monitored the vehicle all through the flight path.
 4. The indigenously developed **Guided Pinaka** by **DRDO** will significantly boost the capability of the artillery to make precision hits.



1.3 SUMMIT & CONFERENCE

WORLD'S 100 MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE IN CLIMATE POLICY FOR 2019

- The “100 Most Influential People in Climate Policy” list is comprised of seven Indian names including Union Ministers **Piyush Goyal** and **Dr Harsh Vardhan**, who took important measures to combat climate change. The list is prepared by **Apolitical**, a peer to peer learning platform for governments.

Other 5 winners

- The 25 years old Indian origin Varshini Prakash also made it to the list.
- The list has been topped by **Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez** (Congresswoman, US Congress) followed by **Anne Hidalgo** (Mayor, Paris) and **Anthony Nyong** (Director for Climate Change and Green Growth, African Development Bank Group).

Awardees	Designation
Mukta Tilak	Mayor of Pune
Jyoti Kirit Parikh	Executive director of Integrated Research and Action for Development
Sunita Narain	Director of the Centre for Science and the Environment
Vandana Shiva	Founder of the Research Foundation for Science, Technology, and Natural Resource Policy
Upendra Tripathy	Director General of the International Solar Alliance

4TH GLOBAL DIGITAL HEALTH PARTNERSHIP SUMMIT WAS HOSTED BY INDIA

- Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, **Shri J P Nadda**, inaugurated the ‘**4th Global Digital Health Partnership Summit**’, the global intergovernmental meeting on digital health, hosted by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** in collaboration with **World Health Organization (WHO)** and the **Global Digital Health Partnership (GDHP)**.



- Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad**, Union Minister of Law & Justice and Electronics & Information Technology, spoke about the use of technology innovations in transforming healthcare.
- He said that India is committed to reaching the last man in the line through digital health interventions and digital inclusion.
- Shri J. P. Nadda** announced that after the roll-out of ‘**Modicare**’, in **155 days**, nearly **1.3 million** people have availed the benefits of more than **Rs.16 Billion** under this scheme.

VIENNA PLACED AT TOP POSITION IN THE MERCER’S QUALITY OF LIVING SURVEY 2019

- The human resource consulting firm, **Mercer’s** annual **Quality of Living Survey 2019** has placed **Austria’s** capital city **Vienna** at the number one spot, making it the **10th** year in a row.
- The Mercer’s top 10 is dominated by European cities mainly in **Switzerland** and **Germany** and the only cities outside of Europe to make the top 10 list are **Vancouver, Canada**, and **Auckland, New Zealand**.



- Top 10 cities in the list:
 1. Vienna, Austria
 2. Zürich, Switzerland
 3. (tie) Vancouver, Canada , (tie) Munich, Germany, (tie) Auckland, New Zealand
 4. Düsseldorf, Germany
 5. Frankfurt, Germany
 6. Copenhagen, Denmark
 7. Geneva, Switzerland
 8. Basel, Switzerland
- The **Economist Intelligence Unit** had also given Vienna the top spot in its ranking of the world's most liveable cities in **2018**.
- **Hyderabad** and **Pune**, at a rank of **143**, continue to be the most liveable cities in India for expatriates. The two cities are followed by Bengaluru (149), Mumbai (154) and New Delhi (162), whose rankings remained unchanged from last year.

INDIA SLIPS 7 SPOTS AND RANKED 140TH IN HAPPINESS REPORT

- United Nations released World Happiness Report where **India is ranked 140th out of 156 nations**. India shows a 7 spot decline along with five other countries.



Key Points:

- For the **second consecutive year, Finland topped** the list. **Denmark ranked second followed by Norway, Islands and The Netherlands.**
- The report was released on World Happiness Day by the **Sustainable Development Solutions Network** for the **United Nations**.
- **Pakistan ranked 67th, Bhutan 95th, China 93rd, Bangladesh 125th and Sri Lanka 130th while South Sudan ranked last** in the World Happiness Report

WHO RELEASED THE GLOBAL INFLUENZA STRATEGY 2019-2030

- **World Health Organization (WHO)** released a **Global Influenza Strategy** for **2019-2030** aimed at protecting people in all countries from the threat of **influenza**, one of the world's greatest public health challenges.



1. The aim of the strategy is to prevent seasonal influenza, control the spread of influenza from animals to humans, and be prepared for the next influenza pandemic.
2. Every year across the globe, there are an estimated **1 billion** cases, of which **3 to 5 million** are severe cases, resulting in **2,90,000 to 6,50,000** influenza-related respiratory deaths.

1.4 EMINENT PERSONS

LIFE AND TIMES OF MAHATMA GANDHI IS ON DISPLAY IN LONDON BOOK FAIR

- **India Pavilion** was inaugurated by **Vikram Sahay**, Joint Secretary in Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and **Sadhana Rout**, Director General in the Publications Division in the **London Book Fair**. London Book Fair is being organized from 12th March to 14th March 2019.

Key Points:

- The Indian Pavilion is focused on **150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi** and it displays the digital version of Life and times of Mahatma Gandhi.
- The Statue of Unity and other major achievements of India is also presented in the Indian Pavilion.

MUKESH AMBANI TOPS LIST OF WORLD'S RICHEST SPORTS TEAM OWNERS

- Reliance Industries chairman and Asia's richest man **Mukesh Ambani** **recently topped Forbes' The World's Richest Sports Team Owners 2019 list**. With a total net worth of about \$50 billion, Ambani topped the list. He bought the IPL team **Mumbai Indians** for over \$100 million in 2008 through a RIL subsidiary.
- Former Microsoft CEO, Steve Ballmer who own the Los Angeles Clippers team follows Ambani at the second spot in the list. He purchased the basketball team for about \$2 billion after he retired from Microsoft.
- Red Bull energy drink company founder Dietrich Mateschitz followed at number three spot. He own Red Bull Toro Rosso Honda, Formula One team Red Bull Racing and MLS club New York Red Bulls.

1.5 SPORTS & GAMES

CHENNAI SPARTANS CROWNED CHAMPIONS OF INAUGURAL PRO VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE

- **Chennai Spartans** were crowned as the winners of the inaugural **Pro Volleyball League** as they beat Calicut Heroes in straight sets 3-0 in the final in Chennai. As a result of winning the first edition of the league, Chennai Spartans also qualify for the FIVB Asian Men's Club Volleyball Championship.

ISSF WORLD CUP 2019

- **International Shooting Sports Federation**



(ISSF) World Cup was held in **New Delhi, India** from 20 February to 28 February 2019. It is the annual edition of the ISSF World Cup which is governed by International Shooting Sport Federation. It is a qualifier for 2020

Olympic Games to be held in Tokyo, Japan. **India ranked 1st in the World Cup along with Hungary.**

Manu Bhaker, Saurabh Chaudhary won gold in 10m Air Pistol Mixed Category:

- **Saurabh Chaudhary and Manu Bhaker** claimed **gold medal in 10m Air Pistol Mixed team** event on ISSF World Cup in **New Delhi**.

Highlights:

- The duo finished top in the **10m Air Pistol Mixed Team Final with 483.4 points** on the final day of the World Cup.
- Both of them had earlier equaled Qualification World Record and also set a new qualification world record junior by shooting 778 points.

Saurabh Chaudhary won gold in 10m Air Pistol

- **Saurabh Chaudhary** finished top of the **10m Air Pistol** category and brought an **Olympic quota for Tokyo 2020 in the category.**

Highlights:

- He secured Olympic Quota with a **world record score of 245.0** after some phenomenal shooting.
- **He is the 1st Indian shooter to win gold** at the youth Olympic, Asian Games, Junior ISSF World Championship and Asian Air gun championship

Apurvi Chandela bags gold in women's 10m Air Rifle

- **Indian shooter won women's 10m Air Rifle** and bagged **India's first gold medal** by breaking the world record in the Shooting World Cup 2019. She was the only Indian shooter to qualify for the final round.

Highlights:

- **Apurvi secured a total score of 252.9** to finish on the top of podium in the **women's 10m Air Rifle event**. She was at the fourth spot in the qualification round.
- Apurvi Chandela had won a bronze medal along shooter Ravi Kumar in the 2018 Asian Games held in Jakarta, Indonesia in the 10m Mixed Rifle event.

OCEANIA NATIONS WILL PARTICIPATE IN 2022 ASIAN GAMES

- **Olympic Council of Asia** decided to invite **Oceania Nations** to compete in **2022 Asian Games** for the first time after a meeting held in **Bangkok**.

1. Oceania Nations which includes **Australia, New Zealand** and a swathe of Pacific islands will compete in to Volleyball, beach volleyball, basketball, football, swimming and track cycling events.

2. Asian Games includes 35 sports with more than 10,000 athletes and it is second only to Olympics as a global multi-sport event.

**16-YEAR-OLD P. INIYAN BECAME 61ST CHESS GRANDMASTER OF INDIA**

- 16-year-old **Iniyann Panneerselvam** from **Erode, Tamil Nadu**, won at the **Noisiel Open in France** by defeating **GM (Grand Master) Sergey Fedorchuk** of **Ukraine** in the sixth round and became the **61st Grandmaster for India** crossing **2500 points** in **ELO** ratings.



- India's **first Chess Grandmaster Viswanathan Anand** congratulated him on his achievement via Twitter.

38TH GEEBEE BOXING TOURNAMENT AT HELSINKI IN FINLAND

- **38th GeeBee Boxing Tournament** was organized by **European Boxing Confederation** from March 7, 2019 to March 10, 2019 **in Helsinki, Finland**.
- India claimed **one Gold, 4 silver and 3 bronze** in the tournament. The list of Indian medalist is given below.



Name	Medal	Category
Kavinder Singh Bisht	Gold	56 kg
Mohammed Hussamudding	Silver	56 kg
Shiva Thapa	Silver	60 kg
Govind Sahani	Silver	49 kg
Dinesh Dagar	Silver	69 kg
Sumit Sangwan	Bronze	91 kg
Saching Siwach	Bronze	52 kg
Naveen Kumar	Bronze	+91 kg

UPAMANYU DUTTA WON BRONZE MEDAL IN THE ASIAN OPEN LASER SAILING CHAMPIONSHIP

- Young sailor from Mumbai, Upamanyu Dutta won Bronze medal, which is India's first ever medal in the Laser Standard race for men in the Asian Open Laser Sailing Championship held in Singapore.



1. He aggregated a total of **56 points** to finish behind Thailand's **Keerati Bualong** (28 points) and Hong Kong's **Nicholas Bezy** (47 points) of Hong Kong.
2. He has recently won the **Euromed Championship** in **Malta** and is currently training in **Europe** under coach **Trevor Millar**.
3. Chennai's **Nethra Kumanan** achieved **4th** position in the Laser Radial event for women.

ESPN WORLD FAME 100 LIST: VIRAT KOHLI THE ONLY INDIAN IN TOP 10, MS DHONI RANKED 13TH

- Indian cricket team captain **Virat Kohli** and former captain **Mahendra Singh Dhoni** are among the 8 Indian cricketers in the **2019's ESPN World Fame 100 list**, an annual list of the most famous athletes on the planet.



1. Portuguese footballer **Cristiano Ronaldo** is at the top spot, followed by basketball player **LeBron James** and FC Barcelona captain **Lionel Messi**. These top 3 positions have not changed from the previous year.
2. Virat Kohli jumped to the **7th** position from last year's 11th position and is now the only Indian athlete in the top 10, whereas Dhoni is placed in the **13th** spot.

Key Points:

- All the Indian men mentioned in this list were from the cricketing fraternity, including Yuvraj Singh (18), Suresh Raina (22), R Ashwin (42), Rohit Sharma (46), Harbhajan Singh (74) and Shikhar Dhawan (94).
- There are only 3 women in the list- Serena Williams (17), Maria Sharapova (37) and Sania Mirza (93), making the latter the only Indian woman athlete to feature in the list.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS WORLD GAMES 2019 KICK OFF AT ABU DHABI

- **Special Olympics World Games 2019** began at Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE) on 14th Match 2019 and made history by welcoming a record-breaking 200 nations at the Games.



1. The Indian contingent was the second largest after the host UAE and marched proudly holding the tricolour.
2. The event is being held in the Middle East for the first time and 7,500 athletes will take part in 24 Olympic-style sports over seven days.
3. Nine venues in **Abu Dhabi** and **Dubai** will accommodate 500,000 spectators, 1,500 officials will referee the Games, while 3,000 coaches will assist the athletes.
4. For the first time, 200 nations are being represented at the World Games, **195** participating and 5 observing.

OCEANIA NATIONS INCLUDING AUSTRALIA WILL PARTICIPATE IN 2022 ASIAN GAMES

- **Oceania nations**, including sporting powerhouse **Australia**, have been invited to compete in Olympic team events such as **football and basketball** at the **2022 Asian Games** for the **first time**.
- The invitation to the **2022 Asian Games** in China's **Hangzhou** is limited to volleyball, beach volleyball, basketball and football and fencing, ruling out sports such as swimming and track cycling which Australia would be expected to dominate.

18-YR-OLD DIKSHA 2ND INDIAN GOLFER TO WIN IN LADIES EUROPEAN TOUR



- Indian woman golfer **Diksha Dagar** became the 2nd Indian winner in **Ladies European Tour** after clinching South African Women's Open in Cape Town.
- She follows **Aditi Ashok**, who in 2016 became the first Indian to win in the Ladies European Tour after clinching Hero Women's Indian Open in Gurugram.

T. IRFAN BECAME FIRST INDIAN ATHLETE TO QUALIFY FOR TOKYO OLYMPICS



- 29-year-old Indian athlete from Kerala, **K.T. Irfan** has qualified for the **Tokyo Olympics** as he finished fourth in the men's 20 kilometer category at the **Asian Race Walking Championships** in Nomi, Japan.
 1. He holds the national record of 1:20:21 which he achieved during his 10th place finish at the 2012 Olympics in London.
 2. He also qualified for 2019's World Championships as he bettered the qualifying mark of 1:22:30.

INDIA TO HOST U-17 WOMEN'S FOOTBALL WORLD CUP IN 2020

- India will host the Under-17 Women's Football World Cup in 2020. This was announced by the President of International Football Federation (FIFA), Gianni Infantino.
 
- 2020 FIFA Under-17 Women's World Cup will be the seventh edition of the biennial tournament.
- This will be the second FIFA tournament India will be hosting, after the U-17 Men's World Cup in 2017.

K T IRFAN BECOMES FIRST INDIAN ATHLETE TO QUALIFY FOR TOKYO OLYMPICS

- National record holder **K.T.Irfan** became the first Indian from athletics to qualify for the next year's Olympics while finishing fourth in the 20 km event of the **Asian Race Walking Championships in Nomi, Japan**. The Olympics qualification period for all other athletics events will start from May 1 this year and will run till June 29, 2020.
- No other India from athletics has so far qualified for Tokyo Olympics. Two other Indians, Devinder Singh and Ganapathi Krishnan also qualified for the World Championships.

ASIAN YOUTH ATHLETES CHAMPIONSHIP: INDIA FINISHES SECOND IN MEDAL TALLY

India finishes second in **Asian Youth Athletes Championship held in Hong Kong** with a gold added to the medal tally on the final day of the championship.

Key Points

- India secured second position in the overall medals tally with **26 medals** including **8 gold, 9 silver and 9 bronze** medals.
- China topped** the championship with 31 medals including 12 gold, 11 silver and 8 bronze. **Japan ranked third** in the Championship with 20 medals. Japan got 6 gold, 8 silver and 6 bronze medals.



Key Points

- India secured second position in the overall medals tally with **26 medals** including **8 gold, 9 silver and 9 bronze** medals.
- China topped** the championship with 31 medals including 12 gold, 11 silver and 8 bronze. **Japan ranked third** in the Championship with 20 medals. Japan got 6 gold, 8 silver and 6 bronze medals.

INDIA DEFEATED NEPAL, WON SAFF WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP

- India clinched **South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Women's Championship 2019** by **defeating Nepal** for **3-1** in **Biratnagar, Nepal**. It was for the **fifth time** in a row that India won the championship.

Key Points :

- Indian Midfielder **Indumathi Kathiresan** and Nepali forward player **Sabitra Bhandari** became the **top scorers** in the match with **four goals** each.
- The competition was scheduled to host in **Sri Lanka in December 2018** which was **rescheduled** as they withdrew. Afterwards Nepal hosted the competition in March 2019.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS WORLD GAMES 2019 HELD IN ABU DHABI

- **15th Special Olympics World Summer Games 2019** for athletes with Intellectual disabilities held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.



Key Points :

- **India wins 368 medals** at the Special Olympics World Summer Games including **85 gold, 154 silver and 129 bronze**. **Jitendra Pawal** won a gold medal in the 200m race.
- Medals are won in Judo, Athletics, Cycling, Aquatics, Powerlifting, Basketball Traditional, Table Tennis, Roller skating, Badminton, Handball Traditional and Football 7 Side Female competitions in the game.

1.6 BOOKS & AUTHORS

“DESIGNING DESTINY: THE HEARTFULNESS WAY”

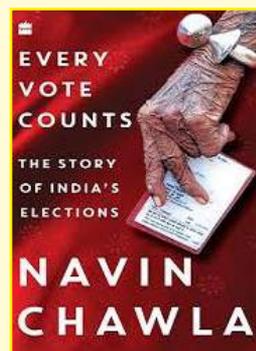
- The book “**Designing Destiny: The Heartfulness Way**” which has been written by spiritual teacher **Kamlesh Patel** who is famously known as Daaji, was launched recently. The book deals with issues pertaining to destiny and the way it shapes someone’s life.
- The book has been published by **Westland Publications**.

THE GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT: HOW NARENDRA MODI SQUANDERED A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO TRANSFORM THE INDIAN ECONOMY

- **The Great Disappointment: How Narendra Modi Squandered A Unique Opportunity to Transform the Indian Economy**’ book released by economic commentator and Congress member **Salman Anees Soz**.
- This book is the evaluation of P.M Modi’s impact on Indian economy.

EVERY VOTE COUNTS

- **Former Chief Election Commissioner** of India **Navin Chawla’s** book ‘**Every Vote Counts**’ was launched by former Vice President of India, Hamid Ansari in New Delhi.
 1. This book is about how the electoral machinery works in India.
 2. The book has been published by **Harper Collins India**.

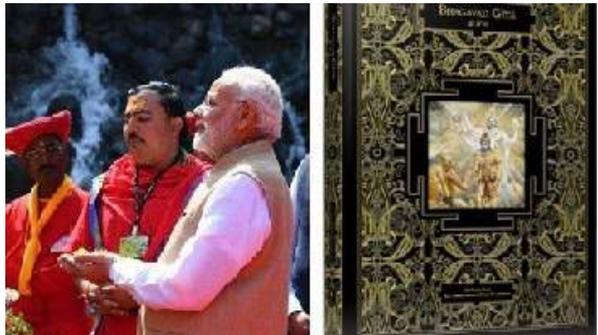


VENKAIHAH NAIDU LAUNCHED THE BOOK ‘QUALITY, ACCREDITATION & RANKING’ BY DR. H CHATURVEDI

- Vice President **M Venkaiah Naidu** the book titled ‘**Quality, Accreditation and Ranking – A Silent Revolution in the Offing in Indian Higher Education**’ edited by EPSI’s Alternate President, **Dr. H Chaturvedi** at the book launch function organized by the **Education Promotion Society for India (EPSI), BIMTECH** and **Bloomsbury Pvt Ltd**.

800-KG “ASTOUNDING BHAGAVAD GITA” UNVEILED BY NARENDRA MODI IN DELHI

- Prime Minister, **Narendra Modi** has unveiled a 800-kg “**Astounding Bhagavad Gita**” at ISKCON temple in **Delhi**. This book is the world’s largest sacred book and was prepared by **ISKCON devotees**.



Key points:

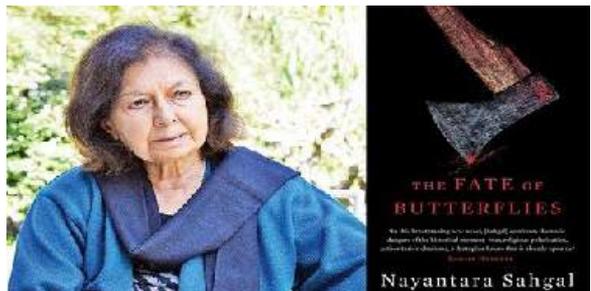
- The book measured around **2.8 by 2 meters**, weighed over **800 kg**, contains **670 pages** and has the original verses of Bhagavad Gita.
- According to ISKCON, this book will have the largest principle sacred text ever to be printed. The book has an artistic touch of 18 exquisite paintings and an innovative elegant layout.

About ISKCON

- The International Society for Krishna Consciousness is a worldwide confederation of above 400 temples and runs over 100 vegetarian restaurants and a wide variety of community-serving projects.

NAYANTARA SAHGAL UNVEILED HER NEW NOVEL “THE FATE OF BUTTERFLIES”

- “**The Fate of Butterflies**“, **Nayantara Sahgal** new novel was unveiled at a function hosted by **Namita Gokhale** at **Oxford Bookstore, New Delhi**.



- The novel is published by **Speaking Tiger** and describes the toxic dangers of war, religious polarisation and authoritarian charisma, a dystopian future that is already upon the world.

THE BOOK TITLED 'MANN KI BAAT – A SOCIAL REVOLUTION ON RADIO' RELEASED BY ARUN JAITLEY IN NEW DELHI

- On 2nd March 2019, Union Finance Minister, **Arun Jaitley** released a book titled '**Mann Ki Baat – A Social Revolution on Radio**' during a function in **New Delhi**.



Key Points:

- The book gave a rare and exclusive opportunity to readers with unknown facts of Modi's thinking and beliefs related to 'Mann Ki Baat'
- **The book contains 50 episodes** of PM Modi's sincere talk with the citizens of India which is **broadcasted by All India Radio**.

1.7 AWARDS & HONOURS

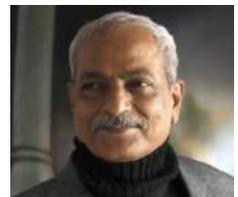
AN OVERVIEW OF 64TH FILMFARE AWARDS 2019

- The 64th Filmfare Awards 2019 was held at Jio Garden, BKC, Mumbai.

Category	Winner
Best Film	Raazi
Best Actor in a Leading Role (Male)	Ranbir Kapoor (Sanju)
Best Actor in a Leading Role (Female)	Alia Bhatt (Raazi)
Best Director	Meghna Gulzar (Raazi)
Best Actor in Supporting Role (Male)	Gajarj Rao (Badhaai Ho), Vicky Kaushal (Sanju)
Best Actor in Supporting Role (Female)	Surekha Sikhri (Badhaai Ho)
Best Music Album	Sanjay Leela Bhansali (Patmaavat)

MAHESH ELKUNCHWAR BAGS META LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

- One of India's most progressive playwrights, **Mahesh Elkunchwar**, will be conferred the **Lifetime Achievement Award at the prestigious Mahindra Excellence in Theatre Awards (META)** this year. Elkunchwar is critically acclaimed and widely known for having experimented with a wide range of drama and has been a powerful force in both Indian and Marathi

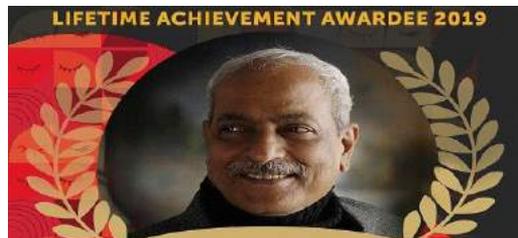


G.R. KARTHIKEYAN RECEIVED THE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

➤ **G.R. Karthikeyan** was awarded the **Lifetime Achievement award** at the **FMSCI annual awards** function held in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**. He is the father of **Narain Karthikeyan**– India's **first** Formula One racer.

1. Also, **Raghul Rangasamy** was honoured with the **Upcoming Motorsport Person of the Year** award for the **Raymond Gautam Singhania Trophy**.
2. The awards were presented by the chief guest of the event, **FIA president Jean Todt**.

PLAYWRIGHT MAHESH ELKUNCHWAR CHOSEN FOR THE META LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



- **Mahesh Elkunchwar**, an eminent **Indian Playwright**, has been chosen for this **2019's META Lifetime Achievement Award**, which will be conferred upon him at the **14th Mahindra Excellence in Theatre Awards (META)** festival to be held on **12th March 2019**.

INDIAN BANK RECEIVES BEST BANK AWARD

- Public sector **Indian Bank** has bagged the **Best Bank Award** from the **Tamil Nadu Government** for meeting the needs of **women's self-help groups (SHGs)**.
- At a function in **Salem** recently, Chief Minister of the state **K.Palaniswami** handed over the award to the executive director of the bank **M.K.Bhattacharya**.
- **Extra info: Indian Bank Headquarters: Chennai.**

BHUBANESWAR'S BIJU PATNAIK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT WINS ASQ AWARD

➤ The **Biju Patnaik International Airport (BPIA)** in **Bhubaneswar** won the **Airport Service Quality (ASQ)** award for being the **best airport** in **size** and **region** (2-5 million passengers in Asia-Pacific) for the year **2018**.



1. It has been chosen for the award by the **Airports Council International**.
2. **Chandigarh Airport**, **Devi Ahilyabai Holkar Airport** in **Indore**, **SM Badaruddin II Airport** in **Indonesia**, **SS Kasim II Airport** in **Indonesia** and **Yichang Sanxia Airport** in **China** were also chosen for the award.

GOLDEN CITY GATE TOURISM AWARDS 2019

- The **Ministry of Tourism**, Government of India was awarded the **First Prize** in the category- **TV Cinema Spot** at the **International Golden City Gate Tourism Awards 2019** held at Internationale Tourismus-Börse (ITB), Berlin. The awards were received by Shri **Yogendra Tripathi**, Secretary, Tourism.
- The awards were given for the following promotional films and TV commercials produced under the **Incredible India 2.0 Campaign**:
 1. Yogi of the Racetrack
 2. The Reincarnation of Mr. and Mrs. Jones
 3. Sanctuary in Paris
 4. Maharani of Manhattan
 5. The Masala Master Chef
- The Incredible India 2.0 Campaign was started by the Ministry of Tourism in September 2017.

EX-RBI GOVERNOR RAGHURAM RAJAN RECEIVED YASWANTRAO CHAVAN NATIONAL AWARD

- Former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor **Raghuram Rajan**, for his contribution towards economic development, was awarded the '**Yashwantrao Chavan National Award 2018**' on March 12, 2019, which was the 106th birth anniversary of late Yashwantrao Chavan, the first chief minister of **Maharashtra**.
- The award is given annually to individuals or institutions for their outstanding contribution towards national integration.

About RBI:

- Governor – Shaktikanta Das
- Headquarters – Mumbai

CHAMELI DEVI JAIN AWARD WON BY BBC JOURNALIST PRIYANKA DUBEY

- On 9th March 2019, a bilingual correspondent with the BBC at its Delhi bureau, **Priyanka Dubey won the Chameli Devi Jain Award 2018** as outstanding women journalist.



Key Points:

- She was chosen for her multi-faceted, interrogative and investigative reports. She helped to uncover the reality underlying in the social and political issues.
- Chameli Devi Jain Award has been awarded to women journalist for upholding standards of excellence through a sustained body of work **for the past 37 years**. The award was presented at a function in Delhi.
- She was a freedom fighter.

INDIAN ARTISTIC GYMNAST, DIPA KARMAKAR HONOURED WITH BARBIE DOLL MODELLED AFTER HER

- Ace gymnast **Dipa Karmakar**, hailing from **Tripura** had a **Barbie** doll modelled after her in the list of honours achieved which includes – **Arjuna Award** in **2015**, **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award** in **2016**, **Padma Shri award** in **2017**.
- Barbie doll on the occasion of turning **60** released a new line of dolls to honour **20** female role models across **18** countries speaking **14** different languages



HANS KILIAN AWARD WON BY POLITICAL PSYCHOANALYST ASHIS NANDY

- Indian psychologist professor **Ashis Nandy**, who was Former director of the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) and co-founder of the postcolonial theory, has been chosen for the **Hans-Kilian Award 2019** which carries an amount of 80,000 Euros.

Key Points :

- He received the prestigious Fukuoka Asian Culture Prize in 2007.
- The award is given for the achievements of providing deeper insight regarding human psyche and aims to boost the growth of interdisciplinary social psychology.
- It was named after the late social psychologist and psychoanalyst **Hans Kilian** and given by **the Köhler Foundation**. Dr. Hartmut Bohme (2011), Dr. Hans Joas (2013), Dr. Jessica Benjamin (2015) and Dr. Jaan Valsiner (2017) are the **previous recipients of this award**.

3 KIRTI CHAKRAS AND 15 SHAURYA CHAKRAS AWARDED BY THE PRESIDENT TO ARMY PERSONNEL

- President **Ram Nath Kovind** conferred **3 Kirti Chakras** and **15 Shaurya Chakras** to **Armed Forces Personnel** for displaying conspicuous gallantry, indomitable courage and extreme devotion to duty at the Defence Investiture Ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi.
 1. **2 Kirti Chakras** and **1 Shaurya Chakra** were given posthumously.
 2. **15 Param Vishisht Seva Medals**, **1 Uttam Yudh Seva Medal** and **25 Ati Vishisht Seva Medals** were also conferred on senior officers of the Armed Forces for their distinguished service by the President.
 3. One of the Param Vishisht Seva Medal was conferred on Army Chief General **Bipin Rawat**.

KUSUMAGRAJ LITERATURE AWARD FOR VED RAHI



- Film director and novelist Ved Rahi has been selected for prestigious “Kusumagraj” national award for literature.
- The ‘Kusumagraj Rashtriya Sahitya Puraskar’ carries cash prize of Rs. 1 lakh, a memento and a citation.
- The award Instituted, by the city-based Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University (YCMOU), after Jnanpith-laureate Marathi poet and playwright late V.V.Shirwadkar, popularly known as ‘Kusumagraj’.
- Rahi has penned seven novels in Dogri language. He was given Sahitya Akademi award for his Dogri novel, “Aale” in 1983.

PADMANABAN GOPALAN BAGGED THE COMMONWEALTH YOUTH AWARD FOR THE ASIAN REGION



- Social entrepreneur from Tamil Nadu, **Padmanaban Gopalan**, founder of No Food Waste, was named the winner of the **Commonwealth Youth Award** for the **Asian** region worth **3,000 Pounds** at a ceremony at the Commonwealth Secretariat in **London**.
 1. He was given the honour for his work towards achieving the UN’s Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) of Zero Hunger with his innovative system of recovering excess food to distribute to those in need.
 2. The initiative runs a geo-mapping platform, which allows users to drop food at located “hunger spots” and has so far recovered over 650,000 meals across 14 cities and the platform has been used by over 12,000 volunteers.

KENT RO AWARDED AS THE BEST DOMESTIC WATER PURIFIER 2019

- **Kent RO Systems Pvt. Ltd.** has received the **Best Domestic Water Purifier Award 2018-19** for its **RO+UV+UF** technology at the **Water Digest Water Awards** function that was held at The Lalit, New Delhi.
 1. The Water Digest Water Awards are given jointly by the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation and UNESCO.
 2. Kent had also earlier received awards like Organization of the Year Awards 2017, Best Domestic Water Purifier Award 2016-17, Asia’s Most Promising Brand 2016 etc.

SWATI SHINGADE BAGS DD MAHILA KISAN AWARD



- **Swati Shingade** of Pune, Maharashtra has bagged the first prize of **DD Mahila Kisan Award** for 2018-19.
- As many as **110** women farmers participated in the award competition, out of which five were selected for the grand finale.
- Prasar Bharati Chairman **A Surya Prakash** gave away the award to Ms. Shingade at a grand finale event organized by DD Kisan Channel in **New Delhi**.

CHENNAI TEEN PIANIST LYDIAN NADHASWARAM WON A MILLION DOLLARS

- 13 years old pianist from Chennai **Lydian Nadhaswaram** won the prize of \$1 million (6.9 crore) for his performance on the American reality show **'The World's Best'**.



Key Points:

- i. The young prodigy also made his debut on **The Ellen Show**.
- ii. Lydian Nadhaswaram is also a student of the Chennai-based **KM Music Conservatory** which is run by A.R. Rahman in Chennai.

C PREM KUMAR CLINCHED GOLLAPUDI SRINIVAS AWARD FOR HIS TAMIL FILM '96'

- **C Prem Kumar** who is a Cinematographer-turned-director, will be awarded with **22nd Gollapudi Srinivas National Award** for his debut film Tamil **'96'** on 12th August 2019 in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. The award is presented to debutant filmmaker by **Gollapudi Srinivas Memorial Foundation** in the memory of **Gollapudi Srinivas** who passed away while making his first project.

Key Points

- i. The award consists of a cash prize of Rs 1.5 lakh and a memento. **'96'** is the **2nd Tamil film** after Kutty (2011) directed by Janaki Viswanathan to receive this award.

TVS MOTOR WINS INTERNATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY' AWARD

- **TVS Motor Company** recently bagged the **'Green Era Award for Sustainability'** at **Lisbon in Portugal**. The two-wheeler and three-wheeler manufacturer also won the **'Quality and Business Excellence Award'** for its endeavour to create new benchmarks in product quality.

- The event held at Lisbon was attended by 34 companies across 25 countries. TVS motor is the flagship company of 8.5 billion dollar TVS Group.

GALLANTRY AWARDS

- On 19th March 2019, the Gallantry Awards and Distinguished Service Decorations were conferred by **President Ram Nath Kovind** at the Defence Investiture Ceremony, which was held at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi.

Name	Award	purpose
Sepoy Vijay Kumar of Indian Army (posthumously)	Kirti Chakras	For their exceptional bravery and commitment towards duty during counter-terrorist operations in Jammu and Kashmir.
Constable Pradip Kumar Panda of CRPF (posthumously)		
Lieutenant General Anil Kumar Bhatt	'Uttam Yudh Seva Medal'	For successfully organizing the counter-terrorist operations in Jammu & Kashmir.
Irfan Ramzan Sheikh	Shaurya Chakra	For preventing a terrorist attack.

About Kirti Chakras

- This award is given for bravery and courageous action during the battle. It is the peacetime award parallel of the **Maha Vir Chakra**. Also the second peacetime gallantry awards in order of precedence also it comes after **Ashoka Chakra** and before **Shaurya Chakra**.

Established: 4th January 1952

VED RAHI WILL BE AWARDED WITH KUSUMAGRAJ RASHTRIYA SAHITYA PURUSKAR

- Famous Novelist and Film Director, **Ved Rahi** will be awarded with prestigious **Kusumagraj Rashtriya Sahitya Puruskar** which carries a cash prize of Rs. 1 Lakh, A memento and a citation.

Key Points:

- Ved Rahi was born in Jammu in 1933 and he had written seven novels in **Dogri Language**. He also wrote in Hindi and Urdu.
- He was given Sahitya Akademi Award in 1983 for his Novel **"Aale"** which was written in Dogri Language.

PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI CONFERRED THE NATIONAL YOUTH PARLIAMENT FESTIVAL 2019 AWARDS

➤ The **National Youth Parliament Festival 2019** awards were given by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** at **Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi**.



1. It was organised by **National Service Scheme (NSS)** in collaboration with **Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS)**, under the **Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports**. The participants are in the age-group of 18-25 who participate in the District, State and National level Youth Parliaments. This year, the festival was conducted at the **District and State** levels. There were around 56 contestants at the event in the national level.
2. The winners from the national level competition are:
 - 1st position- Shweta Umre from Maharashtra
 - 2nd position- Anjanakshi M.S from Karnataka
 - 3rd position-Mamta Kumari from Bihar

Khelo India:

➤ The “**Khelo India**” app, which has been developed by **Sports Authority of India** was also launched at the event. It provides services such as locating the sports facilities in the country, their availability, rules of the games and checking the fitness levels of users.

1.8 INDIA & ITS NEIGHBOURS

PM MODI AND SHEIK HASINA UNVEILED E-PLAQUES FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN BANGLADESH

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** along with the Bangladesh Prime Minister **Sheikh Hasina**, unveiled **e-plaques** for development projects in **Bangladesh**, through video conferencing.
- The e-plaques are for the following projects:
1. Supply of buses and trucks
 2. Inauguration of 36 community clinics
 3. 11 water treatment plants
 4. Extension of National Knowledge Network to Bangladesh
- The **National Knowledge Network** will connect scholars and research institutes in **Bangladesh to India** and the world.

PROJECT BOLD-QIT INAUGURATED IN ASSAM BY RAJNATH SINGH

- **B O L D - Q I T** which is **Border Electronically Dominated Q R T Interception Technique** was inaugurated by **Home Minister Rajnath Singh** on 61km **India-Bangladesh** border in **Dhubri, Assam.**



Key Points:

- It was adopted to deal with the problem of border safeguarding in the areas where border fences can't be constructed due to Brahmaputra river.
- The project was brought to life by **Information and Technology Wing of BSF (Border Security Force)** under **Comprehensive Integrated Border Management system (CIBMS)**.
- Previous fencing projects include two smart-fencing pilot projects of 5Km each along the India-Pakistan border in Jammu.
- It is based on a security model similar to that of **Israel**.

1.9 LATEST TERMINOLOGY

INDIAN WORD 'CHUDDIES' ADDED TO OXFORD DICTIONARY

- The Indian English word '**chuddies**' recognized as official English word by the **Oxford English Dictionary (OED)**. The word is one of the **new 650 entries** announced by the OED.

Key Points :

- The contribution to the English vocabulary was made by a show which was aired on **BBC** in the mid-1990s named '**Goodness Gracious Me**'. The show received the gold award for comedy in 1997.
- The word **means short trousers or shorts**. It qualifies as a regional vocabulary because it is a mixture of English and Hindi which is an example of Queen's Hinglish.

'APRIL 2019 – MARCH 2020' ANNOUNCED AS CONSTRUCTION -TECHNOLOGY YEAR

- On 2nd March 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared '**April 2019–March 2020**' as **Construction-Technology year** and the use of advanced technology to meet the increasing demand of housing in the country caused by rapid urbanization got stressed.

Key Points:

- Government's mission to provide **brick house to every Indian by 2022** has sought the support from the **private sector for the fulfillment of the mission**.
- The declaration was made during the inauguration of **Construction Technology India 2019 Expo-cum-conference held in New Delhi**.
- The Global Housing Technology Challenge will be aimed at introducing best technologies that seek to **construct low cost houses in a shorter period of time**.
- Tax laws will be modified which will be helpful for the middle class to buy a house GST will be **reduced from 8% to 1% on affordable houses**.

1.10 APPOINTMENTS

FIRST TRANSGENDER ELECTION AMBASSADOR

- 38-year-old transgender activist **Shree Gauri Sawant** from Mumbai has been appointed as **first transgender** election ambassador by The Election Commission of India.

Key Points :

- There was no separate classification of transgenders as voters till 2014 but after that transgenders were first enrolled as voters along with males and females.
- The **highest enrolment of transgenders (324) is in Mumbai North Lok Sabha constituency**.

STATE GOVERNOR AYALA APPOINTED SUDAN'S PRIME MINISTER

- **Mohamed Tahir Ayala**, governor of Gezira state, was appointed **Sudan's Prime Minister**. Sudanese President Omar Al-Bashir said in November 2017 that he would support Ayala in the 2020 presidential election if he decided to run.

Extra info

- Capital : Khartoum
- Currency : Sudanese pound

KAJA KALLAS APPOINTED AS THE FIRST FEMALE PRIME MINISTER OF ESTONIA



- **Kaja Kallas**, the leader of the **Reform Party** has been appointed as the **first female Prime Minister of Estonia**, after the liberal Reform Party declared victory in the elections against centre-left Prime Minister Juri Ratas's party.
 1. She will be sworn in as the **18th Prime Minister of Estonia**. She will succeed Juri Ratas.
 2. The Reform Party secured **28.8%** votes against Centre party votes of 23%. The coalition government will be formed between Reform Party and far-right EKRE.

KRISHNA KUMARI KOHLI BECOMES THE FIRST THARI HINDU WOMAN TO BE ELECTED TO THE SENATE OF PAKISTAN



- **Krishna Kumari Kohli** has been appointed as the **first** female senator of **Pakistan** from the Hindu Dalit community. She is also the first Thari Hindu woman to be elected to the Pakistan senate.
 1. On 8th March 2019, which was celebrated as the International Women's Day, she chaired the session of the Upper House of Parliament.
 2. She has earlier worked as a crusader for the rights of bonded labourers in Pakistan. She's natively from the village-Dhana Gam in Nagarparkar area of Sindh.

VICE ADMIRAL KARAMBIR SINGH TO BE DESIGNATED AS NEXT CHIEF OF NAVAL STAFF

- He will succeed present Chief of Naval Staff Admiral **Sunil Lanba** who retires on May 2019.



About World Meteorological Organization :

- At present, he is a **Flag Officer Commanding in Chief** of the Eastern Naval Command in **Visakhapatnam**.
- He is from Jalandhar in Punjab. He was commissioned into the **Indian Navy** in **July 1980** and after two years he earned his **wings as a helicopter pilot**.

SUDIN DHAVALIKAR, VIJAY SARDESAI NAMED AS GOA DEPUTY CMS

- After the appointment of Goa's new **CM Pramod Sawant**, Maharashtrawadi

Gomantak Party (MGP)'s **Sudin Dhavalikar** and Goa Forward Party (GFP)'s **chief Vijay Sardesai** appointed as **Goa Deputy Chief Minister**.

- Sudin Dhavalikar, Vijay Sardesai succeeded **Francis Dsouza**.

About Goa :

- Capital: Panaji(Executive Branch)
- Chief minister: Pramod Sawant
- Districts: 2

PRAMOD SAWANT SWORN IN AS 13TH CHIEF MINISTER OF GOA



- BJP MLA and Former Speaker of Goa legislative assembly Pramod Sawant(45) took oath as 13th Chief Minister of Goa succeeding Manohar Parrikar, who died due to Cancer. Governor Mridula Sinha administered the oath of office of Pramod Sawant.

FORMER SC JUDGE PINAKI CHANDRA GHOSE WILL BE INDIA'S 1ST LOKPAL

- Former Supreme Court Judge. **Pinaki Chandra Ghose, is all set to become the first Lokpal of India.** The Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**-led selection committee chose Ghose's name from a panel of names recommended by an eight-member search committee.
- Ghosh will preside over the Lokpal as chairman and will be assisted by a panel of four judicial and four non-judicial members. The Lokpal will look into allegations of corruption against public functionaries, including the Prime Minister, and will be the first anti-corruption ombudsman with an independent inquiry wing and prosecution wing.

EX-SUPREME COURT JUDGE JUSTICE PC GHOSE NAMED AS INDIA'S FIRST LOKPAL

- 66-year old Former Supreme Court judge Justice **Pinaki Chandra Ghose** appointed as the country's **first Lokpal** or the anti-corruption ombudsman, by President Ram Nath Kovind.



Key Points :

- He is serving as a member of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) since June 29, 2017.
- Former Chief Justices Dilip B. Bhosale, Pradip Kumar Mohanty, and Abhilasha Kumari and current Chief Justice of Chhattisgarh High Court Ajay Kumar Tripathi have been appointed as **judicial members** under the Lokpal.



2. Political Science

2.1 POLITICAL PARTIES AND POLITICAL SYSTEMS IN INDIA

C LALSAWTA SWORN IN AS THE FIRST LOKAYUKTA OF MIZORAM

➤ **C Lalsawta** was sworn-in as the first Chairman of the newly-constituted Lokayukta in **Mizoram** at the **Raj Bhawan, Aizawl**.

1. The oath was administered to him by the **Governor** of Mizoram- **Jagdish Mukhi**.
2. The Chief Guest of the function was **Lalnunmawia Chuaungo**, the **Chief Secretary** of the state.
3. C Lalsawta is an IAS officer from **1981** batch of **Bihar** cadre.
4. He had served as the Principal Secretary of Finance Department of Mizoram from 2008 to 2011 and later served as the Vigilance Commissioner of Bihar till 2015.



About Mizoram:

- Capital- Aizawl
- Chief Minister- Zoramthanga
- Governor-Jagdish Mukhi

WEST BENGAL HAS MAXIMUM FIRST-TIME VOTERS IN LOK SABHA POLLS

- According to the Election Commission, **West Bengal** has the maximum number of **first-time voters**, around **20.1 lakh**, in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.
- WB is followed by **Uttar Pradesh** and **Madhya Pradesh**, with around 16.7 lakh and 13.6 lakh first-time voters, respectively.
- The number of people eligible to vote has reportedly increased by 8.4 crore as compared to 2014 General Elections.
- Over 1.5 crore voters are in the age group of 18-19 years. These “young voters” constitute 1.66 per cent of the total electors.

2.2 GOVT. - WELFARE ORIENTED GOVT SCHEMES, THEIR UTILITY

PM MODI LAUNCHED PRADHAN MANTRI KISAN SAMMAN NIDHI SCHEME IN GORAKHPUR

➤ Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** launched the **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)** scheme in **Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh**.

1. The scheme will provide **Rs 6,000 per year** to small and **marginal farmer families** having combined land holding/ownership of upto **2 hectares**.
2. The amount will be given in **three instalments of Rs 2,000 each** and will be transferred directly to the bank account of the beneficiaries through **Direct Benefit Transfer**, ensuring transparency in the entire process and saving time for the farmers.

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)

Direct income support of ₹6,000 p.a. for farmers, effective 01.12.2018

To benefit 12 cr small and marginal farmer families having cultivable land upto 2 ha

Direct transfer into the bank accounts in three equal instalments

First installment upto 31.03.2019, to be paid this year itself

₹75,000 cr in outlay for 2019-20 and ₹20,000 cr in RE 2018-19

TRIPURA ANNOUNCES 'NOTUN DISHA' TO ASSESS ACADEMIC LEVEL OF SCHOOL STUDENTS

- In a bid to improve the educational status of **Tripura**, the state government announced **'Notun Disha' (New Direction)**, an initiative aimed at assessing the academic level of students between **class III-VIII**.
- **Notun Disha** is aimed at making all students efficient and capable in all subjects. It is necessary to know the current educational level of students to fulfil this objective.

WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT MINISTRY FELICITATES 'WEB WONDER WOMEN'

- The **Union Ministry of Women and Child Development** honoured the 'Web Wonder Women' who have been driving social reforms through social media.
- The **Minister for Women and Child Development, Maneka Sanjay Gandhi** along with a panel of 10 judges finalised the names of 30 women who have impacted and influenced society through social media.
- The women were selected from over 240 nominations received under the categories media, awareness, legal, health, governmental, food, environment, development, business and art.

IRDAI, NHA FORM A WORKING GROUP CHAIRED BY DINESH ARORA TO CURB FRAUD IN AYUSHMAN BHARAT SCHEME

- The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** and **National Health Authority (NHA)** have formed a joint working group (JWG) in order to suggest ways for more effective implementation of the **Centre's Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)**.



Key Points:

- The group would comprise of **11** members.
- It will be headed by **Dinesh Arora, Deputy CEO of NHA** and co-headed by **Suresh Mathur, Executive Director of IRDAI**.
- The group shall prepare a report on management of hospitals under the scheme, data management and exchange, development of IT infrastructure for claims.

YUVASHREE ARPAN SCHEME

- West Bengal Chief Minister **Mamata Banerjee** launched a new scheme called **Yuvashree Plan II** or **Yuvashree Arpan** under which **50,000 youths** will receive financial assistance of **Rs 1 lakh** for setting up their own business initiatives.
- Youngsters passing out of **Industrial training institute (ITI)** or other polytechnic institute will be eligible to get financial support from the **micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME)** department.



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3. Geography



3.1 POLICY ON ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

22 GPS STATIONS SET BY GSI ACROSS INDIA

- In order to identify seismically hazardous zones and encourage mapping activities, the **Geological Survey of India (GSI)** launched **22 permanent Global Positioning System (GPS)** stations across **India**, which is a part of its objective to establish and maintain a network of continuously operating **35 permanent GPS stations** in a phased manner.
- **22** GPS permanent stations have been set up and remaining **13** will be operational by **March 2020**.
- The **22 GPS-Geodetic** (pertaining to **Geodesy**, the science of earth measurement) observatories are located in Kolkata, Thiruvananthapuram, Jaipur, Pune, Dehradun, Chennai, Jabalpur, Bhubaneswar, Patna, Raipur, Bhopal, Chandigarh, Gandhinagar Visakhapatnam, Agartala, Itanagar, Mangan, Jammu, Lucknow, Nagpur, Shillong and Little Andaman.



A NEW SPECIES OF FROG KNOWN AS 'STARRY DWARF FROG' FOUND IN WESTERN GHATS

- A new species of frog known as '**Starry Dwarf Frog**' has been discovered in **Western Ghats** mountain range.
- The features of the frog are:
 1. Orange-bellied
 2. Brown back covered with tiny spots which make it look like a starry sky
 3. Camouflages well in wet leaf litter
- It has been named '**Astrotrachus kurichiyana**' and is found in **Kurichiyarmala**, Kerala.

IN MEGHALAYA INDIA'S DEEPEST SHAFT CAVE DISCOVERED



- On 21st March 2019 during the 28th edition of the annual 'Caving in the Abode of the Clouds Expedition', a five-member team of cavers of Meghalaya Adventurers' Association (MAA) has discovered India's deepest shaft at Krem Um Ladaw. It has 105 m deep shaft entrance passage.

3.2 NATURAL DISASTERS - SAFEGUARD MEASURES

TROPICAL CYCLONE IDAI HITS MOZAMBIQUE

- A category 3 Cyclone Idai, which is carrying heavy rains and winds up to 177 km/h (106 mph), made landslide at the port city of Beira.
- The cyclone has now moved west towards Zimbabwe.
- Beira is the fourth-largest city in Mozambique and its port sits on the mouth of the Pungwe river, that runs to Zimbabwe.
- Mozambique has been struck by severe cyclones in the past, including Eline in 2000, when 350 people died and 650,000 were displaced across the wider region.



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4. Economics

4.1 CURRENT SOCIO - ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

TATA STEEL RECOGNISED AS ONE OF WORLD'S MOST ETHICAL COMPANIES

- **Tata Steel** has received an award as one of the **2019 World's Most Ethical Companies**. The award has been given by **Ethisphere Institute, USA**. The company was also recognised 7 times previously (this being the **eighth** recognition) and is one of the only two awardees in the 'Metals, Minerals and Mining' industry.
- In 2019, **128** honourees across **21** countries and **50** industries have been recognised.

4.2 NEW ECONOMIC POLICY & GOVT. SECTOR

MARSHALL ISLANDS' DIGITAL CURRENCY "SOV" TO BE RELEASED IN 2019

- The **Marshall Islands** is planning to release a digital currency called "**SOV**" this year in **2019**, however, the launch date of the currency has not been decided.
 1. **Neema**, an **Israel**-based company, is partnering with the **Marshall Islands** government to develop the digital currency.
 2. With **SOV**, every account would be fully identified and buyers would be checked against the **US Office of Foreign Asset Control** so that only legitimate, law-abiding people can use the currency.



About Marshall Islands:

- Capital – Majuro
- Currency – US Dollar
- President – Hilda Heine

33RD GST COUNCIL MEETING CHAIRED BY ARUN JAITLEY IN NEW DELHI

- Union Finance Minister, **Shri Arun Jaitley**, chaired the **33rd Goods & Services Tax (GST) Council** held in **New Delhi** which was attended by the Finance Ministers of various States and Union Territories.

Recommendations of the 33rd GST Council

- Although real estate sector is one of the largest contributors to the national **GDP** and provides employment opportunity to large numbers of people, there are reports of slowdown in the sector and low off-take of under-construction houses which needed to be addressed. In order to boost the residential segment of the real estate sector, following recommendations were made:

i. GST rate:

- GST shall be levied at effective GST rate of **5% without Input Tax Credit (ITC)** on residential properties outside affordable segment.
- GST shall be levied at effective GST of **1% without ITC** on affordable housing properties.
- The new rate will come into force from **1st of April, 2019**.

ii. Affordable Housing Definition:

- A residential house/flat of carpet area of upto **90 sqm in non-metropolitan cities/towns** and **60 sqm in metropolitan cities** having value upto **Rs. 45 lacs** (both for metropolitan and non-metropolitan cities).
- Metropolitan Cities are **Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi NCR** (limited to Delhi, Noida, Greater Noida, Ghaziabad, Gurgaon, Faridabad), **Hyderabad, Kolkata** and **Mumbai** (whole of Mumbai Metropolitan Region).

Advantages of the recommendations

- The buyer of house gets a fair price and affordable housing gets very attractive with **GST @ 1%**.
- Interest of the buyer/consumer gets protected
- Cash flow problem for the sector is addressed by **exemption of GST** on TDR, long term lease (premium), FSI etc.
- Unutilized ITC, which used to become cost at the end of the project gets removed and should lead to better pricing.
- Tax structure and tax compliance becomes simpler for builders.

iii. GST exemption on intermediate tax:

- Intermediate tax on development right, such as **Transfer of Development Rights (TDR), Joint Development Agreements (JDA), lease (premium), Floor Space Index (FSI)** will be exempted on properties on which **GST** is payable.

- A committee of officers will work on the details of the scheme and submit them for the approval of the **GST Council**.

AJAY NARAYAN JHA BECAME MEMBER OF THE 15TH FINANCE COMMISSION

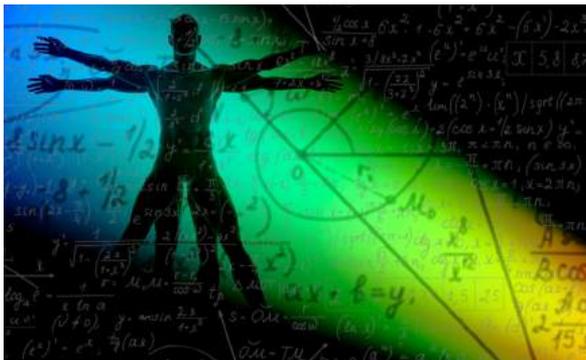
- **Shri Ajay Narayan Jha** joined the **15th Finance Commission** as its **Member** in place of **Shri Shaktikanta Das** who had resigned as a Member of the Commission after being appointed as **Governor** of the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**.
- 1. A **1982 batch IAS officer** of **Manipur cadre**, he was the **Finance Secretary** to the **Government of India** and has also served as **Secretary** to the **14th Finance Commission**, headed by former RBI Governor, **Shri Y.V. Reddy**.
- 2. The **15th Finance Commission** was constituted by a **Presidential Order** in **November, 2017** under the Chairmanship of **Shri N. K. Singh** to decide the formula for devolution of revenue between Centre and States, for a period of **5 years** – April, 2020 to March, 2025.

INDIA'S GDP GROWTH FORECAST TRIMMED TO 6.8% FOR FY20 BY FITCH

- Fitch rating in its **Global Economic Outlook**, has decreased India's economic growth forecast to **6.8%** from **7%** earlier for FY19-20 (1 April 2019 – 31 March 2020).
- 1. Fitch also slashed GDP growth forecast for **FY19** (ending March 2019) to **7.2%** from **7.8%** that was projected in the December edition.
- 2. For **FY21**, the economic growth of India is forecasted at **7.1%** from earlier 7.3%.



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5. Science

5.1 SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

ISRO UNVEILS 'YOUNG SCIENTIST' PROGRAMME TO TRAIN STUDENTS IN SPACE SCIENCE

- State-run **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** announced the launch of its **Young Scientist Programme to train class 9 students in space technology** and its applications. ISRO has launched the special programme for school children **'Yuva Vigyani Karyakram' (Young Scientist Programme)** to impart basic knowledge on space technology, space science and applications to the young ones to arouse their interest in space activities.
- The two-week residential training programme will be held each year during summer holidays for students from across the country who have completed class 8 and are studying in class 9.

CHINA LAUNCHES NEW COMMUNICATION SATELLITE 'CHINASAT 6C', COMPLETES 300TH LAUNCH

- On 10th March 2019, China lifted its broadband communication system by launching a **Long March - 3B carrier rocket with 'ChinaSat 6C'** into a geostationary orbit in Sichuan province.

Key Points:

- The 'ChinaSat 6C' was launched from Xichang Satellite Launch Center in Sichuan province. It is a 19 story tall rocket which is expected to provide **high quality radio and television transmission** services.
- It marked **300th launch** of the Long March carrier rocket series which was **developed by the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation** and will be operated by China Satellite Communications Co. Ltd.
- The satellite will cover China, Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific Island Countries. Nearly 97% of China's total launch missions was on Long March rocket series.

NASA ANNOUNCED WORLD'S FIRST ALL-FEMALE SPACEWALK

- ▶ NASA announced Two NASA astronauts Anne McClain and Christina Koch are scheduled to carry out the first ever all female spacewalk in history on March 29.
- ▶ Both will walk outside the international Space Station (ISS) as members of Expedition 59, on a mission to replace batteries installed last summer.
- ▶ 35 years after the first woman performed a spacewalk. They will receive ground support from flight director Mary Lawrence and Kristen Faccioli of the Canadian Space Agency in NASA's Johnson Space Centre in Texas.



A NEW 50P 'BLACK HOLE' COIN IN HONOUR OF STEPHEN HAWKING'S WORK UNVEILED BY ROYAL MINT

- ▶ The **Royal Mint** has honoured **Stephen Hawking's** legacy by issuing a new **50 pence** piece.



Key Points:

- ▶ The coin has drawn its inspiration from Hawking's work on black holes discussed in his bestselling book- **A Brief History of Time**.
- ▶ The coin has his name engraved along with an illustration of concentric circles that represent a black hole.
- ▶ It also has his equation on the black hole theory. The coin will not be circulated as normal change and has only been made as a commemoration edition.

ASTRONOMERS DISCOVERS 83 SUPERMASSIVE BLACK HOLES FROM EARLY UNIVERSE

- ▶ Astronomers have discovered **83 quasars** powered by supermassive black holes **13 billion** light-years away from the Earth, from a time when the universe was less than 10% of its present age.
- ▶ The finding, published in the **Astrophysical Journal**, increases the number of black holes known at that epoch (a particular period of time in history or a person's life) considerably, and reveals, for the first time, how common they were early in the universe's history.

A NEW SEA LEVEL OSCILLATION DISCOVERED BY INCOIS-FRENCH SCIENTISTS

- ▶ A study named "**New rhythms in tropical Indian Ocean revealed from the bottom pressure**" has been published in the latest issue of "**Nature Communications**" stating the discovery of **synchronous oscillation** of sea level covering entire Tropical Indian Ocean.
- ▶ The discovery has been done by researchers from **Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)** in partnership with **French scientists**.

ITALY'S EARTH-WATCHING PRISMA SATELLITE LAUNCHED BY VEGA ROCKET

- Italy's new Earth-observation satellite named **PRISMA** (Precursore Iperspettrale della Missione Applicativa) launched from the Guiana Space Centre by 98 foot (30 meters) tall **Vega rocket** which was developed by the joint venture of **Italian Space Agency and the European Space Agency**.



Key Points :

- PRISMA is an **electro-optical instrument**, which is designed to take medium resolution photos to give information about environmental monitoring, natural resources, pollution and crop health.
- The PRISMA satellite will operate in a **sun-synchronous orbit**.

5.2 MASS MEDIA & COMMUNICATION

MICROSOFT ABLE TO TRANSLATE DIGITAL INFORMATION INTO DNA

- **Microsoft** developed a storage device in partnership with the **University of Washington** that can translate **digital information into DNA**.



Key Points :

- The software used in the system converts the **1's and 0's of digital data** into **DNA sequence (A's, T's, C's and G's)** and stored it as a liquid.
- The device converted the word 'Hello' into DNA which took 21 hours.

About Microsoft Corporation

- **CEO:** Satya Nadella
- **Founded:** 4 April 1975, Albuquerque, New Mexico, United States
- **Headquarters:** Redmond, Washington, United States
- **Founders:** Bill Gates, Paul Allen

6. National Dairy of Events



PM MODI INAUGURATES NATIONAL WAR MEMORIAL NEAR INDIA GATE

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **National War Memorial** and slammed the previous governments for delaying the project to honour India's bravehearts. PM Modi paid his tribute to the brave soldiers, who lost their lives in Pulwama terror attack and all those bravehearts who have sacrificed their lives for protecting India.



- Spread over 40 acres in the India Gate complex, it has been executed at a cost of **Rs.176 crore** and its design was selected through a global competition. The names of **25,942** battle casualties have been inscribed across **16 walls** that consist of granite pieces bearing the name, rank and regiment of the fallen heroes.

RISING INDIA SUMMIT 2019 HELD IN NEW DELHI

- With the **theme 'Beyond Politics: Defining National Priorities'**, **News 18**, India's largest news network, is coming up with the second edition of its marquee thought-leadership initiative-**News 18 Rising India Summit 2019**. The event will be held in New Delhi and the inaugural evening will be graced by the Honorable Prime Minister of India, **Shri Narendra Modi** who will give the keynote address.
- The summit this year, held on a monumental scale, will bring together people of eminence and exceptional achievements, from various walks of life, to celebrate India's successes and deliberate the future.

KOCHI HOSTED 44TH IAA GLOBAL SUMMIT

- **International Advertising Association (IAA)**, the integrated association of advertising agencies and the media, will organise the **44th edition of its global summit at Grand Hyatt-Lulu Convention Centre, Kochi**. The three-day summit will see the participation of dignitaries from various fields and industries all over the world.
- **Reliance Industries CMD Mukesh Ambani**, Bollywood actor **Amitabh Bachchan** and spiritual leader **Sri Sri Ravi Shankar** will attend the summit. The **theme** of the **44th** edition is **'brand dharma'**.

14TH AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE CONGRESS HELD IN NEW DELHI

- **14th Agricultural Science Congress** organised by the **National Academy of Agricultural Science (NAAS)** in association with the **Indian Agricultural Research Institute and ICAR held in New Delhi** on the **theme** “Innovations for Agricultural Transformation”.
- The Congress was attended by around 2000 delegates. Over 40 delegates from 17 countries US, UK, Canada, Australia, France, Thailand, Mexico, Denmark and Philippines etc participated in the assembly.

HARYANA GOVT. ANNOUNCES MUKHYAMANTRI PARIVAR SAMMAN NIDHI YOJANA 2019



- “**Mukhyamantri Parivar Samman Nidhi**” scheme was launched by **Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar** in **Chandigarh**. It is primarily meant for farmers of the state who cultivate on land with areas upto five acres and the families with an income of less than **Rs. 15,000** per month.

Key Points:

- The scheme would provide a sum of **Rs. 6,000** yearly and each family has to nominate a member who will be provided with this amount.
- The scheme involves two categories of beneficiaries- in the age group of **18 to 40 years** and the in the age group of **40 to 60 years**.

RISING INDIA SUMMIT 2019 HELD IN NEW DELHI



- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** addressed **Network-18 Rising India Summit** held in **New Delhi** and laid out his vision for a ‘**New India**’. He was the **Chief Guest** of the event.
 1. The theme of the summit was, “**Beyond Politics: Defining National Priorities**”.
 2. The Prime Minister discussed on various topics including **income tax** and **GDP** numbers, **India’s global standing, Jan Dhan accounts** and **unemployment**.
 3. **Rising India Summit** is presented by **Ebix** and is one of most anticipated thought leadership forums in **India**.
 4. It showcased **India’s** unbounded potential as well as a celebration of its significant achievements and hosted a number of notables – top policy makers, Union Cabinet Ministers, Chief Ministers, entertainment icons, global visionaries, economists, writers and corporate leaders.

PRANAM COMMISSION LAUNCHED BY SARBANANDA SONOWAL

➤ Assam chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal launched the Parents Responsibility and Norms for Accountability and Monitoring (PRANAM) Commission, a panel set up to look after the issues with respect to the PRANAM Bill brought in for protection of parents of state government employees at Guwahati, Assam.



1. According to the Bill, if the **PRANAM Commission** gets a complaint that parents of a state government employee is being ignored, then **10% or 15%** of the **employee's salary** will be deducted by the government and paid to the **parents** or **differently abled siblings**.
2. It is **first-of its-kind Bill** in **India** and would benefit **8 lakh parents** of **4 lakh state government employees**. It was approved by the state cabinet in **2018**.

BIHAR 1ST STATE TO DEPLOY THE FIRST STATE IN THE COUNTRY TO HAVE RAISED LIQUOR SMUGGLING

- Bihar has become the first state in the country to have raised a special dog squad to detect liquor consignment. As many as 20 liquor-tracker dogs which were imparted training for nine months in Hyderabad have been deployed in nine police ranges in the state.
- They were trained at Hyderabad-based integrated intelligence Training Academy. Patna will witness deployment of 4 such dogs. Notably, Bihar had banned liquor in the state in 2016.

THAAWARCHAND GEHLOT LAUNCHED 2ND EDITION OF INDIAN SIGN LANGUAGE DICTIONARY



- 2nd Edition of Indian Sign Language (ISL) Dictionary was launched by Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Thaawarchand Gehlot in New Delhi.

Key Points:

- The Dictionary was developed by Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC) and it included 6 thousand words under different categories such as legal, academic, technical, medical and everyday terms.
- The First edition of dictionary was launched in March, 2018.

COMMEMORATIVE NOTES TO BE RELEASED TO MARK GANDHI'S 150TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

- A UAE based company will release 12 bank notes of zero value which is the first ever limited edition commemorative series to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.



Key Points:

- Dubai based **Indian artist Akbar Saheb has designed these special notes.** He was the main illustrator for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's book 'Mann Ki Baat'.
- As a tribute to Gandhi, each note **will feature memorable incidents from his personal and political life.** The initiative will bring Mahatma Gandhi back to life using incidents that are more than just history lessons.
- **It will be a 12 part series.** The first 2 notes with just 5000 pieces to be printed in each design will go on sale at selected outlets globally and online while the rest will be released in different phases till October 2.

PM INAUGURATED CONSTRUCTION TECHNOLOGY INDIA 2019 EXPO-CUM CONFERENCE

- On 2nd March 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **two day Expo-cum Conference on Construction Technology India 2019 (CTI-2019) in New Delhi.**



Key Points:

- It will identify proven, innovative and globally established technologies such as researchers, startups, developers, academia, etc. For use which will be in the Indian context.
- The event will **provide a space for interaction among stakeholders** that can open up new areas for collaboration and will facilitate. The conversion of ideas into market-ready products which is ready to be launched in the market place.
- **The main beneficiary of the initiative is youth.** Technologies which are proven during CTI-2019 will further invite to design and build lighthouse projects.

MODI LAUNCHES 'ONE NATION, ONE CARD'



- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** launched the **“One Nation, One Card”** programme to ensure seamless travel across the country. The card can be used for payments across different segments, including Metro, bus, suburban railways, toll, parking and retail purchases.
- The Indigenous Automatic Fare Collection System based on the “One Nation, One Card” model, for example **the National Common Mobility Card (NCMC)**, is the **first** of its kind in India.
- **The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** came out with the **NCMC programme** to ensure seamless travel across different transport segments.

2 DAY 2019 NORTH KOREA – UNITED STATES HANOI SUMMIT HELD IN HANOI, VIETNAM

- 2 day 2019 **North Korea – United States Hanoi Summit** has abruptly concluded in Hanoi, Vietnam with no joint agreement after Kim insisted all US sanctions to be lifted on his country.

Key Points:

- The meeting was held **between North Korean Leader Kim Jong-un and US President Donald Trump**. It was the second meeting between them following the **first meeting in June 2018 in Singapore**.
- After June 2018 summit, **US Secretary of state Mike Pompeo appointed Stephan Biegun as US Special Representative for North Korea**.
- During the summit, Trump sought a guarantee from North Korea to stop testing its missiles and nuclear weapons. In return, North Korea demanded the lifting of **5 core economic sanctions which was imposed over Korea**.

79TH INDIAN HISTORY CONGRESS HELD IN BHOPAL

- The **79th Indian History Congress (IHC)** was held at **Barkatullah University in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh from 26th to 28th February 2019** and saw a presence of over **1,000** delegates including prominent historians who participated in it.
 1. After **2011**, this was the **second time Madhya Pradesh** hosted the event.
 2. **IHC** was initially set to be held at the **Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune, Maharashtra** but was cancelled due to financial reasons.

About IHC:

- **Established in 1935**, IHC is the largest professional and academic body of Indian historians with over 10,000 members.
- The first meeting of the IHC in 1935 was held in Pune.

GURUGRAM BECAME WORLD'S MOST POLLUTED CITY IN 2018

- Gurugram in the National Capital Region (NCR) emerged as the most polluted region in the world in 2018 as per 2018 World Air Quality Report.

Rank	City	2017 AVG	2018 AVG
1	Gurugram, India	145.6	135.8
2	Ghaziabad, India	144.6	135.2
3	Faisabad, Pakistan	-	130.4
4	Faridabad, India	123	129.1
5	Bhiwadi, India	-	125.4
6	Noida, India	134	123.6
7	Patna, India	118.5	119.7
8	Hotan, China	91.9	116
9	Lucknow, India	118.2	115.7
10	Lahore, Pakistan	133.2	114.9
11	Delhi, India	106.2	113.5

Key Points:

- As per the report, **Delhi is the most polluted capital** in the world. In the list of polluted cities, Delhi ranked 11th.
- Out of the top 10 polluted cities in 2018, seven were India, which are Ghaziabad, Faridabad, Bhiwandi, Noida, Patna and Lucknow.
- The report was based on a new **study by Swiss based company IQ Air AirVisual and non profit organization Greenpeace** on information from over 3000 cities.
- **Bangladesh became the most polluted country** closely followed by Pakistan and India while Iceland, Finland, Australia, Estonia and Sweden were among the least polluted countries.

About Greenpeace

- Formation: 1969.
- Headquarter: Amsterdam, Netherlands.

INDORE JUDGED CLEANEST CITY FOR THIRD TIME

- President Ram Nath Kovind on March 6, 2019 conferred the Swachh Survekshan Awards 2019 at a ceremony in New Delhi.
- Indore was adjudged as India's Cleanest City for the third consecutive year in the central government's cleanliness survey, while Bhopal was named as the 'Cleanest Capital' of India. Indore reported a 70 percent drop in vector-borne ailments in 2019, which is being attributed to Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

Major Awardees of Swachh Survekshan 2019

Category	Place (Winner)	State
India's Cleanest City	Indore	Madhya Pradesh
Cleanest Big City	Ahmedabad	Gujarat
Cleanest Medium City	Ujjain	Madhya Pradesh
Cleanest Small City	New Delhi Municipal Council	Delhi
Cleanest Capital	Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh
Best Performing State	Chhattisgarh	Chhattisgarh
India's Cleanest Cantonment	Delhi Cantonment Board	Delhi
Best Ganga Town	Gauchar	Uttarakhand
North Zone's Cleanest City	Nawashahr	Punjab
East Zone's Cleanest City	Narharpur	Chhattisgarh
North East Zone's Cleanest City	Thoubal	Manipur
South Zone's Cleanest City	Piriyapatna	Karnataka
West Zone's Cleanest City	Karhad	Maharashtra

Top 20 Cities

- In this year's survey, these are the top 20 cities that have been the forerunners in Urban India's progress towards cleanliness:

Large cities	Indore	Mysuru	Ahmedabad	Navi Mumbai	Tirupati
	Rajkot	Vijayawada	Ghaziabad	Surat	
Smaller towns and cities	Mul	Ambikapur	Ujjain	NDMC	Karhad
	Lonavala	Vita	Dewas	Bhilai	Shahganj
	Panhala				

A SERIES OF VISUALLY IMPAIRED FRIENDLY RE 1, RS 2, RS 5, RS 10, RS 20 COINS UNVEILED BY PM MODI

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** unveiled the new series of **visually impaired friendly coins** of in the denominations of **Rs 1, Rs 2, Rs 5, Rs 10 and Rs 20**



at an event held in **New Delhi** where visually impaired children were specially invited. All the new series coins will be issued for circulation only through the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** in terms of the **RBI Act**. The exact date of issuance of new series coins is yet to be announced.

India's first 20 rupee coin features:

- The new 20 rupee coin isn't in a circular shape unlike every other new series of coins released today. New Rs 20 coin is in polygon shape of 12 edges with a design of grains denoting the agricultural dominance of the country.

MANEKA GANDHI FELICITATED THE 30 WINNERS OF THE 'WEB WONDER WOMEN' CONTEST

- The Union Minister for Women and Child Development, **Maneka Gandhi**, felicitated the 30 winners of the '**Web Wonder Women**' contest organized by the **Ministry of Women and Child Development in New Delhi**.



1. Maneka Gandhi, along with a panel of **10 judges**, finalized the names of **30 women** who have impacted and influenced society through social media.
2. The women were selected from over **240 nominations** received under the categories media, awareness, legal, health, governmental, food, environment, development, business and art.

About Web Wonder Women:

- Organised in collaboration with **Twitter India** and **Breakthrough India**, the event is aimed to recognise the fortitude of **Indian women** stalwarts from across the globe who have used the power of **social media** to run positive campaigns to bring a change in the society.

MADHYA PRADESH GOVERNOR PASSED ORDINANCE TO INCREASE OBC QUOTA

- **Madhya Pradesh** governor, **Anandiben Patel** approved an **Ordinance to increase reservation** for Other Backward Classes (OBCs).

Key Points:

- As per the ordinance the reservation of **OBC will be increased to 27% from 14%**. It made Madhya Pradesh the only state in India to have 27% quota for OBCs.
- The government assured 10% reservation for economically weaker section in the general category will soon get implemented.
- State Minister for Law and Legal Affairs P C Sharma has announced the ordinance.

GONDI LANGUAGE TO BE INCLUDED IN PRIMARY EDUCATION IN MP'S TRIBAL DISTRICTS

- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister **Kamal Nath** declared that **Gondi** language will be included in the **primary education** curriculum of the state's tribal-dominated districts, due to the rising concern of a rapid decline in the number of people who speak that tongue.
- The **International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples**, declared by the **United Nations (UN)**, will be observed in the state on **9th August 2019** to redress the problems of the **tribal** community and it will be a Government holiday.

About Gond Tribal Community :

- The Gondi or Gond people are Adivasi (indigenous people) of India listed as a Scheduled Tribe
- They are spread over the states of Madhya Pradesh, eastern Maharashtra (Vidarbha), Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and Odisha.

INDIAN SUNDARBANS BECAME 'WETLAND OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE'

- The **Indian Sundarban** was accorded with the status of **'Wetland of International Importance'** in the Ramsar Convention. Indian Sundarban which is **also a UNESCO (The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) world heritage site**, is home to the **Royal Bengal Tiger**.

Key Points:

- Indian Sundarban **met four out of nine criteria** required for the status, which are presence of rare species and threatened ecological communities, biological diversity, significant and representative fish and fish spawning ground and migration path.
- Ramsar status will help to highlight conservation issues of the Sundarbans at the international level at the time when concerns have been raised about natural ecosystems being changed for cultivation of shrimp, crab, molluscs and fish.

THE 34TH EDITION OF AAHAR – THE INTERNATIONAL FOOD AND HOSPITALITY FAIR BEGINS IN NEW DELHI

- The Five day long, 34th edition of **Aahar- the International Food and Hospitality Fair** which is organized by **India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO)** begins in **New Delhi** on 12th March 2019.

Key Points:

- Participants from China, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Indonesia, Japan, Russia, Spain, USA and UK are participating in the event.
- The Food fair features Food Products, Hospitality and decor solutions, confectionery items, Food beverages equipment and machinery from more than 560 National and International Participants.

ICAP FOR PROVIDING THERMAL COMFORT TO CITIZENS RELEASED BY DR HARSH VARDHAN

- Union Environment Minister, **Dr. Harsh Vardhan** released the **India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP)** aimed at reducing emissions and providing thermal comfort to citizens in **New Delhi**.
 1. **ICAP** provides an integrated vision towards cooling across sectors encompassing inter alia reduction of cooling demand, refrigerant transition, enhancing energy efficiency and better technology options with a **20 year** time horizon.
 2. It aims at reducing cooling demand across sectors by 20% to 25% by 2037-38 and refrigerant demand by 25% to 30% by 2037-38.
 3. It will provide thermal comfort for all, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, double farmers' income as with better cold chain infrastructure, a grower will get better value of produce.
 4. It seeks to reduce cooling energy requirements by **25% to 40%** by **2037-38** and recognize **“cooling and related areas”** as a thrust area of research under the national Scientific & Technical Programme.

MOHAMMAD SHTAYYEH APPOINTED AS THE PRIME MINISTER OF PALESTINE

- The President of Palestinian Authority **Mahmoud Abbas** appointed **Mohammad Shtayyeh** as the Palestinian **Prime Minister**.



Key Points:

- **Mohammad Shtayyeh** succeeds Rami al-Hamdallah who resigned from this post 6 weeks ago.
- He is 61 years old and is a member of the central committee of the president's **Fatah** party.
- He is a former minister who had earlier participated in numerous negotiating teams of Palestine during United States-brokered talks with Israel.

INDIA RANKED 16TH IN TERMS OF HIGHEST NUMBER OF IMPACTED SPECIES IN HOTSPOTS

- A recent study published in **PLOS Biology**, an international journal dedicated to biological science, found that human impacts on species occur across **84%** of the earth's surface and **India** ranks **16th** in such impacts, with 35 species impacted on an average.
 1. **Malaysia** ranks **first** among the countries with the highest number of impacted species (125).
 2. A team of scientists led by **James Allan** (University of Queensland) found this when they mapped the distribution of eight human activities — including hunting and conversion of natural habitats for agriculture — in areas occupied by 5,457 threatened birds, mammals and amphibians worldwide.

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ARECANUT GETS ITS FIRST GI TAG FOR ‘SIRSI SUPARI’

- Arecanut, also known as supari or betel nut, is the latest entrant in the list of agricultural produce with a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- The ‘Sirsi Supari’ is grown in Sirsi, Siddapur and Yellapur taluks of Uttara Kannada district in Karnataka.
- Production of arecanut in these three taluks is around 7 per cent of the production of Karnataka State.
- Grown on an area of around 40,000 acres, the annual production of ‘Sirsi Supari’ is estimated to be around 40,000 tonnes.
- The Totagars’ Cooperative Sale Society (TSS) Ltd, a Sirsi-based agri cooperative, is the registered proprietor of the GI ‘Sirsi Supari’.



NEW DELHI, ISLAMABAD AGREE TO WORK TOGETHER TO OPERATIONALIZE KARTARPUR CORRIDOR

- **India** and **Pakistan** have agreed to work together to operationalise the **Kartarpur** corridor which makes it easier for the Indian pilgrims to visit Gurdwara Darbar Sahib at Kartarpur in Pakistan.
 1. The decision was made in the first meeting between Indian and Pakistani representatives held at **Attari, Punjab** in which the Indian delegation was led by S C L Das, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Pakistani delegation was led by Dr. Mohammad Faisal, Director General for South Asia and South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).
 2. The next meeting will be held in Wagah in the following month.

RAM NATH KOVIND INAUGURATED FESTIVAL OF INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN GANDHINAGAR

- The President of India Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the **Festival of Innovation and Entrepreneurship (FINE)** in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. **10th Biennial National Grassroots Innovation awards** were also distributed by the President on the occasion.



Key Points:

- The event will provide platform to the innovators for building the linkages with potential stakeholders whose support can improve the prospects in coming years for the betterment of the society.
- FINE is a unique initiative of the Office of the President of India to recognize, respect and reward grassroots innovations and foster a supportive ecosystem.

INDIA SETS 'ASPIRATIONAL' TARGET FOR ENGINEERING EXPORTS BY 2025

- According to an **EEPC India-Deloitte strategy paper**, India can achieve a three-fold "aspirational" increase in its engineering export to **reach USD 200 billion by 2025**, if concerted efforts are made by the government and Industry to develop a conducive ecosystem, and ensuring inputs at competitive prices.

Key Points:

- The aspirational target of Indian engineering exports is set as USD 200 billion by 2025, which is almost a threefold increase from 2017-18 exports. It is decided on the basis of discussions with Ministry of Commerce and leadership of EEPC India.
- In the current financial year ending March 31, **India's engineering exports**, which **contribute 25 per cent** to the overall merchandise shipments are projected to touch **about USD 80-82 billion**.

CONVENTION OF WAR DECORATED INDIA HELD IN CHANDIGARH

- The two-day national convention of **War Decorated India** was held at the **Manekshaw Auditorium in Chandimandir**, the headquarters of the Western Command, near **Chandigarh** and was attended by some living gallantry award winners and relatives of the deceased awardees. Next of kin, relatives of the awardees were felicitated at the convention.
 1. Chief of Staff Western Command Lt General **P.N. Bali** addressed the convention.

2. Among Victoria Cross awardees, the relatives of Late **Naib Subedar Nand Singh** (Sikh Regiment), Late **Subedar Ram Sarup Singh** (1 Punjab) and Late **Badlu Ram** (Cavalry) were felicitated.

3RD EDITION OF NAMASTE THAILAND FESTIVAL HELD IN NEW DELHI

- 3rd edition of Namaste



Thailand festival, aimed at strengthening bilateral ties and increasing cultural exchange between India and Thailand, held in New Delhi.

- The three-day festival was organised by the Royal Thai Embassy.
- The festival will feature stage performances by Thai artistes including the much popular Thai folk-jazz band Asia-7.

34TH GST COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN NEW DELHI

- Union Finance Minister **Arun Jaitley** chaired **34th meeting of the Goods and Services Tax Council in New Delhi**. It discussed the operational details for implementation of the recommendations made by the 33rd meeting of the council.



Key Points :

- The tax rate for under **construction flats slashed to 5% and affordable homes to 1%** without input tax credit (ITC) by the GST Council. Currently 12% GST is levied with input tax credit on payments made for under construction properties. It will be **effective from April 1st**.

INDO-JAPAN WORKSHOP ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION HELD IN NEW DELHI ON 18TH MARCH

- Government of India and Government of Japan organized the 3rd Indo-Japan Workshop on **Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)** in **New Delhi**. Additional Principal Secretary to Prime Minister, Dr. P. K. Mishra inaugurated the workshop.
- i. The objective behind this meet was to enhance collaboration between research institutes, cities and the private sector in the field of DRR.



'VIJIT' BECOMES THE FIRST INDIAN COAST GUARD SHIP TO VISIT INDONESIA

- Highlighting the close maritime proximity between **Indian and Indonesia**, Indian Coast Guard Ship '**Vijit**' became the **first - ever Coast Guard ship to visit Saband, Indonesia**. This visit of the coast guard ship follows from the first-ever-visit of Naval Ship INS Sumitra to Sabang in July 2018.
- Vijit's visit also highlights strengthening cooperation in the area of maritime security and safety between New Delhi and Jakarta.

BIHAR CELEBRATED ITS 107TH FOUNDATION DAY

- Bihar celebrated its **107th foundation day** called **Bihar Diwas 2019 or Bihar Day** to commemorate Bihar's separation from Bengal Presidency in 1912. It is a public holiday in Bihar.

Key Points :

- The State Government of Bihar organizes **Bihar Utsav in Delhi** which is a fortnight long festival that showcases art, culture and heritage of Bihar.

DELHI IGI AIRPORT BECOMES THE 12TH BUSIEST IN THE WORLD AS PER ACI REPORT

- In accordance with the preliminary world airport traffic rankings for 2018 released by **Airports Council International (ACI)**, the **Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA)** of **New Delhi** has elevated 4 ranks to reach at **12th spot in terms of busiest airport** as compared to 2017's 16 spot.



1. The list of **world's busiest airports by passenger traffic** ranking has been topped by **Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (US)** followed by **Beijing Capital International Airport (China)** and **Dubai International Airport (UAE)**.
2. In 2018, India has followed **US** and **China** to become the world's **third-largest aviation** market in terms of passenger throughput.



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7. International Affairs



2019 PASSPORT INDEX: INDIA AT 67TH & UAE IN TOP

➤ The **Passport Index of 2019**, which ranks almost **199 countries** in the world based on their **Visa-Free Scores** and their ranking according to the **UNDP human development index**, showed that **Indian passport** has steadily strengthened in a period of **5 years** from **rank 77** in **2015** to **67** in **2019**.

1. **25 countries** allow **visa-free entry** to **Indian passport** holders, whereas **39 countries** offer **visa-on-arrival**.
2. The **Tourism Ministry for India** is also offering **e-tourist visa facilities** to **166 countries**, by making several amendments in the **e-visa regime** of the country in order to make this process more tourist friendly.

Top 3 Countries:

1. UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
2. GERMANY
3. DENMARK

MALAYSIA JOINS THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

- Malaysia ratified the Rome Statute making it the 124th State party to join the International Criminal Court (ICC).
- Even though Malaysia had helped to negotiate the Rome Statute, it has been long been reluctant to ratify it.
- The downing of flight MH17 and the Rohingya crisis have focused Malaysia's attention on the ICC.

AFGHANISTAN OPENS NEW EXPORT ROUTE TO INDIA THROUGH IRAN'S CHABAHAR PORT



➤ **Afghanistan** began exporting to India through the **Chabahar port** in **Iran**, for the first time by bypassing the Pakistan route.

1. The first consignment was inaugurated by **Afghan President Ashraf Ghani**. It comprised of **23 trucks** carrying **57 tonnes** of dried fruits, textiles, carpets and mineral products. They were dispatched from **Zaranj**, Afghanistan to Chabahar in Iran. They will then be shipped from Chabahar to Mumbai.

About Afghanistan

- Capital- Kabul
- President- Ashraf Ghani

20TH INDIA-ITALY JCEC SESSION HELD IN NEW DELHI

- The 2-day long session of the **20th India-Italy Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation (JCEC)** was held in **New Delhi** and co-chaired by the Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, **Suresh Prabhu** and the Deputy Minister of Economic Development (Italy), **Mr. Michele Geraci**.
 1. Both countries, through facilitating dialogue and enhancing cooperation in a wide range of sectors like **machinery, infrastructure and engineering, Information and Communications Technology (ICT)** including digitalization, **agriculture** and **Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)**, looked forward towards the development of bilateral economic and trade relations between them.
 2. The 19th Session of India-Italy JCEC was held in **Rome** in **2017**.

About Italy :

- Capital – Rome
- Currency – Euro
- Prime minister – Giuseppe Conte

GHANI FLAGS OFF FIRST AFGHAN CARGO TO INDIA THROUGH CHABAHAR PORT

- **Afghanistan President AShrif Ghani flagged off the first Afghan cargo** from western Nimroz province that will be **exported to India through Chabahar Port in Iran** which was inaugurated in 2017. Addressing the event, Ghani said that the opening of Chabahar route will increase Afghanistan's export from US \$1 billion to US \$2 billion in the next year.
- The Chabahar port which provides an alternative route for trade between India and Afghanistan is located in Southeastern Iran, on the Gulf of Oman.

FRENCH SPACE AGENCY CNES AND ISRO SIGNED MARITIME SURVEILLANCE AGREEMENT

- The president of **French** space agency **CNES** (Centre national d'études spatiales), **Jean-Yves Le Gall** and **K.Sivan**, Chairman of the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**, signed an agreement in **Bengaluru**, to implement the **short-term plan** for the **French-Indian** programme to develop a **space-based maritime surveillance system**.
- The **CNES-ISRO** agreement, intended to supply an operational system for detecting, identifying and tracking ships in the **Indian Ocean**, provides for a maritime surveillance centre to be set up in **India** in **May 2019**.

About France :

- Capital – France
- Currency – Euro
- President – Emmanuel Macron

About ISRO

- Chairman – K Sivan
- Headquarters – Bengaluru

MUMBAI IS 16TH MOST EXPENSIVE PRIME RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY MARKET IN THE WORLD

- According to Knight Frank report - Mumbai, the financial capital of the country, is the 16th most expensive prime residential market in the world. Globally Monaco topped the list.
- Mumbai ranked 12th in terms of wealth on the index tracking global ranking of cities bettering its previous position of 18th in 2017.
- Mumbai is the only Indian city to feature in the global top 20 list of expensive prime residential markets recorded in The Wealth Report 2019.
- Knight Frank Prime International Residential Index (PIRI 100) report -Mumbai (67 PIRI rank), which has the most expensive real estate in India.

How much luxury property \$1 m will buy around the world			
City	Sq.ft	City	Sq.ft
Monaco	172	Tokyo	721
Hong Kong	237	Berlin	786
New York	334	Miami	1,001
London	334	Melbourne	1,044
Singapore	388	Mumbai	1,076
Los Angeles	420	Istanbul	1,173
Geneva	441	Dubai	1,539
Paris	495	Cape Town	1,905
Sydney	560	Sao Paulo	2,153
Shanghai	614	Delhi	2,163
Beijing	721	Bengaluru	3,595

SINGAPORE, PARIS AND HONG KONG SHARED TOP SPOT IN WORLD'S MOST EXPENSIVE CITIES SURVEY

- The annual **Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) survey listed Singapore, Paris and Hong Kong** as the world's most expensive cities. In the 30 year long history it is for the first time the three cities are sharing the top spot.



Key Points :

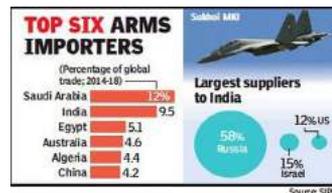
- **Zurich and Geneva in Switzerland** ranked **fourth and fifth** respectively in the Expensive Cities list while **Osaka in Japan** ranked **6th position**.
- As per EIU, **Bengaluru, Chennai and New Delhi** ranked **5th, 7th and 8th** position respectively among the **top ten cheapest cities**.

About Economist Intelligence Unit

- Headquarters: London, England
- Founded: 1946

SAUDI ARABIA BECAME THE WORLD'S LARGEST IMPORTER OF WEAPONS

➤ **India** lost its position as the world's largest importer of weapons, which it held for over a decade, with **Saudi Arabia** topping the global share of arms imports between **2014** and **2018**, as per the data published by the **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (Sipri)**, the leading Stockholm-based think tank that measures weapons imports over **five-year** periods.



1. **Saudi Arabia** topped the global share of arms imports between **2014** and **2018**, and accounted for **12%** of the global share of arms imports in that period, followed by India in second place with a **9.5%** share.
2. With imports pegged at **4.2%** of the global share, **China** is the world's **sixth-largest** buyer of weapons.

US – INDIA STRATEGIC SECURITY DIALOGUE HELD IN WASHINGTON

➤ The **9th round of the U.S.-India Strategic Security Dialogue** held in **Washington DC, United States**. Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale led the Indian delegation and Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security Andrea Thompson led the US delegation.



Key Points:

- The two sides exchanged views on a wide range of **global security and non-proliferation challenges**. Both nations reaffirmed their commitment to work together to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems and to deny access to such weapons by terrorists and non-state actors.

4TH ROUND OF FTA TALKS BETWEEN INDIA AND PERU HELD IN LIMA

- 4th Round of **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** talks between **India and Peru** concluded in Lima on 15th March.
 1. The FTA agreement is aimed to enhance the two-way commerce between India and Peru.
 2. The Bilateral trade between India and Peru has been increased from 1.77 billion dollars in 2016-17 to 3.13 billion dollars in 2017-18 and Lima ranked third among export destination for India in Latin America and Caribbean region.

INDIA-INDONESIA COORDINATED PATROL (IND-INDO CORPAT) BEGAN AT PORT BLAIR



- The **33rd** edition of the **India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (Ind-Indo Corpat)** was started on March 19, 2019 and will continue till 4th April 2019 at **Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Islands** in order to enhance interoperability and strengthen existing bonds of friendship between India and Indonesia.

Key Points :

- Under this both countries' ship and aircraft would undertake patrolling of **236 nautical miles** long International Maritime Boundary line on the respective sides.
- The Indian Navy, Commodore **Ashutosh Ridhorkar**, VSM Naval Component Commander, Andaman and Nicobar Command are led the Indian delegation.

KAZAKHSTAN RENAMES ITS CAPITAL ASTANA AS NURSULTAN

- **Kazakhstan** has renamed its capital as **Nursultan** from its previous name **Astana** in order to recognize its outgoing leader **Nursultan Nazarbayev (78)**, who has served **nearly 30 years** as president of Kazakhstan.
- The name was changed after **Kassym-Jomart Tokayev** sworn in as president of Kazakhstan. The new president will serve till **April 2020**.



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8. Tamilnadu Affairs



TURMERIC FROM ERODE, TAMIL NADU GETS GI TAGGED AFTER AN 8-YEAR PROCESS

- Geographical Indication (GI) tag was granted by the Geographical Indication Registry to **Erode turmeric** after a process spread over 8 years. The cultivar is known as Erode local (Chinnanadan).

<p>What is GI? A geographical indication is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities specific to the place of origin</p> <p>Right it provides Tag enables those with the right to use the sign to prevent its use by a third party whose product does not conform to the applicable standards and from that</p>	<p>particular origin</p> <p>Benefits of tag Better pricing, boosts export, increases trust on product quality</p> <p>Area of cultivation of 'Erode manjal' Kodumudi, Sivagiri, Bhavani, Gopichettipalayam, Anthiyur, Chernampatti, Sathyamangalam and Thalavadi of Erode district, certain areas in Coimbatore and whole of Tirupur</p>
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Unique features of Erode Turmeric :

- Average length of the fingers of turmeric is approximately 4.15 cm and average circumference is 3.03 cm.
- The average bulb length of the mother rhizome is about 4.54cm and the average circumference is 6.54cm
- It consists of 2.5-4.5% curcumin, has a golden yellow colour and is resistant to pests after boiling.

ERODE TURMERIC RECEIVED GI TAG

- **Erode Turmeric** has finally received GI tag from the Geographical Indication Registry. Erode is the city in the state of Tamil Nadu. The product to acquire GI tag has to indicate that a product of a particular origin has a certain quality or reputation or some other characteristics, which is essentially attributable to its geographical origin.

The uniqueness of the Erode Turmeric :

- Erode Turmeric is golden yellow in colour with **resistance to pests after boiling**.
- Erode turmeric contains **2.5 to 4.5% of curcumin content**.
- Erode Turmeric is grown in hot moist conditions prevalent in the area with temperature ranging from 20 degrees to 37.9 degrees Celsius with an average of **600 to 800 mm rainfall** in a year.
- Geographical Indication defines the **goods as originating in the territory of a country** or a region or locality in that territory, provided a given quality reputation or other characteristics of the product are attributable to its geographical origin.



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9. General Knowledge



1) RBI GOVERNORS

- C.D. Deshmukh was the first Indian Governor. The Bank's 15th governor, Manmohan Singh, would go on to become India's 13th Prime Minister.

Sl no	RBI Governors	Began	Ended
1	Sir Osborne Smith	April 1, 1935	June 30, 1937
2	Sir James Braid Taylor	July 1, 1937	February 17, 1943
3	Sir C.D. Deshmukh	August 11, 1943	June 30, 1949
4	Sir Bengal Rama Rau	July 1, 1949	January 14, 1957
5	K.G. Ambegaonkar	January 14, 1957	February 28, 1957
6	H.V.R Lyengar	March 1, 1957	February 28, 1962
7	P.C Bhattachaiya	March 1, 1962	June 30, 1967
8	L.K. Jha	July 1, 1967	May 3, 1970
9	B.N. Adarkar	May 4, 1970	June 15, 1970
10	S. Jagannathan	June 16, 1970	May 19, 1975
11	N.C. Sen Gupta	May 19, 1975	August 19, 1975
12	K.R. Puri	August 20, 1975	May 2, 1977
13	M. Narasimham	May 3, 1977	November 30, 1977
14	I.G. Patel	December 1, 1977	September 15, 1982
15	Manmohan Singh	September 16, 1982	January 14, 1985
16	Amitav Gosh	January 15, 1985	September 4, 1985
17	R.N. Malhotra	February 4, 1985	December 22, 1990
18	S. Vpnlrdramanan	December 22, 1990	December 21, 1992

Sl no	RBI Governors	Began	Ended
19	C. Rangarajan	December 22, 1992	November 21, 1997
20	Bimal Jalan	November 22, 1997	September 6, 2003
21	Y.V. Reddy	September 6, 2003	September 5, 2008
22	D. Subbarao	September 5, 2008	September 4, 2013
23	Raghuram G. Rajan	September 4, 2013	September 4, 2016
24	Urjit Ravindra Patel	September 4, 2016	December 10, 2018
25	Shaktikanta Das	December 11, 2018	Incumbent

2) List of Welfare Schemes for Women in India

Schemes	Launching Year	Aim	Beneficiaries
Rashtriya Mahila Kosh	1993	To provide lower income women with access to loans to begin small businesses	Women
SWADHAR Greh	2002	To provide to the essential need of shelter, food, clothing, medical treatment and care of the women in trouble and who are deficient with regards to social and monetary support.	Women
The Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana Conditional Maternity Benefit plan (CMB)	2010	It provides money to help ensure the good health and nutrition of the recipients. As of March 2013 the programme is being offered in 53 districts around the country.	Pregnant and lactating women age 19 and over for their first two live births.

Schemes	Launching Year	Aim	Beneficiaries
Priyadarshini	2011	It offers women in seven districts access to self-help groups.	Women
Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls – Sabla	2012	It offers a variety of services to help young women become self-reliant, including nutritional supplementation and education, health education and services, and life skills and vocational training	adolescent girls.
One Stop Centre	2015	To provide integrated support and assistance under one roof to women affected by violence, both in private and public spaces in phased manner.	Women

3) List of Father of Various Fields

Name	Title
Mahatma Gandhi	Father of the Nation
Raja Ram Mohan Roy	Father of Modern India
Potti Sreeramulu	Father of Linguistic Democracy
B.R Ambedkar(Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar)	Father of Constitution
M.G.Ranade(Mahadev Govind Ranade)	Father of Modern Economics
Manmohan Singh	Father of Modern Economic Reforms
Homi J.Bhabha	Father of Nuclear/ Atomic Program
Vikram Sarabhai	Father of Space Program

Name	Title
A. P. J. Abdul Kalam (Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam)	Father of Missile Program
Anant Pai	Father of Comic Books
James Rennell	Father of Geography
Dadasaheb Phalke(Dhundiraj Govind Phalke)	Father of Cinema
N. G. Ranga(Gogineni Ranga Nayukulu)	Father of Peasant Movement
Birbal Sahni	Father of Paleobotany
Hiralal Chaudhari	Father of Blue Revolution
M. S. Swaminathan(Mankombu Sambasivan Swaminathan)	Father of Green Revolution
Vergheese Kurien	Father of White Revolution
Shalihotra	Father of Veterinary Science
J. R. D. Tata(Jehangir Ratanji Dadabhoy Tata)	Father of Civil Aviation
Subroto Mukerjee	Father of Air Force
Sir Mokshagundam Vishweshwaraiah	Father of Civil Engineering
Sushruta	Father of Surgery



10. Practice Questions



- 1) Which of the following country supported India's permanent seat in United Nations Security Council (UNSC)?
A.UK B.Pakistan
C.Russia D.France
- 2) Red Flag is the premier air-to-air combat training exercise of _____.
A.United States
B.Russia
C.Germany
D.North Korea
- 3) Which of the following country will participate in 2022 Asian Games for the first time?
A.Bahrain B.Jordan
C.Australia D.Israel
- 4) Who won the Pritzker Architecture Prize 2019?
A. Rafael Aranda
B. Ramon Vilalta
C. B.V. Doshi
D. Arata Isozaki
- 5) Where was the 8th GeeBee Boxing Tournament held?
A.Astana, Kazakhstan
B.Milan, Italy
C.Fujairah, UAE
D.Helsinki, Finland
- 6) What is the current repo rate of RBI?
A.6% B.6.25%
C.6.5% D.6.55%
- 7) Who won gold in the 56Kg category boxing at the 38th GeeBee Boxing Tournament in Helsinki, Finland?
A.Shiva Thapa
B.Kavinder Singh Bisht
C.Devendro Singh
D.Amit Panghal
- 8) India has launched _____ IT corridor in China.
A.3rd B.4th
C.5th D.6th
- 9) World Purple day Observed on -----?
A.March 26 B.June 23
C.April 25 D.February 28

- 10) The NPPA has reduced the MRP of 390 non-scheduled cancer medicines up to _____.
A.50% B.63%
C.76% D.87%
- 11) Who is honoured with Golden Peacock Award 2019?
A.ACKO General Insurance
B.Max General Insurance
C.LIC life insurance
D.Aviva life Insurance
- 12) PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the new Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Institute of Archaeology at _____.
A.Pune, Maharashtra
B.Gurugram, Haryana
C.New Delhi, Uttar Pradesh
D.Noida, Uttar Pradesh
- 13) What is the focus of the 4th session of UN Environment Assembly 2019?
A.Phasing out of single-use plastics by 2030
B.Protection of globe from domestic violence
C.Preventive measures for Global warming by 2025
D.Securing a Long-term Future for Coral Reefs
- 14) Madhya Pradesh Government raised Reservation Quota of OBCs from 14 per cent to _____ percent.
A.24 B.18 C.21 D.27
- 15) Where was the 50th Raising Day celebrations of Central Industrial Security Forces (CISF) celebrated?
A.New Delhi, Uttar Pradesh
B.Dehradun, Uttarakhand
C.Kolkata, West Bengal
D.Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh
- 16) Where is the fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly held?
A.Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
B.Vienna, Austria
C.Stockholm, Sweden
D.Nairobi, Kenya
- 17) Surat Metro Project springs up expected to serve the masses by _____.
A.2024 B.2032
C.2056 D.2042
- 18) Which state government to give monthly stipend and jobs for those who Shun militancy
A.Jammu and Kashmir
B.Tamil Nadu
C.Kerala
D.Andhra Pradesh
- 19) Saudi Arabia's state minister of Foreign Affairs, who recently visited India is _____.
A.Adel bi Ahmed Al-Jubeir
B.Majid bin Abdullah Al Qasabi
C.Ibrahim Al Assaf
D.Hamad Al Sheikh

- 20) Which of the following program did the Centre launch to eradicate polio from the country?
A.Polio Drops Programme 2019
B.Awareness Programme for Polio 2019
C.Polio Eradication Programme 2019
D.Pulse Polio Programme 2019
- 21) Who was conferred Honorary Doctorate from the UN established University of Peace?
A.President Ram Nath Kovind
B.Vice President Venkaiah Naidu
C.Prime Minister Narendra Modi
D.Finance Minister Arun Jaitley
- 22) Spherical collections of thousands to millions of stars moving as one unit is called _____.
A.Cosmic array
B.Cosmic circle
C.Arciform cluster
D.Globular Cluster
- 23) Which of the following is India's dedicated multi-wavelength space observatory?
A.Infrared Astro Observatory
B.Indian Astronomical Observatory
C.AstroSat
D.Gaia
- 24) Tamil Nadu is to build its second greenfield airport in _____.
A.Coimbatore B.Chennai
C.Trichy D.Salem
- 25) Who invented the World Wide Web in 1989?
A.Tim Berners Lee
B.Vint Cerf
C.Paul Buchheit
D.Ray Tomlinson
- 26) When is the UK due to leave the European Union?
A.20 March 2019
B.30 March 2019
C.29 March 2019
D.27 March 2019
- 27) Six lakh employees to be trained to handle 96000 VVPAT Machines in
A.Maharashtra
B.TamilNadu
C.Kerala
D.Andhra Pradesh
- 28) Who received Yaswantrao Chavan National Award?
A.Shri Raghuram Rajan
B.Shri Naresh Kumar
C.Shri Vignesh Kumar
D.Shri Dinesh Kumar
- 29) UK issued _____ in honour of Stephen Hawking.
A.Galaxy Coin
B.Black hole Coin
C.Earth Coin
D.Hourglass Coin

- 30) When was the last time Japan hosted the Olympic Summer games?
A.1964 B.1988
C.2002 D.2008
- 31) The 2020 Summer Olympics is to be held in _____.
A.Beijing, China
B.Berlin, Germany
C.Los Angeles, California
D.Tokyo, Japan
- 32) When is the World Kidney day 2019 observed?
A.12th March
B.13th March
C.14th March
D.15th March
- 33) Which is the 1st Indian state to ban the electronic cigarettes?
A.Punjab B.Uttar Pradesh
C.Bihar D.Karnataka
- 34) Who will be awarded with Kusumagraj Rashtriya Sahitya Puruskar?
A.Ved Rahi
B.Dinesh Karthick
C.Ramesh Kumar
D.Rajesh Sharma
- 35) 34th edition of Aahar International Food and Hospitality Fair begins in -----?
A.New Delhi B.Chennai
C.Hyderabad D.Pune
- 36) Which city hosts Special olympics World Game 2019?
A.Rome, Italy
B.Vienna, Austria
C.Abu Dhabi, UAE
D.Paris, France
- 37) Three Kirti Chakras and ---- Shaurya Chakras awarded by the President to Army Personnel
A.15 B.20 C.26 D.38
- 38) When is the World Consumer Rights Day celebrated?
A.13th March B.14th March
C.15th March D.16th March
- 39) Which city has topped the Mercer's index of most liveable cities for the 10th year in a row?
A.Canberra B.Vienna
C.London D.Luxembourg
- 40) Who bagged the Commonwealth Youth Award for the Asian region?
A.Padmanaban Gopalan
B.Naresh Karthick
C.Suresh Rajan
D.Vikram Kumar
- 41) Joint exercises to be conducted by US army and NSG in -----
A.Hyderabad B.Chennai
C.Mumbai D.Kolkata
- 42) Which Indian state shows highest climate change vulnerability?
A.West Bengal B.Sikkim
C.Mizoram D.Assam

- 43) Who inaugurated festival of Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Gandhinagar?
A. President Ram Nath Kovind
B. Shri Suresh Prabhu
C. Shri Ramesh Kumar
D. Shri Arun Jaitley
- 44) Which of the following sports person ranked No:1 in 'ESPN World Fame 100 list 2019'?
A. Cristiano Ronaldo
B. Lebron James
C. Lionel Messi
D. Roger Federer
- 45) Who is the only Indian athlete in the top 10 rank of ESPN World Fame 100 list 2019?
A. Sunil Chhetri
B. Kidambi Srikanth
C. Mahendra Singh Dhoni
D. Virat Kohli
- 46) Which country will host the U-17 Women's World Cup in 2020?
A. Spain B. India
C. New Zealand D. Mexico
- 47) Erode's _____ received GI tag from the Geographical Indication Registry.
A. Garlic B. Turmeric
C. Tea D. Areca nut
- 48) In which Indian State was the West Nile Virus recently found?
A. Odisha B. J&K
C. Kerala D. Karnataka
- 49) Where was the Africa-India Joint Field Training Exercise (AFINDEX-19) held?
A. Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
B. Nairobi, Kenya
C. Pune, Maharashtra
D. Mumbai, Maharashtra
- 50) Which of the following exercise was held between India and Africa?
A. AFINDEX B. INDO-AR
C. COPE 2019 D. Yudh Abhyas
- 51) Which of the following is Indian Navy's Scorpene submarine?
A. INS Sahyadri
B. INS Khanderi
C. INS Tarini
D. INS Vikramaditya
- 52) Which of the following has been reinstated to the Asian Games 2022 edition?
A. Chess B. Archery
C. Bowling D. Jet Ski
- 53) Who is the first Indian athlete got qualified for Tokyo Olympics?
A. P.T Usha B. Dutee Chand
C. Mithali Raj D. K.T. Irfan
- 54) Who founded the International Day of Happiness?
A. Jayme Illien
B. Joyce Msuya
C. Achim Steiner
D. Antonio Guterres

- 55) When is the International Day of Happiness celebrated?
A.March 18 B.March 19
C.March 20 D.March 21
- 56) Who became 1st woman to win prestigious Abel Prize?
A.Eugenie Hunsicker
B.Irina Linke
C.Karen Uhlenbeck
D.Fabiola Loterio
- 57) Who won the I-League championship of All India Football Federation (AIFF)?
A.Real Kashmir FC
B.East Bengal FC
C.Bengaluru FC
D.Chennai City FC
- 58) When is the World Sparrow Day celebrated?
A.March 20th
B.March 21st
C.March 22nd
D.March 23rd
- 59) _____ Olympics torch was unveiled.
A.Tokyo 2020
B.Russia 2020
C.South Africa 2020
D.Indonesia 2020
- 60) Which Country ranked happiest Country in the world for the second year in succession?
A.Pakistan B.India
C.Finland D.Sweden
- 61) Which country pledged to join China's Belt and Road Initiative?
A.Germany B.Italy
C.France D.Singapore
- 62) Who designated as first transgender election ambassador in India?
A.Gauri Sawant
B.Apsara Reddy
C.Hijra
D.Sathyasri Sharmila
- 63) Which of the following is the joint military exercise between India and Sri Lanka?
A.Mitra Shakti VI
B.COPE 2019
C.SURYA KIRAN-XIII
D.Prabal Dostyk 2019
- 64) What is the theme for World Water Day 2019?
A.Benefit for all
B.Leaving no one behind
C.Nature for Water
D.Conserve water, conserve life
- 65) When is the World Water Day celebrated?
A.March 20 B.March 21
C.March 22 D.March 23
- 66) Who is the recipient of the 2019 Templeton Prize?
A.Gérard Mourou
B.Marcelo Gleiser
C.Donna Strickland
D.John Templeton

- 67) First ever High-Level Dialogue on Indo-Pacific Cooperation (HLD-IPC) held in -----?
A.Jakarta B.Tokyo
C.Milan D.Osaka
- 68) Which of the following is the India's deepest shaft cave, which has been discovered in Meghalaya?
A.Krem Liat Prah
B.Krem Shrieh
C.Krem Puri
D.Krem Um Ladaw
- 69) Which of the following city is to establish 112 EV charging Stations in India?
A.Mumbai B.Bengaluru
C.New Delhi D.Hyderabad
- 70) Who is the winner of Vyas Samman 2018?
A.Leeladhar Jagudi
B.Mamta Kalia
C.Surendra Verma
D.Dr. Sunita Jain
- 71) Which of the following spacecraft has its mission of the asteroid Ryugu?
A.Hayabusa2 B.SELENE
C.IKAROS D.Akatsuki
- 72) India Post released a special stamp cover on Ice Stupa in _____.
A.Jammu B.Gulmarg
C.Pahalgam D.Leh
- 73) What is the position occupied by Indian shuttler PV Sindhu in the latest World Badminton Rankings?
A.Third B.Fourth
C.Fifth D.Sixth
- 74) Who has resigned his position as President of Amateur International Boxing Federation (AIBA)?
A.Gafur Rahimov
B.Jacques Rogge
C.Thomas Bach
D.Yu Zaiqing
- 75) Where is INS Shivaji located?
A.Lonavala, Maharashtra
B.Navi, Mumbai, Maharashtra
C.Pune, Maharashtra
D.New Delhi, Uttar Pradesh
- 76) Which of the following is India's second mission to moon?
A.Chandrayaan 1
B.Chandrayaan 1A
C.Chandrayaan 2
D.LUNARSAT 2
- 77) Which Indian Satellite is to carry NASA's laser retroreflector arrays?
A.Gaganyaan
B.Aditya-L1
C.Chandrayaan-2
D.ASTROSAT

- 78) Who won Global Teacher Prize 2019?
 A.Peter Tabichi
 B.Andrew Moffat
 C.Daisy Mertens
 D.Swaroop Rawal
- 79) Which country topped the annual list of WEF global Energy Transition index?
 A.Brazil B.Norway
 C.Sweden D.Switzerland
- 80) What is the position of India on WEF global Energy Transition index?
 A.74th B.78th
 C.72nd D.76th
- 81) FinTech Conclave commenced in ----?
 A.New Delhi B.Chennai
 C.Hyderabad D.Mumbai
- 82) When is the World Theatre Day celebrated?
 A.March 27 B.March 28
 C.March 29 D.March 30
- 83) Joint Naval Exercise of India and Australia AUSINDEX is to be held in _____.
 A.Vishakhapatnam
 B.Mumbai
 C.Cochin
 D.Kolkata
- 84) Which of the following joint Naval exercise is held between India and Australia?
 A.AUSTRODIA2019
 B.AUSINDIA2019
 C.AUSINDEX2019
 D.AUSIND2019
- 85) The world's largest e-waste recycling plant has opened in _____.
 A.Shanghai B.Riyadh
 C.Moscow D.Dubai
- 86) Which of the following State government has launched initiatives to educate voters?
 A.Gujarat B.Maharashtra
 C.Assam D.Uttar Pradesh
- 87) Which International Airport is to be transformed with world-class amenities
 A.Delhi B.Chennai
 C.Mumbai D.Goa
- 88) India became the 4th country to successfully test Anti-satellite missile system, codenamed _____.
 A.Mission Aditya-L1
 B.Mission AVATAR
 C.Mission Shakti
 D.Mission ASTROSAT
- 89) Which of the following virus causes Swine flu?
 A.H1N1A B.H1N1
 C.H1AN1 D.H1AN1

- 90) The 4th Global Digital Health Partnership Summit was held at _____.
A.New Delhi B.Kolkata
C.Mumbai D.Hyderabad
- 91) Exercise Sampriti is the joint military exercise between India and _____.
A.Myanmar B.China
C.Nepal D.Bangladesh
- 92) Which country recently offered to help mediate between India and Pakistan to defuse the crisis?
A.Russia B.United States
C.Canada D.Australia
- 93) International Digital Health Symposium inaugurated by Anupriya Patel in -----
A.New Delhi B.Hyderabad
C.Chennai D.Pune
- 94) Who became Member of the 15th Finance Commission?
A.Ajay Narayan Jha
B.Krishna Kumar
C.Suresh Kumar
D.Vijay Kumar
- 95) Union Cabinet recently approved setting up of 22nd AIIMS at _____.
A.Berhampur, Odisha
B.Manethi, Haryana
C.Jorhat, Assam
D.Bettiah, Bihar
- 96) Sampriti 2019 is a joint military exercise between _____ and _____.
A.India and Bangladesh
B.India and Nepal
C.India and China
D.India and Pakistan
- 97) Which of the following Indian festival has made into Guinness World Record?
A.Sonepur Mela 2019
B.Prayagraj Kumbh Mela 2019
C.Chandrabhaga Mela 2019
D.Baneshwar Mela 2019
- 98) Which of the following received Best Bank Award from TN Government?
A.Indian Bank
B.Canara Bank
C.Central Bank of India
D.Union Bank of India
- 99) What is the India's first Rajdhani Express train, that recently celebrates Golden Jubilee?
A.Swarna Jayanti Rajdhani Express
B.Howrah Rajdhani Express
C.Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express
D.Patna Rajdhani Express
- 100) Which country topped Global Consumer Confidence Survey?
A.India B.Pakistan
C.SaudiArabia D.Indonesia

ANSWER Key

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
D	A	C	D	D	B	B	A	A	D
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
A	D	A	D	D	D	A	A	A	D
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
B	C	D	B	A	C	A	A	B	A
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
D	C	A	A	A	C	A	C	B	A
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
D	D	A	A	D	B	B	C	C	A
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
B	A	D	A	C	C	D	A	A	C
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
B	A	A	B	C	B	A	D	B	A
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
A	D	D	A	A	C	C	A	C	D
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
A	A	A	C	D	C	A	C	B	A
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
D	A	A	A	B	A	B	A	B	A

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