



India's No.1 Study Channel

Monthly Current Affairs Capsule & Quiz March 2019

www.wifistudy.com



US, N Korea fail to strike a deal at Hanoi Summit



The United States and North Korea have failed to reach a formal deal at the Hanoi Summit.

- The talk has ended with no agreement after the US refused North Korean demand to lift all international sanctions.
- The two-day meeting in the Vietnamese capital Hanoi had come eight months after their historic summit in Singapore in June last year.

SpaceX Crew Dragon spacecraft marks debut unmanned flight

An American spacecraft designed to fly astronauts to the International Space Station from the United States was launched on 2 March for its debut unmanned flight.

- SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket, carrying the Crew Dragon spacecraft, lifted off at 0749 GMT from National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida.
- SpaceX is a private company and contractor of the US space agency NASA for ISS flights.

Points to Remember

- Elon Musk is the Chief executive officer CEO of SpaceX.

The US officially closes Jerusalem consulate

The United States has officially shuttered its consulate in Jerusalem, downgrading the status of its main diplomatic mission to the Palestinians by folding it into the U.S. Embassy to Israel.

- This decision was driven to increase the efficiency and effectiveness in diplomatic engagements.
- State Department spokesman Robert Palladino said that It does not signal a change of US policy on Jerusalem, the West Bank, or the Gaza Strip.
- For decades, the consulate functioned as a de facto embassy to the Palestinians. Now, that outreach will be handled by a Palestinian affairs unit, under the command of the embassy.

Kylie Jenner is world's youngest billionaire: Forbes

Kylie Jenner is named the youngest self-made billionaire of all time by Forbes magazine.

- She is both, the world's youngest billionaire and also the youngest self-made billionaire ever.
- Jenner, 21, the half-sister of reality television stars Kim, Khloe and Kourtney Kardashian.
- She made it onto the annual Forbes list of billionaires after debuting her Kylie Cosmetics online in 2015 with \$29 lip kits containing matching lipstick and lip liner.

International Women's Day: 8 March

International Women's Day is being observed on 8 March across the world.

- NGOs and other organisations across the world observe the day on the 8th of March every year to highlight the achievements of women.
- The theme for this year's women's day is 'Think Equal, Build Smart, Innovate for Change'.
- The purpose of the theme is to achieve gender equality by putting innovation by women and girls.

India's envoy to Pakistan Ajay Bisaria returned to Islamabad



India's High Commissioner to Pakistan Ajay Bisaria reached Islamabad.

- He has completed his consultations in New Delhi where he was called following the Pulwama attack.
- Tensions between India and Pakistan escalated after a suicide bomber of Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) killed 40 CRPF personnel in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district on February 1
- India launched a counter-terror operation in Balakot on February 2

UK Parliament rejects Theresa May's deal for the second time



British Parliament rejected Prime Minister Theresa May's Brexit deal for a second time.

- Only 17 days are due before its split from the European Union.
- Even after May secured further guarantees from Brussels over its most controversial elements the House of Commons voted by 391 to 242 to reject the deal.
- Following the rejection of the deal second time, the Members of Parliament have been promised another vote, wherein they can decide whether the UK should leave the EU without a deal.
- Britain is scheduled to end ties with its biggest trade partner, EU, after 46 years on March 2

- This move can throw the nation into a state of economic chaos.

World Kidney Day: 14 March 2019

The World Kidney Day 2019 is being observed on March 14, 2019

- This Day is observed annually on the second Thursday in March
- It aims to raise awareness of the importance of our kidneys.
- Theme: 'Kidney Health for Everyone Everywhere'.
- As per the World Health Organisation, kidney diseases are responsible for almost 5 per cent of the current global burden of disease and for 1 per cent of the total deaths.
- It is the 12th leading cause of death globally.

China blocks bid to designate Masood Azhar as a global terrorist in UNSC

China for the fourth time blocked a bid in the United Nations (UN) Security Council to designate Pakistan-based terror group Jaish-e-Mohammed's chief Masood Azhar as a "global terrorist".

- Just before the deadline, China put a 'technical hold' on the proposal.
- The proposal to designate Azhar under the 1267 Al Qaeda Sanctions Committee of the UN Security Council was moved by France, the UK and the US on February 2
- The diplomat said China asked for more time to examine the proposal.

World Sleep Day: 15 March 2019

World Sleep Day, observed on 15 March, is intended to highlight the importance of sleep.

- Slogan: 'Healthy Sleep, Healthy Aging'
- It is a call to action on crucial elements related to sleep, which include medication for sleep, education to increase awareness and social aspects.
- The day aims to lessen the burden of sleep problems on society through better prevention and management of sleep disorders.

- It is required our bodies and brains to fresh themselves.

World Consumer Rights Day 2019: 15 March 2019



World Consumer Rights Day is celebrated every year on 15 March as part of an initiative by Consumer International, a membership organisation for consumer groups around the world.

- Theme: Trusted Smart Products
- The day is celebrated every year, to celebrate consumer rights and build a world where everyone has access to safe and sustainable products and services.
- World Consumer Rights Day was inspired by 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 15 March 196

Guinea PM arrives in Delhi on a ten-day visit to India

Prime Minister of Guinea Ibrahima Kassory Fofana has arrived in New Delhi on a ten-day official visit to India.

- During the visit, Mr Fofana will call on President Ram Nath Kovind at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- Mr Fofana will address the inaugural session of 14th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Partnership Project in New Delhi.
- The Guinean Prime Minister will also attend a programme in Vishakhapatnam.

Points to Remember

- Guinea is a west-coastal country in West Africa.
- Capital: Conakry
- Currency: Guinean franc

Sushma Swaraj begins a two-day visit to the Maldives

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj is on a two-day visit to the Maldives.

- She is accompanied by a high-level official delegation including foreign secretary Vijay Gokhale.
- During this visit, the minister will call on President of Maldives Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, Parliament Speaker Qasim Ibrahim and meet with the Maldives Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullah Shahid.
- She is also scheduled to hold a joint Ministerial Meeting to discuss cooperation on a wide variety of issues.

Points to Remember

- The Maldives is a tropical nation in the Indian Ocean to the southwest of Sri Lanka and India.
- Capital: Malé
- Currency: Maldivian rufiyaa

First BRICS Sherpa meeting under the Presidency of Brazil concludes successfully



The first BRICS Sherpa meeting under the Presidency of Brazil concluded at Curitiba in Brazil.

- Secretary, Economic Relations in the Ministry of External Affairs, T S Tirumurti led the Indian delegation at the two-day meeting.
- During the meeting, India conveyed its support for the priority areas set out by Brazil, particularly to take forward BRICS cooperation on counter-terrorism in a meaningful and manner with BRICS member countries.

Points to Remember

- Founded: June 2006
- Members: India, China, Russia, Brazil, South Africa
- Headquarters: Shanghai, China

Cyclone Idai affects over 5 million people in three southern African countries

Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi have been hit by a vicious cyclone that has killed nearly 150 people, left hundreds more missing and stranded tens of thousands.

- According to the UN and government officials, Cyclone Idai has affected more than 5 million people in the three southern African countries.
- India has decided to divert three Indian naval ships to the port city of Beira in Mozambique to provide humanitarian assistance to the people affected by tropical cyclone 'IDAI'.

Points to Remember

- The capital of the above mentioned 3 countries are as follows
- Mozambique: Maputo
- Zimbabwe: Harare
- Malawi: Lilongwe

World's most expensive cities revealed



It's the first time three cities have shared the top spot in the 30-year history of the annual Economist Intelligence Unit survey, which compares prices in 133 cities globally.

- Paris, Singapore and Hong Kong are the most expensive cities according to the survey.

- The survey compares the cost of common items, such as bread, haircuts etc in 133 cities.
- Bangalore, Chennai, New Delhi and Karachi feature among the 10 cheapest locations surveyed.

International Day of Happiness: 20 March



The International Day of Happiness is celebrated since 2013 on 20 March every year.

- The day was founded to inspire and spread a global happiness movement.
- The day was founded and materialised by United Nations special advisor Jayme Illien.
- The theme for International Day of Happiness 2019 is 'Happier Together'.

Kazakhstan President resigns after nearly 30 years in power

Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev has announced his resignation after nearly 30 years in power.

- The 78-year old leader had ruled the country since it emerged from the collapse of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s.
- The Chairman of the Kazakh Senate would take over.
- The announcement came less than a month after the President sacked his government, citing a lack of economic development despite the country's vast energy resources.

Points to Remember

- Capital: Astana
- Currency: Kazakhstani tenge

Kazakhstan to rename country's capital Astana as Nursultan

Kazakhstan's parliament voted to rename the country's capital Astana as Nursultan.

- It will be renamed in honour of longtime ruler Nursultan Nazarbayev a day after he resigned as president.
- Kazakhstan's new interim president Kassym-Jomart Tokayev proposed renaming the capital.
- Astana replaced Kazakhstan's largest city Almaty as the capital in 199

New Zealand bans assault weapons



New Zealand has imposed an immediate ban on assault weapons following the Christ church massacre that claimed the lives of 50 mosque-goers.

- Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said assault rifles and military-style semi-automatic weapons would be banned with immediate effect.
- High-capacity magazines and devices similar to bump stocks will also be banned.
- Proponents of gun control in the United States and around the world praised the move.

Finland tops Global Happiness Index for the second straight year

Finland has been ranked as the happiest country in the world for the second year.

- Indian figures at 140th place, seven spots down from last year, on this year's UN World Happiness Report.
- The report was released by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network for the United Nations on March 20 which was declared as World Happiness Day by the UN General Assembly in 201

- The report ranks countries on six key variables that support well-being: income, freedom, trust, healthy life expectancy, social support and generosity.

World Water Day: 22 March

World Water Day is celebrated every year on 22 March, it highlights the importance of freshwater.

- The first World Water Day, designated by the United Nations, was commemorated in 199
- The theme for World Water Day 2019 is 'Leaving no one behind'.

Evidence of water found on asteroid Bennu

Scientists have discovered evidence of abundant water-bearing minerals on the surface of the near-Earth asteroid Bennu.

- Using early spectral data from NASA's OSIRIS-REx spacecraft orbiting the asteroid, the team identified infrared properties similar to those in a type of meteorite called carbonaceous chondrites.
- Bennu has a more rugged surface than expected. This posed a challenge for the mission team and forced it to alter its flight and sample collection plans.
- Few of the particles ejected out of Bennu orbited it as satellites before returning to the asteroid's surface.

Jimmy Carter becomes the longest living chief executive in American history



Former US president Jimmy Carter has created a record.

- Elected as the 39th President, Carter is now the longest living chief executive in American history.

- He is the 172nd day beyond Carter's 94th birthday.
- It exceeds by one day the lifespan of former President George H.W. Bush, who died last November at the age of 94 years, 171 days.

Italy, China signs new 'Silk Road' protocol



Italy has signed a non-binding protocol with China to take part in Beijing's new Silk Road of transport.

- Italy became the first G7 country to sign up for the project.
- Chinese President Xi Jinping and Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte both attended a ceremony in Rome.

World Tuberculosis Day: 24th March

World Tuberculosis Day is observed on 24th March every year

- It is observed every year to raise public awareness about the devastating health, social and economic consequences of TB, and to step up efforts to end the global epidemic.
- The theme this year is, 'It's time'.
- It focuses on the urgency to act on the commitments made by global leaders to scale up access to prevention and treatment of the disease.

1. Comoros President Azali Assoumani re-elected

Comoros President Azali Assoumani was re-elected as president according to results published by the electoral commission.

- He was way ahead of his closest rival Mahamoudou Ahamada, who garnered only 14.62 per cent of the ballots cast.

- Comoros is a volcanic archipelago off Africa's east coast, in the warm Indian Ocean waters of the Mozambique Channel.

Points to remember

- Capital: Moroni
- Currency: Comorian franc

2. Pakistan approves the proposal to open Sharda Peeth corridor

The Pakistan government approved a proposal to establish a corridor that will allow Hindu pilgrims from India to visit Sharda Peeth.

- It is an ancient Hindu temple and cultural site in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.
- The Sharda Peeth corridor, when opened, will be the second religious tract after Kartarpur corridor in Pakistan-controlled territory that will connect the two neighbouring nations.
- After Partition in 1947, the temple went under the control of Pakistan.
- It is about 130km from Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu & Kashmir.
- Kashmiri Pandits consider Sharada as their "kuldevi" or principal deity.

3. World's largest e-waste recycling hub opens in Dubai



The world's largest e-waste recycling facility has opened in Dubai.

- It is located at the Dubai Industrial Park and will process Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE), IT asset disposition (ITAD), refrigerant gas and specialised waste.
- It has a processing capacity of 100,000 tonnes of total integrated waste per year, of which 39,000 tonnes is e-waste.

- The facility can process the entire range of WEEE from consumer and industrial to commercial and military.

4. Syria asks UN Security Council to hold a meeting on Golan Heights



Syria has asked the United Nations Security Council to hold an urgent meeting on the US decision to recognize the Golan Heights as Israeli territory.

- President Donald Trump signed a proclamation in which the United States recognized Israel's annexation of the strategic plateau.
- Five European countries in the UN Security Council have rejected US President Donald Trump's decision to recognize the Golan as Israeli territory.
- Belgium, Britain, France, Germany and Poland have insisted that the European position has not changed and that the Golan remains Israeli-occupied Syrian territory.
- Israel seized Golan from Syria during the 1967 Six-Day War.

5. India, Bangladesh to start cruise service



India and Bangladesh will start a cruise service that would take passengers through the Sunderbans to Dhaka.

- The move aims to strengthen inland waterway routes between the two countries.

- Other than road and rail, India and Bangladesh also have very strong power connectivity through waterways.
- As the movement of goods starts using inland waterways, goods from India can go in the cheapest possible form up to Narayanganj and Dhaka in Bangladesh.
- Apart from it, people would have the option to travel through the Sunderbans on luxury vessels up to Dhaka.

1. Nepal Investment Summit to be organised on March 29-30

The Government of Nepal is organizing "Nepal Investment Summit 2019" on March 29-30 in Kathmandu.

- The main objective of the event is to project Nepal as a favourable investment destination.
- The summit will unveil potential opportunities for investment in various sectors in Nepal including Hydropower, Tourism, Infrastructure, Industry, Transport, Agriculture and Information and Communication Technology.
- Over 600 investors and delegates from 40 countries including India will participate in the two-day event.

2. Singapore airport named world's best, New Delhi's IGI gets 59th

Singapore's Changi Airport has been crowned the world's best aviation hub for the seventh time in a row.

- New Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport featured at number 59, according to the Skytrax World Airport Awards.
- The list has been compiled by the UK-based Skytrax, a consultancy firm which runs an airline and airport review and ranking site, featuring 100 airports.
- The prestigious accolade was awarded at the Passenger Terminal Expo 2019 in London.
- The Skytrax World Airport Awards are voted for by customers in a global airport customer satisfaction survey.

1. Germany adds six months to Saudi arms export ban

Germany has extended by six months an embargo on weapons exports to Saudi Arabia, instituted last October.

- Government spokesman Steffen Seibert said in a statement ordered to halt authorised weapons exports to Saudi Arabia is extended by six months from March 31 to September 30, 2019.
- Berlin reacted to Khashoggi's murder at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul last October by declaring a freeze on weapons sales to Saudi Arabia and other countries involved in the Yemen War.
- At least 10,000 people are estimated to have been killed in the Yemen war since March 2015.

Points to Remember

- Yemen Capitals: Sana'a

1. Zuzana Caputova set to become 1st female President of c

In Slovakia, the government critic and anti-corruption activist Zuzana Caputova is set to become the first female President.

- Caputova got over 58 per cent of the ballot after results from 91 per cent of polling stations were counted.
- EU energy commissioner Maros Sefcovic garnered nearly 42 per cent.
- Points to Remember
- Capital: Bratislava
- Currency: Euro

2. Earth Hour 2019: 30 March



Cities around the world marked Earth Hour on 30 March by turning off lights at 8:30 p.m. local time.

- Like every year, Earth Hour 2019 falls on the last Saturday of March.
- It Organised each year by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).
- The Earth Hour was started in 2007 as a lights-off event in Sydney, Australia.
- Theme: #Connect2Earth

3. Tesla builds its 'largest energy storage system in Asia'

In a bid to reduce energy demand and provide emergency backup power to trains in Japan, Tesla has claimed to develop its largest power storage system in Asia.

- According to Tesla, it has installed a bank of 42 Powerpacks at a train station in Japan's Osaka.
- It can provide sufficient backup power to safely move a train and its passengers to the nearest station in the event of a power outage.
- The 7 megawatt-hours (MWh) system is its largest energy storage project in Asia and the fourth largest in the greater Asia-Pacific (APAC) region.



AIIB and India sign a US\$ 455 Million loan agreement

The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and the Government of India signed a USD 455 million loan to finance the Andhra Pradesh Rural Roads Project.

- This project will connect some 3,300 habitations with a population of more than 250, and benefit around two Million people.
- The objective of the Project is to improve road transport connectivity by providing all-weather rural roads in all 13 Districts of the State of Andhra Pradesh.

- Andhra Pradesh Rural Roads is the Third Project being signed by the AIIB in the State of Andhra Pradesh, the other two being in Power Sector and Water Sector.

AYUSH Minister laid the foundation stone for National Institute of Unani Medicine

AYUSH Minister Shripad Yesso Naik laid the foundation stone of National Institute of Unani Medicine, NIUM at Ghaziabad.

- The 200-bedded hospital will be one of the largest institutes of Unani Medicine in North India.
- The institute is an extension of the existing NIUM at Bengaluru.
- NIUM, Ghaziabad will be developed in a 10-acre area, costing about 300 crore rupees.
- Besides providing healthcare services, it will have facilities for quality research and education at the postgraduate and PhD levels.

Government increases MSP for 50 minor forests produces



Union minister Jual Oram announced that tribal forest produce gatherers will get minimum support price for 50 items under a new scheme.

- Under the "Scheme of Minimum Support Price and Value Addition", the MSP for 50 items will be hiked by 30 to 40 per cent.
- It will benefit 5 crore tribals who depend on forest produce for livelihood.
- Oram also said the government's flagship Van Dhan scheme for increasing incomes of tribal population is ready to be extended to all tribal districts in phases.
- The ministry will also set up around 6,000 Van Dan Vikas Kendras, each comprising 300 tribal gatherers, in the country.

India suspends Samjhauta Express on its end

The Railways has decided to suspend operations of the Indo-Pak Samjhauta Express on its side due to the drastic decline in occupancy especially after the Pulwama terror attack

- The Railway Board has decided to cancel all operations from the train's next scheduled run.
- Pakistan has already suspended services on its end in the aftermath of the February 14 terror attack on CRPF personnel in Pulwama.

Points to Remember

- The train service was started on July 22, 1976, under the Shimla Agreement that settled the 1971 war between the two nations.
- This train comprises six sleeper coaches and an AC 3-tier coach.
- This is a bi-weekly train runs on Wednesday and Sunday between Delhi and Lahore.

RBI, Bank of Japan sign Bilateral Swap Arrangement



Reserve Bank of India and Bank of Japan have signed a Bilateral Swap Arrangement (BSA).

- It was negotiated between India and Japan during the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Tokyo in October 201
- The BSA provides for India to access 75 billion US dollars whereas the earlier BSA had provided for 50 billion dollars.
- The BSA was approved by the Union Cabinet in January 201

India and Brunei signed TIEA agreement



The Government of India and the Government of Brunei Darussalam signed an Agreement for the Exchange of Information and Assistance in Collection with respect to Taxes (TIEA) in New Delhi.

- The Agreement enables the exchange of information, including banking and ownership information between the two countries for tax purposes.
- It is based on international standards of tax transparency and exchange of information and enables sharing of information on request as well as on an automatic basis.
- The Agreement also provides for mutual assistance in collection of tax revenue claims between both countries.

Centre and ADB sign US\$ 926 million loan agreement for Mumbai Metro



The Centre and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have signed a US\$ 926 million dollar loan agreement to operationalize two lines of the Mumbai Metro Rail System.

- It is the single largest infrastructure project loan in ADB history approved by the ADB Board.
- The project will ease the distress of millions of commuters each day and help provide a cleaner and less congested city.
- Once operational by the end of 2022, an estimated two million passengers a day will use the two new lines.

25th Prime Minister's Trophy for the year 2016-17 presented in New Delhi

The 25th Prime Minister's Trophy for the best performing integrated steel plants for the year 2016-17 was presented in New Delhi.

- Tata Steel Limited, Jamshedpur, bagged the Prime Minister's Trophy for the Best Overall Performance along with a cash prize of 2 Crore rupees.
- Tata Steel was able to set new benchmarks in productivity and techno-economics in 2016-17 for the domestic steel industry.
- The Steel Minister's Trophy along with a cash prize of 1 Crore rupees was bagged by JSW Steel Limited - Vijayanagar Works for 2nd Best Overall Performance among other participating Plants.

PM Modi inaugurated 'Construction Technology India-2019'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Construction Technology India-2019 Expo-cum-Conference in New Delhi.

- The conference will identify proven, innovative and globally established technologies for use in the Indian context.
- Technology providers, researchers, start-ups, developers, academia, public sector agencies and other domain experts are participating in the two day event.

Government to celebrate 'Poshan Pakhwada' from 8th to 22nd March 2019 across the Country

The Minister for Women and Child Development, Smt. Maneka Sanjay Gandhi announced that the Government will celebrate the first anniversary of POSHAN Abhiyaan on 8th March 2019 by organising Poshan Pakhwada across the Country.

- The key activities including Poshan Melas, Rally on nutrition at all level, Prabhat Pheree, Session on nutrition at schools, self-help group meetings, anaemia camps will be carried out during the event.
- The Poshan Pakhwada will be celebrated on lines of 'Poshan Maah' held in the month of September 201

- The Pakhwada will be launched on International Women's Day, 8th March 201

Govt bans Jamat-e-Islami J&K for 5 years



The Centre has banned the Jamat-e-Islami Jammu and Kashmir for five years under the anti-terror law.

- The Jamaat is in close touch with terror outfits and is supporting extremism and terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and elsewhere.
- The notification comes barely a few days after the Jammu and Kashmir Police arrested around 100 cadres of the group in the state.
- The crackdown comes after February 14 terrorist attack in Pulwama, in which 40 CRPF personnel were killed.

Indian economy expected to grow at 3% in 2019-20: Moody's

Indian economy is expected to grow at 3 per cent in calendar years 2019 and 2020, according to the US-based rating agency Moody's.

- The agency has made this expectation in its quarterly Global Macro Outlook for 2019 and 2020.
- The agency said that India is less exposed to a slowdown in global manufacturing trade growth.

Points to Remember

- Moody's growth estimates are based on the calendar year.
- India measures its economic growth on the basis of the fiscal year from April to March.

The 7th Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Intersessional Ministerial Meeting concluded

The 7th Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Intersessional Ministerial Meeting Concludes in Cambodia

- The Meeting was chaired by Chutima Bunyapraphasara, Acting Minister of Commerce of Thailand.
- The RCEP is a proposed free trade agreement between the ten member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the six Asia-Pacific states.
- These six Asia-Pacific countries are Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea and New Zealand.

CISF creates set new Guinness World Record for the longest single line moving bicycle parade

The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) created a new Guinness World Record for the longest single moving line bicycle parade at the Yamuna Expressway.

- The 1,327 bicycles parade covered 2 km distance non-stop with a uniform distance between bicycles in a single line.
- Earlier the record was held by Hubballi Bicycle Club, India, with 1,235 bicycles in a single chain.

Centre for Disability Sports to be set up at Gwalior



A Centre for Disability Sports will be set up at Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh.

- The Centre will ensure effective participation of Persons with Disabilities in sports

activities and also enable them to compete at national and international levels.

- The project is expected to be completed by 31st March 2022
- It will have an Outdoor Athletic Stadium, Indoor Sports Complex and Aquatic Centre having two Swimming Pools, one covered Pool and an Outdoor Pool.

PM dedicates the Joint Venture Indo-Russian Rifles Pvt. Ltd. at Amethi

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi dedicated the Joint Venture of Indo-Russian Rifles Pvt Ltd in Amethi to the nation.

- The new joint venture will manufacture world-famous Kalashnikov assault rifles of the newest 200 series.
- Lakhs of rifles will be made from this facility in Amethi and will strengthen India's security forces.

PM Modi launches Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Mandhan (PM-SYM) Yojana

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Mandhan (PM-SYM) Yojana in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

- The national pension scheme is for workers and labourers of unorganised sector.
- It was announced in the interim budget in February this year.
- It will provide monthly pension of 3000 rupees to the employees of unorganised sector after 60 years of age.

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu embarks on 8-day visit to Paraguay and Costa Rica

Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu embarked on a two nation visit to Paraguay and Costa Rica.

- The 8-day tour aims at strengthening bilateral ties with the two Latin American countries.
- Mr Naidu will hold discussions with Paraguay President Mario Abdo Benitez.
- The Vice President will also call on President of Costa Rica, Carlos Alvarado Quesada and

also participate in high level delegation talks with him.

Points to Remember

- Paraguay capital : Asunción
- Costa Rica capital : San José

Rajnath Singh inaugurated project BOLD-QIT on India-Bangladesh border



Rajnath Singh inaugurated the project BOLD-QIT (Border Electronically Dominated QRT Interception Technique) on India-Bangladesh border in Dhubri District of Assam.

- Border Security Force, BSF is responsible for safeguarding of over four thousand kilometer long International Border with Bangladesh.
- At various places, it is not possible to erect Border Fence due to the geographical barriers.
- To overcome this problem, in the year 2017, Ministry of Home Affairs decided to go for technological solution besides the physical presence of manpower of BSF.

Kumbh 2019 concluded



Kumbh 2019 the largest religious congregation in the world, concluded in Prayagraj.

- On the last day over one crore devotees took the holy dip at Sangam in Prayagraj on the occasion of 'Mahashivratri'.

- Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath formally concluded the Mela.
- The Uttar Pradesh government branded it as 'Divya Kumbh, Bhavya Kumbh.'
- Around 24 crore devotees from across the world took the holy dip at sangam.
- Haridwar will be the venue for next kumbh in 202

Maharashtra govt to appoint Lokpal in universities

Maharashtra government will appoint a Lokpal in all universities except agricultural universities to resolve student grievances.

- The appointment of the students' ombudsman would be made in the next two to three months.
- Maharashtra would be the first state in the country to have such a Lokpal for universities.
- The Lokpal will be a person related to the university and someone not below the rank of the retired district judge or a retired vice-chancellor.

ISRO launches 'Yuva Vigyani Karyakram' for school children



Indian Space Research Organisation has launched "Yuva Vigyani Karyakram", for the School Children to be studying in the ninth standard.

- ISRO Scientists will impart basic knowledge on Space Technology, Space Science and Space Applications to the young ones.
- "Catch them young" residential training programme will be of around two weeks duration during summer holidays
- It will have a proposal to select 3 students from each State and Union Territory, covering CBSE, ICSE and State syllabus.

'Al Nagah 2019', A bilateral joint exercise between India and Oman



The third edition of the bilateral joint exercise between India and Oman, 'Al Nagah 2019' will begin from 12th March.

- It will be organised at Jabel Al Akhdar Mountains in Oman. It will continue till 25th of March.
- In the exercise, both the armies will exchange expertise and experience in tactics, weapon handling and firing.
- India-Oman bilateral security ties have continued to develop since the beginning of India-Oman Joint Military Cooperation meetings in 200

PM Modi launches card that can be used to pay for bus travel, toll, parking, shopping

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) dubbed as 'One Nation One Card'.

- The indigenously-developed card will enable users to pay for multiple kinds of charges including transport, metro services, toll tax, parking charges, retail shopping as well as to withdraw money across the country.
- In short, it is a one-stop card for multiple utilities.
- This card runs on RuPay card and it will eliminate all travel related problems.

Women officers to get permanent commission in all 10 branches of Indian Army

Women officers will be granted Permanent Commission in the Indian Army.

- They will get permanent commission in all the ten branches where they are inducted for Short Service Commission (SSC).

- Now, the Permanent Commission will be granted in Signals, Engineers, Army Aviation, Army Air Defence, Electronics and Mechanical Engineers, Army Service Corps, Army Ordnance Corps and Intelligence to women officers.
- Earlier they get Permanent Commission only in two streams of Judge Advocate General and Army Education Corps.
- SSC women officers will give their option for Permanent Commission before completion of four years of Commissioned Service.

India has 15 out of 20 most polluted cities in world

Fifteen of the 20 most polluted cities in the world are in India.

- Gurugram led all cities in pollution levels in 2018 with Ghaziabad, Faridabad, Noida and Bhiwadi in the top six.
- India's national capital region (NCR) emerged as the most polluted region in the world in last year.
- The latest data compiled in the IQAir AirVisual 2018 World Air Quality Report prepared in collaboration with Greenpeace Southeast Asia, reveals the state of particulate matter (PM5) pollution last year.
- Out of the 20 most polluted cities in the world, 18 are in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

World Bank to provide \$250 Million dollar for NRETP

World Bank to provide \$250 Million dollar for the National Rural Economic Transformation Project (NRETP) to boost Rural Incomes across 13 States in India.

- The Agreement was signed by Mr. Sameer Kumar Khare, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs on behalf of the Government of India and Mr. Hisham Abdo, Acting Country Director, World Bank India, in New Delhi.

- The loan will help women in rural households develop viable enterprises for farm and non-farm products.
- The \$250 million loan has a 5-year grace period, and a final maturity of 20 years.

India signs loan agreement with World Bank for Uttarakhand Disaster Recovery Project



India signed a loan agreement with the World Bank for 96 Million US dollars for additional financing of Uttarakhand Disaster Recovery Project.

- World Bank has been supporting the State Government since 2014 to restore housing and rural connectivity.
- The Project has completed more than two thousand permanent houses and 23 public buildings and restored over one thousand 300 kilometers of roads and 16 bridges so far.
- The additional financing of 96 million US dollars will further help in the reconstruction of bridges, road and river bank protection works in the state.

Mukesh Ambani is 13th richest person in world



Richest Indian Mukesh Ambani jumped six positions to rank 13th on Forbes World's Billionaire list.

- Amazon founder Bezos remains the world's richest person, ahead of Bill Gates and Warren Buffett.
- Ambani saw wealth soar from \$40.1 billion in 2018 when he was placed 19th richest in the world, to \$50 billion to be rank at 13th in 2019.

- Wipro Chairman Azim Premji is ranked 36th with Technology major HCL's co-founder Shiv Nadar, ranked 82nd in the list.

India offers world's cheapest mobile data packs



India offers some of the world's cheapest mobile data packs according to the new research in the UK.

- Price comparison site Cable.co.uk found that 1 gigabyte (GB) of data cost \$0.26 in India, compared to \$66 in the UK.
- The global average came in at \$53 for 1GB in the study, which compared mobile data pricing in 230 countries around the world.
- Kyrgyzstan (\$0.27), Kazakstan (\$0.49), Ukraine (\$0.51) and Rwanda (\$ 0.56) completed the top five countries offering the cheapest data packs.
- Zimbabwe is the most expensive country in which to buy mobile data – with an average cost of 1GB coming around \$720.

Google launches 'Bolo' app to tutor children to read in Hindi, English

Tech giant Google unveiled a new app 'Bolo' that aims to help children in primary school learn to read in Hindi and English.

- The free app, which is being launched in India first, uses Google's speech recognition and text-to-speech technology.
- The app features an animated character 'Diya', who encourages children to read stories aloud and helps if the child is unable to pronounce a word.
- It also lauds the reader when she completes the reading.

Goa to use 'micro air abrasion' technology to clean antiques

Precious archaeological antiques in Goa will now be preserved in a better way with the help of the Italian 'micro air abrasion' cleaning technology.

- The modern technology is already being used worldwide for various conservation purposes.
- The micro air abrasion technology, so far being used in the industrial sector for cleaning heavy machines
- Goa is the first state in the country to try the use of this technology for cleaning archaeological antiques.
- The coastal state has a rich collection of old artefacts and antiques, including from the Portuguese era.

7th March 2019 celebrated as 'JanaushadhiDiwas' across India



Janaushadhi Diwas is being celebrated across the country on 7th March 201

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed five thousand Janaushadhi stores across the country through video-conferencing on the occasion.
- More than five thousand Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana Kendras, PMBJP, are functional in 652 districts.
- The market share of generic medicines has grown over three-fold from two per cent to seven per cent in the last 3 years.
- The Janaushadhi Kendras are providing quality medicine at the affordable price.

UK CM Rawat lays foundation stone for Doon-Mussoorie ropeway project



Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat has laid the foundation stone for the Dehradun-Mussoorie ropeway project.

- The 300-crore rupees ropeway project is expected to be completed in three years.
- It will be one of the world's longest ropeways, and will shorten the one-hour zigzag drive to just 15 minutes from Purkul village the base camp at Dehradun to Mussoorie.
- Poma, a French company which manufactures cable-driven projects, will provide the technical support to the ropeway.

Points to Remember

- Symbols of Uttarakhand
- Animal: Alpine Musk Deer
- Bird: Himalayan Monal
- Flower: Brahma Kamal
- Fruit: Kaphal
- Tree: Burans

Govt to roll out 12-edged Rs 20 coin



The Finance Ministry announced in a gazette notification to roll out Rs 20 coin for the first time in the country.

- The new coin will be shaped like a "dodecagon" - a 12-edged polygon.
- The Rs 20 coin will have some similarities with the Rs 10 coin that is in circulation across the country.
- The new coin will be two-toned and have a diameter of 27 mm, similar to Rs 10 coin.
- The outer ring of Rs 20 coin will be 65 percent copper, 15 percent zinc and 20 percent nickel, the inner disc will be 75 percent copper, 20 percent zinc and five percent nickel.

Hardeep S Puri launches 'e-Dharti' App

Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Puri launched e-Dharti app where all the three modules- Conversion, Substitution and Mutation related to properties have been made online.

- The payment system in Land and Development Office, L&DO has also been completely digitized.
- The public can now submit their applications online by visiting the L&DO website.
- Mr Puri also launched e-Dharti GeoPortal, through which the lessee of the property will be able to see the basic details of property along with the map showing its location.

Ancient tribal language Gondi to be taught in tribal districts in Madhya Pradesh

In Madhya Pradesh, ancient tribal language Gondi will be taught in tribal districts.

- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath has decided to include Gondi in the primary education curriculum of the state's tribal-dominated districts.
- The rapid decline in the number of people who speak that tongue is a matter of concern. Hence, the Chief Minister stressed on the need to save it from becoming a thing of the past.

118-year-old Kartar Kaur becomes the oldest woman to be operated upon

Kartar Kaur Sangha, 118-year-old, has registered her name in the Guinness World Record to become the oldest person to be operated upon.

- Kaur was admitted to the Satguru Partap Singh Apollo Hospitals in Ludhiana after her blood pressure dropped to 22-24 beats per minute (BPM).
- To elevate her blood pressure, a temporary pacemaker was positioned by the doctors in her heart.
- It is pertinent to mention that Kartar Kaur Sangha is also the oldest living person in the world, beating the record of 116-year-old Kane Tanaka from Japan.

NGT imposes Rs 500 cr fine on Volkswagen

The National Green Tribunal slapped a fine of 500 Crore rupees on German auto major Volkswagen for damaging the environment using cheat device in its diesel cars in India.

- A bench headed by NGT chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel directed the carmaker to deposit the amount within two months.
- The committee recommended a fine of over 171 crore rupees on Volkswagen for causing air pollution in Delhi and causing health damages due to excess nitrogen oxide emissions.

CCEA approves investment sanction for Kiru hydro project

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on Thursday approved the investment sanction for construction of Kiru Hydro Electric Project.

- The project is located on river Chenab in Kishtwar district of Jammu & Kashmir.
- It shall provide much-needed power in the northern grid and shall accelerate the process of development of remote areas of Jammu and Kashmir.
- It is scheduled to be completed in a period of 5 years.
- The CCEA also approved the investment for 1320 Mega Watt Khurja Super Thermal Power Plant at Bulandshahar in Uttar Pradesh.

Govt reduces the price of 390 anti-cancer drugs up to 87 %



The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers put

out the list of 390 anti-cancer non-scheduled medicines with Maximum Retail Price reduction up to 87 per cent.

- The revised prices have come into effect from 8 March.
- On 27th February, the Pricing Authority had put 42 anti-cancer drugs under 30 per cent Trade Margin cap.
- This move is expected to benefit 22 lakh cancer patients in the country and will result in annual savings of nearly 800 crore rupees to the consumers.

Mizoram Governor Kummanam Rajasekharan resigns

Governor of Mizoram Kummanam Rajasekharan has resigned from his post.

- President Ram Nath Kovind has accepted the resignation of Rajasekharan.
- Mr Kovind has appointed Jagdish Mukhi as the Governor of Mizoram, in addition to his own duties of Assam Governor, until regular arrangement for the office of the Governor of Mizoram is made.

India and ADB sign \$26 Million Loan Agreement for Additional Financing to Assam Urban Project

The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$26 Million Loan Agreement.

- It will provide additional financing for improving drainage infrastructure in Dibrugarh town of Assam under the ongoing Assam Urban Infrastructure Investment Program.
- The ongoing Loan of \$51 Million under the Program is helping to improve water supply infrastructure in Guwahati, and solid waste management and drainage infrastructure in Guwahati and Dibrugarh cities of Assam.
- The additional financing will further support in improving the drainage system in Dibrugarh and also support project management activities.
- Points to Remember

- Headquarters: Mandaluyong, Philippines
- President: Takehiko Nakao

RBI slaps penalties on 36 major banks



The Reserve Bank has imposed penalties worth Rs 71 crore on 36 public, private and foreign banks for non-compliance with various directions on time-bound implementation and strengthening of SWIFT operations.

- SWIFT is a global messaging software used for transactions by financial entities.
- The massive Rs 14,000-crore fraud at the PNB was a case of misuse of this messaging software.
- The RBI had carried out an assessment of compliance with its directions on implementation and strengthening of SWIFT-related operational controls of 50 major banks.

Kerala's Marayur jaggery gets GI tag

Marayur organic jaggery produced at Marayur in the hilly district of Idukki in Kerala has bagged Geographical Indication tag.

- Marayur jaggery is known especially for its organic and traditional production using the sugar cane cultivated in the region.
- It does not contain any chemicals and is high in iron and calcium.
- The sugar cane plantations are spread over several acres at Marayur.
- The Centre granted the GI tag considering various aspects of its manufacturing and the peculiarities of the region.

Points to Remember

- Governor: P. Sathasivam
- Chief Minister: Pinarayi Vijayan
- State Animal: Indian Elephas

- State Bird: Great-Hornbill

PM Narendra Modi inaugurates Pt Deendayal Upadhyaya Institute of Archaeology at Greater Noida

The Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Institute of Archaeology at Greater Noida in Uttar Pradesh.

- The Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Institute of Archaeology has been built at an estimated cost of Rs. 289 crore is spread over 25 acres.
- The 3 star ultra modern green building of the Institute is equipped with all latest technologies.
- The Institute comprises of an auditorium with seating capacity of 1000 people, an open air theatre and an Archaeological Museum.
- The Institute of Archaeology (IA) is an academic wing of ASI under the Ministry of Culture.

MP government issues ordinance to give 27% quota to OBCs



The state government in Madhya Pradesh has issued an ordinance raising reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBC) to 27 per cent from the present 14 per cent.

- The ordinance was sent to Governor Anandiben Patel for her assent on.
- The ordinance could be issued before the Lok Sabha poll model code of conduct comes into effect.
- With this, MP is possibly the only state in the country to have 27 per cent quota for OBCs.

MoU inked for digitising work of Indian railways

An MoU was signed between Indian Railways and public sector telecom firm RailTel for implementing the e-office system aimed at digitising the work of the national transporter.

- RailTel, a Miniratna PSU under the Ministry of Railways, has taken up the work of implementing the e-office system for Indian Railways.
- E-Office project is a Mission Mode Project (MMP) under the national e-governance programme of the government.
- The project aims to usher in more efficient, effective and transparent inter-government and intra-government transactions and processes.

Mizoram Cabinet approves Liquor Prohibition Bill



The Mizoram Cabinet has approved the proposed liquor prohibition bill in the state.

- The Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Zoramthanga approved the Mizoram Liquor Prohibition Bill, 201
- The bill would be introduced in the state Assembly during the Budget session.
- There was total prohibition in Mizoram from 1997 till January 2015 with the Mizoram Liquor Total Prohibition Act in force in the state.
- The previous Congress government of Lal Thanhawla allowed opening of wine shops in the state from March 201

Points to Remember

- Capital: Aizawl
- Chief Minister: Zoramthanga
- State Animal: Serow

- Bird: Hume's pheasant

116-year-old Japanese woman officially named oldest person

A 116-year-old Japanese woman, Kane Tanaka has been honoured as the world's oldest living person by Guinness World Records.

- The global authority on records officially recognised Kane Tanaka in a ceremony.
- Born in January 1903, Tanaka loves playing the board game 'Othello' and enjoys studying mathematics.
- The previous oldest living person was another Japanese woman, Chiyo Miyako, who passed away last July, aged 11

17th Lok Sabha elections to be held in 7 phases

The Election Commission of India (EC) on March 10 announced the schedule for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls.

- Polling will be held in seven phases starting April 11 and will conclude on May 1
- Counting of votes will happen on May 2
- The poll panel also announced the Assembly election schedule for four states.

Points to Remember

- Chief Election Commissioner of India: Sunil Arora
- Election commission of India was formed on 25 January 1950, which is now celebrated as National Voters Day.

CISF celebrated its 50th Raising Day



Central Industrial Security Forces is celebrated its 50th raising on 10 March 201

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, attended the 50th Raising Day ceremony of Central Industrial Security Forces(CISF), at Ghaziabad.

Points to Remember

- The CISF, one of six paramilitary forces in the country, functions under the Union Home Ministry and is celebrating its Golden Jubilee this year.
- Raised in 1969, the 56 lakh strong force provides security to 345 vital installations including 61 airports, seaports, nuclear and space installations, Delhi Metro and different steel and power plants.
- The Special Security Group (SSG) of CISF provides security to 83 categories of protectees.

34th edition of AAHAR - International Food and Hospitality fair-begins in New Delhi



The 34th edition of AAHAR - the International Food and Hospitality fair begins at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi.

- Minister for Commerce and Industry Suresh Prabhu inaugurated the fair.
- The fair will feature a wide range of food products, machinery, hospitality and Decoration and Confectionery items.
- Around 20 countries, including the US, Russia, China, UK, Germany, Italy and Singapore will participate in the five-day fair.

PM Modi, Bangladesh counterpart jointly inaugurate development projects

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina, jointly unveiled e-

plaques for development projects in Bangladesh, through video conferencing.

- Both the leaders unveiled e-plaques for the supply of buses and trucks, the inauguration of 36 community clinics and 11 water treatment plants.
- Extension of National Knowledge Network to Bangladesh will also boost the knowledge connectivity between the two countries.

India's internet base crosses 500 million mark



The internet user base in India has exceeded 500 million mark according to a newly released Kantar IMRB ICUBE report.

- It is likely to reach 627 million by the end of 201
- The number of internet users is estimated to be 566 million as of December 2018, registering an annual growth of 18%.
- The report finds that 87% of the total user base, or 493 million Indians, are defined as regular users, having accessed the internet in the last 30 days.
- Of this, 293 million active internet users reside in urban India, while there are 200 million active users in rural India.

Guided weapons system, PINAKA successfully test fired

Defence Research and Defence Organisation (DRDO) successfully test fired the Guided PINAKA from Pokhran ranges.

- The weapon system is equipped with state-of-the-art guidance kit comprising of an advanced navigation and control system.
- The indigenously developed Guided Pinaka by DRDO will significantly boost the

capability of the artillery to make precision hits.

Megha Engineering enters Limca records



Megha Engineering & Infrastructures Limited

Megha Engineering Infrastructure Limited (MEIL) has made it into Limca Book of National Records and Asia Book of Records for completing a power sub-station in a record time of 7 months.

- NP Kunta sub-station was taken up to connect Ultra Mega Solar Power Plant built in Ananthapur with Power Grid, to facilitate the supply of 1500 MW of electricity.
- The infrastructure major managed to complete the project five months ahead of the scheduled deadline fulfilling all the quality parameters.
- Normally it takes 15-18 months for execution of such projects, but MEIL completed it within 7 months.

Areca nut gets 'Sirsi supari' geographical indication tag



Arecanut (also known as supari or betel nut) is the latest entrant in the list of agricultural produce with a GI (geographical indication) tag.

- The Registrar of Geographical Indications, Government of India, accorded a GI tag,

'Sirsi Supari', to areca nut grown in Sirsi, Siddpaur of Uttara Kannada district in Karnataka.

- 'Sirsi Supari' is unique in taste from areca nuts grown in other parts of the country due to the differences in the chemical composition of different areca nuts.
- The World Intellectual Property Organisation defines GI as a search sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities due to that origin.

DGCA decides to ground Boeing 737 Max 8 aircraft

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation, DGCA has decided to ground Boeing 737 Max 8 aircraft with immediate effect.

- The decision comes in the wake of Ethiopian Airlines crash in Addis Ababa killing all 157 people on board.
- the planes will be grounded until appropriate modifications and safety measures are undertaken to ensure their safe operations.
- India joined the growing list of countries to have temporarily grounded the aircraft.
- Ethiopia, China, Australia, Malaysia, Singapore and UK had earlier decided to suspend the Aircraft.

Google shut down its 'Allo' app

Google's smart messaging app, Allo, is finally shutting down.

- Starting from March 12, 2019, you will no longer be able to use the app for an exchange of smart replies.
- Launched in 2016, Allo was launched alongside the video chat service Duo.
- While Duo kicked off, Allo didn't make it big with the masses.

The United States to set up six nuclear power plants in India



India and the US said they have agreed to build six American nuclear power plants in India, in a boost to bilateral civil nuclear energy cooperation.

- The two countries said this in a joint statement issued at the conclusion of the 9th round of India-US Strategic Security Dialogue.
- India and the US signed a historic agreement to cooperate in the civil nuclear energy sector in October 200
- The United States also reaffirmed its strong support to India's early membership in the 48-member NSG.

Indo-Oman joint military exercise commence

A joint military exercise between India and Royal Army of Oman commenced at Jabel regiment headquarters, Nizwa, Oman.

- Exercise Al Nagah 2019 will contribute immensely in developing mutual understanding and respect for each other's military as also facilitate in tackling the worldwide phenomenon of terrorism.
- A 60-member strong Indian Army contingent, based in northern command headquarters at Udhampur in Jammu and Kashmir, is taking part in the military exercise 'Al-Nagah III
- The exercise is scheduled to end on March 25 at Jabel Al Akhdar mountains.

U.S. Special Forces hold an exercise with NSG in Hyderabad

The United States Special Forces Group stationed in Japan involved in a joint exercise with India's National Security Guard in Hyderabad.

- The US forces are from the 1st Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group stationed out of Okinawa in Japan.
- The overall aim of the program was to enhance professionalism and the ability to operate together during times of crisis.

India-Africa joint field training exercise to kick off on March 18



A 10-day long Africa-India Joint Field Training Exercise (AFINDEX-19) between the Indian Army and 16 African nations will be conducted in Pune from March 18 to 2

- As many as 10 personnel will participate in the joint exercise which will be conducted at two locations in Pune's Foreign Training Node at Aundh Military Station and College of Military Engineering in Kirkee.
- 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.
- In addition to the participating nations from the African continent, officers from Rwanda, Democratic Republic of Congo and Madagascar would attend the exercise as Observers.

Hyderabad named country's best city for 5th year



Global consulting firm Mercer's Quality of Living Ranking 2019 has named Hyderabad the most liveable city in India for the fifth consecutive year.

- Chennai has been ranked the safest Indian city, 105th in the world.

- Vienna, Austria's capital, tops the global ranking for the 10th year running, followed by Zurich in Switzerland.
- The ranking influences cities' abilities to attract business.
- The 21st edition of the annual survey evaluated 231 cities across the globe based on 39 factors including political stability, healthcare, education, crime, recreation and transport.

President Kovind confers 3 Kirti Chakras and 15 Shaurya Chakras to Armed Forces Personnel



President Ram Nath Kovind conferred three Kirti Chakras and fifteen Shaurya Chakras to Armed Forces Personnel for displaying conspicuous gallantry, courage and extreme devotion to duty.

- Two Kirti Chakras and one Shaurya Chakra were given posthumously.
- The President also conferred fifteen Param Vishisht Seva Medals, one Uttam Yudh Seva Medals and twenty-five Ati Vishisht Seva Medals to senior officers of the Armed Forces for distinguished service of an exceptional order.
- One of the Param Vishisht Seva Medal was conferred on Army Chief General Bipin Rawat.

First Workshop on India Energy Modelling Forum

The NITI Aayog and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) organized the first workshop on the development of the India Energy Modelling Forum (IEMF) in New Delhi.

- It has been envisaged as a pan-stakeholder platform for debating ideas, scenario-planning & discussing India's energy future.
- The two-day workshop, being held with the support of the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL), was organized under the Sustainable Growth Pillar of the India-U.S Strategic Energy Partnership.
- The workshop featured eight expert sessions which saw discussions around the various aspects

of setting up an India-centric energy modelling platform.

India gets the 1st shipment from Afghanistan via Chabahar under TIR

India received the first shipment of cargo from Afghanistan under the United Nations 'Transports Internationaux Routiers' (TIR) convention, arriving via the strategic Chabahar port in Iran.

- The consignments were received at Nhava Sheva port in Navi Mumbai and the Mundra port in Gujarat.
- The TIR system, which India reportedly became part of in June 201
- TIR allows easier movement of goods across countries with the usage of TIR there is no requirement for physical checking of the contents.

DRDO successfully test fires Indigenous Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile



Indian defence scientists have scored a twin success in demonstrating the effectiveness of the Man Portable Anti-tank Guided Missile (MPATGM).

- This follows the hat trick of sharp tests carried out on the short range guided Pinaka weapon system early in the week.
- They enhance the hit and destruction capacity of the armed forces in short distance battle situations considerably.
- Both these weapons, developed indigenously by scientists of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), were tested in the deserts of Pokhran in Rajasthan.

IIT Kharagpur Inks MoU With C-DAC For High Performance Computing Facility & Data Center

The IIT Kharagpur has signed an MoU with Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-

DAC) to set up a Petaflop high performance computing facility.

- It also includes setting up a data center funded under the National Supercomputing Mission.
- PetaFlop is the measurement of computing power based on the frequency of mathematical calculations that can be done per second.
- Setting up of the 3 PetaFlop high performance computing facility and data center is going to change the face of computation-based research and development in India.

Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant to Head Mobility Panel in India

Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant will head the National Mission on Transformative Mobility and Battery Storage.

- It is being set up to promote clean and sustainable mobility initiatives in the country.
- The Union Cabinet on March 7 had approved setting up of the National Mission on Transformative Mobility and Battery Storage.
- The panel will also propose and recommend policy guidelines possible strategies for sustainable and transformative mobility and energy storage in India.

14th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnerships to begin on Mar 17

The three-day 14th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnerships will start on March 17 in New Delhi.

- More than 31 ministers from 21 African countries and business delegates from 37 countries will participate in the event.
- The event is organised by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in association with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and EXIM Bank of India.
- It will pave the way for a whole range of cross-border project partnerships.

- The discussion will revolve around two key themes: digital infrastructure and digital skills

Namaste Thailand festival inaugurated in New Delhi



Aimed at strengthening bilateral ties and increasing cultural exchange between India and Thailand, the 3rd edition of Namaste Thailand festival started in New Delhi.

- The festival includes Thai cuisine and a lineup of cultural events.
- Introducing the people of Delhi to the unique and diverse culture of Thailand, the three-day festival was organised by the Royal Thai Embassy at the Select Citywalk in South Delhi.

Points to remember

- Prime minister: Prayut Chan-o-cha
- Capital: Bangkok
- Currency: Thai Baht

NGT directs CPCB to prepare a noise pollution map



The National Green Tribunal, NGT, has directed the Central Pollution Control Board, CPCB, to prepare a noise pollution map across the country.

- The NGT also directed to propose a remedial action plan to solve the issue within three months.
- A bench headed by National Green Tribunal Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel directed the CPCB to identify noise pollution hotspots and categorise cities with specified hotspots.
- The NGT said the absence of implementation of noise pollution norms affects the health of citizens, especially infants and senior citizens.

Ex-SC judge Justice PC Ghose set to be India's 1st Lokpal

Retired Supreme Court judge Pinaki Chandra Ghose is likely to become India's first Lokpal or anti-corruption watchdog.

- His name was finalised and recommended in a Selection Committee meeting comprising Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi, Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan, and Mukul Rohatgi.
- Lokpal is a three-member, anti-corruption watchdog comprising a chairman, a judicial and non-judicial member.
- The members of the Lokpal will include eight members - former High Court judges and civil servants.

Indian Army starts Military Exercise With 17 African Nations

The Indian Army began a 10-day military exercise with armed forces of 17 African nations at Aundh in Maharashtra.

- The countries participating in the inaugural edition of the Africa-India Field Training Exercise (AFINDEX) include Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Benin and Botswana.
- The inaugural ceremony of the exercise held at the Aundh military station was attended by defence attaches and other senior officials of the participating nations.

- The exercise will focus on the exchange of best practices between the participating nations, team building and tactical level operations in the conduct of the UN-mandated tasks.

Pune-based firm developing software to operate the world's largest ground telescope in Hawaii



A Pune-based IT firm is developing software for the world's largest ground-based telescope.

- The telescope is named as Thirty Metre Telescope (TMT), which is likely to come up on Mauna Kea in Hawaii.
- The telescope is being constructed jointly by India, US, China, Japan and Canada and is likely to become operational in the mid-2020s.
- India is building the telescope's complex optical structure, called the Segment Support Assembly (SSA).
- An eight-member team at the IT firm, ThoughtWorks, is designing three different software - Common Software Services (CSS), Data Management Services (DMS) and Executive Software (ES).

Special Stamp on Ice Stupa released



Chief Postmaster General of Jammu and Kashmir Circle P.D.Tshering in presence of Himalayan Institute of Alternatives, Ladakh (HIAL) founder Sonam Wangchuk has released a special stamp on Ice Stupas in a program in Ganglas village.

- Wangchuk said that this year twelve villages in Ladakh made Ice Stupas and during World

Water Day celebration on 22nd March the best Ice Stupas will be awarded.

- Stamps are to create awareness about depleting glaciers and effect on the ecology around the Himalayas.
- Over 12 villages in Ladakh have built ice Stupas this year in various villages.

International Workshop on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure in New Delhi



International workshop on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure began in New Delhi.

- The two-day event is being organised by the National Disaster Management Authority in collaboration with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction.
- The aim of the workshop is to identify good practices of disaster risk management in key infrastructure sectors.
- It will bring together countries from different parts of the world, multilateral development banks, UN agencies, academia and research institutions.

India, Sri Lanka joint exercise 'Mitra Shakti-VI' to commence from Mar 26



Exercise 'Mitra Shakti' between India and Sri Lanka will be conducted from March 26 to April 8 for the year 2018-19, in Sri Lanka.

- It is conducted annually as part of military diplomacy and interaction between armies of two nations.
- Troops from 1st Battalion the Bihar Regiment of the Indian Army and Gemunu

Watch Battalion of Sri Lankan Army would be jointly undertaking the exercise.

- The exercise will involve tactical level operations in an international counter-terrorism environment under United Nations mandate.

14th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnerships Concludes in New Delhi

The 14th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnerships concluded in New Delhi.

- The three-day conclave was organised by the Ministry of Commerce in association with Confederation of Indian Industry and EXIM Bank of India.
- The conclave is held annually, since its inception in 200
- It brings senior Ministers, policymakers, officials, business leaders, bankers, technologists, start-up entrepreneurs and other professionals from India and Africa on a common platform.
- The event also marks the deepening of India-Africa economic and business ties and paves the way for a whole range of cross-border project partnerships.

Hyundai invests in Ola for mobility solutions

Hyundai Motor Group announced an investment of \$300 million in India's biggest cab aggregator Ola Cabs.

- With this deal, both Hyundai and Kia Motor Company will work with the Bangalore based start-up for developing customized electric vehicles and charging stations appropriate for ride-hailing applications.
- Hyundai Motor Group has been focusing on collaborations with start-ups in the field of shared mobility in India.
- Both entities will also offer electric vehicles to drivers in the lease model wherein the drivers can pay monthly instalments.
- In August last year, Hyundai Motor Group announced an investment of ₹100 crore in car sharing platform Revv.

Google unveils Stadia



Google unveiled a video-game streaming platform called Stadia, positioning itself to take on the traditional video-game business.

- The platform will store a game-playing session in the cloud and lets players jump across devices operating on Google's Chrome browser and Chrome OS, such as Pixel phones and Chromebooks.
- Google made the announcement at the Game Developers Conference in San Francisco.

Indian-origin Jagmeet creates history, enters Canada parliament



Indian-origin Jagmeet Singh has created history in Canada when he made his debut in the House of Commons.

- He entered as the first non-white leader of a major opposition party in the country.
- Singh, the leader of the New Democratic Party, was elected in federal by-elections held on February 2
- Prime Minister Trudeau responded by congratulating Singh for his entry into the Commons.

Social Media platforms to prevent violation of Code of Ethics during polls

Social Media platforms and Internet Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) have adopted a Voluntary Code of Ethics for the forthcoming general elections.

- The code has been submitted to the Election Commission.
- According to it, IMAI and Social Media platforms, including Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter and Google, will create a high priority dedicated reporting mechanism and appoint dedicated teams during the polls for taking expeditious action on any reported violations.
- No political campaign will be allowed to run on major social media platforms in the last 48 hours before polling ends.

Piyush Goyal among 'World's 100 Most Influential People in Climate Policy for 2019'

Union Ministers Piyush Goyal and Dr Harsh Vardhan are among the seven Indians who have been named in the 'World's 100 Most Influential People in Climate Policy for 2019' for taking steps in order to combat climate change.

- Union Minister for Railways and Coal Piyush Goyal has led the fast track electrification of nearly 18,000 unelectrified villages, and been critical in the rollout of a drastic power sector reform and the world's largest LED bulb distribution programme
- He is a 2018 Carnot Prize Recipient for contributions to energy policy.
- Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Dr Harsh Vardhan has focused on motivating scientists to develop new technologies that address social and environmental problems.

SpiceJet becomes first Indian low-cost airline to join IATA

SpiceJet has joined global airlines' grouping International Air Transport Association (IATA) as a member, becoming the first Indian low-cost carrier to get the membership.

- The IATA represents more than 290 airlines, including Air India, Jet Airways and Vistara.
- The IATA membership is significant on account of SpiceJet's plans for rapidly expanding its international footprint.

- SpiceJet is the first Indian low-cost carrier to be an IATA member and fifth member of IATA in India.

Fitch cuts India GDP growth forecast for FY20 to 8%



Fitch Ratings cut India's economic growth forecast for the next financial year starting April 1, to 8% from its previous estimate of 7%,

- It predicted because of weaker than expected momentum in the economy.
- Fitch Ratings cut India's FY19 GDP growth forecast to 2% from 8% on December
- The rating agency has also cut growth forecasts for FY20 and FY21 to 7% from 3% and 1 per cent from 3%, respectively.

Indian Air Force to participate in LIMA 2019

Indian Air Force will participate in Langkawi International Maritime Aero Expo, LIMA 201

- The expo will take place in Langkawi, Malaysia from 26th to 30th March.
- Indian Air Force is participating in the Expo for the first time and it will showcase its indigenously developed LCA fighter aircraft.
- The participation of Indian Air Force in LIMA - 2019 will provide an opportunity to air-warriors to interact with their Royal Malaysian Air Force

President Kovind to visit Croatia, Bolivia and Chile from Mar 25

President Ram Nath Kovind will visit Croatia, Bolivia and Chile from 25th of this month to 2nd of April.

- Mr Kovind will meet his Croatian counterpart and Prime Minister of Croatia and discuss the issues of mutual interest.
- In Bolivia, the President will hold restricted and delegation level talks with his counterpart. He will participate in India-Bolivia business forum meeting and interact with students.
- He will hold talks with Chile Counterpart and discuss issues of mutual interest.

Points to Remember

- Capital and currencies of the above-mentioned countries are as follows
- **Croatia:** Capital: Zagreb; Currency: Croatian kuna
- **Bolivia:** Capital: Sucre; Currency: Bolivian boliviano
- **Chile:** Capital: Santiago; Currency: Chilean peso

Bihar celebrated its 107th foundation day



Bihar celebrated its 107th foundation day on 22 March.

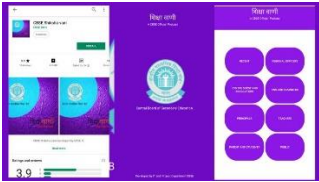
- It was on this day in 1912 the state was carved out of United Bengal.
- A number of programmes were organised to mark the occasion.
- Bihar Foundation organised Bihar day abroad including in US, Britain, Germany, Mauritius and Trinidad and Tobago.

Points to Remember

- Governor: Lalji Tandon
- Chief minister: Nitish Kumar
- Capital: Patna
- Districts: 38
- Legislative Council seats: 75

- Legislative Assembly seats: 243

CBSE launches new Shiksha Vani' app



The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) launched a new podcast app 'Shiksha Vani'.

- This app will disseminate crucial information to students and parents in a timely manner.
- The board also mentioned that its first episode, on the evaluation process of Class 10 and 12 board examinations, has been released on the platform.
- As the examinations proceed, the episode helps students understand how their completed papers will be evaluated.

Facebook announces AI for a social good summit



Facebook said it's 'AI for India Summit' will be organised on March 26, 2019, in Bengaluru.

- The summit focused on discussing inclusive growth and solutions to the most enduring social challenges.
- The Summit will bring together key representatives from the AI (Artificial Intelligence) community in India such as policymakers start-ups, and the developer community.
- The one-day summit would also be attended by Facebook's global AI teams.

SAIL launches smart garbage bins

Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL) has launched smart garbage bins made of stainless steel.

- These smart garbage bins will be able to send a signal to the garbage collection vehicle about the 'fill-up' position of the bin, aiding better cleaning and lower human intervention.
- The environment-friendly garbage bins will be made of SAIL SALEM stainless steel.
- These will be installed in underground Reinforced Cement Concrete (RCC) pits at the Smart Garbage Station.
- This will help prevent the spread of stink and diseases.

NSEIT acquires cybersecurity company Aujas



NSEIT, the IT-services focused subsidiary of the National Stock Exchange has acquired Aujas Networks Ltd.

- Founded in 2008, Aujas has operations in India, the Middle East and North America.
- It employs about 400 cybersecurity professionals and has over 390 customers globally.
- NSEIT currently provides technology solutions across industries such as capital markets, financial markets, banking and insurance.

NITI Aayog's FinTech Conclave organised in New Delhi

NITI Aayog organised a day-long FinTech Conclave at Dr Ambedkar International Center, New Delhi.

- The objective of the conference was to shape India's continued ascendancy in FinTech, build the narrative for future strategy and policy efforts, and to deliberate steps for comprehensive financial inclusion.
- The Conclave featured representatives from across the financial space - central ministries,

regulators, bankers, startups, service providers and entrepreneurs.

- The Conclave was inaugurated by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das.

Advanced electronic intelligence satellite to be launched on Apr 1: ISRO



India on April 1 will launch an advanced electronic intelligence satellite - EMISAT, along with 28 other international satellites.

- India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), in its 47th mission (PSLV-C45), will launch EMISAT.
- The satellite is slated for liftoff at 0930 Hrs on April
- EMISAT is a primary satellite jointly by developed ISRO and the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and weighs around 436 kilograms.
- It will measure the electromagnetic spectrum in space.
- The 28 international customer satellites are from four countries - Lithuania, Spain, Switzerland and the United States.

Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport 12th busiest in the world



The national capital's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) has now become the world's 12th busiest airport, moving up four places from the 16th spot in 201

- The preliminary world airport traffic rankings for 2018 has been released by the Airports Council International (ACI).
- The ACI report said the IGI airport saw 9 crore domestic and international flyers in 2018, which is 2% points higher than the combined passengers of 201
- Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport in the US was named the busiest airport in the world.

India ranks 76th on WEF's global Energy Transition index

India has moved up two places to rank 76th on a global energy transition index.

- The index has ranked 115 economies on how well they are able to balance energy security and access with environmental sustainability and affordability.
- Sweden remains on the top on this annual list compiled by Geneva-based World Economic Forum (WEF).
- Sweden is followed by Switzerland and Norway in the top three.
- It said India is amongst the countries with high pollution levels and has a relatively high CO2 intensity in its energy system.

1. Admiral Sunil Lanba commissions ABHEDYA at INS Shivaji

Admiral Sunil Lanba, PVSM AVSM ADC, Chief of the Naval Staff commissioned a state of the art "Nuclear, Biological, Chemical Training Facility - ABHEDYA", at INS Shivaji, Lonavla.

- GSL had signed the contract with Indian Navy for construction of NBCTF on 31 Mar 2016.
- This unique facility will assist the Indian Navy in providing a realistic simulation of Nuclear, Chemical & Biological warfare to its personnel during their NBC damage control training.
- The steel structure of the simulator represents the relevant NBC compartment of the ship such as upper decks, citadels, cleansing stations, DCHQ, etc.

2. IAF inducts first four heavy-lift Chinook helicopters



Indian Air Force (IAF) formally inducted the four heavy-lift Chinook helicopters.

- Chinook helicopters will be deployed at Chandigarh's Air Force Station 12 Wing.
- These helicopters are capable of vertical lift and heavy lifting in hilly areas.
- Chinook has been procured with India-specific enhancements and can carry out military operations even at night.
- Chinook will be used to move troops, artillery, ammunition, supplies and equipment on the battlefield.
- Apart from military operations, they can also be used for medical evacuation, disaster relief, search and recovery, fire-fighting and civil development.

3. INS Kadmatt to participate in maritime and aerospace exhibition in Malaysia

Indian Navy's frontline corvette INS Kadmatt reached Malaysian archipelago Langkawi.

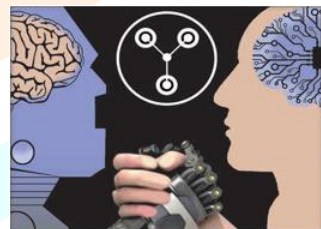
- It will participate in the 15th edition of Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition, LIMA-19.
- INS Kadmatt is an indigenous stealth anti-submarine warfare corvette and was commissioned into the Indian Navy in January 2016.
- The ship is fitted with state-of-the-art weapons, sensors and machinery.

4. Indian-Sri Lankan armies started military exercise Mitra Shakti

The joint training exercise MITRASHAKTI - VI between Indian and Sri Lanka Army has been started at Diyatalawa in Sri Lanka.

- An Indian contingent of 120 Army personnel, including 11 officers will take part in the two-week long exercise.
- It is an annual event held in India and Sri Lanka alternatively.
- The exercise will help in building proficiency in tackling transnational terrorism, the conduct of joint tactical operations and building combat skills.

5. CBSE to introduce artificial intelligence, yoga as new subjects



The CBSE will introduce artificial intelligence (AI), early childhood care education and yoga as new subjects in the school curriculum from the upcoming academic session.

- A decision to introduce the three subjects was taken at a recent meeting of the board's governing body.
- The CBSE is introducing artificial intelligence as an optional 6th subject at Class IX from the session 2019-2020 onwards.
- The board has also decided to introduce yoga and early childhood education as elective subjects at senior secondary level.
- As per norms, a skill subject, at the secondary level, may be offered as additional sixth subject along with the existing five compulsory subjects.

6. Government notifies Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules 2019



GOVERNMENT NOTIFIES DRUGS AND CLINICAL TRIALS RULES 2019

Health and Family Welfare Ministry have notified the Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules, 2019 with an aim to promote clinical research in the country.

- The new rules will change the regulatory landscape for the approval of new drugs and conduct of clinical trials in the country.
- These rules will apply to all new drugs, investigational new drugs for human use, clinical trial, bioequivalence study and Ethics Committee.
- It has reduced the time for approving applications to 30 days for drugs manufactured in India and 90 days for those developed outside the country.
- The ethics committee will monitor the trials and decide on the amount of compensation in cases of adverse events.

7. First Indian Army Mountaineering Expedition to Mt Makalu flagged off

First Indian Army Mountaineering Expedition to Mt Makalu (8485m) was flagged off by Director General Military Training on 26 Mar 2019.

- It comprises of five Officers, two JCOs and eleven OR.
- In furtherance of the objective of summiting all challenging peaks above 8000m, Indian Army is launching its maiden expedition to Mt Makalu in Mar-May 2019.
- Mt Makalu is considered amongst the most dangerous peaks and summiting the peak is considered extremely challenging due to inclement weather conditions and freezing temperatures.
- It is located in the Mahalangur Himalayas 19 km southeast of Mount Everest, on the border between Nepal and Tibet, China.

1. India successfully conducts an anti-satellite missile test



Defence Research and Development Organisation, DRDO successfully conducted an Anti-Satellite (A-SAT) missile test, under Mission Shakti from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha.

- A DRDO-developed Ballistic Missile, Defence Interceptor Missile successfully engaged an Indian orbiting target satellite in Low Earth Orbit (LEO) in a Hit to Kill mode.
- He assured the international community that India's capability will not be used against anyone but is purely a defence initiative for its security.
- The successful launch of an anti-satellite missile, the country has emerged as a space superpower in the world.
- After the US, Russia, and China, India is the fourth country to acquire this space capability.

2. IIT-Delhi develops an AI-based system to detect malaria and other diseases

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi have developed an Artificial Intelligence-based electronic hardware system to detect malaria, tuberculosis, an intestinal parasite, and cervical cancer in milliseconds.

- The researchers said that their system can be used for healthcare access in resource-constrained areas with limited access to human specialists.
- The IITD researchers have demonstrated a proof-of-concept (PoC) low-power rapid AI hardware implementation based microscopy diagnostic support system for four different diseases: Malaria, Tuberculosis, Cervical Cancer and Intestinal Parasite Infection.
- The work was showcased at Rashtrapati Bhawan and also received the prestigious Gandhian Young Technology Innovation Award (GYTI) in 2018.

3. India, African Union ink MoU on health sciences cooperation

The Indian Council of Medical Research and the African Union (AU) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which formalised the India-

Africa Health Sciences Collaborative Platform (IAHSP) by establishing a framework.

- It will pave the way for cooperation in R&D, capacity building, health services, pharmaceutical trade, and manufacturing capabilities.
- The IAHSP was established after the first India-Africa Health Sciences Meet in 2016 in New Delhi.
- The IAHSP strengthens cooperation in the health sector in a structured and organized manner.

3. UGC prohibited distance learning degree courses in agriculture

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has prohibited imparting distance degree programmes in agriculture.

- The decision was taken by the higher education regulator at its last meeting on the ground.
- It states that a degree programme in agriculture is technical in nature as it requires practical or laboratory courses.
- As per UGC Open and Distance Learning Regulations, 2017, professional programmes such as medicine, engineering, architecture, nursing, dental, pharmacy and physiotherapy are not permitted to be offered in distance mode.
- Nasik-based Yashwant Rao Chavan Maharashtra Open University, Annamalai University, IGNOU, Kuvempu University and Nalanda Open University are among the institutions offering programmes in agriculture science.

4. India, Australia to hold a joint exercise on maritime security from 2 April

India and Australia are set to further deepen defence and strategic relationship with the third edition of the biennial, bilateral exercise AUSINDEX 19 from April 2 to April 16 at Vishakhapatnam.

- The upcoming exercise will focus on anti-submarine warfare and will see Australia's largest defence force deployment in India.
- This exercise is part of the strong and growing Australia-India strategic partnership.
- More than 1,000 Australian defence force personnel comprising Navy, Army and Air force assets will work together with their Indian counterparts in military training activities

2. India & Bolivia sign 8 MoUs in various fields including culture, mining, space

India and Bolivia have signed eight MoUs on the second day of President Ram Nath Kovind's three-day visit to that country.

- These MoUs were signed in the fields of culture, Visa waiver arrangement for diplomats, the exchange between diplomatic academies, mining, space, traditional medicine, the establishment of Centre of Excellence in IT and Bi-Oceanic Railway project.
- President is in Bolivia on the second leg of his three-nation tour.
- He is on a three-nation visit to Croatia, Bolivia and Chile from March 25th to April 4th.

3. Bongaigaon dist admin develops 'Sankalp' app to reach out to 1st-time voter



In Assam, the Bongaigaon district administration has developed a mobile app Sankalp to particularly reach out to the first-time voters.

- Bongaigaon Deputy Commissioner Adil Khan said that a special initiative has been taken to encourage the first-time voters.

- Mr Khan said that the NIC team has developed the app and it will be launched soon.
- He said messages will be sent to the first-time voters on their mobile phones, requesting them to download the 'Sankalp' app.

4. India, Canada conclude comprehensive counter-terror joint action plan

India and Canada have concluded an agreement on a Joint Action Plan outlining activities to further strengthen counter-terrorism collaboration, including through joint capacity building, information and technology sharing.

- This was decided at the 16th meeting of the Canada-India Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism and its Expert Sub-group was held in Ottawa.
- The Joint Working Group reviewed threats posed by terrorist groups worldwide and in their respective countries and regions.

5. Wipro, IIT-Kharagpur partner for advanced research in 5G and AI

IT services major Wipro has partnered with IIT Kharagpur to collaborate on industry-focused applied research in the areas of 5G and artificial intelligence (AI).

- Research outcomes from this partnership will be leveraged by Wipro to develop solutions for its customers, across industry verticals.
- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur, on the other hand, will benefit from the commercialisation of the joint research insights and Wipro's industry expertise.
- The two organisations will focus on AI research applicable in the healthcare, education and retail sectors as well as in domains such as climate change and cybersecurity.

4. Braille-enabled ballot papers at all polling booths in Meghalaya



For the first time, Meghalaya will witness Braille-enabled ballot papers at all polling booths to ensure wider participation of voters in Lok Sabha elections.

- Chief Electoral Officer of Meghalaya, FR Kharkongor, said all efforts are being made to ensure a more inclusive election.
- It has mapped over 4,500 persons with disabilities to make sure that they get a priority at polling booths.
- The ballot papers posted on the EVMs will have the names and symbols of candidates in Braille alphabet.

5. Dhanbad best city for 4G availability in India



In terms of 4G availability, Dhanbad in Jharkhand has topped the list of 50 cities in India, according to London-based wireless coverage mapping company OpenSignal.

- Ranchi, capital of Jharkhand, came second after scoring 95 per cent in 4G availability.
- Srinagar came third with a score of 94.9 per cent.
- New Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Kolkata did not make it to the top 10 in the list.
- Dhanbad scored 95.3 per cent in OpenSignal's measurements.



PNB sanctions loans worth Rs 689 crore to 1,600 MSMEs

State-owned Punjab National Bank (PNB) has sanctioned loans worth Rs 689 crore to over 1,600 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

- It has sanctioned it through the 'psbloansin59minutes.com' portal as part of its effort to promote such industries.
- Under the Mudra Yojana, the bank has offered loan to over 69 lakh small entrepreneurs this fiscal (till February 14, 2019).

Points to Remember

- In November 2018, Hon'ble Prime Minister announced the launch of the 59 minute loan portal to enable easy access to credit for MSMEs.
- MSMEs through this portal can avail loans of up to Rs 1 crore in 59 minutes or less than an hour.

Bank of India raises Rs 660 crore by selling shares to employees

State-owned Bank of India (BoI) has raised Rs 660.80 crore by issuing shares to employees under Employee Share Purchase Scheme (ESPS).

- The bank issued 6,25,52,188 shares of Rs 10 each to eligible employees.
- It offered a discount of 228 per cent on the applicable price to the employees and about 970 per cent of total employees participated in the scheme.
- These shares are issued with a lock-in period of one year.

RBI to infuse Rs 12,500 crore via OMOs



The Reserve Bank of India, RBI has said it will infuse 12,500 crore rupees into the system through open market operations (OMOs).

- The central bank said that based on an assessment of prevailing liquidity conditions and also of the durable liquidity needs going forward, it will conduct the purchase of the government securities under open market operations.
- The purchase will happen through multi-security auction using the multiple price method.
- OMOs are money market tools to infuse or suck out liquidity from the system.

Industrial growth slows to 7% in January 2019



Industrial output growth stood at 7 per cent in January this year on account of slowdown in the manufacturing sector.

- According to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation data released, factory output as measured in terms of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) had grown by 5 per cent in January last year.
- During April-January 2018-19, industrial output grew at 4 per cent as against 1 per cent in the same period previous fiscal.

HDFC Bank becomes the 3rd company to cross Rs 6 lakh crore m-cap

India's most valued lender HDFC Bank crossed the Rs 6 lakh crore-market capitalisation mark.

- The private sector bank becomes the third company after Reliance Industries and Tata Consultancy Services to achieve this feat.
- RIL is the most valued company in India with a market cap of Rs50 trillion, followed by TCS at Rs48 trillion.

Points to Remember

- Managing Director: Aditya Puri
- Founded: August 1994
- Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

SBI launches doorstep banking service for senior citizens over 70 & differently-abled

State Bank of India (SBI) has launched doorstep banking service for senior citizens over 70 years of age and differently-abled customers.

- Eligible customers can avail this service at a nominal fee of 100 rupees per transaction for financial transactions and 60 rupees for non-financial transactions.
- According to a statement, doorstep banking services are available to KYC account holders, with a valid mobile number registered with the bank and residing within 5 kilometres radius from their home branch.
- Cash pick up and deliver, check pickup, chequebook slip, life certificate and form 15 pickup are some of the services that will be provided.

RBI categorises IDBI Bank as private sector lender



The Reserve Bank of India has categorised IDBI Bank as a private sector lender.

- This follows Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) acquiring 51 per cent of the total equity share capital of the bank.
- In April 2005, IDBI Bank was categorised under a new sub-group, 'other public sector banks,' by the RBI.
- It has been under the prompt corrective action framework of RBI that bans it from corporate lending and branch expansions, salary hikes and other regular activities.

SBI launches cardless cash withdrawal at ATMs



State Bank of India has launched cardless withdrawal of cash at over 16,500 of its ATMs through the Yono mobile app platform for the first time in the country.

- The ATMs enabled for this service will also be termed as Yono Cash Point.
- Customers can initiate the cash withdrawal process on the Yono app and set a six-digit Yono Cash pin for the transaction.
- They will also get a six-digit reference number for the transaction on their registered mobile number via SMS.
- The cash withdrawal has to be completed within the next 30 minutes at the nearest Yono Cashpoint.

RBI approves Bandhan Bank's acquisition of Gruh Finance

Bandhan Bank said that it had received no objection from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for the proposed acquisition of Gruh Finance.

- Gruh Finance, the affordable housing finance arm of HDFC Ltd, was taken over in January by Kolkata-based Bandhan Bank in a share-swap deal.
- As part of the deal, Bandhan Bank has to transfer 19 per cent stake to HDFC for merging Gruh with itself.
- The swap ratio for the amalgamation will be 568 shares of Bandhan Bank for every 1,000 shares of Gruh Finance.

Points to remember

- Headquarters: Kolkata
- CEO: Chandra Shekhar Ghosh

IBBI, SEBI sign MoU for better implementation of IBC

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding

(MoU) with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

- The IBBI and the SEBI seek effective implementation of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (Code) and its allied rules and regulations.
- They have agreed under the MoU to assist and co-operate with each other for the effective implementation of the Code, subject to limitations imposed by the applicable laws.

SBI inks pact with Bank of China

The country's largest lender SBI has signed a pact with the Bank of China to boost business opportunities.

- Bank of China (BoC) is the third-largest bank in the world by capital size
- Through this pact, both SBI and BoC will gain direct access to their respective markets of operation.
- Both banks' clients will be able to use the vast combined network to expand their businesses abroad.
- SBI said it has a branch in Shanghai and BOC is opening its branch in Mumbai.

Govt exceeds disinvestment target for current fiscal by Rs 5,000 cr

The government has exceeded its disinvestment target for the current fiscal by Rs 5,000 crore, taking the total proceeds to Rs 85,000 crore.

- This is the second highest disinvestment proceeds in a financial year after the government last fiscal mopped up a little over Rs 1 lakh crore in 2017-1
- Last year it was helped by ONGC acquiring government's entire 511 per cent stake in oil refiner HPCL for Rs 36,915 crore.
- In the current fiscal, the government is eyeing Rs 14,500 crore by way of sale of its 563 per cent stake in REC to state-owned Power Finance Corporation (PFC).

Netmeds buys health tech start-up KiViHealth for \$10 million



Online pharmacy Netmeds has acquired KiViHealth, a clinic management platform providing cloud-based, AI-powered tools for effective doctor-patient interaction, for \$10 million in a cash and stock deal.

- The acquisition helps Netmeds to transform into a complete healthcare product and service company.
- KiViHealth is built around its unique "digital prescription pad" tool which allows doctors to generate digital prescriptions.
- Creating a prescription digitally not only rules out any possible misinterpretation of the medication or dosage but also creates an electronic historical health records storage for the benefit of the patient as well as the physician.

8. RBI slaps Rs 2 crore penalty on PNB

The Reserve Bank of India has slapped a penalty of Rs 2 crore on Punjab National Bank for non-compliance of regulatory directions with regard to SWIFT operations.

- SWIFT is a global messaging software used for sharing information on inter-bank transactions by financial entities.
- The Reserve Bank in a letter dated March 25 has informed the bank about the penalty.
- Earlier this year, the Reserve Bank had imposed penalties worth 71 crore rupees on 36 public, private and foreign banks for non-compliance of SWIFT operations.

5. Govt decides to infuse around Rs 5000 Cr into Bank Of Baroda

The government has decided to infuse around five thousand crore rupees into state-owned Bank of Baroda ahead of the merger of two other public sector lenders Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank with Bank of Baroda.

- The merger of Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank with Bank of Baroda would be effective from 1st April 2019.
- The Bank of Baroda, in a regulatory filing, said that the finance ministry through its notification conveyed its decision to infuse a capital of 5,042 crore rupees in the bank.
- The government in September last year had announced the merger of Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank with Bank of Baroda, aiming to create the third-largest lender after SBI and ICICI Bank.

6. ICICI Bank launches digital home loan products up to Rs 1 cr

ICICI Bank has launched two instant home loan products for up to Rs 1 crore.

- The instantaneous home loan facility enables customers to get final sanction letter for new home loans as well as for a top-up the loan in a fully-digital way.
- 'Instant Home Loan' enables pre-approved salaried customers of the bank to avail loans up to Rs 1 crore for a tenure of up to 30 years using internet banking facility.
- The facility helps the customers get the top up amount disbursed immediately in their account as compared to the industry practice of approving and disbursing a top-up a home loan in a few working days.

6. PNB to sell part stake in housing finance arm for Rs 1,852 crore

State-run Punjab National Bank (PNB) is selling part of its stake in PNB Housing Finance to global private equity firm General Atlantic Group and alternative investment firm Varde Partners for Rs 1,851.60 crore.

- After the transaction, PNB will continue to hold a 19.78 per cent stake in the housing finance arm and will remain the promoter and strategic shareholder of the company.
- As of December 31, 2018, PNB held 32.79 per cent in PNB Housing Finance.
- PNB will sell 10.89 million equity shares each to General Atlantic and Varde Partners

at Rs 850 per share, aggregating to Rs 1851.60 crore.



Ravneet Gill takes charge as Yes Bank MD, CEO



Ravneet Gill has taken charge as MD and CEO of Yes Bank with immediate effect.

- His tenure as approved by RBI is 3 years from the date of his joining, i.e. March 1, 2019, to February 28, 2022
- On January 24 Yes Bank has received RBI approval for its new MD & CEO to join on or before March 1, 2019
- Ajai Kumar has ceased to be an Interim MD & CEO of the Bank with effect from the close of business hours of February 28, 2019

Air Marshal RD Mathur AVSM VSM assumes charge of Eastern Air Command of IAF

Air Marshal RD Mathur AVSM VSM assumed charge of the Eastern Air Command of the Indian Air Force, at Shillong, as its Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief.

- He is an alumnus of St Joseph's Academy, Dehradun.
- Mr Mathur had joined the National Defence Academy in 1978 and was commissioned into the fighter stream of the Indian Air Force in June 1981
- For his distinguished service, he was awarded the Vishisht Seva Medal in 2003 and Ati Vishisht Seva Medal in 2014 by the President of India.

Medha Narvekar appointed as Vice President and Secretary of University of Pennsylvania



Indian American Medha Narvekar has been appointed as the Vice President and Secretary of the University of Pennsylvania.

- As per the University release, Narvekar, an MBA from Wharton School, will be taking over the new position on 1st July.
- Prior to this appointment, she served as senior associate vice president of the Pennsylvania Development and Alumni Relations.

Ajit Kumar Mohanty appointed Director of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre



Distinguished scientist Ajit Kumar Mohanty has been appointed Director of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC).

- It is the country's premier multi-disciplinary nuclear research facility based in Mumbai.
- Mohanty has been appointed Director for a period of three years.

Points to Remember

- Founder: Homi J. Bhabha
- Founded: 3 January 1954

Manpreet Singh named captain of Indian hockey team for Sultan Azlan Shah Cup

Manpreet Singh is named captain of the 18-member Indian hockey team to play in the upcoming 28th Sultan Azlan Shah Cup.

- The prestigious tournament will be held in Ipoh, Malaysia from the 23rd March.
- Surender Kumar will be the Vice-Captain of the team.
- Apart from India and hosts Malaysia, the other participating nations in the tournament are Canada, Korea, South Africa and Japan.

Ausaf Sayeed appointed new Ambassador of India to Saudi Arabia

Dr Ausaf Sayeed, presently High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Seychelles, has been appointed as the next ambassador of India to Saudi Arabia.

- The Indian Foreign Service officer of the 1989 batch, Sayeed will succeed Ahmad Javed.
- Javed had been serving as envoy to Saudi Arabia since December 201
- Mr Sayeed served as Ambassador to Yemen and Consul General of India in Chicago and Jeddah.

Soumya Swaminathan named Chief Scientist at WHO

Soumya Swaminathan, a Deputy Director-General of the World Health Organisation has been named Chief Scientist of the WHO.

- As Deputy Director-General Programmes (DDP), she was one of the three DDGs assisting WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom.
- She was the first Indian to hold the post.

Points to Remember

- Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland
- Founded: 7 April 1948
- Head: Tedros Adhanom

Uttarakhand CM appoints Anant Ambani as the member of Badrinath Kedarnath Temple Committee



Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat appointed industrialist Mukesh Ambani's son Anant as a member of Badrinath Kedarnath Temple Committee.

- It has been noticed that Ambanis visit the holy shrines every time something important comes up in the family.
- Kedarnath Temple is a Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Shiva.
- The temple is Located on the Garhwal Himalayan range near the Mandakini river in the state of Uttarakhand.
- Due to extreme weather conditions, the temple is open to the general public only between the months of April and November.

Padma Lakshmi appointed as UNDP's Goodwill Ambassador

Padma Lakshmi has been appointed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as its newest goodwill ambassador.

- She is an Indian-American television personality, food expert and an award-winning author.
- The announcement was made by UNDP Administrator Achim Steiner, on the eve of International Women's Day.
- She will join a roster of UNDP Goodwill Ambassadors, which includes globally celebrated actors, athletes, musicians, and other high-profile influencers.

Mohammad Shtayyeh named as Palestinian PM

Mohammad Shtayyeh has been named as Palestinian Prime Minister by President of Palestinian Mahmoud Abbas.

- He is a member of the West Bank's dominant Fatah party is a long time ally of Abbas.
- The announcement comes six weeks after Rami al-Hamdallah tendered his resignation from the post and of his unity government to President Mahmoud Abbas.
- Shtayyeh, a former government minister, has been part of a number of Palestinian negotiating teams in the United States-brokered talks with Israel and is a former Minister.

Points to remember

- Capital: Jerusalem

'Metro Man' Sreedharan appointed principal advisor to MRTCs in J&K

The Jammu and Kashmir Governor administration has approved the appointment of "Metro Man" E Sreedharan as the principal advisor to two mass rapid transit systems to be built in Jammu and Srinagar.

- The governor administration has approved setting up of two MRTCs Jammu Mass Rapid Transit Corporation and the Srinagar Mass Rapid Transit Corporation for the two capital cities.
- Sreedharan is a retired IES (IRSE) officer and is popularly known as the "Metro Man".
- He is known for changing the face of public transport in the country with his leadership of building the Konkan Railway and the Delhi Metro.

Sitanshu Kar gets 6-month extension as govt's chief spokesperson



Sitanshu Ranjan Kar was given a six-month extension as principal director general of the Press Information Bureau (PIB).

- He was scheduled to retire on March 3
- Kar, a 1983-batch officer of the Indian Information Service (IIS), had taken over as principal director general of the PIB in May last year.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the re-employment of Kar.

Anup Kumar Dubey, Sushil Kumar appointed special directors in ED



Senior bureaucrats Anup Kumar Dubey and Sushil Kumar were appointed special directors in the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

- Both Dubey and Kumar are Indian Revenue Service (Income Tax) officers.
- Dubey has been appointed as Special Director, ED in Delhi and Kumar in Chennai.
- The Directorate of Enforcement is a law enforcement agency and economic intelligence agency responsible for enforcing economic laws and fighting economic crime in India.

Zinedine Zidane reappointed as coach of Real Madrid

Zinedine Zidane has been reappointed as the coach of Real Madrid.

- Madrid said in a statement that Zidane has been given a contract until June 202
- His reappointment comes just nine months after he resigned at the end of last season, having led Madrid to a historic third consecutive Champions League triumph.

Ponts to Remember

- Real Madrid is a Spanish professional football club based in Madrid.

Mizoram's first Lokayukta sworn-in

Retired IAS officer C Lalsawta becomes the first Lokayukta of Mizoram.

- Governor Jagdish Mukhi administered him the oath of office at the Raj Bhawan in Aizawl.
- Lalsawta is a 1981 batch Bihar cadre IAS officer.
- He was the principal secretary of the finance department in the state from 2008 to 201

Axis Bank appoints Rakesh Makhija as new Chairman

Axis Bank appointed Rakesh Makhija as its new Non-Executive Part-Time Chairman.

- Rakesh Makhija, who is the Chairman of SKF India, will take over from current Axis Bank Chairman Sanjiv Mishra.
- The appointment will be effective from July 18, 2019, till July 17, 202
- Rakesh Makhija is an Independent Director on the Board of Axis Bank since October 27, 201

WEF recognises Naresh Lokesh as Young Global Leader for 2019



Andhra Pradesh IT minister Nara Lokesh has been recognised as the Young Global Leader, according to the World Economic Forum (WEF).

- The list has 127 of the world's most promising social activists, business leaders,

public servants, artists and technologists under the age of 40.

- The individuals are expected to take part in the five year-programme that will help them to identify new ways to learn new ideas.
- Lokesh is the minister of Information Technology, Electronics and Communications in Andhra Pradesh.

MR Kumar appointed as LIC Chairman



The Centre has appointed MR Kumar as the Chairman of the Life Insurance Corporation.

- Kumar will hold the Chairman post for five years, according to a Personnel Ministry order.
- Prior to this elevation, Kumar was Zonal Manager (In-Charge) of North Zone, Delhi.

Points to Remember

- Founded: 1 September 1956
- Headquarters: Mumbai

BJP's Pramod Sawant sworn-in as new Goa CM



BJP MLA Pramod Sawant was sworn-in as the new Chief Minister of Goa.

- He succeeds Manohar Parrikar, who passed away following a prolonged illness.
- Goa Governor Mridula Sinha administered the oath of office and secrecy to the 46-year-old Sawant.
- He represents Sankhalim constituency in Goa Assembly.

- The Governor also administered the oath to 11 other ministers, including those from BJP's allies Maharashtra Gomantak Party (MGP) and the Goa Forward Party (GFP).

Rear Admiral Krishna Swaminathan, VSM assumes Charge as Flag Officer Sea Training (FOST)

Rear Admiral Krishna Swaminathan, VSM, has assumed charge as Flag Officer Sea Training (FOST) at Kochi.

- Rear Admiral Swaminathan, a specialist in Communication and Electronic Warfare was commissioned into the Indian Navy on 01 Jul 1987 and is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla at Pune.
- He has commanded five frontline ships of the Indian Navy including the missile vessels, INS Vidyut and INS Vinash; the missile corvette, INS Kulish; the guided missile destroyer, INS Mysore; and the aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya.
- FOST functions under the operational and administrative jurisdiction of Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Naval Command.
- His charter includes the conduct of operational sea training for ships of the Indian Navy and Coast Guard.

Mumbai social worker Gauri Sawant becomes first transgender election ambassador

The Election Commission of India has appointed transgender social activist Gauri Sawant, as one of the 12 election ambassadors from Maharashtra.

- During 2004 and 2009 Lok Sabha elections there was no record of transgender voters.
- Following the Supreme Court order, transgenders got the right to vote for the first time in 201
- In 2014, 918 voters were registered in this third category. This number has doubled in five years and now it is 2,08
- Election Commission has nominated the renowned sportsmen, film-makers, literary

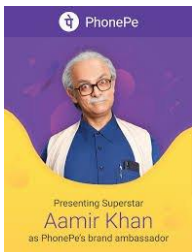
personalities of the respective constituencies as the goodwill ambassadors to induce more voters to vote in the Lok Sabha elections.

EC appoints Shailendra Handa & Madhu Mahajan as Special Expenditure Observers

Election Commission has appointed two eminent former Civil Servants Shailendra Handa and Ms Madhu Mahajan as Special Expenditure Observers for the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections.

- Shailendra Handa has been deployed in Maharashtra and Madhu Mahajan has been deployed in Tamil Nadu.
- Both these officers have rich experience of working in Investigation Wing of I.T Department.
- The Special Observers will supervise and monitor the work being done by the electoral machinery.

PhonePe appointed Aamir Khan as Brand Ambassador



PhonePe has appointed Bollywood superstar Aamir Khan as the face of its brand.

- PhonePe is also an official co-presenting sponsor for the television broadcast of VIVO IPL 201
- Aamir's presence in the TV ads and his mass appeal as a national icon will help PhonePe create awareness about the benefits of digital payments for users across India.

Points to Remember

- PhonePe Parent organization: Flipkart
- Founded: 2015
- CEO: Sameer Nigam

Former SC judge PC Ghose takes oath as Lokpal



President Ram Nath Kovind administered the oath of office to the former Supreme Court judge Pinaki Chandra Ghose as Lokpal chairperson.

- The oath was administered at a ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- Justice Ghose, the former Supreme Court judge, was on March 19 appointed as the country's first Lokpal, the anti-corruption ombudsman.
- President also appointed four Judicial members and four Non-Judicial members in Lokpal.

Vice Admiral Karambir Singh appointed as next Navy Chief

Vice Admiral Karambir Singh has been appointed as the next Navy Chief.

- He will succeed Admiral Sunil Lanba who retires on 31st of May this year.
- Vice Admiral Karambir Singh is currently serving as the Flag Officer Commander -in-Chief of the Eastern Naval Command.
- He has been decorated with the Param Vishisht Seva MMedal and the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal.

Tata Coffee appoints Chacko Purackal Thomas as MD and CEO

Tata Coffee announced the appointment of Chacko Purackal Thomas as the managing director and chief executive officer.

- He will replace Sanjiv Sarin, who retires on 31 March.
- He will assume the charge from April 1, 201
- Thomas, currently working as the executive director and deputy CEO of the Tata Group

firm, has been associated with the company since 2015.

6. RBI appoints a five-member committee to deepen digital payments

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed the 5-member committee to further deepen digital payments and enhance financial inclusion through Fintech.

- The committee will work under the chairmanship of Nandan Nilekani.
- The RBI has requested the committee to give recommendations in 3 months in this regard.
- Mr Das introduced it at the inaugural event of Financial Technology (Fintech) Conclave being organized by NITI Aayog in New Delhi.

7. Neha Upadhyaya selected by Yale University among 2019 World Fellows



A social entrepreneur from India is among 16 persons selected by Yale University as the 2019 World Fellows.

- Neha Upadhyaya, based in New Delhi, founded GUNA Organics in 2014 that provides ethically-sourced organic food products grown by rural female Indian farmers.
- Upadhyaya's work has also focussed on working with children suffering from various health issues including diabetes, autism, and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).
- She has been the recipient of Future Leaders Connect (2018) and Social Impact India (2017) awarded by the British Council and has won several prototype grants and awards, including Entrepreneur Excellence award by I.I.T. Delhi (2017).

4. Maruti Suzuki re-appoints Kenichi Ayukawa as MD and CEO for 3 years

The country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) has re-appointed Kenichi Ayukawa as Managing Director and CEO for a period of three years with effect from April 1, 2019.

- The company's board, which met on March 27, re-appointed Ayukawa on the existing terms and conditions including remuneration.
- This would be Ayukawa's third three-year term as MD and CEO of MSI.
- He had taken over for the first time in March 2013.

7. Justice (Retd.) DK Jain will be BCCT's ad-hoc Ethics Officer

The Committee of Administrators, COA running Indian cricket has said that the newly appointed ombudsman by the BCCI, Justice (Retd.) DK Jain will also be its ad-hoc Ethics Officer.

- The COA, in its 10th Status Report filed on October 28, 2018, had requested the Supreme Court to appoint an Ethics Officer in addition to an Ombudsman for looking into the matters of Conflict of Interest.
- The three-member COA requested Justice Jain to take over as Ethics Officer on an ad-hoc basis till a permanent appointment takes place.
- Justice Jain, who is already looking into Hardik Pandya-KL Rahul chat show controversy, agreed to the request.

7. Hitachi Payment Services appoints Rustom Irani as managing director



Hitachi Payment Services Pvt. Ltd. (Hitachi Payments) announced the appointment of Rustom Irani as its new managing director.

- He will also be inducted into the company's Board effective 1st April 2019.
- Loney Antony, an industry stalwart, has led Hitachi Payments as the Managing Director from its inception.
- Rustom has been with the company for over 8 years and served as the Chief Operations Officer of Hitachi Payment Services.



Prime Minister confers Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prizes for Science and Technology

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi conferred the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar prizes for 2016, 2017 and 2018, at an event in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

- The Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize, named after the founder Director of the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research.
- It is given annually to recognize outstanding Indian work in various disciplines of Science and Technology.
- The awards were presented for the years 2016, 2017, and 2018, with a total of 34 winners.

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).

- Chief Minister of the state K Palaniswami handed over the award to the executive director of the bank M K Bhattacharya.

Points to Remember

- Headquarters: Chennai, India
- MD & CEO: Ms. Padmaja Chunduru
- Tagline: Your Own Bank

Abhinandan Varthaman to get Bhagwan Mahavir Ahimsa Puraskar



Indian Air Force Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman will be the first recipient of the 'Bhagwan Mahavir Ahimsa Puraskar'.

- The award is instituted by the Akhil Bharatiya Digambar Jain Mahasamiti.
- Varthaman, piloting a Mig-21 Bison, shot down a Pakistan Air Force F-16 with an R-73 air-to-air missile in a dogfight on February 2

Points to Remember

- The award, instituted this year, carries a cash prize of Rs 51 lakh, a memento and a citation and will be presented to Varthaman on April 17

Two Nobel Prizes for literature will be awarded this year



The Swedish Academy has said that two Nobel Prizes for literature will be awarded this year.

- The decision comes after a sex scandal causing the suspension of the award last year.
- The Nobel Prize in Literature will awarded this autumn for both 2018 and 2019
- The much-awaited award had to be postponed last year for the first time since 194

Indore bags cleanest city award for 3rd straight year

Indore has bagged the cleanest city award for third straight year under Swachh Survekshan, 201

- President Ram Nath Kovind presented Swachh Survekshan-2019 Awards in New Delhi.
- New Delhi Municipal Council area got the cleanest small city award.
- Uttarakhand's Gauchar was adjudged the Best Ganga Town in the survey.
- Swachh Survekshan 2019 covered all Urban Local Bodies in the country, making it the largest such cleanliness survey in the world.

President presents Nari Shakti awards on International Women's day



President Ram Nath Kovind presented the Nari Shakti awards 2018, in New Delhi.

- The highest civilian honours for women in India were presented on the occasion of International Women's Day
- Forty-One individuals and three institutions were given the award.
- Ministry of Women and Child Development confers Nari Shakti Puraskar to women and institutions in recognition of their relentless service towards the cause of women empowerment and social welfare.

President Kovind conferred Padma awards

President Ram Nath Kovind conferred Padma awards at Rashtrapati Bhawan.

- Fifty-six of the 112 personalities, who were selected for this year's Padma awards conferred the honour at a special function.
- The remaining awardees are likely to be conferred the honour at another function to be held later this month.
- Folk Singer from Chhattisgarh Teejan Bai, President of Djibouti Ismail Omar Guelleh, Noted author and Maratha history scholar Babasaheb Purandare and executive

chairman of L&T Anil Kumar Manibhai Naik are recipients of Padma Vibhushan this year.

- Fourteen persons for Padma Bhushan and Ninety Four Padma Shri have been selected.
- These awards were announced on the eve of Republic Day.

Acko Awarded the Coveted Golden Peacock Award for Innovative Product

ACKO General Insurance a new-age digital insurance company, was awarded the coveted Golden Peacock Innovative Product Award - 201

- Acko introduced the revolutionary Ola Ride Insurance - a first of its kind in the Indian market - in March 201
- The Ola Re. 1 ride insurance is a contextual microinsurance solution that protects the user against any unfortunate mishaps while commuting, providing benefits in cases of loss of baggage/laptops, missed flights, accidental medical expense, ambulance transportation cover, and much more.
- The Golden Peacock Awards for Corporate Leadership and Excellence are regarded as a benchmark of business excellence, both locally and globally.

16-year-old activist nominated for Nobel Peace Prize



16-year-old Swedish environmental activist Greta Thunberg has been nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of her work leading a youth campaign to halt climate change.

- She skipped school to sit in front of the Swedish Parliament demanding that the government do something about climate change.
- If she wins, Greta would become the youngest person to receive the Nobel Peace Prize.

- Malala Yousafzai received the prize when she was 17 years old.

President Kovind gives away National Grassroots Innovators Awards



President Ramnath Kovind awarded National Grassroots Innovators at Grambharti near Gandhinagar in Gujarat.

- Prakash Singh Raghuvanshi from Uttar Pradesh has been awarded lifetime achievement award for his innovations in new varieties of agriculture crops.
- The first prize in Veterinary, Herbal medication for coccidiosis was presented to Periyasami Ramasami of Salem, Tamil Nadu.
- The President also inaugurated the exhibition of the Festival of Innovation and Entrepreneurship.
- The aim of this festival of innovation and entrepreneurship is to provide a platform for new innovators for building linkages with potential stakeholders.

64th Filmfare Awards 2019



The 64th Vimal Filmfare Awards 2019 kicked off at the Jio Garden in BKC, Mumbai.

Here's a list of important winners across several categories:

- Best Actor: Ranbir Kapoor for Sanju
- Best Actress: Alia Bhatt for Raazi
- Best Film: Raazi
- Best Director: Meghna Gulzar for Raazi

- Best Playback Singer (Male): Arijit Singh for Ae Watan - Raazi
- Best Playback Singer (Female): Shreya Ghoshal for Ghoomar - Padmaavat
- Best Music Album: Sanjay Leela Bhansali for Padmaavat

8. A teacher from remote Kenya village conferred with Global Teacher Prize for 2019

A maths and physics teacher, Peter Tabichi from a secondary school in a remote village in Kenya's Rift Valley has won the \$1 million Global Teacher Prize for 2019.

- He gives away 80 per cent of his income to help the poor in the remote village of Pwani where almost a third of the children are orphans or have only one parent.
- He received the prize at a ceremony Saturday in Dubai hosted by Hollywood star Hugh Jackman.
- He has become the first ever African male to have won the award.
- Two Indian teachers, Arti Qanungo and Swaroop Rawal were also nominated for the award. Both of them had made it to the top 50 finalists.

9. Croatia honours President Kovind with the highest civilian award

President Ram Nath Kovind was honoured with Croatia's highest civilian award - the Grand Order of the King of Tomislav.

- The civilian order is awarded to heads of state for their important contribution towards the development of state relations between Croatia and their respective countries.
- Kovind is in Croatia as part of his eight-day three-nation visit to Croatia, Bolivia and Chile.
- Kovind is on the first-ever Indian head of state to visit Croatia.

8. Turing Award honours pioneers of AI

Three trailblazers in artificial intelligence have been honoured with the 2018 Turing Award.

- Yoshua Bengio, Geoffrey Hinton and Yann LeCun were named the recipients of the award by the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM).
- The three developed conceptual and engineering foundations for AI by making deep neural networks a critical component of computing.
- The recipients will be awarded a \$1 million prize, with financial support provided by Google.

9. Nobel laureate Amartya Sen honoured with Oxford University's Bodley Medal

Nobel Prize-winning economist Amartya Sen has been awarded the prestigious Bodley Medal.

- It is the highest honour bestowed by the University of Oxford's world-famous Bodleian Libraries.
- The Medal is awarded to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the fields in which the Bodleian is active, including literature, culture, science and communication.
- Past winners of the honour include physicist Stephen Hawking, novelist Hilary Mantel and inventor of the World Wide Web Tim Berners-Lee.

Points to Remember

- Amartya Sen is an Indian economist.
- In 1998, Sen was awarded the prestigious Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences for his work in welfare economics.

6. Dr. Rajendra Kumar Joshi has been awarded the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman

RUJ Group's founder and chairman, Dr Rajendra Kumar Joshi, has been awarded the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award.

- He has been awarded for his contributions in the field of science, education and medicine, promoting the honour and prestige of India.

- Dr Joshi, who belongs to Rajasthan, is a scientist of Indian origin and is based in Switzerland.
- The Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award (PBSA) is the highest honour conferred on Non-resident Indians by the President of India.



India wins one gold, five silver medals at Makran Cup



National champion Deepak Singh was the lone Indian boxer to notch up gold while five others claimed silver medals in the Makran Cup in Chabahar, Iran.

- Deepak (49-kilogram) defeated Jaafar Naseri in the finals.
- Silver medal winners were P Lalitha Prasad (52kg), Manish Kaushik (60kg), Duryodhan Singh Negi (69kg), Sanjeet (91kg) and Satish Kumar (91kg).
- Rohit Tokas (64kg) and Manjeet Singh Panghal (75kg) lost in the semifinals to sign off with bronze medals.

Chris Gayle became the first player to smash 500 sixes in international cricket



West Indies batsman Chris Gayle has become the first batsman ever to smash 500 or more sixes in international cricket.

- In the 4th ODI against England, he scored 162 runs with 14 sixes and 11 fours.
- He now has 506 sixes in international cricket (98 in Tests, 305 in ODIs and 103 in T20Is).
- Chris Gayle has announced his retirement from ODIs after the World Cup.
- Gayle also breached 10,000-run mark in ODIs and become only the second West Indian after Brian Lara (10,405 runs) to achieve the milestone.

Roger Federer claims 100th ATP title of his career



Roger Federer has claimed the 100th ATP title of his career after beating 20-year-old Greek Stefanos Tsitsipas in Dubai Tennis Championships.

- The 20-time grand slam champion is the second man, after American Jimmy Connors to claim 100 titles.
- Federer will have to win 10 more titles to beat Connors' men's record of 10
- Martina Navratilova holds the all-time record having won 167 women's singles crowns during her career.

Indian wrestlers win 4 medals including two golds at Dan Kolov-Nikol Petrov tournament



Indian wrestlers have won four medals including two golds at the Dan Kolov-Nikol Petrov tournament in Ruse, Bulgaria.

- Bajrang Punia won gold in the freestyle wrestling 65kg category.
- Pooja Dhanda claimed gold in the 59kg category.
- Rio Olympic bronze medallist Sakshi Malik settled for a silver medal in the 65kg category final after a defeat by Sweden's Henna Johansson of Sweden.
- In the men's freestyle category, Sandeep Tomar won silver after he lost his final in the 61 kg category.

Shashank Shekhar wins 10 km race of Nepal's COAS Open Marathon and Run for Fun in Kathmandu

India's Shashank Shekhar won the 10-kilometre race of Nepal's Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Open Marathon and Run for Fun held in Kathmandu.

- Shekhar of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) Contingent at Embassy of India in Kathmandu secured the first position.
- RD Murgan also from CISF got third place.
- COAS Open Marathon and Run for Fun is an annual event organised by the Nepal Army.

Jhulan, Shikha in top five in women's ODI rankings

For the first time in nine years, two India bowlers, Jhulan Goswami and Shikha Pandey, joined the top five club in the latest ICC women's cricket rankings for ODI bowlers.

- Jhulan Goswami secured the No.1 spot.
- While Shikha Pandey made a tremendous come back by picking up eight wickets, has jumped 12 places to occupy the fifth spot in the list.
- Left-handed India opener Smriti Mandhana consolidated her position at the top with a career-best 797 points.
- In ODI All-Rounder rankings, Shikha Pandey has been placed joint 3rd along with South Africa's Dane van Niekerk.

Sailor Upamanyu Dutta clinches bronze in Asian regatta

Mumbai sailor Upamanyu Dutta bagged the bronze medal in the Laser Standard race for men in the Laser Asian Sailing Championship in Singapore.

- Also, Nethra Kumanan of Chennai achieved a creditable 4th position in the Laser Radial event for women.
- Upamanyu entered the event in Singapore as one of the favoured contenders who won the Euromed Championship in Malta last month.
- The young sailor sailed superbly to gain India's first ever medal in the competitive single-handed Laser Standard category.

One gold, four silver medals for India at Finland boxing tournament



Kavinder Singh Bisht in the 56kg-category struck gold medal at the 38th GeeBee Boxing Tournament in Helsinki.

- This was his maiden international gold after making the jump to bantamweight.
- Apart from Bisht, Shiva Thapa, Govind Sahani, Mohammed Hussamuddin and Dinesh Dagar won the silver medals at the tournament.
- Also, Sumit Sangwan, former youth world champion Sachin Siwach and Naveen Kumar got bronze in their categories.

5th SAFF Women's Championship begins in Nepal



The 5th South Asian Football Federation Women's Championship begins at Sahid Rangashala in Biratnagar, Nepal.

- Among the South Asian nations, India rank on top followed by Nepal.
- India clinched all four of the previous SAFF Women's Championship titles, leaving Nepal to finish second in the first three editions.
- The current SAFF members are Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Special Olympics World Games 2019 makes history

Special Olympics World Games 2019 which are being held from March 14 to March 21 in UAE, has made history by welcoming a record-breaking 200 nations ahead of the Games.

- Of the 200 nations, 195 will compete in the Games and five will observe.
- It is a multi-sport event for athletes with intellectual disabilities in the tradition of the Special Olympics movement.
- It is being held in West Asia for the first time. 7,500 athletes will take part in 24 Olympic-style sports over seven days.
- Saudi Arabia will send female athletes for the first time, with 14 women participating.

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 after the council meeting in Miami, USA.

- This will be the second FIFA tournament India will be hosting, after the U-17 Men's World Cup in 201

Kamalpreet Kaur wins gold in women's discus throw event

Kamalpreet Kaur won a gold medal in the women's discus throw event at Federation Cup in Patiala.

- Kaur also qualified for the Asian Championships .
- Kamalpreet of Punjab emerged triumphant with a final throw of 60.25 metres which is better than the Asian Championships qualifying standard of 550 meters.
- Shivpal Singh also booked a berth in the next month's Asian Championships in Doha in men's javelin throw by crossing the qualifying standard set by Athletics Federation of India.

India bags five medals, including two gold in Asian Youth Athletics Championship

India bagged five medals, including two gold, on the opening day of the Asian Youth Athletics Championships in Hong Kong.

- Philip Maheswaran grabbed the first gold for India by winning the boys' 110 metres hurdles in 186 seconds.
- Vipin Kumar added the second gold metal for India in the boys' hammer throw with an effort of 663 metres.
- India's first medal of the day came from Harshita Sherawat as she clinched a silver in the girls' hammer throw with an effort of 693 metres.

Diksha Dagar becomes second Indian to win Ladies European Tour title



Diksha Dagar became only the second Indian woman to win on Ladies European Tour in golf after clinching the South African Open in Cape Town.

- Dagar follows Aditi Ashok, who in 2016 became the first Indian to win on the LET.
- She has been wearing hearing aids since the age of six.
- Dagar won silver at the 2017 Summer Deaflympics.
- She also had a stellar Amateur career during which she represented India at the 2018 Asian Games and won the 2018 Singapore Amateur title.

Bengaluru FC crowned ISL champions for the first time



Bengaluru FC clinched their maiden Indian Super League title as Rahul Bheke found a championship-winning header in the final against FC Goa

- The two teams were locked 0-0 after 90 minutes.
- FC Goa's Ferran Corominas, with 16 goals, wins the Indian Super League (ISL) 2018-19 Golden Boot Award.
- Bengaluru FC goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu wins the Indian Super League (ISL) 2018-19 Golden Glove Award.

India finishes second in medal tally at Asian Youth Championships

In Asian Youth Athletics Championships youth team finish second in the overall medals tally with a total of 26 medals including eight gold, nine silver and nine bronze medals.

- On the last day boys, medley relay team won a gold medal for India.
- China topped the overall medals tally with 31 medals that included 12 gold, 11 silver and eight bronze medals.
- Japan finished third with 20 medals that included 6 Gold, 8 Silver and 6 bronze

Points to Remember

- The Asian Youth Athletics Championships is a biennial, continental athletics competition organised by the Asian Athletics Association.
- It a youth category event open to athletes aged fifteen and seventeen.
- 2019 host: Hong Kong

India's Irfan KT qualifies for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics



India's Irfan KT qualified for next year's Tokyo Olympics.

- He made the cut after finishing fourth at the Asian Race Walking Championship at Nomi in Japan.
- Irfan clocked 1 hour 20 minutes and 57 seconds in the 20-kilometre walk to attain the standard qualifying mark for the Olympics.
- He also ensured a berth in the upcoming International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) World Championship in Doha that begins in September.
- Having qualified for Tokyo 2020, this will be Irfan's second Olympics having represented the country in 2012 London Games.

Bottas wins Formula One season opener, Australian Grand Prix



Valtteri Bottas won the season-opening Australian Formula One Grand Prix.

- He upstaged his Mercedes world champion team-mate, Lewis Hamilton.
- Hamilton finished the race in the second spot, while Red Bull's Max Verstappen finished third.

Gopi Thonakal qualifies for World Athletics Championships

India's Asian champion Gopi Thonakal has qualified for the World Athletics Championships to be held in the Qatari capital Doha in September-October this year.

- He achieved qualification after finishing 11th in the Seoul International Marathon yesterday, clocking his personal best time of 2 hours 13 minutes 39 seconds.
- The Seoul International Marathon is a world-class IAAF Gold label event.
- Gopi's time was the second-best ever by an Indian after the four-decade-old national record of 2 hours 12 minutes, held by Shivnath Singh.
- Gopi also bettered the World Championships qualification mark of 2 hrs. and 16 minutes.

Deal signed to host T10 league for five years in Abu Dhabi

The Zayed Cricket Stadium in Abu Dhabi will be the new home of T10 cricket for the next five years, starting with the 2019 season.

- In Cricket, there are two short formats so far, that is, ODI and T-20. Now, brace for T-
- The shortest form of the game will now be played exclusively at Zayed Cricket Stadium.

- The first match of the T10 League 2019 will be held on October 2

Tokyo 2020 Olympics torch unveiled



Organisers of the Tokyo 2020 Olympics unveiled a cherry-blossom shaped torch for the Games.

- The top part of the torch is shaped in the traditional emblem of the sakura, or cherry blossom.
- The shiny rose-gold torch, which is 71 centimetres long and weighs 2 kilograms, uses aluminium construction waste from temporary housing built for victims of the 2011 earthquake and tsunami.
- Fukushima was chosen as the starting point for the Olympic torch relay.
- Japan has dubbed the 2020 Games the "Reconstruction Olympics" and wants to showcase recovery in regions devastated by the disaster.

India bag 368 medals at Special Olympics World Games

India won 368 medals (85 gold, 154 Silver, and 129 Bronze) at the Special Olympics World Summer Games, held at Abu Dhabi, UAE.

- The tournament which started on March 14 ended on March 2
- In the 2015 Special Olympics that took place in the US, India managed to grab 173 medals.
- The next Special Olympic Games are set to take place in Sweden in 202

FIFA bans former Ecuador football chief for life

FIFA slapped a lifetime ban on the disgraced former head of Ecuador's football federation, Luis Chiriboga, after finding him guilty of taking bribes.

- Chiriboga was one of the executives arrested in 2015 amid a massive US-led crackdown on corruption in world football.
- FIFA's ethics judges banned Chiriboga from all football-related activities for life and fined him 1 million Swiss francs (\$1 million, 887,000 euros).
- Chiriboga led Ecuador's football federation for 18 years before his arrest.

India clinch SAFF Women's championship for the fifth time

India has clinched the SAFF Women's Championship for the fifth time in a row.

- Indian team defeated hosts Nepal 3-1 in the final at Biratnagar in Nepal.
- This was India's 5th victory in the championship since its inception in 20

Kohli's coach Rajkumar Sharma in charge of Malta National team



Virat Kohli's childhood coach Rajkumar Sharma has been appointed the head coach of the Malta national cricket team for an ICC qualifying tournament.

- There is a three-nation divisional tournament of the ICC from March 29 to 31 in Spain.
- Malta, Estonia and hosts Spain will take part in the tournament.
- He is a cricket coach and a former Ranji Trophy player and a Dronacharya award winner.

9. Suresh Raina becomes the first cricketer to score 5000 IPL runs

Chennai Super Kings star Suresh Raina created history as he became the first cricketer in Indian Premier League (IPL) to complete 5000 runs.

- He gained this title in the first match of the season against Royal Challengers Bangalore.
- Suresh Raina leads the way with Virat Kohli at the second spot.
- Mumbai Indians' skipper Rohit Sharma completes the illustrious top three list.

5. Breakdancing makes next move to Olympic status at Paris 2024

The Executive Board of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has recommended adding breakdancing, skateboarding, sport climbing and surfing to the 2024 Paris Olympic Games.

- All four sports will be assessed in terms of how they are managed, judged, before being finalized for Paris.
- The 2024 summer Olympic games are scheduled to take place from 26 July to 11 August 2024 in Paris, France.
- Having previously hosted the 1900 and 1924 Summer Olympics, Paris will become the second city to host the Olympic Games three times, along with London (1908, 1948, and 2012).

Points to Remember

- The United States leads the world by hosting 8 Olympic Games including 4 Summer Olympics and 4 Winter Olympics (1904, 1932, 1984, 1996, 2002, 2010, 2014, 2022).

6. Savita Punia to lead Indian women's hockey team in Malaysia tour



Goalkeeper Savita will captain an 18-strong Indian women's hockey team for the five-match series against Malaysia starting from 4th of April.

- Hockey India announced that Savita will stand in for regular skipper Rani Rampal, who is nursing an injury.
- Rajani Etimarpu has joined the squad as the second goalkeeper.

7. Manu Bhaker-Saurabh Chaudhary bag Gold medal in 10m Air Pistol Mixed event at Asian Airgun Championship

Manu Bhaker and Saurabh Chaudhary have bagged a Gold medal in the 10-metre Air Pistol Mixed team event at the 12th Asian Airgun Championship at Taoyuan in Taipei.

- The teenage Indian duo went on to win the five-team final with a score of 484.8 points.
- The pair made it to the Final after smashing the world record in the qualification.
- 17-year-old Manu and 16-year-old Saurabh shot a combined score of 784, breaking the record set by Russians Vitalina Batsarashkina and Artem Chernousov at the European Championships.

7. Sarabjot Singh, Esha Singh win gold in junior Air Pistol



Sarabjot Singh won the 10m Air Pistol men's junior event and Esha Singh women's junior event.

- Their victories bolster India's overall gold haul to eight at the end of day four of the 12th Asian Airgun Championships in Taoyuan, Taipei.
- Sarabjot also partnered Arjun Cheema and Vijayveer Sidhu to win the junior team gold.
- India has so far won eight gold, four silver and two bronze medals with two days of competition left.

8. South Korea defeat India in Azlan Shah Cup final

India has lost to South Korea in the final of Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey tournament at Ipoh in Malaysia.

- South Korea lifted the title, defeating India in a shootout 4-2.
- Till the stipulated time both the teams had a score of 1 goal each.
- Hosts Malaysia defeated Canada 4-2 and secured the 3rd place.



Russian physicist and Nobel laureate Zhores Alferov dies at 88



Zhores Alferov, a Russian physicist and Nobel Prize laureate, has died.

- In 2000, Alferov received the Nobel Prize in Physics together with US scientists Jack Kilby and Herbert Kroemer, for developing semiconductor heterostructures used in high-speed-and optoelectronics.
- He was elected a corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Sciences in 1972, and a full member in 197

Former Deputy Prime Minister of Nepal Bharat Mohan Adhikari passes away

Former Deputy Prime Minister of Nepal and Senior leader of ruling Nepal Communist Party (NCP), Bharat Mohan Adhikari passed away. He was 8

- Mr Adhikari was very popular among the common people for introducing "Aafno Gaun Aafai Banau".
- It is a development programme aimed at developing villages across the country by giving them the authority to select local projects on their own.

Former union minister Dhananjay Kumar passes away

Former minister in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government, Venur Dhananjay Kumar, passed away in Mangaluru.

- He was 6 He passed away after a prolonged illness
- A four-time Lok Sabha member, Kumar served in various capacities in the Vajpayee government, holding the portfolios of civil aviation, finance and textiles, the latter two as minister of state.
- His journey in the electoral politics began from 1983 when he first became an MLA from BJP.
- He had worked hard for the welfare of the state as a cabinet minister in the Vajpayee government.

U.S Olympic gold medalist Kelly Catlin passes away

Kelly Catlin, a member of the U.S. women's pursuit team that earned a silver medal at the 2016 Olympics in Rio, has died at age 2

- Catlin earned three consecutive world championship titles with the U.S. women's pursuit team from 2016-201
- She also raced with the Rally UHC Pro Cycling team on the road.

Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar passed away



The 63-year old Manohar Parrikar passed away in Panaji following a prolonged illness.

- He is also the former defence minister of India.
- He served as Chief Minister of the state from October 2000 to February 2005, and March 2012 to November 201
- From November 2014 till March 2017, he served as the Union Defence Minister.
- Mr Parrikar returned to Goa in March 2017 as the State Chief Minister.
- The Goa government has declared one day holiday on Monday and seven days of mourning.

Senior journalist, environmental activist Darryl D'Monte passes away



Senior journalist and environmental activist Darryl D'Monte, who worked with leading English dailies, died after a brief illness.

- In a career spanning several decades, he served as the resident editor of Mumbai editions of The Times of India and The Indian Express.
- Besides a career in journalism, he had a keen interest in environmental issues and took some initiatives for the cause.

Karnataka Minister Shivalli passes away

Karnataka Municipalities Minister C S Shivalli passed away in a hospital in Hubballi. He was 5

- For the past three days, he was monitoring the rescue operation at the building that had collapsed in Dharwad.
- Shivalli was elected thrice from Kundgol constituency in Dharwad district.
- Shivalli will be remembered for his service to Karnataka.

8. Malayalam writer Ashita passes away

Well-known Malayalam writer and poet Ashita passed away at the age of 63.

- As many as twenty books including poems, translations and children's literature were published on Ashita's name.
- Some of her noted works include 'Apoorna Viramangal', 'Vismaya Chhinnangal' and 'Ashithayude Kathakal'.
- Ashita has been the recipient of several awards including the prestigious Padmarajan Award - Thathagatha (2000), Lalithambika Antharjanam Award (1994) and Edaserry Award (1986).

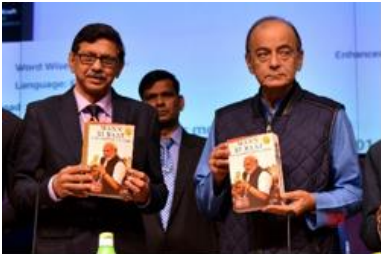
9. Pioneering Russian cosmonaut Valery Bykovsky dies at age 84

Pioneering Soviet-era cosmonaut Valery Bykovsky, who made the first of his three flights to space in 1963, has died at age 84.

- Bykovsky was one of 20 Soviet military pilots in the first group picked to prepare for space.
- He first flew to space in June 1963 as a member of the Vostok-5 crew.
- He underwent training for a moon mission before the United States won the race to the moon and the Soviet Union canceled its plans to go there.
- Bykovsky made his second space flight in 1976 and his third in 1978.
- He spent nearly 21 days in orbit in all.



Union Minister Arun Jaitley releases the book 'Mann Ki Baat - A Social Revolution on Radio'



Shri Arun Jaitley, Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs, released a book titled 'Mann Ki Baat - A Social Revolution on Radio' in New Delhi.

- The book is based on 50 episodes of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's heart to heart talk with the citizens of India, Man Ki Baat.
- The book also gives insight into behind the scene research work done on the massive public feedback received through various channels after every episode of Mann Ki Baat, which had aired first on 3rd October 201

Suresh Prabhu releases a Coffee Table Book: "Cruising New Heights- Flying For All"



Suresh Prabhu releases a Coffee Table Book: "Cruising New Heights- Flying For All" on achievements of Ministry of Civil Aviation.

- Book will serve as reference material on challenges, reforms agenda, performance and highlights and future roadmap.
- It also lists steps taken by the government to infuse investments for infrastructure

development and adding capacity in the aviation sector.

Navin Chawla's new book titled 'Every Vote Counts' was launched by former Vice President of India, Hamid Ansari

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.

- This book is about how the electoral machinery works in India.
- The book explains about India is on the cusp of change, and with its parliamentary elections coming up.

8. N.K. Singh launched the book 'Indian Fiscal Federalism'

Shri N.K. Singh, Chairman, 15th Finance Commission launched the book "Indian Fiscal Federalism".

- It has been written by Dr Y. V. Reddy, former Governor of RBI and Chairman of the 14th Finance Commission of India along with Dr G. R. Reddy, Advisor (Finance) to the Government of Telangana.

Monthly Quiz March 2019

Q. Recently, The United States and North Korea have failed to reach a formal deal at which of the following location?

Manila

Hanoi

Seoul

New York

Jakarta

Q. The Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar prizes are conferred in the field of _____.

Social Reforms

Literature

Science and Technology

Human Rights

Entertainment and Films

Q. Recently, The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and the Government of India signed a loan to finance the Rural Roads Project in which of the following Indian State?

Andhra Pradesh

West Bengal

Telangana

Jharkhand

Tamil Nadu

Q. AYUSH Minister laid the foundation stone for National Institute of Unani Medicine in which of the following city?

Agra

Lucknow

Ghaziabad

Varanasi

Meerut

Q. Under the "Scheme of Minimum Support Price and Value Addition", the MSP for 50 forests produces will be hiked by to _____ from the existing 30%.

35%

40%

45%

50%

55%

Q. The Samjhauta Express was started between India and Pakistan in which of the following year?

1980

1976

1987

1999

1084

Q. Recently, Reserve Bank of India has signed a Bilateral Swap Arrangement with which of the following Banks?

Federal Reserve

Swiss National Bank

Bank of Japan

Central Bank of Bangladesh

South African Reserve Bank

Q. India has an Agreement for the Exchange of Information and Assistance in Collection with respect to Taxes (TIEA) with which of the following country?

Laos

Brunei Darussalam

Vietnam

Indonesia

Cambodia

Q. India won _____ gold medals in boxing at the Makran Cup in Chabahar, Iran?

1

2

3

4

5

Q. Who among the following holds the charge of the Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH)?

Shripad Yesso Naik

Jagat Prakash Nadda

Mahendra Nath Pandey

Prakash Javadekar

Suresh Prabhu

Q. The Centre and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have signed a US\$ 926 million loan for the development of metro line in which of the following city?

Jaipur

Kolkata

Mumbai

Pune

Lucknow

Q. Which of the following organisation won the 25th Prime Minister's Trophy?

Dubari Steelworks, Jamshedpur

Tata Steel Limited, Jamshedpur

JSW Steel Limited, Vijayanagar

Indian Iron and Steel Company, Hirapur

The Salem Steel Plant

Q. PM Modi inaugurated 'Construction Technology India-2019' in which of the following city?

Kolkata

Nagpur

New Delhi

Kanpur

Varanasi

Q. Government will celebrate 'Poshan Pakhwada' from _____ 2019 across the Country.

17th to 30th March

8th to 22th March

15th to 29th March

1st to 22nd March

4th to 23rd March

Q. Recently government has banned which of the following organisation for five years under the anti-terror law in Jammu and Kashmir?

Jamat-e-Islami

Al-Badr

Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front

Harkat-ul-Jihad al-Islami

Lashkar-e-Taiba

Q. Who among the following has taken charge as MD and CEO of Yes Bank?

P. S. Jayakumar

P.V. Bharathi

Ravneet Gill

B Sriram

Sanjeev Misra

Q. Who among the following assumes charge of Eastern Air Command of Indian Air Force?

Hari Chand Dewan

Shivdev Singh

MSD Wollen

R D Mathur

Rajesh Kumar

Q. According to US-based rating agency Moody's, Indian economy is expected to

grow at _____ in calendar years 2019-2020?

7.3%

6.3%

7.8%

7.4%

7.2%

Q. India measures its economic growth for every year starting from _____ to _____.

July to June

January to December

April to March

September to August

November to October

Q. Who among the following became the first player to smash 500 sixes in international cricket?

AB de Villiers

Chris Gayle

Rohit Sharma

Virat Kohli

Brendon McCullum

Q. Who among the following is the Chief executive officer, CEO of SpaceX?

Jeff Bezos

Elon Musk

Tim Cook

Warren Buffett

Jack Ma

Q. What is the name of SpaceX's rocket that took off for its debut unmanned flight for International Space Station on 2 March 2019?

Atlas V

Dragon 9

Falcon 9

Saturn V

Delta IV

Q. The 7th Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Intersessional Ministerial Meeting concluded in _____.

Vietnam

Laos

Cambodia

China

India

Q. The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is a proposed free trade agreement between the ten member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the _____ Asia-Pacific states.

5

6

7

8

9

Q. Who among the following releases the book 'Mann Ki Baat - A Social Revolution on Radio'?

Arun Jaitley

Piyush Goyal

Amit Shah

Sushma Swaraj

Rajnath Singh

Q. Who among the following has claimed the 100th ATP at Dubai Tennis Championship?

Rafael Nadal

Andy Murray

Roger Federer

Novak Djokovic

Dominic Thiem

Q. Who among the following claimed a gold medal in the men's category at the Dan Kolov-Nikol Petrov tournament in Ruse, Bulgaria?

Sandeep Tomar

Bajrang Punia

Sushil Kumar

Parveen Rana

Yogeshwar Dutt

Q. Who among the following won the 10 km race of Nepal's COAS Open Marathon and Run for Fun in Kathmandu?

Sudha Singh

Shashank Shekhar

Shiva Thapa

Muhammed Anas Yahiya

Kheta Ram

Q. Recently, Zhores Alferov passed away. He won a Nobel Prize in 2000 in the field of?

Chemistry

Peace

Physics

Literature

Economic Sciences

Q. Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is related to which Institute?

SAARC

ASEAN

BIMSTEC

WTO

None of these

Q. Recently, The US officially closes its consulate at which of the following city in Middle East?

Jerusalem

Riyadh

Baghdad

Damascus

Muscat

Q. Who among the following has been appointed as Vice President and Secretary of University of Pennsylvania?

Ashim Mitra

Medha Narvekar

Jay Chaudhry

Vikram Solanki

RD Shankar

Q. Which of the following paramilitary force created a new Guinness World Record for the longest single line moving bicycle parade?

Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)

Border Security Force (BSF)

Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)

Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)

Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)

Q. Who among the following will be the first recipient of the 'Bhagwan Mahavir Ahimsa Puraskar'?

MS Dhoni

Abhinandan Varthaman

Kapil Dev

Milkha Singh

Abhinav Bindra

Q. What is the prize money given to the recipient of 'Bhagwan Mahavir Ahimsa Puraskar'?

Rs 1.51 Lakh

Rs 2 Lakh

Rs 2.51 Lakh

Rs 5 Lakh

Rs 5.51 Lakh

Q. Centre for Disability Sports will be set up at which of the following location?

Indore

Gwalior

Nagpur

Ranchi

Patna

Q. The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi dedicated the Joint Venture of Indo-Russian Rifles Pvt Ltd at which of the following locations?

Ghaziabad

Agra

Amethi

Jhansi

Sultanpur

Q. Which of the following bank has bagged the Best Bank Award from the Tamil Nadu government?

Allahabad Bank

Bank of Baroda

Indian Bank

Punjab National Bank

Andhra Bank

Q. What is the tagline of Indian Bank ?

Where India Bank

A Tradition of Trust

Your Own Bank

India's International Bank

Honors Your Trust

Q. Recently, Bharat Mohan Adhikari passes away. He was the former Deputy Prime Minister of which of the following country?

Indonesia

Nepal

Bangladesh

Vietnam

Japan

Q. PM Modi launches Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Mandhan (PM-SYM) Yojana in which of the following city?

Ghaziabad

Gandhinagar

Kanpur

Agra

Surat

Q. According to Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Mandhan (PM-SYM) Yojana, a monthly pension of Rs. _____ will be given to the employees of unorganised sector?

Rs 1000

Rs 2000

Rs 3000

Rs 4000

Rs 5000

Q. What is the capital of Paraguay?

Asunción

San José

Seattle

San Diego

Oakland

Q. Recently, Rajnath Singh inaugurated project 'Border Electronically Dominated QRT Interception Technique' along which of the following border with India?

India-China

India-Pakistan

India-Bangladesh

India-Nepal

India-Bhutan

Q. The 2022 kumbh mela will be held at which of the following city?

Ujjain

Haridwar

Pryagraj

Nasik

Varanasi

Q. Which of the following would be the first state in the country to appoint Lokpal for universities?

Tamil Nadu

Jharkhand

Madhya Pradesh

Maharashtra

Gujarat

Q. Which of the following organistaion launches 'Yuva Vigyani Karyakram' for school children?

Defence Research and Development Organisation

Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology

Indian Space Research Organisation

Bharat Heavy Electricals

Indian Institute of Science

Q. Which of the following Indian bowler secured the No.1 spot in latest ICC women's Rankings?

Sharmila Chakraborty

Shobha Pandit

Shashi Gupta

Jhulan Goswami

Arati Vaidya

Q. Recently, Dhananjay Kumar passed away. He was a famous _____.

Cricketer

Politician

Singer

Film Director

Flute player

Q. The 2019 Kumbh has been concluded at which of the following locations?

Ujjain

Haridwar

Prayagraj

Nasik

Varanasi

Q. PM Modi launches a card that can be used to pay for bus travel, toll, parking, shopping named as _____.

National Common Mobility Card

Travel Card

National Common Card for Transport

Rupay Common Card

National Travel Cum Mobility Card

Q. Al Nagah 2019' is an joint military exercise between India and which of the following country?

UAE

Bangladesh

Oman

Cambodia

Iraq

Q. Recently, Which of the following organisation will provide \$250 Million dollars for the National Rural Economic Transformation Project (NRETP)?

World Bank

Asian Development Bank

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

International Monetary Fund

International Finance Corporation

Q. India signs a loan agreement with World Bank for the Disaster Recovery Project in which of the following state?

Himachal Pradesh

Uttarakhand

Bihar

West Bengal

Assam

Q. How many Nobel Prizes for literature will be awarded this year?

0

1

2

3

4

Q. Earlier women get Permanent Commission only in two streams of the Indian army, One of them was _____.

Signals

Engineers

Army Education Corps

Army Aviation

Army Air Defence

Q. Which of the following city has been declared as the most polluted city in the world according to the IQAir AirVisual 2018 World Air Quality Report?

Gurugram

Faridabad

Agra

Moradabad

Ghaziabad

Q. Mukesh Ambani ranked _____ on the latest Forbes World's Billionaire list?

10th

13th

19th

6th

8th

Q. Who among the following is the world's richest person on the latest Forbes World's Billionaire list?

Jeff Bezos

Bill Gates

Warren Buffett

Elon Musk

Mark Zuckerberg

Q. Which of the following country is the most expensive country in which to buy mobile data?

China

Kenya

South Africa

Zimbabwe

Rwanda

Q. What is the name given to the app developed by Google that aims to help children in primary school learn to read in Hindi and English?

Baatcheet

Bolo

Seekho

Suno

Hinglish

Q. Who among the following has been named as the captain of the Indian hockey team for Sultan Azlan Shah Cup?

Akashdeep Singh

Sandeep Singh

Manpreet Singh

Surender Kumar

Sardar Singh

Q. The 28th Sultan Azlan Shah Cup will be organised in which of the following country?

Canada

South Africa

Malaysia

Japan

South Korea

Q. Which of the following city has bagged the cleanest city award under Swachh Survekshan, 2019?

Nagpur

Ranchi

Chandigarh

Indore

Gwalior

Q. Who among the following has been appointed Director of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre?

A. K. Bhaduri

Ajit Kumar Mohanty

Shashi Shanker

S. K. Sharma

Gurdeep Singh

Q. Which of the following day has been celebrated as 'JanaushadhiDiwas' across India?

7 March 2019

5 March 2019

6 March 2019

4 March 2019

3 March 2019

Q. The new 20 rupee coin will be shaped like a _____.

Quadrilateral

Pentagon

Hexagon

Heptagon

Dodecagon

Q. Which of the following is the state tree of Uttarakhand?

Burans

Kaphal

Pine

Banayan

Neem

Q. Who among the following is named the youngest self-made billionaire of all time by Forbes magazine?

Kourtney Kardashian

Kim Kardashian

Kylie Jenner

Kris Jenner

Rihanna

Q. Which of the following is the first state in the country to use 'micro air abrasion' technology for cleaning archaeological antiques?

Uttar Pradesh

Goa

Uttarakhand

Madhya Pradesh

Andhra Pradesh

Q. The International Women's Day is celebrated every year on_____.

5 March

6 March

7 March

8 March

9 March

Q. The theme of International Women's Day 2019 is _____.

Better Women, Better Tomorrow

Be equal

Think Equal, Build Smart, Innovate for Change

Decrease the Gap

Fight Against Harassment

Q. Hardeep S Puri launches a mobile app related to properties matter named as _____.

e-Dhara

e-Dharti

e-Bhoomi

e-Zameen

e-Property

Q. Which of the following state government has announced Gondi language to be taught in tribal districts?

Jharkhand

Madhya Pradesh

Odisha

Bihar

West Bengal

Q. Recently, who among the following became the oldest woman to be operated upon?

Kane Tanaka

Jeanne Calment

Misao Okawa

Kartar Kaur

Shivakumara Swami

Q. The National Green Tribunal slapped a fine of 500 Crore rupees on which of the following automobile manufacturer?

Hyundai

Mahendra Motors

Tata Motors

Volkswagen

Honda

Q. Who among the following has been appointed new Ambassador of India to Saudi Arabia?

Ahmad Javed

Ausaf Sayeed

Sanjay Kumar Verma

Sujan Chinoy

Harsh Vardhan

Q. Who among the following has been named Chief Scientist at the World Health Organisation?

Navtej Sarna

Soumya Swaminathan

Asaf Ali

Anniruddha Rajput

Meera Shankar

Q. Who among the following has been appointed as the member of Badrinath Kedarnath Temple Committee?

Rishabh Panth

Siddharth Mallya

Anant Ambani

Isha Ambani

Anushka Sharma

Q. Who among the following released the Coffee Table Book: "Cruising New Heights-Flying For All"?

Arun Jaitley

Rajnath Singh

Suresh Prabhu

Shushma Swaraj

Narendra Modi

Q. Who among the following is India's High Commissioner to Pakistan?

Riva Ganguly Das

Vikas Swarup

T. N. Kaul

Ajay Bisaria

Pankaj Saran

Q. Kiru hydro project is built across which of the following river?

Ravi

Indus

Chenab

Jhelum

Satluj

Q. The CCEA approved 1320 Megawatt Khurja Super Thermal Power Plant in which of the following locations?

Bulandshahar

Jhansi

Mirzapur

Agra

Varanasi

Q. The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority reduces the price of _____ anti-cancer drugs up to 87%.

180

390

630

220

620

Q. President presents Nari Shakti awards to _____ individuals and three institutions on International Women's day.

32

12

41

22

53

Q. Who among the following has been given the additional charge as the governor of Mizoram?

Lalji Tandon

Acharya Dev Vrat

Jagdish Mukhi

Satya Pal Malik

Najma Heptulla

Q. India and ADB sign \$26 Million Loan Agreement for Additional Financing of which of the following Indian state?

Jharkhand

Assam

Manipur

Tripura

Madhya Pradesh

Q. RBI has slapped penalties on how many banks for the non-compliance of SWIFT operations?

12

29

36

51

18

Q. Who among the following has been appointed as its newest goodwill ambassador

by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)?

JD Mittal

Padma Lakshmi

Rakhi Singh

Abhinav Singh

Rahul Jindal

Q. The headquarters of Asian Development Bank is situated in which of the following country?

Indonesia

Bangladesh

Myanmar

Philippines

Vietnam

Q. Recently, Marayur organic jaggery has bagged Geographical Indication tag. It is produced in which of the following Indian state?

Jharkhand

Kerala

Madhya Pradesh

Assam

Uttar Pradesh

Q. PM Narendra Modi inaugurates Pt Deendayal Upadhyaya Institute of Archaeology at which of the following city?

Agra

New Delhi

Gwalior

Greater Noida

Jaipur

Q. Which of the following is the state bird of Mizoram?

Sparrow

Indian Roller

Hume's pheasant

Wood Duck

Bulbul

Q. Which of the following state issued an ordinance raising reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBC) to 27 per cent from the present 14 per cent?

Uttar Pradesh

Assam

Jharkhand

Madhya Pradesh

Manipur

Q. Indian Railways has signed an MoU with which of the following organisation for digitising work?

Google

Infosys

RailTel

Bharat Electronics Limited

Wipro

Q. Recently, Which of the following Indian state has approved the proposed liquor prohibition bill in the state?

Mizoram

Manipur

Meghalaya

Nagaland

Tripura

Q. Kane Tanaka has been honoured as the world's oldest living person by Guinness World Records. She belongs from which of the following country?

China

Japan

South Korea

Pakistan

Vietnam

Q. Who among the following is the governor of Kerala?

Lalji Tandon

Anandiben Patel

P. Sathasivam

Mridula Sinha

Satyadev Narayan Arya

Q. Who among the following has bagged the bronze medal in the Laser Standard race for men in the Laser Asian Sailing Championship in Singapore?

Nethra Kumanan

Upamanyu Dutta

Rahul Jaiswal

Sachin Singla

Ratnin Singh

Q. Who among the following is the governor of Madhya Pradesh?

BD Mishra

Lalji Tandon

Anandiben Patel

OP Kohli

Jagdish Mukhi

Q. Who among the following has been named as Palestinian Prime Minister?

Abdel Fattah el-Sisi

Mohammad Shtayyeh

Muhammadu Buhari

Lisa Honan

Ashraf Ghani

Q. The National Voters Day is celebrated every year on _____?

10 December

25 January

2 February

9 March

12 February

Q. The Raising Day of Central Industrial Security Forces is celebrated every year on which of the following day?

8 March

9 March

10 March

11 March

12 March

Q. Which of the following bank has sanctioned loans worth Rs 689 crore to over 1,600 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) through the 'psbloansin59minutes.com'?

State Bank of India

Punjab National Bank

ICICI Bank

HDFC Bank

Indian Bank

Q. Who among the following is popularly known as the "Metro Man" in India?

K. Radhakrishnan

Nandan Nilekani

E Sreedharan

Fali Nariman

Shashi Tharoor

Q. Who among the following has been appointed special directors in the Enforcement Directorate (ED)?

Rahul Shakti

Anup Kumar Dubey

Anup Singh

Jatin Shekhar

Rahul Joshi

Q. Who among the following has been awarded Padma Vibhushan award by President of India?

Sharat Kamal

Bhagirati Devi

Prabhudeva

Teejan Bai

Shankar Mahadevan

Q. Who among the following has won a gold medal in 56kg-category at the 38th GeeBee Boxing Tournament in Helsinki?

Kavinder Singh Bisht

Shiva Thapa

Govind Sahani

Mohammed Hussamuddin

Dinesh Dagar

Q. Which of the following company has been awarded the coveted Golden Peacock Innovative Product Award - 2019?

Greenko

ReNew Power

InMobi

Acko General Insurance

Practo

Q. Who among the following is the capital of Palestine?

Yerevan

Baku

Jerusalem

Manama

Doha

Q. The 34th edition of AAHAR - the International Food and Hospitality fair begins in which of the following city?

Chennai

New Delhi

Kolkata

Gandhinagar

Pune

Q. Who among the following is currently serving as the Minister of Commerce & Industry?

Suresh Prabhu

Rajnath Singh

Aruj Jaitley

Manohar Parikar

Sushma Swaraj

Q. In the month of March 2019, India has extended its National Knowledge Network to which of the following country?

Nepal

Bhutan

Bangladesh

Japan

Pakistan

Q. India's internet base has crossed a mark of _____ users in December 2018.

10 Million

100 Million

50 Million

500 Million

1 Billion

Q. Defence Research and Defence Organisation (DRDO) successfully tested PINAKA. It is an _____.

Submarine

Aircraft carrier

Multi-barrel rocket launcher

Lightweight helicopter

Battle Tank

Q. Which of the following company has entered Limca Book of World Records for completing a power sub-station in a record time of 7 months?

Navayuga Engineering Company

IL&FS Engineering and Construction Company Limited

NCC Limited

Megha Engineering Infrastructure Limited

Nova Limited

Q. Which of the following banks has raised Rs 660 crore by selling shares to employees?

Punjab National Bank

Bank Of India

HDFC Bank

IndusInd Bank

Axis Bank

Q. Who among the following has been appointed as coach of Real Madrid?

Eden Hazard

Zinedine Zidane

Cristiano Ronaldo

Luka Modrić

David Beckham

Q. Real Madrid is a football club based in which of the following country?

France

Spain

Ukraine

Argentina

England

Q. Recently, Olympic gold medalist Kelly Catlin passed away. She was a famous cyclist from which of the following country?

France

Russia

U.S.

Mexico

Germany

Q. Who among the following is the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom?

Edouard Philippe

Dmitry Medvedev

John Major

Wim Kok

Theresa May

Q. Who among the following has sworn in as the first Lokayukta of Mizoram?

Vishwanath Shetty

J. N Kishore Agarwal

Jagdish Mukhi

C Lalsawta

T. P. Sharma

Q. RBI has decided to infuse _____ crore rupees into the system through open market operations (OMOs) in March 2019.

Rs 12,500

Rs 10,500

Rs 20,500

Rs 5,500

Rs 18,500

Q. In January 2019, Industrial output growth stood at _____ in the manufacturing sector.

1.9 %

2.3 %

1.7 %

2.1 %

1.3 %

Q. The 5th South Asian Football Federation Women's Championship begins in which of the following country?

Bangladesh

Nepal

Pakistan

India

Bhutan

Q. Which of the following team has been the most successful team in the previous 4 editions?

Bangladesh

Bhutan

India

Maldives

Nepal

Q. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation has decided to ground which of the following planes after the Ethiopian Airlines crash?

Douglas MD-11

Airbus A300

Boeing 737

Boeing 777

Airbus 312

Q. Recently, 'Sirsi supari' gets a geographical indication tag. It is grown in which of the following Indian state?

Uttar Pradesh

Kerala

Karnataka

Jharkhand

Madhya Pradesh

Q. Google has announced the shut down of its_____ app from 12 March 2019.

Google Keep

Google Allo

Google Hangouts

Google Plus

Google AdSense

Q. Who among the following has been appointed as the new Non-Executive Part-Time Chairman of Axis Bank?

Aditya Puri

Sanjiv Mishra

Rakesh Makhija

Amitabh Chaudhry

A. S. Rajeev

Q. The World Kidney Day 2019 was observed on which of the following day?

13 March

14 March

12 March

11 March

10 March

Q. Which of the following country blocked a bid in the United Nations Security Council to designate Jaish-e-Mohammed's chief Masood Azhar as a 'global terrorist'?

France

United States

Germany

China

France

Q. Which of the following country had agreed to build six nuclear power plants in India?

Russia

China

USA

France

Germany

Q. The joint military exercise 'Al Nagah 2019' is being organised in which of the following country?

India

Vietnam

Oman

UAE

Iran

Q. The United States Special Forces Group involved in a joint exercise with India's National Security Guard in which of the following city?

New York

New Delhi

Chicago

Hyderabad

Atlanta

Q. Who among the following has been named as the Young Global Leader by World Economic Forum?

Agatha Sangma

Brahmani Nandamuri

Nara Lokes

Sachin Pilot

Akhilesh Yadav

Q. Which of the following company has become India's third most valued in the month of March after crossing the Rs 6 lakh crore-market capitalisation?

HDFC Bank

State Bank of India

ONGC

ITC Limited

Infosys

Q. Who among the following is the Managing Director of HDFC Bank?

Sandeep Bakhshi

Shyamala Gopinath

Aditya Puri

Shikha Sharma

Vijay Shekhar Sharma

Q. Which of the following bank has launched doorstep banking service for senior citizens over 70 years of age and differently-abled customers?

State Bank of India

Punjab National Bank

ICICI Bank

HDFC Bank

Indian Bank

Q. The Special Olympics World Games 2019 are being organised in which of the following country?

France

Australia

UAE

Russia

South Africa

Q. The World Sleep Day 2019 is observed on which of the following day?

12 March

13 March

14 March

15 March

10 March

Q. The World Consumer Rights Day 2019 s observed on which of the following day?

15 March

13 March

14 March

11 March

10 March

Q. Africa-India Joint Field Training Exercise (AFINDEX-19) will be conducted from March 18 to 27 at which of the following location?

Mumbai

Bangalore

Chandigarh

Pune

Hyderabad

Q. According to Mercer's Quality of Living Ranking 2019, Which of the following city has been named as the most liveable city in India?

Chandigarh

Pune

Hyderabad

Guwahati

Indore

Q. Which of the following city has topped the global ranking as the most liveable city by Mercer's Quality of Living Ranking 2019?

Vienna

Moscow

Chicago

Zurich

Geneva

Q. On 14 March 2019, How many Kirti Chakras were conferred by the President Ram Nath Kovind?

1

2

3

4

5

Q. The first workshop on India Energy Modelling Forum has been organised in which of the following city?

Pune

New Delhi

Indore

Banglore

Hyderabad

Q. The Mundra port is located in which of the following Indian state?

Maharashtra

Gujarat

West Bengal

Tamil Nadu

Andhra Pradesh

Q. In March 2019, Which of the following bank has been categorised as a private sector lender?

Vijaya Bank

Indian Bank

IDBI Bank

Bank of Baroda

Bank of Maharashtra

Q. Who among the following has been appointed as the Chairman of the Life Insurance Corporation?

Rajesh Sood

M.R. Kumar

AK Saxena

G. Srinivasan

Arijit Basu

Q. Which of the following organisation has recently developed and tested Man Portable Anti-tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) and Pinaka defence system?

Bhabha Atomic Research Centre

Indian Space Research Organisation

Defence Research and Development Organisation

Indian Air Force

Ordnance Factory Board

Q. Malala Yousafzai is the youngest recipient of Nobel Peace Prize, She received it when she was _____ years old?

16

17

18

19

20

Q. Who among the following has been awarded lifetime achievement award for his innovations in new varieties of agriculture crops at National Grassroots Innovators Awards?

Rahul Jaiswal

Sachin Tiwari

Nitya Nandan Jha

Prakash Singh Raghuvanshi

Rohit Kumar Singh

Q. The President of India inaugurated the exhibition of the Festival of Innovation and Entrepreneurship in which of the following city?

Agra

Gandhinagar

Gwalior

Agartala

Chennai

Q. Which of the following country will host the U-17 Women's Football World Cup in 2020?

China

India

Bangladesh

Australia

Oman

Q. Who among the following won a gold medal in the women's discus throw event at Federation Cup in Patiala?

Sarita Singhal

Simran Jeet

Kamalpreet Kaur

Juhi Negi

Ambika Soni

Q. The Asian Youth Athletics Championship is being organised at which of the following locations?

Vietnam

Hong Kong

India

Bangladesh

Laos

Q. Which of the following institute has signed an MoU with Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) to set up a Petaflop high-performance computing facility?

IISC Bangalore

IIT Delhi

IIT Kanpur

IIT Kharagpur

IIT Roorkee

Q. Who among the following will head the National Mission on Transformative Mobility and Battery Storage?

Amitabh Kant

Suresh Prabhu

Ajit Seth

Rajiv Kumar

Arvind Panagariya

Q. Who among the following has won the gold medal for India by winning the boys' 110 metres hurdles at Asian Youth Athletics Championship?

Muhammed Anas Yahiya

Jinson Johnson

Ayyasamy Dharun

Philip Maheswaran

Manish Singh Rawat

Q. Which among the following is the capital of Guinea?

Kampala

Conakry

Luanda

Asmara

Nairobi

Q. Who among the following is President of Maldives?

Bidhya Devi Bhandari

Ibrahim Mohamed Solih

Xi Jinping

Ahmed Zaki

Abdulla Yameen

Q. Which among the following is the currency of Maldives?

Rufiyaa

Bhat

Riyal

Frank

Peso

Q. In the month of March 2019, The first BRICS Sherpa meeting was held in which of the following country?

Russia

China

India

Brazil

Russia

Q. Which of the following bank has launched cardless withdrawal through its mobile app?

HDFC Bank

Punjab National Bank

State Bank of India

ICICI Bank

Axis Bank

Q. The RBI has approved the acquisition of Gruh Finance by which of the following Bank?

Indian Bank

Dena Bank

Syndicate Bank

Bandhan Bank

Allahabad Bank

Q. The 3rd edition of Namaste Thailand festival has been Inaugurated in which of the following city?

Kolkata

Bangkok

New Delhi

Hua Hin

Pune

Q. Which among the following is the currency of Thailand?

Rufiya

Bhat

Dinar

Taka

Won

Q. 14th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnerships will take place in which of the following city?

Cape Town

Nairobi

New Delhi

Durban

Kolkata

Q. Who among the following is the CEO of Bandhan Bank?

Atul Kumar Goel

Chandra Shekhar Ghosh

Sunil Mehta

S. Hari Shanker

Ashok Kumar Pradhan

Q. What is the capital of Malawi?

Lusaka

Harare

Lilongwe

Maputo

Antananarivo

Q. Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi have been hit by the cyclone _____.

Trami

Idai

Jebi

Hudhud

Hiayan

Q. Which of the following has directed the Central Pollution Control Board, CPCB, to prepare a noise pollution map across the country?

Delhi High Court

Supreme Court of India

National Green Tribunal

United Nations Environment Programme

Greenpeace

Q. Who among the following is likely to become India's first Lokpal or anti-corruption watchdog?

G. S. Singhvi

Anil R. Dave

Pinaki Chandra Ghose

Anil R. Dave

S.B. Sinha

Q. Who among the following became the second Indian woman to win on Ladies European Tour in golf after clinching the South African Open in Cape Town?

Rani Singh

Diksha Dagar

Rashmi Singh

Sonam Rajput

Adishi Tomar

Q. Which of the following team has won the Indian Super League title?

Bengaluru FC

Goa FC

NorthEast United FC

FC Pune City

Mumbai City FC

Q. Which of the following country topped the overall medals tally at Asian Youth Championships 2019?

Japan

India

China

Indonesia

Vietnam

Q. Who among the following has qualified for 2022 Tokyo Olympics after finishing fourth at the Asian Race Walking Championship at Nomi in Japan?

Sandeep Kumar

Vikas Gowda

Gurmeet Singh

Irfan KT

Manish Singh Rawat

Q. In March 2019, Manohar Parrikar passed away. He was the Chief Minister of which of the following Indian state?

Kerala

Madhya Pradesh

Punjab

Goa

Karnataka

Q. In March 2019, Darryl D'Monte passed away. He was a famous _____.

Actor

Politician

Journalist

Classical Dancer

Cricketer

Q. Which one of the following is one of the top 3 most expensive city according to Economist Intelligence Unit survey?

New York

Paris

Moscow

London

Shanghai

Q. AFINDEX is a joint military exercise between India and which among the following?

South Asian countries

African countries

European countries

Gulf countries

South American countries

Q. Where is the world's largest ground-based telescope, Thirty Metre Telescope (TMT) is being constructed?

Canada

Japan

Hawaii

China

Russia

Q. World water day is celebrated every year in which of the following day?

15 March

21 March

16 March

22 March

7 March

Q. International Workshop on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure is being organised in which of the following city?

Pune

New Delhi

Banglore

Kolkata

Gandhinagar

Q. Who among the following has been sworn-in as the new Chief Minister of Goa?

Pema Khandu

Manohar Lal

Pramod Sawant

Jai Ram Thakur

Raghubar Das

Q. Who among the following is the governor of Goa?

Mridula Sinha

Acharya Dev Vrat

Satya Pal Malik

Farooq Khan

Kalyan Singh

Q. Who among the following has assumed the Charge as Flag Officer Sea Training (FOST)?

Vice Admiral MS Pawar

Vice Admiral G Ashok Kumar

Rear Admiral Krishna Swaminathan

Vice Admiral R Hari Kumar

Vice Admiral Ravneet Singh

Q. Who among the following has won the Australian Grand Prix 2019?

Valtteri Bottas

Max Verstappen

Lewis Hamilton

Nico Rosberg

Sebastian Vettel

Q. Gopi Thonakal is related to which among the following sports?

Swimming

Marathon

Cricket

Badminton

Table Tennis

Q. International Day of Happiness is celebrated every year on which of the following day?

20 March

15 March

19 March

16 March

18 March

Q. What is the capital of Kazakhstan?

Bishkek

Kabul

Astana

Tashkent

Dushanbe

Q. Who among the following has announced his resignation as president of Kazakhstan after nearly 30 years in power.

Karim Massimov

Emomali Rahmon

Nursultan Nazarbayev

Asset Issekeshev

Askar Mamin

Q. Who among the following has become the first transgender appointed as election ambassador?

Rekha Gill

Babita Singh

Gauri Sawant

Sarjeet Singh

Roshni Pandey

Q. Mitra Shakti-VI is a joint military exercise between India and which of the following country?

Nepal

Bangladesh

Russia

Sri Lanka

Thailand

Q. 14th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership concluded in which of the following city?

Kolkata

Gandhinagar

New Delhi

Banglore

Aurangabad

Q. Hyundai Motor Group announced an investment of _____ in India's Ola Cabs.

\$100 million

\$200 million

\$300 million

\$400 million

\$500 million

Q. Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) signed an MoU with _____ which of the following for better implementation of IBC?

Securities and Exchange Board of India

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority

National Stock Exchange of India Limited

Ministry of Corporate Affairs

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development

Q. Which of the following country will be the new home of T10 cricket for the next five years, starting with the 2019 season?

Abu Dhabi

Russia

India

China

South Africa

Q. What is the theme for International Day of Happiness 2019?

Live Happier

Happy today, Happier Tomorrow

Happier Together

Happy inside, Happier outside

Happiness, Key to good health

Q. Who among the following is the current president of Kazakhstan?

Moon Jae-in

Kassym-Jomart Tokayev

Uhuru Kenyatta

Donald Trump

Scott Ryan

Q. Kazakhstan to rename country's capital Astana as _____?

Nursultan

Saran

Petropavl

Kentau

Atyrau

Q. Which among the following is Prime Minister of New Zealand?

Erna Solberg

Khadga Prasad Oli

Mark Rutte

Jacinda Ardern

Abubakar Tafawa Balewa

Q. When is International Day of Happiness celebrated?

20 March

20 February

22 March

21 February

19 March

Q. What is India's rank in the UN World Happiness Report 2019?

190

7

99

130

140

Q. Which among the following is not true about Stadia?

Stadia is a video-game streaming platform.

It can be only played on Google Chromebook

Google unveiled Stadia

The platform will store a game-playing session in the cloud.

All of the above

Q. Bank of China has signed a pact with which of the following Indian bank to boost business opportunities?

Bank of Maharashtra

Punjab National Bank

State Bank of India

Allahabad Bank

HDFC Bank

Q. Who among the following is one of the two Special Expenditure Observers for the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections?

Sarita Singh

Trapti Roy

Madhu Mahajan

Rakhi Kaur

Alka Meena

Q. Who among the following made his debut as the first non-white leader of a major opposition party in the House of Commons at Canada?

Gursimran Singh

Rahul Singhla

Jagmeet Singh

Sachin Verma

Ankit Lokhande

Q. Which of the following city has been chosen as the starting point for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic torch relay?

Kyoto

Tokya

Osaka

Yokohama

Fukushima

Q. World Water Day is observed every year on _____.

20 March

21 March

22 March

23 March

24 March

Q. Scientists have discovered evidence of abundant water-bearing minerals on Bennu.

Bennu is an _____.

Star

Asteroid

Planet

Moon of Jupiter

Comet

Q. IMAI have adopted a Voluntary Code of Ethics for the forthcoming general elections. IMAI stands for _____.

Internal And Mobile Association of India

Integrated And Mobile Association of India

Internal and Monument Association of India

Internet And Mobile Association of India

Infrared And Mobile Association of India

Q. Who among the following is the Union Minister for Railways and Coal?

Rajnath Singh

Shushma Swaraj

Piyush Goyal

Nitin Gadkari

Suresh Prabhu

Q. Who among the following has been named in the 'World's 100 Most Influential People in Climate Policy for 2019'?

Suresh Prabhu

Amit Shah

Dr. Harsh Vardhan

Nirmala Sitharaman

Ravi Shankar Prasad

Q. Which of the following has become the first Indian low-cost carrier to join International Air Transport Association (IATA)?

GoAir

IndiGo

JetLite

SpiceJet

Jetconnect

Q. Fitch Ratings cut India's economic growth forecast for FY 2019 to _____ from its previous estimate of 7%.

6.2%

6.4%

6.5%

6.8%

6.7%

Q. India won how many gold medals at the Special Olympics World Summer Games, held at Abu Dhabi, UAE?

85

37

97

120

56

Q. The 2021 Special Olympic Games will take place in which of the following country?

UAE

Sweden

Finland

Canada

Mexico

Q. FIFA slapped a lifetime ban on Luis Chiriboga, He was the former head of which of the following football team?

Colombia

Peru

Chile

Ecuador

Bolivia

Q. Who among the following becomes the longest living chief executive in American history?

Donald Trump

Jimmy Carter

Bill Clinton

George W. Bush

John F. Kennedy

Q. Langkawi International Maritime Aero Expo, LIMA 2019 will take place in which of the following country?

Vietnam

Australia

Oman

Malaysia

Indonesia

Q. What is the capital of Chile?

Santiago

Sucre

Zagreb

Buenos Aires

Lima

Q. The foundation day of Bihar is celebrated every year on which of the following day?

12 March

18 March

22 March

24 March

26 March

Q. Who among the following is the governor of Bihar?

Jagdish Mukhi

Lalji Tandon

Mridula Sinha

Satyadev Narayan Arya

Anandiben Patel

Q. What is the name of the new podcast app launched by Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)?

Shiksha Abhiyan

Shiksha Vani

Phadai

Edutech

eLearn

Q. What is the disinvestment target of the government for the current fiscal year?

Rs 60,0000 crore

Rs 50,0000 crore

Rs 85,0000 crore

Rs 1,00,0000 crore

Rs 1,10,0000 crore

Q. Who among the following has been appointed as the brand ambassador of PhonePe?

Saina Nehwal

Sachin Tendulkar

M.S. Dhoni

Amir Khan

Virat Kohli

Q. Which of the following country has won the 2019 SAFF Women's Championship in Nepal?

Bangladesh

Nepal

India

Pakistan

Myanmar

Q. Recently, C S Shivalli passed away. He was a/an _____.

Cricketer

Journalist

Scientist

Politician

Singer

Q. Which of the following country became the first G7 country to sign up the new 'Silk Route' project with China?

Canada

Germany

France

Italy

United Kingdom

Q. The World Tuberculosis Day is observed every year on which of the following day?

16 March

24 March

21 March

19 March

27 March

Q. Which of the following city will host 'AI for India Summit' organised by Facebook?

New Delhi

Pune

Chennai

Bangalore

Gandhinagar

Q. Recently, Which of the following organisation has launched smart garbage bins?

Steel Authority of India

NTPC Limited

GAIL India Limited

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited

Defence Research and Development Organisation

Q. Which if the following company has acquired cybersecurity company Aujas?

NSEIT

CMC Limited

Accent Consulting

Trendy Solutions

CMC Limited

Q. Who among the following has been appointed as the country's first Lokpal?

Abhay Thipsay

Anshuman Singh

Y. V. Chandrachud

PC Ghose

Ranjan Gogoi

Q. Who among the following administered the oath to Lokpal?

Prime Minister of India

President of India

Chief Justice of India

Defence Minister of India

Attorney General of India

Q. Who among the following has been appointed as next Navy Chief?

Nirmal Kumar Verma

Karambir Singh

HCS Bisht

Anil Chopra

Satish Soni

Q. Who among the following is the Navy Chief till 31st May 2019?

Bipin Rawat

Birender Singh Dhanoa

Sunil Lanba

Arup Raha

Dalbir Singh

Q. Who among the following has been appointed as the MD and CEO of Tata Coffee?

Sanjiv Mehta

Saugata Gupta

Vivek Gambhir

Chacko Purackal Thomas

KSB Anand

Q. NITI Aayog's FinTech Conclave was organised in which of the following city?

Mumbai

New Delhi

Pune

Banglore

Patna

Q. India will launch an advanced electronic intelligence satellite on 1 April 2019 named as _____.

ESAT

COMSAT

EMISAT

ISAT

ECOMSAT

Q. Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) has now become the world's

_____ busiest airport according to the latest report released by the Airports Council International (ACI).

10th

12th

14th

15th

18th

Q. Which of the following airport has been named the busiest airport in the world according to the latest report released by the Airports Council International (ACI)?

Hartsfield–Jackson Atlanta International Airport

Beijing Capital International Airport

Dubai International Airport

Los Angeles International Airport

Heathrow Airport

Q. What is India's rank on the global Energy Transition index released by World Economic Forum (WEF)?

110

36

76

82

97

Q. Health tech start-up KiViHealth has been acquired by which of the following company?

Apollo Pharmacy

Netmeds.com

Cipla

Sun Pharma

Ipca Labs

Q. Which of the following movie has won the best film award at the 64th Filmfare Awards 2019?

Sanju

Raazi

Padmavat

Padman

Stree

Q. Rajkumar Sharma has been appointed the head coach of which of the following country's national cricket team for an ICC qualifying tournament?

Estonia

Malta

Spain

Oman

Malaysia

Q. Who among the following is the author of the book 'Every Vote Counts'?

Sanjay Ghosh

Avani Singh

Navin Chawla

Krishna Kant

Rahul Joshi

Q. Who among the following won the Best Actor award at the 64th Filmfare Awards 2019?

Ayushman Khurana

Ranbir Kapoor

Ranveer Singh

RajKumar Rao

Akshay Kumar

Q. Nuclear, Biological, Chemical Training Facility - ABHEDYA has been commissioned at which of the following Indian Naval Stations?

INS Vajrabahu

INS Shivaji

INS Sardar Patel

INS Kardip

INS Kadamba

Q. Indian Air Force (IAF) formally inducted the four Chinook. Chinook is a/an _____.

Fighter plane

Heavy-lift helicopter

Guided missile

Trainer Aircraft

Intercontinental ballistic missile

Q. Which of the following warship will take part the 15th edition of Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition, LIMA-19?

INS Satpura

INS Shakti

INS Godavari

INS Kadmat

INS Talwar

Q. The joint training exercise MITRASHAKTI - VI between Indian and Sri Lanka Army has been started at _____.

Chennai

Anuradhapura

Diyatalawa

Colombo

Visakhapatnam

Q. Which of the following has been introduced as new subjects in the school curriculum by CBSE?

Artificial Intelligence

Military Technology

Yoga

Both A&B

Both A&C

Q. The five-member committee appointed by RBI to deepen digital payments will work under the chairmanship of _____.

Gautam Adani

Nandan Nilekani

Vishal Sikka

Azim Premji

N. S. Raghavan

Q. Who among the following Indian is among 16 persons selected by Yale University as the 2019 World Fellows?

Shakshi Singh

Ronita Joshi

Priya Shankar

Neha Upadhyaya

Kajal Singh

Q. Peter Tabichi won the Global Teacher Prize for 2019 in Dubai. He is from which of the following country?

Kenya

Zimbabwe

Ethiopia

South Sudan

Cuba

Q. What is the prize money given to the recipient of the Global Teacher Prize for 2019?

\$10 million

\$50 million

\$1 million

\$5 million

\$20 million

Q. Who among the following became the first cricketer to score 5000 IPL runs?

Virat Kohli

MS Dhoni

Rohit Sharma

Suresh Raina

Chris Gayle

Q. Which of the following country has approved the proposal to open the Sharda Peeth corridor with India?

China

Pakistan

Nepal

Bhutan

Afghanistan

Q. The world's largest e-waste recycling facility has been inaugurated in which of the following city?

London

Moscow

Tokyo

Dubai

Shanghai

Q. Golan is a dispute between Syria and which of the following country?

Jordan

Iraq

Israel

Turkey

Morocco

Q. India will start a cruise service to which of the following country?

Bangladesh

Sri Lanka

Myanmar

Maldives

Indonesia

Q. According to New Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules 2019, the time for approving applications have been changed to _____ for drugs manufactured in India.

10 days

30 days

50 days

90 days

100 days

Q. On 26 March 2019, The first Indian Army Mountaineering Expedition has been flagged off to which of the following mountains?

Yala Peak

Kala Patthar

Makalu

Nanga Parbat

Manaslu

Q. RBI has slapped a penalty of _____ on Punjab National Bank for non-compliance of SWIFT operations.

Rs 1 crore

Rs 4 crore

Rs 5 crore

Rs 2 crore

Rs 10 crore

Q. Who among the following has been re-elected as the president of Comoros?

Azali Assoumani

Ismail Omar Guelleh

Jorge Carlos

Danny Faure

Pravind Jugnauth

Q. Which of the following country has awarded President Ram Nath Kovind with its highest civilian award - the Grand Order of the King of Tomislav?

Bolivia

Chile

Croatia

Mauritius

Madagascar

Q. What is the capital of Comoros?

Antananarivo

Zanzibar

Victoria

Bali

Moroni

Q. India has successfully tested Defence Interceptor Missile that destroyed Indian orbiting target satellite in LEO. LEO stands for _____.

Light Environment Orbit

Low Earth Orbit

Lesser Engaged Orbit

Light Engaged Orbit

Less Energy Orbit

Q. Which of the following institute has developed an AI-based system to detect malaria and other diseases?

IIT Kanpur

IIT Delhi

IISC Bangalore

IIT Mumbai

IIT Kharagpur

Q. India has signed an MoU on health sciences cooperation with which of the following?

China

Japan

African Union

European Union

SAARC Nations

Q. Who among the following has been reappointed as the MD and CEO of Maruti Suzuki India?

Kenichi Ayukawa

Rajiv Bajaj

Pawan Munjal

Mary Barra

Akash Gupta

Q. The Executive Board of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has recommended adding how many games to the 2024 Olympic Paris Games?

1

2

3

4

Q. Which of the following country hosted the maximum number of Olympic games by hosting 4 Summer Olympics and 4 Winter Olympics?

Japan

United States

Japan

China

Russia

Q. Who among the following will lead Indian women's hockey team in Malaysia tour?

Navjot Kaur

Nikki Pradhan

Savita Punia

Deepika Thakur

Udita

Q. Who among the following has bagged a Gold medal in the 10-metre Air Pistol Mixed

team event at the 12th Asian Airgun Championship at Taoyuan in Taipei?

Abhishek Verma and Heena Sidhu

Manu Bhaker and Shivam Shukla

Manu Bhaker and Saurabh Chaudhary

Shivam Shukla and Heena Sidhu

Anish Bhanwala and Rahi Sarnobat

Q. Ashita passed away at the age of 63. She was a famous _____.

Cricketer

Politician

Cosmonaut

Writer

Singer

Q. Recently cosmonaut Valery Bykovsky passed away. He belongs to which of the following country?

China

France

United State

Russia

Germany

Q. Which among the following airports has been crowned the world's best aviation hub?

Tokyo International Airport Haneda

Singapore's Changi Airport

Incheon International Airport

Hamad International Airport

Hong Kong International Airport

Q. What is the prize money given to the recipient of Turing Award 2018?

\$100 million

\$10 million

\$1 million

\$50 million

\$5 million

Q. The merger of Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank with Bank of Baroda would be effective from?

1 July 2019

1 August 2019

1 April 2019

1 May 2019

1 June 2019

Q. In Which of the following places, the Government of Nepal is organizing "Nepal Investment Summit 2019"?

Kathmandu

Delhi

Pokhara

Ghorahi

Mumbai

Q. Who among the following will be BCCI's ad-hoc Ethics Officer

Rajan Gogoi

Madan Lokur

DK Jain

Dipak Mishra

Ravindra Jain

Q. Which among the following is correct full form of UGC?

Universal Grants Commission

University Grants Commission

Union Grants Consideration

University Guage Consideration

None of these

Q. AUSINDEX is the joint military exercise between India and _____.

Indonesia

Australia

Afghanistan

Argentina

Austria

Q. India and Australia will start joint exercise on maritime security on _____.

29 March

2 April

5 April

10 April

18 April

Q. Which among the following bank has launched digital home loan products up to Rs 1 cr.

Punjab National Bank

Kotak Mahindra Bank

State Bank of India

ICICI Bank

Axis Bank

Q. In Which of the following years Amartya Sen was awarded the prestigious Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences.

1995

1996

1997

1998

1999

Q. What is the capital of Yemen?

Sana'a

Doha

Manama

Muscat

Riyadh

Q. Which of the following country has extended ban by six months an embargo on weapons exports to Saudi Arabia?

Russia

China

Germany

France

US

Q. In March 2019, India has signed sign 8 MoUs in various fields including culture, mining, space with which of the following country?

Croatia

Bolivia

Chile

Indonesia

Oman

Q. Assam's Bongaigaon district has launched an app to reach out to 1st-time voter named as _____.

Shakti

Sankalp

MyVote

Shaskaht

Meri Sarkar

Q. 16th meeting of the Canada-India Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism and its Expert Sub-group held at which of the following city?

Mumbai

Vancouver

Ottawa

Chennai

New Delhi

Q. Punjab National Bank (PNB) is selling part of its stake in PNB Housing Finance to Varde Partners for _____ .

Rs 2,882 crore

Rs 1,671 crore

Rs 1,852 crore

Rs 3,359 crore

Rs 4,899 crore

Q. IIT-Kharagpur partner with _____
for advanced research in 5G and AI.

Wipro

Amazon

HCL

IBM

TCS

Q. Who among the following has been
appointed as the managing director of Hitachi
Payment Services Pvt Ltd?

Rahul Jha

Nandan Krishna

Rishabh Shukla

Sachin Joshi

Rustom Irani

Q. Who among the following launched the
book “Indian Fiscal Federalism”?

Sachin Singh

N.K. Singh

P.K Gill

Jairam Pal

A.K. Chaudhary

Q. Who among the following was the
chairman of the 14th Finance Commission?

K. C. Pant

Dr. Y. V Reddy

C. Rangarajan

A. M. Khusro

Mahaveer Tyagi

Q. Earth Hour 2019 was celebrated on which
of the following day?

27 March

28 March

29 March

30 March

31 March

Q. Which of the following company has built the largest energy storage system in Asia?

National Grid

EDF

Tesla

Facebook

Google

Q. The Largest power storage system in Asia has been developed in which of the following country?

China

Russia

Japan

Indonesia

India

Q. Braille-enabled ballot papers will be used in which of the following India state?

Manipur

Gujarat

Meghalaya

Tripura

Nagaland

Q. Which of the following city has been named as the best city for 4G availability in India by OpenSignals?

Hyderabad

New Delhi

Ranchi

Dhanbad

Bangalore

Q. What is the capital of Slovakia?

Bratislava

Brno

Budapest

Vienna

Bucharest

Q. Who among the following has been awarded as the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman?

Rahul Sinha

Sanju Singh

Rajendra Kumar Joshi

Rahul Pant

Shrikant Pal

Q. Sarabjot Singh is associated with which of the following game?

Cricket

Shooting

Long Jump

Badminton

Chess

Q. The 12th Asian Airgun Championships has been organised in which of the following city?

Shanghai

Taipei

Seoul

Kuala Lumpur

Bangkok

Q. Which of the following country has won 2019 Sultan Azlan Shah Cup?

Japan

China

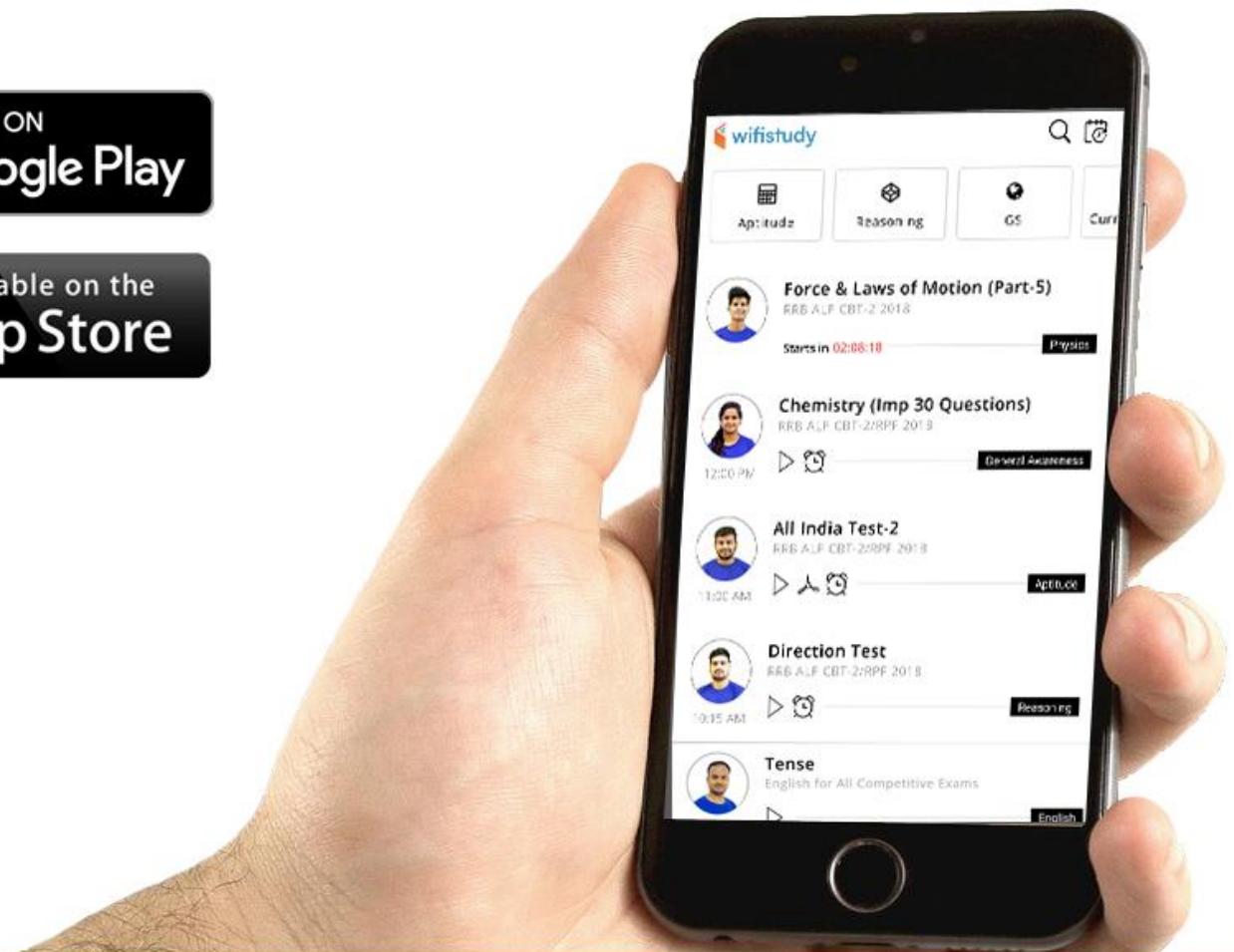
South Korea

India

Bangladesh



- Watch Videos
- Practise Quizzes
- Performance Analysis



www.wifistudy.com