



ELITES GRID PRESENTS

MARCH

Current Affairs FILE

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MARCH – CURRENT AFFAIRS

- International Affairs

1. Global Firepower ranks India's military as fourth strongest

India's military is placed fourth on a global index that has ranked 133 countries on the basis of their global military prowess.

- The US, Russia and China were on top three positions respectively.
- India's western neighbour Pakistan ranks 13 on the Global Firepower (GFP) list 2017.

2. Vienna named the world's most livable city for the ninth year

The Austrian capital Vienna has been named the world's best city to live in for the ninth consecutive year. Also, Baghdad remained the worst city to live according to the same survey.

3. 'WINGS INDIA 2018' Event Gets Underway

The four-day biennial event 'WINGS INDIA 2018', jointly organized by Ministry of Civil Aviation and Airport Authority of India and FICCI got underway in Hyderabad.

- The theme of the four-day biennial event this year is 'India-Global Aviation Hub'.
- WINGS INDIA 2018 is a platform for interactions, forging alliances, investments and air connectivity between the States and the global aviation players & stakeholders.

4. Finland tops 2018 global happiness index

The World Happiness Report published ranked 156 countries by happiness levels, based on factors such as life expectancy, social support and corruption.

- Finland is the happiest place to live. Norway and Denmark ranked second and third respectively.
- India ranked 133rd in the report. Burundi ranked last in the index.

5. Singapore named the world's most expensive city

Singapore has been dubbed the world's most expensive city to live in for the fifth year running.

- Damascus ranked cheapest in the world.

- **Bangalore, Chennai and New Delhi** also featured among the top 10 cheapest locations this year.

6. World Wild Life Day: 3 March

World Wild Life Day was celebrated all over the world on **March 3** to create awareness about the world's wild animals and plants and safeguard them.

- The **theme** for World Wild lifeDay 2018 is: "Big cats: predators under threat".

7. International Women's Day: 8 March

International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated on **March 8** every year. It commemorates the movement for women's rights.

- While the first observance of a Women's Day was held on February 28, 1909 in New York, March 8 was suggested by the 1910 International Woman's Conference to become an "International Woman's Day."
- Theme for the year 2018 is 'Time is Now : Rural and urban activists transforming women's lives'.

8. World Kidney Day 2018: 8 March

World Kidney Day is observed annually on the **2nd Thursday in March**.

- World Kidney Day (WKD) is a global health awareness campaign focusing on the importance of the kidneys and reducing the frequency and impact of kidney disease and its associated health problems worldwide.
- World Kidney Day is a joint initiative of the International Society of Nephrology (ISN) and the International Federation of Kidney Foundations (IFKF).

9. World Consumer Rights Day: 15 March

The World Consumer Rights Day (WCRD) is celebrated every year on **March 15** to pay solidarity with the international consumer movement and give more attention to promote basic rights of consumers.

- It provides an opportunity to promote the basic rights of all consumers and demand those rights that must be respected and protected.
- The theme for World Consumer Rights Day 2018 will be 'Making digital marketplaces fairer'.

10. World Sparrow Day: 20 March

World Sparrow Day is a day designated to raise awareness of the house sparrow and then other common birds to urban environments, and of threats to their populations, observed on 20 March.

The theme for World Sparrow Day is **I Love Sparrows**.

11. International Day of Happiness: 20 March

The International Day of Happiness is celebrated worldwide every **March 20**.

- It was conceptualized and founded by philanthropist, activist, statesman, and prominent United Nations special advisor **Jayme Illien** to inspire, mobilize, and advance the global happiness movement.
- The theme of International Day of Happiness 2018 is **"Share Happiness"**.

12. International Day of Forests: 21 March

The International Day of Forests was established on the **21st day of March**, by resolution of the United Nations General Assembly on **November 28, 2012**. The theme of the International Day of Forests in 2018 is **"Forests and Sustainable Cities"**

13. World Water Day: 22 March

World Water Day is an annual observance day on **22 March** to **highlight the importance of freshwater**.

- The first World Water Day, designated by the United Nations, was **commemorated in 1993**.
- The theme for the year 2018 is **'Nature for Water'**.

14. World Meteorological Day: 23 March

Recognized annually on **March 23**, World Meteorological Day commemorates the establishment of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) on this date in 1950.

- The day showcases the essential contribution of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services to the safety and well-being of society.
- The theme of World Meteorological Day in 2018 is **"Weather-ready, climate-smart"**.

15. International TB Day: 24 March

World Tuberculosis Day, observed on **24 March** each year, is designed to build public awareness about the global epidemic of tuberculosis (TB) and efforts to eliminate the disease.

- World TB Day is one of eight official global public health campaigns marked by the World Health Organization (WHO).
- The theme for the year '2018' is '**'Wanted: Leaders for a TB-free world'**.

16. World Theatre Day: 27 March

World Theatre Day was **initiated in 1961** by the International Theatre Institute (ITI).

- It is celebrated annually on the **27th March** by ITI Centres and the international theatre community.
- The first World Theatre Day International Message was written **by Jean Cocteau** (France) in **1962**.

- **National Affairs**

17. World's largest solar park launched in Karnataka

The world's largest solar park set up at an investment of Rs.16,500 crore at **Pavagada in Karnataka's Tumakuru district** was launched by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

- The 2,000 MW park, named as '**Shakti Sthal**', spans across 13,000 acres spread over five villages.
- The project has been executed within a record time of two years.

18. Telangana launches integrated app for all government services

The Telangana government has launched an m-Governance mobile application called '**T App Folio**' to help citizens with one point access to government services.

19. Odisha Launches Scheme To Provide Free Sanitary Pads

As part of its initiatives to empower women, the Odisha government has launched **Khushi scheme** to provide free sanitary napkins to school girls across the state.

20. Maharashtra government ties up with Wikipedia to promote Marathi

The Maharashtra government has tied up with Wikipedia, the free online encyclopedia, to propagate the Marathi language and increase its usage online.

- The state government made its announcement via a press release on **March 1 — Marathi language day**.

21. After 25 years, Manik Sarkar steps down as Tripura CM

Tripura Chief Minister Manik Sarkar tendered his resignation to Governor Tathagata Roy, who asked him to continue in office till the next Chief Minister takes over.

22. National Safety Day: 4 March

National Safety Day is a Day which is used to make every people get safe from many issues such as Financial Loss, Health problems and also any types of problems in the life of the citizens.

- It is celebrated on the 4th March every year in India by the National Safety Council of India.

23. NITI Aayog to launch Women Entrepreneurship Platform

NITI Aayog, the premier think tank of the country will launch its Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) on 8th March on the occasion of the International Women's Day.

24. Diu becomes first UT to run 100% on solar power

The harnessing of solar energy has made Diu the country's first energy surplus Union territory and a model for an effective way for people to harness this renewable energy source.

- Diu generates a total of 13 megawatts of electricity from solar power generating facilities daily.
- Around 3 MW is generated by rooftop solar plants and 10 MW by its other solar power plants.

25. NCRB releases "Citizen Services" Mobile APP

National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) celebrated its 33rd Inception Day, on March 11, 2018 in their newly constructed Complex at Mahipalpur, New Delhi and released "Citizen Services" Mobile APP.

- This single App is a bouquet of various essential police related services to the citizen.
- The App can be used by citizen for various services such as Complaint Registration & Status Check, View FIR Detail, SOS – Stay Safe, Locate Police Stations, Vahan-Samanvay, Emergency Contact List, Police Stations Telephone Directory etc.

26. Sanitary pad dispenser installed in Rajdhani Express

On the occasion of International Women's Day, for the first time in the country a sanitary pad dispensing machine was installed in a coach of Mumbai-New Delhi Rajdhani Express.

27. Macron to inaugurate UP's largest solar plant in Mirzapur

French President Emmanuel Macron will inaugurate Uttar Pradesh's largest solar power plant, at Dadar Kala village in Mirzapur district, during his proposed visit on March 12.

28. Prime Minister Narendra Modi to inaugurate The Delhi End TB Summit

The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will inaugurate The Delhi End TB Summit at Vigyan Bhawan in the capital.

29. Pune tops in improved quality governance: Survey

Pune has emerged as the top city to show improvement in quality of governance, according to a survey.

- The other cities that came in the top five include Kolkata, Thiruvananthapuram, Bhubaneswar and Surat.
- The survey was conducted by Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy.

30. NITI Aayog to Release SATH-E Roadmaps

SATH-E to introduce System-wide Governance Transformation in School Education.

NITI Aayog will release comprehensive roadmaps and detailed timelines for its initiative ‘Sustainable Action for Transforming Human Capital in Education (SATH-E)’ project at NITI Aayog on March 17.

31. Manduadih to be renamed Banaras railway station

The **holy city of Varanasi** is soon likely to get a railway station named “**Banaras**”.

Manduadih is among one of the four railway stations in the city besides Varanasi Junction, popularly known as Varanasi Cantt Railway Station, Varanasi City and Kashi.

32. Punjab to impose permanent ban on hookah bars

The Punjab Government is all set to impose a permanent ban on hookah bars across the State instead of issuing temporary orders against them every two months.

- **Punjab** will be the **second State** in the country, after **Gujarat**, to take the significant decision.
- Gujarat has banned Hookah bars in the State by passing the COTPA Amendment Bill, 2017.

33. Jitendra Singh to inaugurate international yoga fest

A 3-day International Yoga Fest from 21-23 March, 2018 will be held at Talkatora Indoor Stadium, New Delhi.

International Yoga Fest is being organised as a curtain raiser for International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2018.

- The event is being organised by Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY).

34. Indian Navy to host Bilateral Exercise 'Varuna' with French Navy

The Indian Navy and the French Navy have conducted bilateral maritime exercises since May 1993.

- Since 2001, the exercises have been named VARUNA and there have been fifteen editions of the same till date.
- The last edition of VARUNA was conducted off the **French Coast in Apr 2017**.
- This year too VARUNA-18 would be conducted in three sea areas, namely, the **Arabian Sea, the Bay of Bengal and South Western Indian Ocean**.

35. Jackfruit declared as Kerala's official fruit

The Kerala government has **declared jackfruit as its official fruit**.

- The aim is to promote '**Kerala jackfruit**' as a brand in markets across the country and abroad, showcasing its organic and nutritious qualities.

36. Ambedkar Jayanti to be celebrated as 'Social Justice Day'

The birth anniversary of India's Dalit social reformer **Dr BR Ambedkar** will be celebrated as '**Social Justice Day**'.

- Born into a poor Dalit family, on **14 April 1891**, Ambedkar became independent India's first law minister, the principal architect of the Constitution of India.
- **Ambedkar was awarded the Bharat Ratna** posthumously in 1990.

37. Surat first district to have 100% solar powered health centers

Surat has become the first district in the country to have **100 percent solar powered Primary Health Centers (PHC)**.

- There are a total of **52 PHCs in the district** and all of them are now **powered by solar system**.
- This initiative will not only bring down the electricity bill by 40 percent but also help fight global warming.

38. GSLV Successfully Launches GSAT-6A Satellite

India's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV-F08) successfully launched GSAT-6A Satellite into Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) on **March 29, 2018**.

Launch of GSLV was its twelfth and took place from the Second Launch Pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, Sriharikota, the spaceport of India.

39. MP to raise retirement age for govt. employees to 62 years

Madhya Pradesh chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has announced rising the retirement age of state government employees to 62 years from the current 60 years.

40. Interstitium: Scientists discover new organ in human body

Scientists have discovered new organ in human body and have named it as '**interstitium**'. It will be the **80th organ in the human body**. It might be also the biggest organ in human body.

The new organ is network of interconnected, fluid-filled spaces all over the body. It is found everywhere in human bodies, acting as shock absorber in all places where tissues are moved or subjected to force.

41. GPI Tracker system: SWIFT broadens payment tracking capabilities

The **SWIFT (Society for World Interbank Financial Telecommunication System)** platform has expanded its **GPI (Global Payment Innovation)** Tracker system to help banks track their global transactions at all times and keep full vigil on payments activity.

42. India's 1st Helicopter Taxi Service Launched in Bengaluru

India's first helicopter taxi service was launched in Bengaluru to fly passengers from **Kempegowda International Airport to Electronic City**.

Some important News:

- India Becomes 3rd Largest Electricity Producer in the World
- India ranks 1st in milk production.
- Madhya Pradesh has the highest number of tribal habitations in the country

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- **Business Affairs**

Paytm emerges largest UPI transaction platform

43. TCS ranked as the fastest growing IT services brand in 2018

Leading global IT services organisation, Tata Consultancy Services was named as the fastest growing IT services brand in the world in an assessment done by leading brand valuation firm, Brand Finance.

44. Karnataka Bank's all-woman branch

Karnataka Bank opened its first all-woman branch at Bull Temple Road in Bengaluru. This is the 800th branch of the bank. **Mahabaleshwara MS, Managing Director and CEO**, said the bank opened 36 branches during 2017-18.

45. Google Acquires GIF Search Platform Tenor

Technology giant Google has acquired US-based *Tenor*, a GIF platform for Android, iOS, and desktop.

46. Virat Kohli Named 1st Brand Ambassador for Uber India

UBER is the US-based company. **Dara Khosrowshahi** is the **CEO of Uber**.

47. SBI launches Quick App

State Bank of India is giving a special facility to its ATM card holders. With this, customers can keep their ATM cards under control.

- SBI Quick App has special features for controlling special ATM cards.
- It provides the facility of blocking, turning on or off ATM cards and generating an ATM PIN.

48. Equitas Bank ties up with CSK

Equitas Small Finance Bank has launched a new 'Yellow Army Savings Account' to increase its customer base through its association with the Chennai Super Kings (CSK), a franchise of the Indian Premium League (IPL).

The average quarterly **balance requirement will be Rs.10,000** per account.

49. India Becomes 4th Largest Auto Market in the World

India has overtaken Germany to become the **fourth largest automobile market in the world**, According to the latest global data. Automobile sales, including passenger and commercial vehicles, in Asia's third- largest economy, grew 9.5%.

The top 5 countries on the list are-

1. China
2. USA
3. Japan
4. India
5. Germany.

- **Appointments**

- ❖ Conrad Sangma Will be the Next **CM of Meghalaya**
- ❖ Biplab Deb to be the new Tripura Chief Minister, BJP MLA Jishnu Debbarma will be the deputy chief minister.
- ❖ Neiphiu Rio Takes Oath As **Nagaland Chief Minister**
- ❖ Angela Merkel elected to **fourth term** as **German chancellor**
- ❖ Putin Elected for **fourth term** as **Russian President**

- **Awards**

- ❖ Shatrughan Sinha wins **lifetime achievement award** in United Kingdom
- ❖ Balkrishna Doshi named India's first winner of the **Pritzker Prize**
- ❖ Canadian mathematician Robert Langlands wins **Abel Prize**
- ❖ **90th Academy Awards 2018 (Oscars)**
 - **Best Picture**- **The Shape of Water** directed by Guillermo del Toro
 - **Best Director** - **Guillermo del Toro** for The Shape of Water
 - **Best Actor** - **Garry Oldman** for Darkest Hour
 - **Best Actress** - **Fracnes McDormand** for Three Billboards Outside Ebbing Missouri
 - **Best Animated Film** - **Coco** by Lee Unkrich and Darla K Anderson
 - **Best Foreign Language Film** - **A Fantastic Woman** (Spanish) submitted by Chile
 - **Best Original Score** - **Alexandre Desplat** for The Shape of Water
 - **Most nominations** - **The Shape of Water** (13)
 - **Indian entry in the Foreign Language Film category** - **Newton** (Hindi) (Not nominated)

❖ Laureus World Sports Awards 2018

- Awarded by - **Laureus Sport for Good Foundation**
- Sportsman of the Year - **Roger Federer** (Switzerland)
- Sportswoman of the Year - **Serena Williams** (USA)

- **Sports**

- ❖ The cricket player from Afghanistan who has become the **youngest captain** in international cricket (age 19 years 165 days): **Rashid Khan**
- ❖ The team which has won the 2018 Sultan Azlan Shah Trophy defeating England in the finals at Ipoh, Perak, Malaysia: **Australia**
- ❖ The team which has won the Irani Trophy cricket championship defeating Rest of India in the finals at Nagpur: **Vidarbha**
- ❖ **Sebastian Vettel Wins Australian Grand Prix:** Sebastian Vettel (Ferrari) won a dramatic Australian Grand Prix after leapfrogging Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes) during a safety car period.
- ❖ **Navjot Kaur: First Indian woman to win gold medal** at Asian Wrestling Championships.
- ❖ The Indian sportsperson who has been chosen to be India's flag-bearer for the opening ceremony of Commonwealth Games 2018: **PV Sindhu**
- ❖ ISSF World Cup 2018- Shahzar Rizvi Sets World Record; Manu Bhaker Wins Gold
- ❖ On the opening day of the ISSF World Cup at Guadalajara in Mexico, India had won four medals which include two gold and two bronze.
- ❖ Shahzar Rizvi clinched the gold medal with a world record score in his maiden ISSF World Cup appearance.

- **Obituaries**

- ❖ Stephen Hawking

Born - **08 January 1942**

Death - **14 March 2018**

Nationality – **British**

Awards - Adams Prize (1966); Albert Einstein Award (1978); Presidential Medal of Freedom (2009)

and many other awards

- ❖ Litterateur Prafulla Das passes away.
- ❖ Sufi singer Pyarelal Wadali passes away.

ALL THE BEST!!