

Current Affairs

(English)

For

All Upcoming Competitive Exam - 2019



Bank
(SBI/IBPS/RRB),
SSC, Railway, POST,
Insurance, RBI

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

- ❖ The **Swachh Bharat Mission** (Grameen) launched the '**Darwaza Band -Part 2**' campaign for sustainability of the **Open Defecation Free (ODF)** status of villages across the country. The campaign was launched in **Mumbai** in the presence of actor **Amitabh Bachchan**.
 - ✓ Under the campaign, the government aims to achieve an **Open-Defecation Free (ODF)** India by **October 2, 2019**, the **150th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi**. For that purpose, **12 million toilets** are being constructed in rural India at a projected cost of **Rs 1.96 lakh crore**.
- ❖ The **Union Cabinet**, chaired by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, approved the proposal for establishment of **Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog** for conservation, protection and development of **cows and their progeny**.
- ❖ The **Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare** launched a platform named **PM Kisan**, <http://pmkisan.nic.in>, under the **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana (PM-KISAN)** for uploading the details of the **Small and Marginal Farmers (SMF)**.
 - ✓ The **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi** will provide assured income to **small and marginal farmers**.
 - ✓ All **Small and Marginal Farmers (SMF)** with **2 hectares** of cultivable land will be provided income support of **Rs 6000 per year**. The amount will be transferred directly into their account in **3 equal installments**.
 - ✓ The complete expenditure of **Rs 75000 crore** for the scheme will borne by the **Union Government in 2019-20**.
- ❖ The **Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** instituted the '**PMAY (U) awards for Implementation and Innovation**' under the **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban)** to reward the "**Top Performers**" in different categories and attain the goal of '**Housing for All**' in a sustained manner.
 - ✓ **PMAY** Launched in **2015**, the scheme is divided into two parts, **PMAY (Urban)** and **PMAY (Gramin)**.
 - ✓ The total project cost approved under **PMAY (U)** stands at **Rs. 2.81 lakh crore** with a Central Assistance of **Rs. 77,934 crore**. The scheme aims to provide **2 crore** houses across nation's length and breadth. The scheme is estimated to be **completed by 2022**.
- ❖ The **Union Cabinet** approved the introduction of **National Institutes of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management Bill, 2019** in the Parliament.
 - ✓ The objective of the bill is to confer the status of **Institutions to National Importance** to National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management (**NIFTEM**) at **Kundli, Haryana**, and the **Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology (IIFPT)** at **Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu**.
- ❖ The **Cabinet Committee of Economic Affairs** approved the proposal for continuation of the Scheme of "**Exploration of Coal and Lignite**" with an expected expenditure of **Rs.1875 Crore**.
 - ✓ Exploration for coal and lignite in the country is conducted in two broad stages: (i) **regional exploration** and (ii) **detailed drilling**.
- ❖ The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs** approved the Proposal of the **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting** regarding Prasar Bharati's "**Broadcasting Infrastructure and Network Development**" scheme at a cost of **Rs.1054.52 crore** for **3 years** (2017-18 to 2019-20).
- ❖ The **Cabinet Committee of Economic Affairs** approved creation of a corpus of **Rs. 2000 crore** for **Agri-Market Infrastructure Fund (AMIF)** to be created with **NABARD** for development and up-gradation of agricultural marketing infrastructure in **Gramin Agricultural Markets** and **Regulated Wholesale Markets**.
 - ✓ AMIF will provide subsidised loan to state and central governments for their proposal for developing marketing infrastructure in **585 Agriculture Produce Market Committees (APMCs)** and **10,000 Grameen Agricultural Markets (GrAMs)**.
- ❖ The **Ministry of Textiles** in association with **Central Silk Board** had organized an event, **Surging Silk - Accomplishment** and way forward at in **New Delhi**.
 - ✓ The event was presided over by Union Minister of Textiles, **Smriti Zubin Irani** and Union Minister of External Affairs, **Sushma Swaraj** was the chief guest for the event.
- ❖ **Ministry of Textiles** launched a mobile application **e-cocoon** for quality certification in **silkworm seed sector**.
 - ✓ **India** has the unique distinction of being the only country producing all the **five** known commercial silks -**Mulberry, Tropical Tasar, Oak Tasar, Eri and Muga**.
 - ✓ **India** is the **second** largest producer of **silk** after **China** and the largest consumer of silk.

- ❖ The **Health Ministry** undertook the **8th round of National Deworming Day campaign** across the country on **8th February** to reduce the **prevalence of parasitic intestinal worms** among children.
 - ✓ National Deworming Day is aimed at deworming all preschool and school-age children (enrolled and non-enrolled) between the ages of 1-19 years through the platform of schools and Anganwadi Centers to improve their overall health, nutritional status, access to education and quality of life.
- ❖ The **Voter Verification and Information Programme (VVIP)** was launched by the **Election Commission** during the two-day **intensive training-cum-workshop** on the use of **information & communication technology** for the conduct of general elections. During the workshop, training was imparted on **the c-VIGIL mobile application**.
 - ✓ The c-VIGIL app provides **time-stamped, evidence-based proof** of complaints relating to **violation** of model code of conduct or expenditure limit, complete with live photo/video with auto location data.
- ❖ The **NITI Aayog** and the **Michael & Susan Dell Foundation (MSDF)** signed a Statement of Intent (SOI) to codify, document and share best practices to improve learning outcomes in **public school education** through systemic reforms, based on their collective experiences of working with various state governments in India.
 - ✓ NITI Aayog has placed learning outcomes as a key focus area for establishing **sustainable education systems**.
 - ✓ Further, the body is implementing **Sustainable Action for Transforming Human Capital in Education (SATH-E)** initiative to induce systemic transformation in Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Odisha.
- ❖ **The Government** with a view to enhance the **production and productivity in agriculture sector**, announces **Agriculture Credit Flow Targets** every year and these targets have consistently been surpassed by the Banks.
 - ✓ The Agriculture Credit Flow Target for **2018-19** has been fixed at **Rs, 11,00,000 crore** and against this target, as reported by **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)**.
- ❖ **The Government** is formulating a Scheme '**Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (KUSUM)**' which inter-alia aims to promote use of **solar energy** among the farmers. The proposed scheme provides for:
 - ✓ Setting up of grid-connected **renewable power plants** each of **500KW to 2 MW** in the rural area;
 - ✓ Installation of standalone off-grid **solar water pumps** to fulfil irrigation needs of farmers not connected to grid; and
 - ✓ Solarization of existing grid-connected agriculture pumps to make farmers independent of grid supply and also **sell surplus solar power** generated to **Discom** and get extraincome.
 - ✓ The farmers will have to tolerate only **10%** of the total expenditure to acquire an install a solar pumps. The Central Govt. will provide **60%** cost while the remaining 30% will be taken care of by bank as credit.
- ❖ The **National Productivity Council (NPC)** celebrated its **61st Foundation Day** (as Productivity Day) on **February 12, 2019** and also observes **National Productivity Week** from **February 12-18, every year**.
 - ✓ The theme for 2019 is "**Circular Economy for Productivity & Sustainability**" to mark the transition from a linear to a circular economy that embraces economic growth and environmental sustainability and represents a unique opportunity for circular business models for **Make - Use - Return**.
 - ✓ A **circular economy** is an industrial system that is **restorative or regenerative** by intention and design.
 - ✓ NPC -Established by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India in 1958, it is an autonomous, multipartite, non-profit organization.
- ❖ **The Ministry of Women and Child Development** organized the **4th meeting of National Council on India's Nutrition Challenges** under **POSHAN Abhiyaan**.
 - ✓ POSHAN Abhiyaan (National Nutrition Mission) was launched by the government on **March 8, 2018**.
 - ✓ The Abhiyaan targets to reduce **stunting, undernutrition, anemia** (among young children, women and adolescent girls) and reduce low birth weight.
 - ✓ The target of the mission is to bring down stunting among children in the age group **0-6 years** from **38.4% to 25% by 2022**.
- ❖ The three-day **World Sustainable Development Summit 2019** was inaugurated in **New Delhi**. It was earlier known as **Delhi Sustainable Development Summit**.
 - ✓ The theme of summit was '**Attaining the 2030 Agenda: Delivering on our Promise**'.
 - ✓ The World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) is the annual flagship event of The Energy and Resources Institute (**TERI**).
 - ✓ The goal of the World Sustainable Development Summit is to bring **together global leaders and thinkers** in the fields of **sustainable development, energy and environment** sectors on a **common platform**.
- ❖ President **Ram Nath Kovind** unveiled the **life size portrait** of former Prime Minister **Atal Bihari Vajpayee** at the **Central Hall of Parliament**.
- ❖ The **Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** has instituted a **challenge for States and Union Territories** to select **six sites** across the country for constructing the **lighthouse projects** under Global Housing Technology Challenge- India (**GHTC- India**).
 - ✓ The challenge has been launched to bring about paradigm shift in **housing construction technology sector**.
 - ✓ The three key components of the challenge are as follows:
 - Conduct of Grand Expo-cum-Conference; Identifying Proven Demonstrable Technologies from across the globe;

- Promoting Potential Technologies through the establishment of Affordable Sustainable Housing Accelerators-India (ASHA-I) for incubation and accelerator support.
- ❖ **LAWASIA**, in association with the **Bar Association of India** hosted its **1st LAWASIA Human Rights Conference** in **New Delhi** with a motive to explore a broad range of **human rights issues** of relevance in the **Asia Pacific region**, including Gender, Sexuality and Human Rights, New Technologies, Privacy and Mass Surveillance, Experiences and Challenges of Human Rights Lawyers.
 - ✓ This conference was inaugurated by ice President **Shri. M. Venkaiah Naidu** with the theme “**State Power, Business and Human Rights: Contemporary Challenges**”.
- ❖ Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, **Dr Harsh Vardhan** released a Publication on climate actions in India titled “**India – Spearheading Climate Solutions**” in **New Delhi**. It refers to the vital actions India has taken under multiple sectors to combat and adapt to climate change.
 - ✓ The **Government aims** to generate **175 GW** of renewable energy by **2022**.
- ❖ Minister of State (IC) for AYUSH, **Shripad Yesso Naik** launched the **e-AUSHADHI portal** for online licensing of **Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani** and **Homoeopathy** drugs and related matters.
 - ✓ The portal’s objective is increasing transparency and accountability and improving information management facility and data usability.
- ❖ Union Minister of Textiles **Smriti Irani** launched the **India Size project** in **Mumbai** with a aim to get a standard Indian Size for the **ready-to-wear** clothing industry, on the lines of the standardized sizes available in countries such as the **USA** and the **UK**.
 - ✓ During this ceremony, Minister also launched a **Study of Apparel Consumption** in India. The report of this study would released by July 2019.
- ❖ The **Ministry of Human Resource Development** has decided to apply some of the recommendations of a committee constituted in 2018 for the **promotion and protection of Maithili language and its scripts**.
 - ✓ Establishment of a script and manuscript centre in **Darbhanga** either at Kameshwar Singh Sanskrit University or Lalit Narayan Mithila University.
- ❖ **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** in collaboration with **Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Kolkata** held a one-day workshop on the emerging area of **Gross Domestic Knowledge Product (GDKP)**.
 - ✓ The idea of GDKP was propounded by Prof. Umberto Sulpasso of the University of Southern California.
- ❖ Annual Youth Conclave of Confederation of **Real Estate Developers Associations of India (CREDAI)**, CREDAI **3rd edition YouthCon 2019** was held at the Talkatora Stadium in **New Delhi**.
 - ✓ The main objective of RERA (Real Estate Regulatory Authority) is **transparency** with other objectives being projects to help **builders overcome difficulties and improve trust** between builders and buyers.
- ❖ The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** has approved the continuation of **the Credit Linked Capital Subsidy and Technology Up-gradation Scheme (CLCS-TUS)** for the year **2017-18 to 2019-20**.
 - ✓ This **scheme aims** at improving the **competitiveness of MSMEs** by integrating various ongoing schematic interventions aimed at up-grading technology through the **Credit Linked Capital Subsidy (CLCS)**.
 - ✓ The subsidy will be given for investment in **acquisition/replacement of plant & machinery/equipment & technology** up-gradation of any kind.
 - ✓ It will also promote the innovation, digital empowerment of MSMEs, design interventions and support the protection of intellectual property of MSMEs.
- ❖ The **Union Government** has decided to increase the **Minimum Support Price (MSP)** of **Sugar** from **Rs. 29 to Rs. 31** for the year **2019-20**. This announcement was made by the Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, **Shri Ram Vilas Paswan**.
- ❖ **Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan Scheme (PM-SYM)** will be rolled out by the Ministry of Labour and Employment tomorrow i.e. **15.02.2019**. As many as 42 crore workers are estimated to be engaged in the **unorganized sector** of the country.
 - ✓ Whose monthly income is **Rs 15,000/ per month** or less and belong to the entry age group of **18-40 years** are eligible for the scheme. They **should not be covered** under New Pension Scheme (**NPS**), Employees’ State Insurance Corporation (**ESIC**) scheme or Employees’ Provident Fund Organisation (**EPFO**).
 - ✓ **Minimum Assured Pension:** Each subscriber shall receive minimum assured pension of **Rs 3000/-per month** after attaining the **age of 60 years**.
 - ✓ **Family Pension:** If the subscriber **dies**, the spouse of the beneficiary shall be entitled to receive 50% of the pension received by the beneficiary as family pension. **Family pension is applicable only to spouse**.
 - ✓ **Contribution by the Subscriber:** The subscriber’s contributions to PM-SYM shall be made through ‘auto-debit’ facility from his/ her savings bank account/ Jan- Dhan account.
 - PM-SYM is a voluntary and contributory pension scheme on a **50:50 basis** where prescribed age-specific contribution shall be made by the beneficiary and the matching contribution by the **Central Government**.
 - **Minimum contribution:** Rs.55, **Maximum contribution:** Rs.200.
 - ✓ **Fund Management:** Through **Life Insurance Corporation of India** and **CSCs**.

- ✓ **Exit and Withdrawal:** The exit provisions of scheme have been kept flexible. Exit provisions are as under:
 - In case subscriber exits the scheme within a period of less than 10 years, the beneficiary's share of contribution only will be returned to him with savings bank interest rate.
 - If subscriber exits after a period of 10 years or more but before superannuation age i.e. 60 years of age, the beneficiary's share of contribution along with accumulated interest as actually earned by fund or at the savings bank interest rate whichever is higher.
- ❖ The **5th International Dam Safety Conference 2019** begins in **Bhubaneswar**, Odisha.
 - ✓ The two-day event is a joint initiative of the Government of India, Government of Odisha and the World Bank.
- ❖ **Ministry of Culture** and **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**, laid the Foundation Stone of **Taj View Garden** on the Taj Corridor Area between the **Agra Fort** and **Taj Mahal** in Agra.
 - ✓ The main purpose is to **increase greenery** by enormous **plantation** around the Taj Mahal which will not only help to **reduce the pollution** around the Taj Mahal but also provide a pleasant view to the visitors.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- ❖ The **Union Cabinet** approved the signing of a **Memorandum of Understanding** between **India** and **Malaysia** for Mutual Cooperation to raise the status and prestige of the **Practicing Company Secretary** in both countries.
 - ✓ The MoU was signed between the **Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI)** and **Malaysian Association of Company Secretaries (MACS)**.
 - ✓ **Malaysia: Capital:** Kuala Lumpur, **Currency:** Malaysian ringgit.
- ❖ The **Union Cabinet** approved the proposal for an **MoU** between **India**, the **Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN)** and **Electoral Tribunal of Panama (ETP)** on cooperation in the field of **electoral management and administration**.
 - ✓ **Namibia: Capital:** Windhoek, **Currencies:** Namibian dollar, South African rand.
- ❖ The **Union Cabinet** approved MoU between **India and Brazil** on cooperation in the field of **Traditional Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy**.
 - ✓ India is blessed with well-developed systems of traditional medicine including medicinal plants, which hold potential in the global health scenario.
 - ✓ **Brazil: Capital:** Brasilia, **Currency:** Brazilian real.
- ❖ The **Union Cabinet** approved the Memorandum of Understanding between **India** and the **United Arab Emirates** on **Development Cooperation in Africa**.
- ❖ The **Union Cabinet** approved signing of agreement between the **India and Ukrain** for cooperation in **Agriculture and Food Industry**.
 - ✓ A Joint Working Group comprising of representatives from both countries would be constituted, the task of which would be to discuss and prepare plans of cooperation in identified sectors and to monitor the implementation of tasks determined by the Parties.
 - ✓ **Ukrain: Capital:** Kiev, **Currency:** Ukrainian hryvnia
- ❖ The **Union Cabinet** approved the **MoU** between **India and Uzbekistan** for promoting bilateral cooperation in the field of **e-Governance**.
 - ✓ The Agreement intends to promote close cooperation in the areas of e-Governance, IT education, Implementation and roll out of generic configurable e-Governance products in various sectors.
 - ✓ **Uzbekistan: Capital:** Tashkent, **Currency:** Uzbekistani som.
- ❖ The **Union Cabinet** approved the framework agreement between **India and Indonesia** on cooperation in the exploration and uses of **outer space for peaceful** purposes.
 - ✓ This Framework Agreement will enable the potential interest areas of cooperation such as, space science, exploration of outer space, use of space technology, and remote sensing of the earth.
 - ✓ **Indonesia: Capital:** Jakarta, **Currency:** Indonesian rupiah.
- ❖ The **Union Cabinet** chaired by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** approved the Memorandum of Understanding between **India and Finland** for cooperation based on mutual interest in the **field of Biotechnology**, for funding and implementing ambitious industry-led innovative and transnational projects within the broad scope of research development and innovation.
 - ✓ **Finland: Capital:** Helsinki, **Currency:** Euro.
- ❖ The **International IP Index 2019** released by the **U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Global Innovation Policy Center (GIPC)** makes the following observations related to India:
 - ✓ **India** experienced its **2nd** consecutive year of growth in the IP global ranking, jumping eight places from **44th** to **36th**.
- ❖ The **United Nations** has designated 2019 as **the International Year of the Periodic Table (IYPT2019)** to commemorate the **150th anniversary** of the establishment of the **Periodic Table of Chemical Elements** by **Dmitri Ivanovich Mendeleev** on **17th February 1869**.

- ❖ The **International Labour Organization (ILO)**, the **UN specialized agency** celebrates its **100th anniversary** in 2019.
 - ✓ In the run up to the anniversary **seven Centenary Initiatives** are being implemented as part of a package of activities aimed at equipping the Organization to take up successfully the challenges of its social justice mandate in the future. **Seven Centenary Initiatives** by ILO:

• The future of work initiative;	The governance initiative;	The women at work initiative;
• The green initiative;	The standards initiative;	The enterprises initiative
• The end to poverty initiative.		
 - ✓ **ILO: Headquarter:** Geneva, Switzerland, **Head:** Guy Ryder.
- ❖ According to **U.N.'s World Meteorological Organisation, report 2018** is set to be the **4th warmest year** in recorded history, stressing the urgent need for action to rein in runaway planetary warming.
 - ✓ WMO concluded that average global surface temperature in 2018 was 1°C (1.8°F) above pre-industrial baseline levels.
 - ✓ The **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)** is an intergovernmental organization with a membership of **192 Member States and Territories.**
 - ✓ **Established :** 23 March 1950, **Headquarter:** Geneva, Switzerland.
- ❖ **Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban** has said that **women** in the country with **four children or more** will be **exempted** for life from paying **income tax.**
 - ✓ **Hungary: Capital:** Budapest, **Currency:** Hungarian forint.
- ❖ **Abu Dhabi** has decided to include Hindi as the **third official language** used in its courts, alongside **Arabic and English.** The **Indian** community in the UAE constitutes **30%** of the **total population.**
 - ✓ An estimated **3.3 million Indian** expats live in UAE, and a large number of them are blue collared workers.
- ❖ The **5th India-Bangladesh Joint Consultative Committee Meeting** held in **New Delhi.** External Affairs Minister **Sushma Swaraj** and Foreign Affairs Minister of Bangladesh **Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen** co-chaired the meeting.
- ❖ The **3rd Indo-German Working Group** for cooperation on **water and waste management in New Delhi.**
 - ✓ Both sides have decided to work on developing reference documents for the textile sector, Water Governance, Marine Litter, water quality management, training and capacity building of local bodies.
- ❖ The **Union Ministry** of Environment, Forests and Climate Change signed a **Letter of Intent (LoI)** with the **Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs** to launch the '**India-Norway Marine Pollution Initiative**'.
 - ✓ A Joint Task Force on Blue Economy was also established under the aegis of the MoU to promote multi-sectoral cooperation in various aspects of Blue Economy.
 - ✓ **Blue Economy** can be defined as 'sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods and better ocean ecosystem health'. The Blue Economy comprises various activities such as fisheries, marine transport, waste management, tourism, climate change, etc.
- ❖ The **International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)** and the **International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)** launched a global campaign to raise awareness about the rising nuclear threat facing the world.
- ❖ The **7th session** of the **World Government Summit** began in Dubai, **United Arab Emirates (UAE).** More than 4,000 people from **140 countries** participated in the event.
- ❖ The **Republic of Macedonia** has officially changed its name to **North Macedonia,** Ending a long running dispute with **Greece.**
 - ✓ **North Macedonia: Capital:** Skopje, **Currency:** Macedonian Denar, **President:** Gjorge Ivanov.
 - ✓ **Greece: Capital:** Athens, **Currency:** Euro, **President:** Prokopis Pavlopoulos.
- ❖ The **World Health Organization (WHO)** and the **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)** issued a new international standard for the **manufacture and use of personal audio devices,** including smartphones and audio players, to make them **safer for listening.** The standard for safe listening devices was developed under **WHO's "Make Listening Safe"** initiative. This decision take before of **World Hearing Day.**
 - ✓ World Hearing Day 2019: **3rd March.** **Theme:** Check your hearing!
 - ✓ **WHO: Headquarter:** Geneva, Switzerland, **Director General:** Tedros Adhanom.

STATES HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ The **Union Cabinet** approved the establishment of **Circuit Bench** of Calcutta High Court at Jalpaiguri.
 - ✓ It will have jurisdiction over **four districts** namely Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Jalpaiguri and Cooch Behar.
- ❖ The Union Road Transport Minister **Nitin Gadkari** laid the foundation stone of **three major highway projects** with an investment worth **Rs 2,345 crores** in **Odisha.** The projects are aimed at ensuring speedy development in the state.
- ❖ **ASCEND 2019** is an ambitious initiative of the **Kerala government** to position the state as an **investment hotspot.** Union Minister of Commerce & Industries and Civil Aviation **Suresh Prabhu** was the chief guest at the opening ceremony of the day-long conclave, ASCEND 2019.

- ✓ The objective of the launch of ASCEND 2019 was to bring into sharp focus a governance that is simplified, efficient and transparent, and facilitates business and investments by clipping irksome bureaucratic procedures.
- ❖ Kerala Chief Minister **Pinarayi Vijayan** inaugurated the **Institute of Advanced Virology (IAV)**, in **Bio 360 Life Sciences Park** at Thonnakkal, **Thiruvananthapuram**.
 - ✓ **Kerala: Capital:** Thiruvananthapuram, **Governor:** P. Sathasivam.
- ❖ The **Asiatic Lion Conservation Project** was announced by the Centre and the **Gujarat government** at a cost of **Rs 97.85 crore**.
- ❖ **The Government of Meghalaya** has decided to rename the **Dikkibandi stadium** after **P A Sangma**.
- ❖ Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** laid Foundation Stone for the **Sela Tunnel Project** in **Arunachal Pradesh**. Sela Tunnel Project is estimated to cost **Rs. 687 crore**. It will reduce the travel time from **Tezpur to Tawang** by more than **one hour**.
- ❖ The **13th Conference of Parties (COP)** of the Convention on the **Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)** will be hosted by India during **15th to 22nd February, 2020** at **Gandhinagar in Gujarat**.
 - ✓ **Great Indian Bustard (GIB)** will be its **mascot** for the 13th Conference of Parties (COP) of the UN Convention on the conservation of migratory species (CMS). Representatives from **129 Parties** and eminent conservationists and international NGOs
 - ✓ It will provide a global platform for deliberations on the **conservation and sustainable use of migratory wild animals and their habitat**.
- ❖ **The Government of Assam** has announced a new scheme called **Arundhati** to provide **gold at free of cost** to the brides.
 - ✓ Under the scheme, the government of Assam aims to provide **1 Tola Gold to brides** belonging to all such communities of Assam where it is customary to provide gold at the time of the wedding.
- ❖ **A Himalayan Cloud Observatory** has been set up in **Tehri district, Uttarakhand**. The Observatory has been established in the **SRT campus Badshahithaul** and is currently in the testing period.
 - ✓ The observatory will receive forecast and monitor cloudburst incidents in the Himalayan region and help minimise the damage.
- ❖ The 10-day long **Mahamastakabhisheka** for the monolith **39-foot high Bahubali statue** started in **Dharmasthala, Karnataka**. This year (2019), Mahamastakabhisheka Mahotsava will be observed from **February 9 to February 18**.
 - ✓ This is the 4th mahamastakabhisheka of Lord Bahubali since its installation in 1982. Earlier were performed in 1982, 1995, and in 2007 in Dharmasthala.
- ❖ The **Rajasthan government** launched India's first "**career portal**" to address the needs of **secondary and higher secondary students** (from class 9th to 12th) for information on **scholarships and career choices**.
 - ✓ The portal launched with the support of **United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)** is expected to help the students take "**informed decisions**" about their academic and professional pursuits.
 - ✓ UNICEF had selected Rajasthan for launching the portal because of its **track record in employment-oriented education**.
- ❖ Prime Minister, **Narendra Modi** has visited **Assam** for the beats of **traditional instruments**. He attended several programs and laid foundation stone for several vital and development projects worth **Rs. 18,000 crore** in Assam.
 - ✓ Narendra Modi laid foundation stone of **ALL India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS)** at Changsari in **Guwahati**.
 - ✓ Also inaugurated **Numaligarh Refinery Ltd's** bio-diesel refinery and the **Barauni-Guwahati gas pipeline**, connecting northeast with national gas grid at an estimated cost of **Rs. 6000**.
 - ✓ **Assam: Capital:** Dispur, **CM:** Sarbananda Sonowal, **Governor:** Jagdish Mukhi.
- ❖ **Union Minister for Food Processing Industries** has commissioned **Godavari Mega Aqua Food Park** at West Godavari District, **Andhra Pradesh**.
 - ✓ This is **India's first** Mega Aqua Food Park operationalized exclusively for fish and marine products processing, freezing line for Fish and shrimp, ice plant and food testing laboratory in the state of Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ The **Union Ministry of Tourism** has sanctioned **five** new projects under the **Buddhist Circuit**.
 - ✓ The **five states** where the project under Buddhist Circuit has been sanctioned are Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh.
 - ✓ The Buddhist Circuit is one among the **fifteen thematic circuits identified** for development under **Swadesh Darshan Scheme**.
- ❖ **Chalachitram National Film Festival** will be held at **Guwahati** in **March 2019**, with a special award for entries from the northeastern region. The theme of this three-day film festival is '**Our Heritage, Our Pride**'.
 - ✓ **Chalachitram** is a Guwahati-based organisation working for showcasing the heritage and culture of the northeast to national and international audience through films.
- ❖ The **13th International Oil and Gas Conference - PETROTECH - 2019** inaugurated at **India Expo Mart, Greater Noida**.
 - ✓ Over 95 Energy Ministers from partner countries are expected to participate in the three day Conference.
 - ✓ The theme of the conference is **Collaborating For Sustainable and Secure Energy Access for all**.



Food Corporation of India (FCI) Recruitment - 2019

Total Vacancy
4103

Age Relaxation
SC/ST : + 5 years
OBC : + 3 years

Online form
23rd Feb to 25th March
(2019)

Tentative Exam Date
April / May 2019


TOTAL VACANCY (ZONE - WISE)

North	1999
South	540
East	538
West	735
North - East	291

POST-WISE VACANCIES

POST	Total Vac.	Age Limit Max. as on 1/1/2019	Qualifications / Experience
J.E. (Civil Engineering)	114	28	Degree in Civil Engineering or Diploma in Civil Engineering with one year experience.
J.E. (Electrical/ Mechanical)	72	28	Degree in Electrical Engineering Or Mechanical Engineering or Diploma in Electrical Engineering Or Mechanical Engineering with one year experience in the case of Diploma holders only.
Steno. Grade - II	76	25	Graduate along with 'O' level qualification of DOEACC and speed of 40 w.p.m. and 80 w.p.m. in typing and shorthand respectively or Degree in Computer Science/ Computer Application with speed of 40 w.p.m. and 80 w.p.m. in typing and shorthand respectively.
AG - II (Hindi) (AG = Assistant Grade)	45	28	Essential: 1. Degree of a recognized University with Hindi as the main subject. 2. Proficiency in English. 3. One year experience of translation from English to Hindi and vice- versa. Desirable :- Post Graduate qualification in Hindi.
Typist (Hindi)	39	25	(1) Graduation or equivalent. (2) 30 W.P.M speed in Hindi Typing. (3) Preference will be given to the candidates knowing bilingual typing (English and Hindi) and Computer knowledge.
AG - III (General)	757	27	Graduate Degree in any discipline from a recognized University with proficiency in use of computers.
AG - III (Accounts)	509	27	Bachelor of Commerce from a recognized University with proficiency in use of computers.
AG - III (Technical)	720	27	1. B.Sc. in Agriculture from a recognized University. Or B.Sc. with any of the following subject from a recognized University: Botany / Zoology / Bio-Technology / Bio-Chemistry / Microbiology / Food Science. Or B. Tech / BE in Food Science / Food Science and Technology / Agricultural Engineering / Bio-Technology from a recognized University / an institution approved by AICTE. 2. Proficiency in use of computers.
AG - III (Depot)	1771	27	Graduate Degree in any discipline from a recognized University with proficiency in use of computers.


NOTE : CANDIDATE CAN APPLY IN ANY ONE ZONE ONLY & ONLY FOR ONE OF THE POST (WITHIN ZONE)




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70464 16555




AHMEDABAD
અમદાવાદ
70460 55566




VYARA
વ્યારા
90998 64658




NAVSARI
નવસારી
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BHARUCH
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- ❖ Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** laid the foundation stone for the strategically important **Sela Tunnel Project** in **Arunachal Pradesh**. The project, costing **Rs 687 crore**, is being constructed by the **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)**.
- ❖ Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** visited **Hubli, Karnataka** in the final leg of his one day long tour to **Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu** and **Karnataka**.
 - ✓ He unveiled a plaque to mark the laying of foundation stone of **Indian Institute of Technology–Dharwad** and **Indian Institute of Information Technology–Dharwad**.
 - ✓ **City Gas Distribution Project** at Dharwad was dedicated to the nation on this occasion.
 - ✓ To ensure Energy Security, 1.5 MMT Mangalore **Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR)** facility and 2.5 MMT Padur SPR facility of ISPR were also dedicated to the nation.
 - ✓ **Karnataka: Capital:** Bengaluru, **CM:** H.D. Kumaraswamy, **Governor:** Vajubhai Vala.
- ❖ The Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** visited Tiruppur in Tamil Nadu and unveiled **several development projects** in the State. He laid the foundation Stone of **Employees' State Insurance Corporation's (ESIC)** multi speciality Hospital at **Tiruppur**.
 - ✓ **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL's)** Ennore Coastal Terminal was dedicated to the nation on this occasion.
 - ✓ **Tamil Nadu: Capital:** Chennai, **CM:** Edappadi K. Palaniswami, **Governor:** Banwarilal Purohit.
- ❖ **Bureau of Police Research and Development, (BPRD)** organized the 2nd National Conference of Micro Missions of **National Police Mission** in **New Delhi**. Former Governor of Jammu and Kashmir **N. N.Vohra** will inaugurate the conference.
 - ✓ The two day Conference will discuss the issues of **Skills and Competence** at the grass-root level, Attitudinal Changes in Police, Gender Sensitization, harnessing technology and Community Policing.
- ❖ Union Minister for Commerce and Industry **Suresh Prabhu** launched two schemes, the **Hirkani Maharashtrachi** and **District Business Plan Competition** in **Mumbai**.
 - ✓ Under **Hirkani Maharashtrachi, women's Self-help group (SHGs)** will display their business plan at taluka level.
 - ✓ Under **District Business Plan Competition**, competitors at district level will display ideas, out of which five ideas will be selected from agriculture, social service, education and Work order worth **Rs. 5 lakh** will be given to the 5 selected ideas to implement the same.
- ❖ The **Legislative Assembly of Rajasthan** passed the **Rajasthan Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2019** and the **Rajasthan Municipality (Amendment) Bill, 2019** to **end** the minimum **education criterion** for **panchayat** and **civic polls** candidates.
- ❖ The **Rajasthan Assembly** has passed the **Rajasthan Backward Classes Amendment Bill, 2019**. The bill aims to address the demands of the **Gujjars** who are protesting for reservations.
 - ✓ With the **5 per cent quota for Gurjars**, Banjaras, Gadia Lohars, Raikas and Gadaria communities the backward classes' reservation in the **state** has increased from present **21 per cent to 26 per cent**.
- ❖ The **Kerala Health Department** has drawn up an **action plan to generate public awareness** on the harmful effects of **trans fatty acids (TFA)** in commercially available food items and to encourage the local food industry to meet the current statutory limits set for TFA.
 - ✓ This initiative is being supported by the **World Bank, World Health Organisation (WHO)**, the **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)**, and the State Food Safety wing.
- ❖ Bihar Chief Minister, **Nitish Kumar** announced an **Universal Old Age Pension scheme**, named **Mukhya Mantri Vriddha Pension Yojana (MMVPY)**, irrespective for **all caste, community, religion**, except for those who are retired from government organizations.
 - ✓ The scheme facilitates the amount of **Rs. 400 monthly pension** for all in the state above the **age of 60** who are not getting pension from the government. The scheme will come into its enforcement from **1st April, 2019**.
 - ✓ **Bihar: Capital:** Patna, **Governor:** Lalji Tandon.
- ❖ **Andhra Pradesh** has made a significant move by **merging Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Portal** with its own **Annadatha Sukhibhava scheme**. This move will further allow a fixed amount of **Rs. 10,000 per annum** to all farmers in the state, irrespective of the size of their land.
 - ✓ **Andhra Pradesh: Capital:** Hyderabad, **Chief Minister:** N. Chandrababu Naidu, **Governor:** E.S.L. Narasimahan.
- ❖ Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will visit **Jhansi** in **Uttar Pradesh** on 15 February 2019. He inaugurated and lay the foundation stone of various development projects in Jhansi.
 - ✓ The Foundation Stone of **Defence Corridor in Jhansi**, Uttar Pradesh. To make India self-reliant in defence production Government of India had taken the decision to establish **two defence corridors** in the country, **one at Tamil Nadu** and the **other in Uttar Pradesh**.
 - ✓ he will inaugurate **Pahari Dam Modernization Project**. Pahari Dam is a **water storage dam** situated on Dhasan river in Jhansi district.
 - ✓ Also lay the Foundation Stone of **Piped Water Scheme** for the **rural areas of Bundelkhand**.

ECONOMY AWARENESS

- ❖ The **Union Cabinet** approved establishment of a **unified authority for regulating** all financial services in **International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs)** in India through the **International Financial Services Centres Authority Bill, 2019**.
 - ✓ The International Financial Services Centre is the institution that caters to customers outside the jurisdiction of the domestic economy. These centres deal with flows of finance, financial products and services across borders.
 - ✓ **Management of the Authority:** The Authority will consist of a Chairperson, one Member each to be nominated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI), the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) and the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).
 - ✓ India's first International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) became operational on **April 11, 2015** at GIFT City in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- ❖ The **Union Cabinet** approved the proposal for abolition of **Institution of Income-Tax Ombudsman and Indirect Tax Ombudsman**.
 - ✓ The approval comes after the government took into account that complaint redressal mechanisms chosen by public and Ombudsman could not prove to be more effective than regular existing parallel channels of grievance redressal.
 - ✓ The **Institution of Income-Tax Ombudsman** was created in the year **2003** to deal with grievances of public related to settlement of complaints relating to Income Tax.
- ❖ The **Reserve Bank of India** has come out with a new policy for **overseas borrowings**. The RBI has rationalized the earlier policy in consultation with the **Government of India**.
 - ✓ The new policy allows all eligible borrowers to raise **External Commercial Borrowings (ECB)** up to **\$750 million** or equivalent per financial year under the automatic route replacing the existing sector wise limits.
- ❖ The **Reserve Bank of India** decided to treat deposits to over **Rs.2 crore** as '**bulk**' as they doubled the limit for the same from the earlier **Rs.1crore**. This move will enhance operational freedom of Banks.
 - ✓ RBI also proposed banks would maintain their bulk deposits interest rate cards in the core banking system for supervisory review.
 - ✓ **National Federation of Urban Cooperative Banks and Credit Societies Limited (NAFCUB)** has suggested this proposal.
- ❖ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed monetary **penalty** on **seven banks** for non-compliance with various directions issued by the RBI on monitoring of end use of funds, exchange of information with other banks, **Know Your Customer (KYC)** norms, etc.

Non-compliance with directions issued by RBI on	Name of the bank	Amount of penalty
Know Your Customer (KYC) norms and Anti-Money Laundering (AML) standards	HDFC Bank Limited	Rs 2 million
	IDBI Bank Limited	Rs 2 million
	Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited	Rs 2 million
Monitoring of end use of funds, exchange of information with other banks, classification and reporting of frauds, and on restructuring of accounts	Allahabad Bank	Rs 15 million
	Andhra Bank	Rs 10 million
	Bank of Maharashtra	Rs 15 million
	Indian Overseas Bank	Rs 15 million

CORPORATE AFFAIRS

- ❖ The **Oil industry** has observed **Ujjwala Utsav** celebrate the role played by all stakeholders – **District Nodal Officers**, Policymakers, Distributors, and beneficiaries – in making **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)** a success.
 - ✓ The event was organized under the aegis of **Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas**.
 - ✓ PMUY anthem – **Ujjwala Bharat Ujjwala**- was also launched during the event.
- ❖ The **Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Dharmendra Pradhan** launched the '**Dealer Owned Dealer Operated**' (DODO) model for setting up **CNG stations**.
 - ✓ He released the general guidelines for the schemes, under which the entire earmarked dealer plot will be developed exclusively for setting up of CNG station and allied commercial activities at the discretion of CGD activities.

DEFENCE & SECURITY

- ❖ The **annual** multinational maritime exercise **Cutlass Express** was held from **27 Jan to 06 Feb 19**. The exercise is aimed to improve law enforcement capacity, promote regional security and progress inter-operability between the

- armed forces of the participating nations for the purpose of interdicting illegal maritime activity in the Western Indian Ocean.
- ❖ The Helicopter-launched anti-tank missile **Helina** was successfully test fired from the **Integrated Test Range in Chandipur** in Balasore district of **Odisha**.
 - ✓ Helina is the air-launched variant of the Nag, a **fire-and-forget** ATGM with an estimated range of 4 kilometers.
 - ❖ **India** received a batch of **4 CH-47 Chinook military helicopters** for the Indian Air Force from **US** which arrived at the **Mundra Port in Gujarat**.
 - ❖ **Jaipur** based **Sapta Shakti Command** of Indian Army is conducting a two- day Joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Exercise "**Exercise Rahat**".
 - ✓ **Rajasthan: Capital:** Jaipur, **Chief Minister:** Ashok Gehlot, **Governor:** Kalyan Singh.
 - ❖ The 5-day multinational maritime exercise '**AMAN-19**' in which **46 nations** participated from all over the world was formally commenced at **Pakistan Navy Dockyard**, with a colorful flag hosting ceremony.
 - ❖ **Indian army** demonstrated its **artillery firepower**, aviation and surveillance capacity at the annual '**Exercise Topchi**' at Deolali Camp near **Nashik**.
 - ✓ The latest ultra-light **Howitzer M-777**, self-propelled gun **K-9 Vajra** and indigenous Swathi weapon-locating radar was demonstrated.
 - ❖ The **United States** and **Thailand** are hosting the multi-nation **Cobra military exercise** this year. The exercise is taking place in the northern Thai province of Phitsanulok. 10000 personnel, **29 nations** are taking part as participants or observers.
 - ✓ India joined this exercise for the first time in 2016 while China was admitted for the first time in 2015 but was only allowed to participate in humanitarian assistance training.
 - ❖ The **Indian Government** has signed a deal with the **US** under **Fast Track Procurement (FTP)** to avail the **Indian Army** with 72,400 new '**Sig Sauer Assault Rifles**' which will overhaul the army's inventory of frontline rifles.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- ❖ **Cennai Police** Commissioner **A.K. Viswanathan** launched mobile App '**DigiCop**' of the city police.
 - ✓ Using the App, people can track the status of stolen two-wheelers and cell phones.
 - ✓ Using DigiCop App, people can also verify IMEI, report lost two-wheelers and phones, know the nearest police station, police news and traffic alerts.
- ❖ Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** launched a dedicated 24x7 Satellite channel, '**DD Arunprabha**' for Arunachal Pradesh during his visit to Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Tripura.
 - ✓ **DD Arunprabha** is the Doordarshan's **second channel** for the northeastern region; **DD Northeast** was the **first** one.
- ❖ The **2nd** indigenously developed '**Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet**' (SFDR), propulsion-based missile system was successfully flight tested from ITR, Chandipur, **Odisha**, by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**.
 - ✓ The first flight of SFDR, developed under a **joint Indo-Russian R&D project**, was tested in 2018.
- ❖ **Opportunity**, a NASA rover to the **surface of Mars**, has **stopped** communicating with Earth after 15 years of service.
 - ✓ NASA lost contact with the solar-powered vehicle on June 10, 2018, after a dust storm. Dust covered the solar panels of the rover due to which the rover was unable to charge its batteries.
- ❖ **NASA** will launch a new space telescope mission **Spectro-Photometer for the History of the Universe, Epoch of Reionization and Ices Explorer (SPHEREx)** in **2023**.
 - ✓ The launch could help astronomers understand how the Universe evolved in the first place and how common the ingredients for life are within it. **SPHEREx** will survey the sky in optical as well as near-**infrared light**.
 - ✓ SPHEREx's main goal is to search for the fundamentals of life — water and organic matter within the Milky Way.

SPORTS

- ❖ The **83rd** edition of **Senior National Badminton Championship** begin in the Assamese city of Guwahati.
 - ✓ Defending champion **Saina Nehwal** and last edition's runner-up **PV Sindhu** will be the biggest attractions in Women's Singles. This is the **first time** the Nationals is returning to the North-East since Guwahati last hosted it in 2010.
- ❖ France's Corentin Moutet beat **Andrew Harris** of Australia to win the title in **Chennai Open ATP Challenger tennis tournament**.
 - ✓ India's campaign was ended when top seed Prajnesh Gunneswaran and Sasikumar Mukund bowed out after losing their respective Singles semi-final matches.
- ❖ In Table Tennis, **India's young paddlers** clinching four medals include a **gold**, **two silver** and a **bronze**, at the **Bahrain Junior and Cadet Open tournament** in **Manama**.

- ✓ In the Junior girls' competition, the Indian team of **Manushree Patil** and **Swastika Ghosh** beat three teams before losing to eventual champions Russia to settle for a Silver.
- ❖ World champion Indian weightlifter **Saikhom Mirabai Chanu** won a **gold medal** at the **EGAT Cup** in **Thailand**.
 - ✓ Chanu won the **48 kg category gold** with an effort of **192 kg** in the **silver level Olympic** qualifying event.
 - ✓ Points earned from this tournament will come in handy when the final rankings for Tokyo 2020.
- ❖ **Jamie Chadwick** from Bath, England made history by becoming the **first female driver** to win the **MRF challenge title** after winning 3 out of 5 races in the final round in **Chennai**.
- ❖ The **Sports and Youth Ministry** in the meeting of Executive Committee of the **National Games 2022** has chosen the '**Smiling Clouded Leopard**' to be the Mascot for the National Games 2022.
 - ✓ Meghalaya will host the 2022 National Games, which is coinciding with its 50 years of statehood.
 - ✓ **Meghalaya: Capital:** Shillong, **Chief Minister:** Conrad Sangma, **Governor:** Tathagata Roy.
- ❖ **Sports Authority of India** Won **9th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship** (B Division) held in **Hisar**, Haryana. They defeated Hockey **Chandigarh**.

AWARDS & HONOURS

- ❖ Indian historian **Sanjay Subrahmanyam** won the **prestigious Dan David Prize 2019** for his work on inter-cultural encounters between Asians, Europeans and people of North and South America during the early modern era.
- ❖ **Aegis Graham Bell Award 2018** announced **Yes Bank** as winner in '**Innovation in Data Science**' category for their industry-first project '**Yes EEE (Engage Enrich Excel)**' at **Panaji, Goa**. **9th** edition of Aegis Graham Bell Award 2018 was hosted by the **Government of Goa**.
- ❖ Acclaimed Indo-Canadian filmmaker, **Deepa Mehta** will be conferred with **Lifetime Achievement Award** by the **Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television**.
- ❖ **People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PeTA)** awarded actor-director **Bradley Cooper** 'Oscat' award for casting his own dog, rather than one supplied by animal exhibitors, in his movie **A Star is Born**.

PERSON APPOINTED / RESIGNED

- ❖ Egypt's President **Abdel Fattah el-Sisi** took over as chair of the **African Union (AU)**.
 - ✓ The African Union (AU) is an union consisting of 55 countries of Africa with exception of various territories of European possessions located in Africa.
 - ✓ It was founded on **26 May 2001** in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and launched on **9 July 2002** in **South Africa**.
- ❖ **The Government** has appointed **Air India** chief managing director and Chairperson **Pradeep Singh Kharola** the **secretary** of the **Ministry of Civil Aviation**.
- ❖ **Ashwani Lohani**, former chairman of Railway Board, has been reappointed as the **Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)** of **Air India**.
- ❖ **Ruchira Kamboj**, currently serving as the **High Commissioner of India to South Africa**, was appointed as the **Ambassador of India to Bhutan**.
- ❖ Australia spin legend **Shane Warne** was entitled as the **brand ambassador** of **Rajasthan Royals** for the upcoming 12th edition of **Indian Premier League (IPL)**.
- ❖ President **Ram Nath Kovind** has appointed **Sushil Chandra**, the chairman of the **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)**, as the **new Election Commissioner**.
- ❖ **Pramod Chandra Mody** took over as the **new chairman** of the **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)**.
- ❖ **Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited (DHFL)** has notified that its **CEO Harshil Mehta** has **resigned** from his position.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

- ❖ The book "**Law, Justice and Judicial Power – Justice P N Bhagwati's Approach**" written by Mool Chand Sharma was launched by the Chief Justice of India, Justice **Ranjan Gogoi**. Indian Politician and author, **Manish Tewari**, launched '**What Marx Left Unsaid**' – Production of Skills by Means of Skills, authored by **Dr. Malay Chaudhari, Dr. Arindam Chaudhari** and **Che Kabir Chaudhari** at Indian International Centre, **New Delhi**. The book is published by Times Group.
- ❖ The book titled "**Let's Talk On Air: Conversations with Radio Presenters**" has been authored by **Rakesh Anand Bakshi**.
- ❖ Former Vice President **Hamid Ansari** launched the new book of former Finance Minister **P Chidambaram** named "**Undaunted: Saving the Idea of India**" at Nehru Memorial Museum, **New Delhi**.

OBITUARY

- ❖ Hindi film actor **Mahesh Anand** passed away.
- ❖ The world's most famous goalkeeper **Gordon Banks** passed away.
- ❖ German **Nobel Prize winning chemist, Manfred Eigen**, passed away.
- ❖ **Vijaya Bapineedu**, Telugu director-producer, passed away.
- ❖ Veteran writer and former deputy speaker of Goa Legislative Assembly **Vishnu Wagh** passed away.

Days|Week|Year

- ❖ 10th February 2019:- **World Pulses Day**.
- ❖ 11th February 2019:- **International Day of Women and Girls in Science**.
- ❖ 12th February 2019:- **International Darwin Day**.
- ❖ 13th February 2019:- **World Radio Day**.
- ✓ **Theme:-** Dialogue, Tolerance and Peace.

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