

Current Affairs

(English)

For

All Upcoming Competitive Exam - 2019



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

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

- ❖ NITI Aayog's **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)** and **Adobe** signed a Statement of Intent (SOI) to collectively drive the charter of developing creative **skills and spreading digital literacy** across all **Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL)** in India.
 - ✓ 100 schools will be adopted by Adobe under the ATL initiative and will be implementing its Digital Disha Program in ATLs.
- ❖ The **Union Cabinet** chaired by the Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi** has approved Continuation of **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)**, and for incurring expenditure up to **Rs. 1000 crore** till **2019-20** by Atal Innovation Mission for expanding Atal Tinkering Labs to **10,000 schools** in view of their huge success at school level.
 - ✓ **NITI Aayog: Headquarter:** New Delhi, **CEO:** Amitabh Kant.
- ❖ The **Union Cabinet** has approved the **National Mineral Policy, 2019 (NMP 2019)**.
 - ✓ The new mineral policy focuses on transparency, better regulations & enforcement, balanced growth & sustainability.
- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the **National Policy on Software Products (NPSP) - 2019** to develop India as a **Software Product Nation**.
 - ✓ Objective: The Government has approved the NPSP-2019 to create a robust software product ecosystem, which aims to develop India as the **global software product hub**.
- ❖ The **Union Minister of Textiles** has launched a comprehensive scheme for development of **Knitting and Knitwear Sector** under **PowerTex India**.
 - ✓ The Ministry has approved a combined **Standing Finance Component (SFC)** of **PowerTex India Scheme** and **Knitwear Scheme** with an outlay of **Rs. 487.07 crores**. Out of this, **Rs. 47.72 crore** is for **Knitwear** for the period of **2018-19 and 2019-20**.
- ❖ AYUSH Minister **Shripad Yesso Naik** laid the foundation stone for **National Institute of Unani Medicine** at **Ghaziabad** in **Uttar Pradesh**.
- ❖ The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** has approved **Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN (Jaiv Indhan- Vatavaran Anukool fasal awashesh Nivaran) Yojana**.
 - ✓ The scheme will be supported financially by **Viability Gap Funding (VGF)** to Second Generation (2G) Integrated **Bio-ethanol Projects** using **lignocellulosic biomass** and other **renewable feedstock**.
- ❖ The Union cabinet has approved the proposal for implementation of '**Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles in India Phase II (FAME India Phase II)**' scheme for **promotion of Electric Mobility** in the country.
 - ✓ The scheme with total outlay of **Rs 10000 Crores** over the period of three years (2019-20 to 2021-22) will be implemented with effect from **1st April 2019**.
 - ✓ This scheme is the expanded version of the **present scheme titled 'FAME India1' which was launched on 1st April 2015**, with total outlay of **Rs. 895 crores**.
 - ✓ The government has constituted an inter-ministerial panel for monitoring, sanctioning and implementation of projects. Panel chaired by the **secretary** in the **Department of Heavy Industries**.
- ❖ The **Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD)**, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has created "**7th Guinness Book of World Record**".
 - ✓ The record was created for implanting '**Modern Artificial Limbs (Legs)**' on **260 Divyangjans** within **eight hours**.
- ❖ The **Minister for Women and Child Development** has announced that the Government will celebrate '**Poshan Pakhwada**' from 8th to 22nd March 2019 across the Country.
- ❖ Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the two day Expo-cum Conference on **Construction Technology India 2019 (CTI-2019)** in **New Delhi**.
 - ✓ He also declared '**April 2019-March 2020**' as **Construction-Technology year** and the use of **advanced technology** to meet the increasing demand of housing in the country caused by rapid urbanization got stressed.
- ❖ An anthem "**Plastic Waste-Free India**" which has been composed and produced by **Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Smriti Manch (PDUSM)**– a non-profit organisation which works in the field of social and environmental issues was launched by Union Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences and Environment, Forest and Climate Change, **Harsh Vardhan**.

- ✓ It is a part of an initiative which aims to turn India into a **plastic-free nation by 2022** and aims at supporting and improving the plastic waste management and recycling ecosystem in the country.
- ✓ It has been launched in seven languages– Hindi, Marathi, Gujarati, Tamil, Telegu, Malyalam and Kannada.
- ❖ **Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD)**, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has organized a national conference on “**Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme**” at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, **New Delhi**.
- ❖ **The Government** has approved an investment proposal for transmission component in Nepal portion of **Arun-3 Hydro Electric Project**.
 - ✓ The power from the project will be exported from **Dhalkebar** in **Nepal** to **Muzaffarpur** in **India**.
 - ✓ The Arun-3 Hydro Electric project (**900 MW**) is a run-of-river located on **Arun River** in **Eastern Nepal**.
- ❖ Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** launched 17 developments projects worth **538 crore rupees** at **Amethi** in **Uttar Pradesh**. These projects include a factory to manufacture **AK 203 rifles**, the latest version in **Kalashnikov series** with **Russian collaboration**.
- ❖ The **Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)** has ed history by creating a **Guinness world** record in a **single line bicycle parade** to mark the 50 years of the paramilitary force.
 - ✓ The record was created at the **Yamuna Expressway** in **Noida** when personnel of the central force rode a total of one thousand **327 bicycles non-stop** with uniform distance between bicycles in a single line.
- ❖ The Prime Minister, **Shri Narendra Modi**, flagged off the **Bandra- Jamnagar Humsafar Express**, at Jamnagar in **Gujarat**. He dedicated the new 750 bed annexe of **Guru GobindSingh Hospital** to the Nation.
- ❖ **Smt Shakuntala D. Gamlin**, Secretary, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (**DEPwD**), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment laid the foundation stone of the ‘**National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation**’ at Sehore District, **Madhya Pradesh**. This Institute will be first of its kind in the country.
 - ✓ The Central Government has approved an outlay of **Rs 180 crore** for this project for an initial period of three years.
 - ✓ **Madhya Pradesh: Chief Minister:** Kamal Nath, **Governor:** Anandiben Patel.
- ❖ The Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has launched the indigenously-developed **National Common Mobility Card (NCMC)** to enable people to **pay multiple kinds of transport charges**, including metro services and toll tax, across the country.
 - ✓ Dubbed as ‘**One Nation One Card**’, the **inter-operable transport card** would allow the holders to pay for their bus travel, toll taxes, parking charges, retail shopping and even withdraw money.
 - ✓ This is India’s First Indigenously Developed Payment Eco-system for transport and consists of **National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) Card**, **SWEEKAR** (Swachalit Kiraya: Automatic Fare Collection System) and **SWAGAT** (Swachalit Gate- a gate and card-reader system) which is based on NCMC Standards.
- ❖ Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** launched the **Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Mandhan (PM-SYM) Yojana** at Vastral in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**. The national pension scheme for workers and labourers of unorganised sector 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.
- ❖ Textiles Minister **Smriti Irani** inaugurated the **refurbished Handloom Haat** at Janpath in **New Delhi**. The main objective of the Haat is to provide infrastructure support to handloom agencies to augment their sales of handloom products and to showcase the exquisite variety of products produced all over the country.
 - ✓ she also released a booklet - **World Handmade Textile Biennales** on the occasion.
- ❖ The Minister of State for Culture (Independent charge) and Environment, Forest and Climate Change, **Dr. Mahesh Sharma** inaugurated ‘**Azaadi ke Diwane**’ museum at **Red Fort, Delhi**. Created by **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)**.
- ❖ The **Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers** has decided to celebrate **7th March 2019** as ‘**Janaushadhi Diwas**’ across India to provide further impetus & create awareness about use of generic medicines.
- ❖ **Union Cabinet** has approved setting up of a **National Mission on Transformative Mobility and Battery Storage**.
 - ✓ The objective is to promote clean, connected, shared, sustainable and holistic mobility initiatives; **Phased Manufacturing Programme (PMP)** valid for 5 years until 2024.
- ❖ The **Union Cabinet** has approved the “**Flood Management and Border Areas Programme (FMBAP)**” for Flood Management Works in entire country and River Management Activities and works related to Border Areas for the period 2017-18 to 2019-20 with a total outlay of **Rs.3342.00 crores**.
 - ✓ The FMBAP Scheme will be implemented throughout the country for effective flood management, erosion control and anti-sea erosion.
- ❖ The **Monster Salary Index report** has highlighted the **gender pay gap** is still high in India and **women** in the country earn **19 percent less than men**.
- ❖ **India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP)** is launched by **Ozone Cell** of Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change (**MoEFCC**). The plan is aimed at reducing emissions and providing thermal comfort to citizens.
- ❖ Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas **Dharmendra Pradhan** handed over the **Seven Crore** LPG connection under the **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)**.

- ✓ The scheme was launched on **1st May, 2016** by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** with an initial target of **five** crores, which was later revised upward to **eight crores** connections.
- ❖ The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** has approved the setting up of **50 new Kendriya Vidyalayas** all over the country.
- ❖ The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** and **National Health Authority (NHA)** have formed a joint working group (**JWG**) in order to suggest ways for more effective implementation of the Centre's **Ayushman Bharat -Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)**.
- ❖ The Prime Minister, **Shri Narendra Modi**, attended the **National Women Livelihood Meet-2019**, held at Deendayal Hastkala Sankul in **Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh**, on **International Women's Day**.
- ❖ Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has announced that **Prasar Bharati** has brought 11 more State **DD Channels** on the Satellite footprint of India through **DD Free Dish**.
 - ✓ The DD channels of the states of Chhattisgarh, Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Uttarakhand have been brought to satellite footprint through DD Free Dish for the first time.
- ❖ Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has laid the foundation stone for the **Kashi Vishwanath Corridor**. The project envisions a massive makeover of the holy shrine and its surrounding areas.
 - ✓ The proposed 50-feet corridor will directly connect **Ganga's Manikarnika** and **Lalita Ghat** to the **Kashi Vishwanath Jyotirlinga Temple**.
- ❖ The **Government** has approved a state of the art passenger terminal building for **Kartarpur Sahib Corridor**.
 - ✓ The Kartarpur corridor between **Dera Baba Nanak** in Gurdaspur district, **Punjab** and the **Kartarpur Sahib gurudwara** just across the international border with **Pakistan**.
- ❖ Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **Civil Terminal** at the **Hindon airport** at **Ghaziabad** in Delhi-NCR..
- ❖ The **National Council of Science Museums (NCSM)** collaborates with **Google Arts and Culture** for largest interactive online exhibition **on inventions and discoveries**.
 - ✓ **NCSM: Headquarter:** Kolkata, **Director General:** A D Choudhury.
- ❖ For the amicable settlement of **Ayodhya's Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid** land dispute case, the five-judge bench, headed by the Chief Justice of India (CJI) **Ranjan Gogoi**, constituted a **3-member** mediation panel headed by former Supreme Court (SC) judge Justice **F. M. Kalifullah** to resolve the issue.
- ❖ President **Ram Nath Kovind**, launched the **2019 pulse polio programme** by administering polio drops to children below five years at the **Rashtrapati Bhawan**.
- ❖ The **first HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) treatment centre** and **holistic clinic** for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) by **Humsafar trust** in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**.
- ❖ The Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Institute of Archaeology** at **Greater Noida** in Uttar Pradesh, at an estimated cost of **Rs. 289 crore** is spread over 25 acres.
- ❖ PM **Narendra Modi**, along with BJP leaders has started "**Main Bhi Chowkidar** (I am a watchman too)" campaign by prefixing the word "chowkidar" to their names in their Twitter profiles. Its a video campaign titled "**Take The Pledge**".
- ❖ The **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.
- ❖ **Social Media platforms** and Internet Mobile Association of India (**IAMAI**) have adopted a **Voluntary Code of Ethics** for the forthcoming **general elections**.
 - ✓ According to the code submitted to the Election Commission, IAMAI 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.
- ❖ The Chief Postmaster General, Jammu & Kashmir Circle, **P D Tshering** released a '**Special Stamp Cover on Ice Stupa**' by the **Department of Post, Government of India** during a function organised at the Ice Stupa site at **Gangles in Leh**.
- ❖ Former Supreme Court judge Justice **Pinaki Chandra Ghose** was appointed as the country's **first Lokpal**, the anti-corruption ombudsman.
- ❖ The **Union Cabinet**, chaired by the Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, approved to **Align with Global Trademark System** to Nice Agreement, Vienna Agreement, and Locarno Agreement.
- ❖ The **Central Government** has banned the Yasin Malik-led, **Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF)** as an unlawful association under the provisions of **Unlawful Activities Prevention Act 1967 (UAPA)**.
- ❖ The council of **Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC)**, a Geneva-based non-profit, has decided to recognized India's first **forest-certification scheme**, the **Certification Standard for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)** developed by Network for Certification and Conservation of Forests (**NCCF**), an Indian non-profit.
- ❖ Vice President **M Venkaiah Naidu** to attend the **16th Convocation of Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR)** in **Mumbai**.
 - ✓ Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai is an autonomous advanced research institution established by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** in **1987**.

- ❖ The Vice President of India, **Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu** has called for fully tapping the enormous potential of the **Blue Economy** for the country to achieve higher economic growth.
 - ✓ Observing that the objective of the Blue Economy is to promote smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and employment opportunities through maritime economic activities.
- ❖ The national capital's **the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA)** has climbed up **four** spots to be the **12th** busiest airport in the world. The IGIA airport has beaten up busy cosmopolitan centres like the **Frankfurt, Guangzhou, Dallas Fort Worth, and Istanbul Ataturk airports**.
 - ✓ The preliminary world airport traffic rankings for 2018 has been released by the **Airports Council International (ACI)**. **India** became the **world's third-largest aviation market** in terms of passenger throughput, behind the US and China, in **2018**.
- ❖ **India** reduced its **poverty rate** sharply from **55 per cent** to **28 per cent** in ten years between 2005-06 and 2015-16, according to a new version of the **global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)** developed by the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** and the **Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI)**. In India, a total of **271 million** (27.10 crore) people moved out of **poverty** during these **ten years**.
- ❖ **Indian Army** is launching its maiden expedition to **Mt Makalu** in Mar-May 2019.
 - ✓ **First** Indian Army Mountaineering Expedition to Mt Makalu (8485m) comprising five Officers, two JCOs and eleven OR was flagged off by **Director General Military Training** on 26 Mar 2019.
- ❖ On March **23rd**, India observed **Shaheed Divas** or **Martyr's Day** as a tribute to the **Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru** on their death anniversary.
- ❖ The Union Cabinet chaired by **Narendra Modi** approved the extension of the **Biomedical Research Career Programme** and **Wellcome Trust (WT)/DBT India Alliance** beyond its initial 10-year term to a new five year phase (2019-20 to 2023-24).
 - ✓ The total financial implication will be **Rs. 1092 crore** with DBT and WT contributing **Rs.728 crore** and **Rs.364 crore** respectively.
- ❖ The Ministry of Health has notified **New Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules, 2019** for the approval of new drugs and conduct of clinical trials in the country. It aims to ensure patient safety and promote clinical research in the country.
- ❖ As part of **Voter Awareness campaign** for Lok Sabha Election 2019, **Election Commission of India** and **Indian Railways** have come together to utilize four long distance Trains to carry voter awareness and motivational messages.
- ❖ The **University Grants Commission (UGC)** has prohibited imparting distance degree programmes in **agriculture**.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- ❖ **India** and **Brunei** signed a pact for exchange of Information and Assistance in Collection with respect to taxes in order to **curb tax evasion and tax avoidance** in **New Delhi**.
 - ✓ **Brunei: Capital:** Bandar Seri Begawan, **Currency:** Brunei dollar.
- ❖ A **UAE** based company will release **12 bank notes of zero value** which is the **first** ever limited edition commemorative series to mark the 150th birth anniversary of **Mahatma Gandhi**.
 - ✓ Dubai based Indian artist **Akbar Saheb** has designed these special notes. He was the main illustrator for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's book '**Mann Ki Baat**'.
- ❖ 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**.
 - ✓ **AIIB: Headquarter:** Beijing, China, **President:** Jin Lique.
- ❖ **India's External Affairs minister (EAM)** attended **46th Session** of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the **Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)** held in **Abu Dhabi**, United Arab Emirates (**UAE**).
 - ✓ India was invited by the host UAE as the "**Guest of Honour**" to attend the inaugural session of the OIC.
 - ✓ Even though Pakistan is a founding member of OIC. It absented itself during the session.
 - ✓ **UAE: Capital:** Abu Dhabi, **Currency:** Dirham.
- ❖ **Gram Samridhi Yojana**, a **Rs 3,000 crore** scheme funded by the **World Bank** and the **Government of India**, is being worked upon by the **Ministry of Food Processing Industries** in order to strengthen the unorganised **food processing sector** concentrated in **rural areas**.
- ❖ The **7th Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)** Intersessional Ministerial Meeting was organized in Siem Reap, **Cambodia**. It was headed by **Chutima Bunyapraphasara**, Acting Minister of Commerce of Thailand and saw participation of ministers from the **16 RCEP Participating Countries (RPCs)**. It was also attended by Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation- **Suresh Prabhu**.
- ❖ The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** and the **Government of India** signed a loan agreement of **USD 926 Million** in order to operationalize two lines for the **Mumbai Metro Rail System** and is the **Single Largest Infrastructure Project Loan** in ADB history.
- ❖ Vice President **M. Venkaiah Naidu** will embark on a **two-nation** tour of **Paraguay and Costa Rica**.
 - ✓ **Paraguay: Capital:** Asuncion, **Currency:** Paraguayan guarani.

- ✓ **Costa Rica: Capital:** San Jose, **Currency:** Costa Rican colon.
- ❖ **India** ranked **first** in the **Confidence Board Global Consumer Confidence Survey** which was conducted in collaboration with a global performance management company **Nielsen Holdings**.
 - ✓ India maintained its **1st position** from 3rd quarter and in the 4th quarter of 2018 India's **Consumer Confidence Index (CCI)** score is 133.
- ❖ The **3rd group** of 22 officials of **Nepal's Ministry of Finance** joined their training course on '**Global Perspectives on Public Financial Management**' at the **Institute of Government Accounts and Finance (INGAF)** in **New Delhi**.
- ❖ The **US** has announced that it will **terminate India's** designation as a beneficiary of its **Generalized System of Preferences (GSP)**.
 - ✓ There are currently **13 national GSP schemes** notified to the UNCTAD secretariat.
 - The following countries grant GSP preferences: Australia, Belarus, Canada, the European Union, Iceland, Japan, Kazakhstan, New Zealand, Norway, the Russian Federation, Switzerland, Turkey and the United States of America.
- ❖ The **Government of India** and **World Bank** have signed **\$250 Million** Agreement for the **National Rural Economic Transformation Project (NRETP)** under the **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)**.
- ❖ The **Government of India**, the **State Government of Chhattisgarh** and the **World Bank** signed in New Delhi, a **\$25.2 Million** Loan Agreement to support the **State's Reforms in Expenditure Management**. This support will cover Expenditure Planning, Investment Management, Budget Execution, Public Procurement and Accountability.
 - ✓ **Chhattisgarh: Capital:** Raipur, **Chief Minister:** Bhupesh Baghel, **Governor:** Anandiben Patel.
- ❖ The **World Bank, Government of India** and **Government of Uttarakhand (GoUK)** signed a **\$96 Million Loan** Agreement to provide additional funds to the **State of Uttarakhand** in its **post-disaster recovery plans**, ongoing since the floods of 2013, as well as strengthen its capacity for **Disaster Risk Management**.
 - ✓ **Uttarakhand: Capital:** Dehradun, **Chief Minister:** T.S Rawat, **Governor:** Baby Rani Maurya.
- ❖ **Gurgaon** in the **National Capital Region (NCR)** emerged as the **most polluted** region in the world in 2018 as per **2018 World Air Quality Report** was released in **Jakarta, Indonesia**. The report released by Swiss based company **IQAir AirVisual** and non profit organization **Greenpeace**.
 - ✓ As per the report, **Delhi** is the most polluted capital in the **world**. In the list of polluted cities, **Delhi** ranked **11th**.
- ❖ Richest Indian **Mukesh Ambani** jumped 6 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**.
 - ✓ **Kylie Jenner** (21) 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.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ On the occasion of **International Women's Day**, the **International Labor Organisation** releases a report- **A Quantum leap for gender equality: For a better future of work for all**.
 - ✓ **Women's employment rates are declining** due to the rapid transition from agriculture to industrial sectors and the lack of care services and infrastructure.
 - ✓ Globally the **difference in the employment rates** for men and women, has shrunk by less than **two percentage** points in last 27 years. Women do not receive the same dividends for education as men.
- ❖ **Malaysia** became a member of the **International Criminal Court (ICC)**, the world's only permanent war crimes court which aims to prosecute the worst abuses when national courts are unable or unwilling.
 - ✓ **ICC: Headquarter:** The Hague, Netherlands, **President:** Eboe-Osuji.
 - ✓ **Malaysia: Capital:** Kuala Lumpur, **Currency:** Ringgit.
- ❖ The **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** has reduced the world economic growth forecasts for the year 2019.
 - ✓ OECD has cut its 2019 forecast for global economic growth to **3.3%** for the current year, down from **3.5%** it predicted earlier.
 - ✓ **OECD: Headquarter:** Paris, France, **Secretary-General:** Jose Angel Gurría.
- ❖ **India** and **Japan** organised a joint **space dialogue** in **New Delhi**. It aimed at providing a platform for both the countries to explore ways to enhance cooperation between the space agencies of both the nations.
- ❖ The **Centre** and the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** have signed a **26 million dollar** loan agreement to provide additional financing for improving **drainage infrastructure** in Dibrugarh town of **Assam**.
 - ✓ **Assam: Capital:** Dispur, **CM:** Sarbananda Sonowal, **Governor:** Jagdish Mukhi.
- ❖ The **Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS)** and **Safety in Mines Testing and Research Station (SIMTARS)** propose to explore opportunities including the feasibility of technical knowledge sharing in the area of occupational safety, health and welfare of persons engaged in mining operations.
- ❖ The **Union Cabinet** chaired by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between **India** and **U.K.** on **Cancer Research Initiative**.

- ❖ The **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India** signs a Cooperation Agreement with the **International Finance Corporation (IFC)** to further build the capacity of the **Insolvency Professionals** and Insolvency Professional Agencies (IPA) for the purposes of the effective implementation of the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016** among others.
- ❖ **Russia** lawmakers have approved a **new law** that will allow them to **punish online media** outlets for publishing **fake news**.
- ❖ The **cabinet chaired** by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has approved the Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) between **India** and **Germany** on cooperation in the field of **Occupational Safety and Health (OSH)**.
- ❖ **India** has launched its **3rd IT corridor** in **China**. The corridor will facilitate partnerships between Indian and Chinese companies. **National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM)** entered into a partnership with **China's Xuzhou city** from Jiangsu Province in China to help develop the IT corridor.
 - ✓ The first two corridors had enabled cooperation in co-create mode in the emerging technologies such as AI, IoT and Analytics in the Chinese market.
- ❖ The **World Bank, Government of India** and representatives from the states of **Karnataka, Kerala, Odisha, Tamil Nadu** and **Uttarakhand** signed Loan Agreement for additional financing of **\$137 Million** for the **Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP)** that will help rehabilitate and modernize over 220 selected large dams.
- ❖ The **2nd edition of Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD) – 2019** was organised in Manekshaw Centre, **New Delhi**. It focused on involving the global strategic community in reviewing India's opportunities and challenges in the **Indo-Pacific region**.
- ❖ **Kane Tanaka**, a 116-year-old Japanese woman born on **January 2, 1903**, who loves playing the board game Othello was honoured as the **world's oldest living person** by **Guinness World Records**.
 - ✓ **Japan: Capital:** Tokyo, **Currency:** Japanese Yen, **Prime Minister:** Shinzo Abe.
- ❖ **India** was the **world's 2nd largest arms importer** from 2014-18, ceding the long-held tag as **largest importer** to **Saudi Arabia**, which accounted for **12%** of the total imports during the period. according to the latest report published by the **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)**.
- ❖ **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** was organized the **14th edition of CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India - Africa Project Partnership** with the support of the Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, from 17–19 March, 2019 in **New Delhi**.
- ❖ **World Health Organization (WHO)** released a **Global Influenza Strategy for 2019-2030** aimed at protecting people in all countries from the threat of influenza, one of the **world's greatest public health challenges**.
- ❖ The **United Nations'** telecom body '**International Telecommunication Union (ITU)**' has planned to set up its **first** ever Innovation Centre in **India** to incorporate technologies from **South Asian countries** and emerging economies in standards for technologies.
- ❖ Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and **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.
- ❖ The **34th edition of Aahar-the International Food and Hospitality Fair** commenced in **New Delhi**. The five-day fair, organised by **India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO)** features wide range of food products, machinery, food and beverages equipment, hospitality and decor solutions, confectionery items from over 560 participants from India and foreign countries.
- ❖ The **new visa agreement** between **Maldives** and **India** has come into force. the visa deal will allow Maldivian businessmen and tourists to stay in India for 90 days without a visa. Maldivians with tourist visas can also stay in India for treatment if they suffer a sudden medical issue.
- ❖ **Shri Vikram Sahay**, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and **Ms. Sadhana Rout**, Director General, Publications Division inaugurated the India Pavilion at **London Book Fair**. The Fair is being held in the **London Olympia**.
 - ✓ The India Pavilion lays special focus on **150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi**. It displays the digital version of the Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi, apart from various other titles on Culture, History and Folklore of India.
- ❖ The **United Kingdom** has commemorated professor **Stephen Hawking** in a new **50p coin**. The coin has references to the late physicist's pioneering work on black holes.
- ❖ The **World Gold Council** its latest report highlights the quantum of gold holding by the different countries.
 - ✓ **India** has the **11th largest gold reserve** and the current holding pegged at 607 tonnes.
 - ✓ The **top** spot is occupied by **US** gold reserves of 8,133.5 tonnes, followed by **Germany** with 3,369.7 tonnes.
- ❖ The **Quality of Living Index 2019** was released by the **Consulting Agency Mercer**. The index was based on the data analysed between September and November 2018. The index ranks 231 cities.
 - ✓ Austrian capital **Vienna top** followed by **Zurich** in Switzerland. **Auckland**, Munich, and **Vancouver** came in joint third. **Indian Cities** in the List:
 - Hyderabad and Pune topped the list among the Indian cities with a rank of 143.
 - Bengaluru was the second best with the ranking of 149.

- ❖ The **United Nation Environment Program (UNEP)** has released the **6th** edition of the **Global Environment Outlook (2019)** titled '**Healthy Planet, Healthy People**'.
- ❖ The **Indian Embassy in Nepal** has announced **200 scholarships** to meritorious Nepali students for continuing various undergraduate courses at colleges and universities. The scholarships were granted under the **Golden Jubilee Scholarship scheme**.
- ❖ **India and the United States** have committed to strengthen bilateral security and civil nuclear cooperation, including the establishment of **6 US nuclear power plants in India**.
 - ✓ This commitment was made at the 9th round of the **India-US Strategic Security Dialogue** held in **Washington DC**.
- ❖ The **3rd** edition of **Namaste Thailand festival**, organised by the **Royal Thai Embassy** with an aim to strengthen bilateral ties and increase cultural exchange between **India and Thailand**, began at Select Citywalk in **New Delhi**.
 - ✓ **Thailand: Capital:** Bangkok, **Currency:** Thai baht, **Prime minister:** Prayut Chan-o-cha.
- ❖ The **first BRICS** (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) Sherpa meeting held in **Curitiba, Brazil** under the Presidency of Brazil, **Jair Bolsonaro**. Indian delegation was led by Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs **T S Tirumurti**.
- ❖ The **4th** session of **United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)** held in **Nairobi, Kenya**, where the India piloted resolutions on single-use plastics and sustainable nitrogen management. The **theme** of the 4th session of UNEA was Innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable production and consumption.
 - ✓ **UNEA: Headquarter:** Nairobi, Kenya, **Head:** Joyce Msuya.
- ❖ **7th India-US Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTII)** which focused on encouraging the **United States and Indian industry** to work together held in **Washington DC, United States**.
- ❖ **Cyclone Idai** hit the **Mozambique** city of **Beira** and caused heavy rain and landfall at the port city.
 - ✓ **Capital:** Maputo, **Currency:** Mozambican metical.
- ❖ **International Workshop on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (IWDRI)**, a two-day workshop organised by National Disaster Management Authority (**NDMA**) in collaboration with United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (**UNISDR**), and in partnership with the Global Commission on Adaptation, United Nations Development Programme (**UNDP**) and the **World Bank** was held at **New Delhi**.
 - ✓ During the workshop, The **Government of India and Government of Japan** organized the **3rd Indo-Japan Workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in New Delhi**.
 - The **1st** Indo-Japan Workshop on DRR held on March 18-19, 2018 in **New Delhi** as well as during the **2nd** Indo-Japan workshop on DRR held on October 13-15, 2018 in **Tokyo, Japan**.
- ❖ Prime Minister of Guinea **Ibrahima Kassory Fofana** has arrived in **New Delhi** on a ten-day official visit to India.
 - ✓ **Guinea: Capital:** Conakry, **Currency:** Guinean franc.
- ❖ **India and Maldives** have agreed on a **broad spectrum** of issues for further collaboration, including development cooperation and enhancing people to people contact. The agreement came at a high level meeting between External Affairs Minister **Sushma Swaraj** with her Maldivian counterpart **Abdulla Shahid** in **Male**.
 - ✓ **Maldives: Capital:** Male, **Currency:** Maldivian rufiyaa, **President:** Ibrahim Mohamed Solih.
- ❖ The **Government of Indonesia** has hosted the **first** ever High-Level Dialogue on **Indo-Pacific Cooperation (HLD-IPC)** in its capital city **Jakarta**. The theme of the HLD was "**Towards a Peaceful, Prosperous, and Inclusive Region**".
 - ✓ **Indonesia: Capital:** Jakarta, **Currency:** Indonesian rupiah.
- ❖ The **7th World Happiness Report** was released by the **Sustainable Development Solutions Network** for the **United Nations** on **March 20**, the date that the United Nations has declared to be the **International Day of Happiness**.
 - ✓ The report ranks countries on **six key** variables that support well-being: income, freedom, trust, healthy life expectancy, social support and generosity.
 - ✓ **Finland topped** the index of the happiest nations, **Denmark** ranked **second** followed by Norway, Islands and The Netherlands.
 - ✓ where **India** is ranked **140th** out of **156**, India dropping seven places from 133 last year.
- ❖ The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has announced that it will invest **\$50 million** in Indian renewable energy independent power producer **Avaada Energy Private Limited**. Avaada aims to use the capital to expand its **solar energy generation** capacity in India.
 - ✓ **ADB: Headquarter:** Manila, Philippines, **Founded:** 19 December 1966, **President:** Takehiko Nakao.
- ❖ The annual **Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)** survey listed **Singapore, Paris and Hong Kong** as the world's most expensive cities.
 - ✓ As per EIU, **Bengaluru, Chennai and New Delhi** ranked **5th, 7th and 8th** position respectively among the top ten cheapest cities.
 - ✓ **EIU: Headquarter:** London, England, **Founded:** 1946, **MD:** Robin Bew.
- ❖ **India and Peru** have concluded a **4th** round of negotiations for a proposed **free trade agreement (FTA)** in **Lima, Peru**.
 - ✓ **Peru: Capital:** Lima, **Currency:** Sol.
- ❖ **Kazakhstan** has renamed its capital as **Nursultan** from its previous name **Astana** in order to recognize its outgoing leader **Nursultan Nazarbayev (78)**, who has served nearly 30 years as president of Kazakhstan.

- ✓ The name was changed after **Kassym-Jomart Tokayev** sworn in as president of Kazakhstan.
- ✓ **Kazakhstan: Capital:** Astana, **Currency:** Kazakhstani tenge.
- ❖ **Export-Import Bank of India** (Exim Bank) signed a loan agreement on behalf of the government of **USD 83.11 million** to **Congo** for financing **three solar power projects** in the central African country.
 - ✓ **EXIM: Founded:** 1982, **Headquarter:** Mumbai, **MD:** David Rasquinha.
 - ✓ **Congo: Capital:** Kinshasa, **Currencies:** Congolese franc, Zairean Zaire.
- ❖ **Maldives finance ministry** has signed an agreement with India's **Export-Import bank** (EXIM) for **line of credit** (LOC) of **800 million** US dollars to finance the new government's **infrastructure projects**.
- ❖ The **International Monetary Fund** (IMF) has said **India** has been one of the **fastest growing** large economies in the world.
 - ✓ **IMF: Headquarter:** Washington, D.C., **Founded:** 27 December 1945, **CEO:** Christine Lagarde.
- ❖ **New Zealand** has imposed an immediate ban on **assault weapons** following last week's Christchurch massacre that claimed the lives of 50 mosque-goers.
 - ✓ **New Zealand: Capital:** Wellington, **Currency:** New Zealand dollar.
- ❖ The **2019 women in politics map**, created by the **Inter-Parliamentary Union** (IPU) and **UN Women**, depicts global rankings for women in the **executive and parliamentary** branches of government. The map shows progress towards **gender equality** in these areas at regional and national levels.
 - ✓ The share of women in **national parliaments** increased by nearly one percentage point last year, from **23.4 per cent** in 2017 to **24.3 per cent** in 2018.
- ❖ **Japan** has donated **\$69 million** to the **United Nations World Food Programme** to provide vital aid to **28 countries** in the **Middle East, Africa, and Asia**, with the biggest shares of the money being earmarked for **Yemen and Iraq**.
- ❖ **India** has extended a financial grant of **35.5 million Nepalese rupees** for the construction of an **educational campus** in **Nepal** under the **Development Partnership Programme**.
- ❖ **Navroz** is the **Iranian New Year** celebrated by several **ethnolinguistic communities** around the world irrespective of their religious background. In India **Parsis** who follow **Zoroastrianism** celebrate Navroz. Navroz was celebrated on **March 21st**.
- ❖ President **Ram Nath Kovind** has reached the **Croatian capital Zagreb** on the first leg of his three-nation tour to **Croatia, Bolivia and Chile**.
 - ✓ **Croatia: Capital:** Zagreb, **Currency:** Kuna.
 - ✓ **Bolivia: Capital:** Sucre, **Currency:** Bolivian boliviano.
 - ✓ **Chile: Capital:** Santiago, **Currency:** Chilean peso.
- ❖ **US weather agencies** have forecasted that there is a **60%** chance of **El Nino** this summer season.
 - ✓ The forecast if turn out to be true could negatively affect **India's Monsoon season**.
- ❖ **India** has moved up two places to rank **76th** on a **global energy transition index**. This annual list, compiled by **Geneva-based World Economic Forum** (WEF), 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** followed by **Switzerland** and **Norway** in the top three. Among major economies, the **UK** is ranked **7th**, **Singapore** **13th**, **Germany** **17th**, **Japan** **18th** and the **US** **27th**. Within **Asia**, Malaysia is ranked highest at **31st**, Sri Lanka is **60th**, Bangladesh **90th** and Nepal **93rd**.
 - ✓ India is also the **2nd** best in the BRICS block of emerging economies, with Brazil being the best at **46th** place globally.
 - ✓ **WEF: Founded:** January 1971, **Headquarter:** Cologny, Switzerland, **Founder:** Klaus Schwab.
- ❖ **Italy** signed a "**non-binding**" protocol with **China** to take part in the nation's **Belt and Road Initiative** (BRI), which aims to link China with Europe.
 - ✓ Italy has become the **first G-7 country** to sign up for the massive project, which is seen as a **new Silk Road** that will have trade links stretching from **Asia to Europe**.
 - ✓ **Italy: Capital:** Rome, **Currency:** Euro
- ❖ **Oslo**, the capital city of **Norway** will become the **world's first city** to install **wireless**, induction-based **charging stations** for its fleet of **electric taxis** with an aim to have a **zero-emission cab system** by the year **2023** according to a report by **Reuters**.
- ❖ **Pakistan government** has approved a proposal to establish a corridor which would allow **Hindu pilgrims** from India to visit **Sharda Peeth** in the region of **Pakistan occupied Kashmir** (PoK). Sharda Peeth Corridor will be the **2nd** corridor to be established after the **Kartarpur Corridor** which provides access to **Gurudwara Darbar Sahib** at **Kartarpur in Pakistan**.
- ❖ The **Government of UAE** has launched the **Lose to Win Programme** to assist the overweight employees in shedding extra kilos and adopt a **healthy lifestyle**.
 - ✓ The programme team comprises nutritionists and health educators from the Ministry.
- ❖ The **world's largest e-waste recycling plant** has opened in **Dubai Industrial Park**, Dubai by Dubai e-waste specialist Enviroserve.

- ✓ E-waste recycling plant, will process WEEE (**Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment**), IT asset disposition (**ITAD**), refrigerant gas and specialised waste.
- ❖ The **Union Cabinet**, chaired by the Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi**, has given its ex-post facto approval on the Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) between **India** and **Republic of Korea** on **Startup Cooperation**.
- ❖ **India** and **United States** signed an **Inter-Governmental Agreement** for exchange of Country-by-Country (**CbC**) reports to check the **tax evasions** of **Multinational Companies** in income allocation and **taxes paid**.
- ❖ **India** and the **African Union** signed Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) to establish an **India-Africa health sciences collaborative platform** which is aimed to **strengthen the cooperation** in the **health sector**.
- ❖ The **Israeli cave** explorers discovered the **world's longest salt cave** named **Malham** near the **Dead sea**, beating the record-holder in **Iran**.
- ❖ China's **Shanghai** claimed to have the world's **first** district with **5G coverage** and a broadband gigabit network.
✓ **China: Capital:** Beijing, **Currency:** Renminbi.
- ❖ A recent report by **Oxfam** has found that the **gender wage gap** in **India** is highest among **Asian nations**, women are paid **34 percent less** compared to **men** for performing the same job and with **same qualifications** also the Women's labour force participation in **India** is the lowest in the world.
- ❖ Officials from **India** and **United States** held the **16th** meeting of the **U.S.-India Counter terrorism Joint Working Group** and the **2nd** session of the **U.S.-India Designations Dialogue** in **Washington, DC, US**.
- ❖ The **16th** meeting of the **Canada-India Joint Working Group** on Counter-Terrorism and its Expert Sub-group was held in **Ottawa, Canada**, to provide detailed briefings on their respective nation's counter-terrorism priorities, strategies and legislative frameworks.
✓ **Canada: Capital:** Ottawa, **Currency:** Canadian Dollar.

STATES HIGHLIGHTS

- ❖ The **Centre** has released over **1600 crore rupees** to **Andhra Pradesh, Manipur, Jharkhand and Rajasthan** from the **National Disaster Response Fund**.
- ❖ **SKOCH award**, the highest independent honour in the country, was given to **Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA)** for the **first time** for its remarkable achievements in the field of **disaster management**.
✓ The award was presented at the mega event of **56th SKOCH Summit** in **New Delhi**.
✓ **Odisha: Capital:** Bhubaneswar, **Chief Minister:** Naveen Pathak, **Governor:** Ganeshi Lal.
- ❖ **Mukhyamantri Parivar Samman Nidhi scheme** was launched by Haryana Chief Minister **Manohar Lal Khattar** in **Chandigarh**. It is primarily meant for farmers of the state who cultivate on land with areas upto five acres and the families with an income of less than **Rs. 15,000 per month**.
✓ **Haryana: Capital:** Chandigarh, **Chief Minister:** Manohar Lal Khattar, **Governor:** Satyadev Narayan Arya.
- ❖ **Rice Knowledge Bank-Assam**, which is an agriculture web portal is dedicated to magnify knowledge on **rice production technologies and techniques**, best production practices and state agriculture facts, was launched under World Bank funded project – **Agri-business and Rural Transformation (APART)**.
✓ This portal is the repercussion of efforts of **Assam Rural Infrastructure and Agricultural Services Society (ARIAS)**, **Assam Agricultural University (AAU)** with technical assistance from **International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)**.
- ❖ The Prime Minister. **Shri Narendra Modi**, laid the foundation stone of **Shikshan Bhavan and Vidhyarthi Bhavan** at **Annapurna Dham Trust in Adalaj, Gujarat**.
- ❖ Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi** has dedicated to the nation and lay the foundation stones for **five National Highways projects** worth **Rs 5010 crore** in **Tamil Nadu**.
✓ **Tamil Nadu: Chief Minister:** Shri Edappadi Palaniswami, **Governor:** Shri Banwarilal Purohit.
- ❖ **Erode Turmeric** has finally received **GI tag** from the Geographical Indication Registry after a long and cumbersome process which lasted for about 8 years. Erode is the city in the state of **Tamil Nadu**.
- ❖ **Areca nut** (also known as supari or betel nut) is the latest entrant in the list of agricultural produce with a **geographical indication (GI) tag**.
✓ '**Sirsi Supari**' grown in Uttara Kannada district of **Karnataka** has received the **Geographic Indication (GI) tag**.
- ❖ Assam's **Hailakandi district** has become the top from the **52nd position**, among the **112 aspirational districts** of the country, a new report released by the **Niti Aayog**.
✓ **Sonbhadra** (Uttar Pradesh), **Sahibganj** (Jharkhand) and **Chatra** (Jharkhand) emerged as the top three ranking districts on the education parameter.
✓ Three districts of Jharkhand- **Chatra, Sahibganj, and Hazaribagh** emerged as the top in '**health and nutrition**' parameters.
✓ **Assam: Capital:** Dispur, **Chief Minister:** Sarbananda Sonowal, **Governor:** Jagdish Mukhi.
- ❖ Odisha Chief Minister **Naveen Patnaik** launched the scheme '**Mukhya Mantri Karigar Sahayata**' for financial assistance to craftsmen. The nodal department of the scheme is the Directorate of handicrafts.

- ✓ **Odisha: Capital:** Bhubaneswar, **CM:** Naveen Patnaik, **Governor:** Ganeshi Lal.
- ❖ The **Government of Uttarakhand** has launched the **Mukhyamantri Anchal Amrit Yojana** to provide **milk** at the **Anganwadi** Centres.
 - ✓ The government would provide 100 ml milk twice a week for 2.5 lakh children at 20,000 Anganwadi Centres in the state.
- ❖ The Chief Minister of West Bengal **Mamata Banerjee** has unveiled a new scheme **Yuvashree Plan II** or **Yuvashree Arpan** to encourage **entrepreneurship among youth**.
 - ✓ Under the Yuvashree Arpan Scheme around **fifty thousand Youths** who have passed out of ITI or other polytechnic institutes will be eligible to get financial support of **Rs. One Lakh** from the state MSME department to set up their own business initiatives.
- ❖ The **Cabinet** approved the Investment in construction of **Kiru Hydroelectric Project (624MW)** by **Chenab Valley Power Projects Private Limited (CVPPL)** in **Jammu and Kashmir** with an estimated cost of **Rs.4287.59 cr.**
- ❖ Uttarakhand Chief Minister **Trivendra Singh Rawat** has laid the foundation stone for the **Dehradun-Mussoorie ropeway project** which is considered to be a tourist novelty. The **Rs 300-crore** ropeway project is expected to be completed in three years.
- ❖ **Maharashtra government** launched a special scheme '**Atal Aahar Yojna**' for construction workers in the state which will provide good quality food at a highly subsidised rate.
 - ✓ Maharashtra government also launched **Shramev Jayate Yojana** under which a pension of **Rs.3000** is given to construction workers above the age of 60 years.
 - ✓ **Maharashtra: Capital:** Mumbai, **CM:** Devendra Fadnavis, **Governor:** C Vidhyasagar Rao.
- ❖ **Marayoor jaggery** from Idukki, Kerala gets **Geographical Indication (GI)** tag from the central government. This jaggery is made from sugarcane and no chemicals are added during the manufacturing process which makes it a world class delicacy.
 - ✓ **Kerala: Capital:** Thiruvananthapuram, **CM:** Pinarayi Vijayan, **Governor:** P Sathasivam.
- ❖ The **Export-Import Bank of Korea (KEXIM)** proposed to provide a soft loan worth **Rs.4,100 crore** for the Visakhapatnam (Vizag) metro rail project.
 - ✓ **Andhra Pradesh: Chief Minister:** N. Chandrababu Naidu, **Governor:** E. S. L. Narasimhan.
- ❖ The **Madhya Pradesh government** issued an ordinance **increasing reservation** quota for the Other Backward Classes (OBC) to **27%** from the current **14%**.
- ❖ **Vastradan Campaign** initiated by the erstwhile royal family of Udaipur has set the **Guinness World Record** for the largest collection of **clothes for donation**.
- ❖ Retired IAS officer **C Lalsawta** becomes the **first** Lokayukta of **Mizoram**.
- ❖ **Andhra Pradesh** IT minister **Nara Lokesh**, BJP MP **Poonam Mahajan** and Xiaomi India head **Manu Kumar Jain** are among the 6 Indians featuring in the list of **Young Global Leaders**, according to the **World Economic Forum (WEF)**.
- ❖ **Dr. Pramod Sawant** (45), former Speaker of Goa legislative Assembly and MLA from Sankhelim in North Goa was sworn-in as **11th Chief Minister of Goa**.
 - ✓ **Goa: Capital:** Panaji, **Governor:** Mridula Sinha.
- ❖ World's longest **sand stone cave Krem Puri** in Mawsynram region of Meghalaya's East Khasi Hills district has been discovered. Cavers of **Meghalaya Adventurers' Association (MAA)** have done it possible. It has been found that **Krem Um Ladaw** - is a cave with the **deepest shaft** in the country. The discovery was made during the **28th** edition of the annual '**Caving in the Abode of the Clouds Expedition**'.
 - ✓ **Meghalaya: Capital:** Shillong, **Chief minister:** Conrad Sangma, **Governor:** Tathagata Roy.
- ❖ The '**I-HELP**' initiative to promote **digital electoral literacy** in **Assam** has been launched in view of the forth coming Lok Sabha poll.
- ❖ **Iron For Adolescents (FeFA) Girls'** Initiative launched in **Telangana** to tackle a low iron level and malnutrition among adolescent girls of the state.
 - ✓ The initiative has been launched by the **National Institute of Nutrition (NIN)** and the **International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (Icrisat)**.
- ❖ **Bihar** is celebrating its **107th foundation day**. It was on this day in 1912, Bihar was carved out of Bengal presidency.
 - ✓ **Bihar: Chief minister:** Nitish Kumar, **Governor:** Lalji Tandon.
- ❖ The **Supreme Court** stayed the conviction and punishment of The **Shillong Times** editor and publisher by the **Meghalaya High Court** in a contempt case.
- ❖ The **Health Department** has issued an alert in **Malappuram District of Kerala** after a six-year-old boy from the district undergoing treatment for **West Nile fever** died after battling with the fever.
 - ✓ This is the 3rd time that West Nile virus is detected in Kerala. The virus was first reported in the state in Alappuzha in 2006 and then in Ernakulam in 2011.

- **West Nile Virus** is a disease which spreads from **birds to humans** with the bite of an infected **Culex mosquito**. The symptoms include cold, fever, body ache, fatigue and nausea, with complications leading to meningitis and death.
- ❖ Silver Medalist in Paralympic high jump, **Girish Gowda** has been appointed as the ambassador of **Karnataka Lok Sabha Elections 2019**.
 - ✓ **Karnataka: Capital:** Bengaluru, **Chief minister:** H. D. Kumaraswamy, **Governor:** Vajubhai Vala.
- ❖ The **Election Commission of India** has appointed **Sh K K Sharma** (IPS 1982 Retd DG Border Security Force) as **Special Central Police Observer** for the States of **West Bengal** and **Jharkhand**.
 - ✓ ECI has also appointed Sh Mrinal Kanti Das (IPS 1977 Retd DGP Manipur) as Special Central Police Observer for States of **Tripura** and **Mizoram**.
- ❖ **The Union Ministry** of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has notified **Island Protection Zone (IPZ) 2019** for **Andaman and Nicobar**. The government's planning to open up the **blue economy** and **sustainable harnessing of ocean resources**.
 - ✓ **IPZ 2019:** It allows eco-tourism projects 20 meters from the **high tide line (HTL)** in smaller islands like Baratang, Havelock, and Car Nicobar.
- ❖ A **multi-disciplinary terror monitoring group (MDTMG)** has been set up by **the Government** to ensure synergized and collective action against **terror financing** and **terror-related activities** in **Jammu and Kashmir**.
- ❖ **Rajasthan Day** is celebrated on **30th March** every year on which the state Rajasthan came into existence as it was previously known as Rajputana.
 - ✓ **Rajasthan: Capital :** Jaipur, **Chief Minister:** Ashok Gehlot, **Governor :** Shri Kalyan Singh.
- ❖ A Mobile App named '**Sankalp**' has been developed by the **Assam's Bongaigaon** district administration team with the help of **NIC (National Informatics Centre)** to encourage the first time voters.
 - ✓ First time voters will able to sign digital 'sankalp patra' to cast their votes on day of polling.

ECONOMY AWARENESS

- ❖ **IDBI Bank** and **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** signed a **bancassurance** agreement under which the lender will offer LIC's insurance products at its branches.
- ❖ The **Reserve Bank of India** on 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.
 - ✓ **IDBI Bank: Headquarter:** Mumbai, **MD & CEO:** Rakesh Sharma.
 - ✓ **Tagline:** Banking For all. **Aao Sochein bada.** **Bank Aisa Dost Jaisa.**
 - ✓ **LIC: Headquarter:** Mumbai, **Chairman:** Hemant Bhargava.
- ❖ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** said it would infuse **Rs 25,000 crore** into the banking system through **Open Market Operations** during the first fortnight of **March 2019**.
- ❖ The US-based rating agency **Moody's** said **Indian economy** is expected to grow at **7.3 per cent** in calendar years **2019 and 2020**.
- ❖ **The Cabinet** approved payment of the **face value** of the subscribed share capital of **Rs.1450 crore** in **National Housing Bank (NHB)** to **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** consequent to amendments made to the **NHB Act, 1987** in 2018.
- ❖ **The Reserve Bank of India** has constituted a task force which will be headed by its former deputy governor, **Usha Thorat** to examine issues related to **offshore rupee markets** and **recommend policy measures**.
- ❖ 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)**.
 - ✓ **Indian Bank: Headquarter:** Chennai, **MD & CEO:** Ms. Padmaja Chunduru, **Tagline:** Your Own Bank.
- ❖ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed a penalty of **Rs4 crore** on **Karnataka Bank**, **Rs 3 crore** on **City Union Bank**, **Rs 2 crore** on **DCB Bank** and **Rs 1 crore** on **Karur Vysya Bank Ltd.** for delayed implementation of **SWIFT-related operational controls**. Besides these four banks, the RBI has also fined **Indian Bank** (**Rs 4 crore**), **IOB** (**Rs 3 crore**) and **United Bank of India** (**Rs 3 crore**) for the same violations. **SWIFT** is the global messaging software used for transactions by financial entities.
- ❖ The **Ministry of Finance** is planning to set up a **special cell** (Asset Monetisation cell) in the **Department of Investment and Public Asset Management** to expedite the monetisation of non-core assets of state-owned companies.
 - ✓ The 'Asset Monetisation cell' will also deal with cases related to the sale of immovable **enemy property**, which refers to the assets left behind by people who migrated to Pakistan or China and are no longer citizens of India.
- ❖ **PSBloansin59minutes.com** which was launched by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** in 2018 has emerged as the country's largest online lending platform, with loan sanctions exceeding over **Rs 35,000 crore**.
 - ✓ The portal provides credit up to **Rs 1 crore** to micro, small and medium enterprises (**MSMEs**) in just **59 minutes** or less than an hour.



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: Age Limit :

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: Exam Schedule :

Prelims Exam

8th, 9th, 15th, 16th June - 2019

Mains Exam

20th July - 2019

Group Exercises & Interview

Sept. - 2019

: Exam Pattern :

Part - 1 Preliminary Exam			Time : 1 hr
Subject	Ques.	Marks	Time
Quantitative Aptitude	35	Total Maximum Marks 100	20 mins
Reasoning Ability	35		20 mins
English Language	30		20 mins
Total	100		1 hr

Part - 2 Main Exam (i) Objective Type			Time : 3 hours
Subject	Ques.	Max. Marks	Time
Reasoning & Computer	45	60	60 mins
Data Analysis & Interpretation	35	60	45 mins
English Language	35	40	40 mins
General / Economy/ Banking Awareness	40	40	35 mins
Total	155	200	3 hrs

(ii) Descriptive Test : 30 min. duration with two questions for 50 marks will be a Test of English Language (Latter Writing & Essay)

Part - 3 Group Exercises : Marks - 20 &
Interview : Marks - 30

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- ❖ **The Reserve Bank of India** has fined **Allahabad Bank** for non-compliance of directions with regard to **Nostro accounts**.
 - ✓ A nostro account is a bank account held in a foreign country by a domestic bank, denominated in the currency of that country.
- ❖ **National Housing Bank** has proposed to increase the **Capital Adequacy Ratio** of Housing Financing Companies (HFCs) to **15%** as a precautionary measure against liquidity risk.
 - ✓ The Capital Adequacy Ratio, also known as **capital-to-risk weighted assets ratio** (CRAR), is used to protect depositors and promote the stability and efficiency of financial systems around the world.
- ❖ **ICICI Bank** announced that it will buy **1.49 crore** shares to acquire **9.9% stake** in the **non-banking finance company** (NBFC) **Kisan Finance** for **Rs 17.82 crore**.
- ❖ **State Bank of India (SBI)** and **Hitachi Payment Services Pvt Ltd**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of **Hitachi Ltd**, launched their merchant-acquiring joint venture, **SBI Payment Services Pvt Ltd** (SBIPSPL), for establishing a digital payments platform for India and other countries in the region, in **Mumbai**.
 - ✓ SBI has a **74% stake** in the joint venture and the balance **26%** is with Hitachi Payment Services.
- ❖ **State Bank of India (SBI)** linked its **interest rate on savings account** with balance above **Rs 1 lakh** and **short-term loans** to Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) **repo rate, effective 1 May 2019**. This means that savings account interest rates and interest rate on a few loans will change as and when the regulator changes its repo rate.
- ❖ The **Reserve Bank** relaxed norms for **White Label Atm (WLA)** operators and allowed them to **buy wholesale cash** directly from the **central bank**.
 - ✓ The RBI also permitted WLA operators to source cash from any bank, including cooperatives and regional rural banks.
- ❖ **The government** has increased the **tax-free gratuity** income limit to **Rs 20 lakh**. This move will benefit the public as well as private sector employees.
- ❖ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has notified the norms for banks with regards to **2 per cent interest subvention** or subsidy for **short-term crop loans** during **2018-19 and 2019-20** under the **interest subvention scheme** approved by the central government.
- ❖ Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has unveiled the new series of visually impaired friendly coins of various denominations.
 - ✓ The coins are of denomination Rs. 1, Rs. 2, Rs. 5, Rs. 10 and Rs.20. Rs 20 coin, the **first-ever** coin offering in **Rs 20 denomination**.
- ❖ **The government** set up a **five** member committee headed by Legal Affairs Secretary **Alok Srivastava** to examine issues related to framing of a **structured scheme** for providing **insurance** cover to advocates.
- ❖ The **BCG-IBA** (Boston Consulting Group- Indian Banks Association) **report** Enhance Access & Service Excellence (EASE) Reforms for **Public Sector Banks** measures the performance of each PSB on 140 objective metrics across 6 themes.
 - ✓ **Punjab National Bank** has been ranked **first** among public sector banks in the implementation of '**reforms agenda**', followed by **Bank of Baroda** and **State Bank of India**.
- ❖ **The Government** approved the establishment of **two** new benches of **National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)**, at **Amaravati** in Andhra Pradesh and **Indore** in Madhya Pradesh in view of the increasing caseload, especially under the **Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code 2016**.
- ❖ **India's first** digital insurer, **AU Small Finance Bank Ltd.** announced its partnership with a new age insurtech company, **Acko General Insurance Limited** and is now able to provide **customized insurance products** to its customers.
- ❖ **Bank of India (BoI)** has raised **Rs 660.80 crore** by issuing shares to employees under **Employee Share Purchase Scheme (ESPS)**.
- ❖ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has decided to **inject rupee liquidity** into the system through long-term **foreign exchange buy/sell swap**—a first-of-its-kind instrument used for liquidity management.
 - ✓ The RBI would conduct dollar-rupee buy/sell swap auction of **\$5 billion** for a **3-year tenor**.
 - ✓ Recently, The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** infused **Rs.34,561 crore** into the banking system in exchange for dollars, in its **first dollar-rupee swap auction**. In a statement, the central bank said the auction received bids for **\$16.31 billion**, approximately three times the notified amount.
- ❖ **HDFC Bank** became the **3rd** Indian company after **Reliance Industries** (Rs. 8.52 trillion) and **TCS** (Rs. 7.49 trillion) to achieve a market value of **Rs. 6 trillion**, owing to a sudden upsurge in its share prices.
- ❖ A report by **Investment Information and Credit Rating Agency of India Limited (ICRA)** has stated that Small finance banks (**SFB**) are expected to witness a growth rate of **25-30%** over the medium-term if they arrange an additional external capital in the range of **Rs 4,000-6,000 crore** till **FY23**.
- ❖ **The State Bank of India** has initiated a new '**doorstep banking**' service for **senior citizens, differently-abled** and infirm account holders as well as visually impaired customers.

- ❖ The **State Bank of India** has launched a new service called '**YONO Cash**' for its customers using which customers can withdraw money from **ATMs without** using debit cards.
- ❖ The **Reserve Bank of India** named **State Bank of India**, **ICICI Bank** and **HDFC Bank** as **Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs)**. The banks which are '**too big to fail**' are named by the RBI.
 - ✓ **SBI: Headquarter:** Mumbai, **Chairman:** Rajnish Kumar.
 - ✓ **ICICI: Headquarter:** Mumbai, **MD and CEO:** Sandeep Bakshi.
 - ✓ **HDFC : Headquarter:** Mumbai, **MD:** Aditya Puri.
- ❖ The **Reserve Bank of India** provided a no objection to Kolkata headquartered **Bandhan Bank** for the proposed acquisition of **Gruh Finance**.
 - ✓ **Gruh Finance Limited** is a Ahmedabad headquartered Subsidiary of **HDFC Limited**.
- ❖ **ICICI Lombard General Insurance**, a leading non-life insurance company, has entered into a strategic partnership with **MobiKwik**, a digital financial services platform, to provide **cyber insurance cover** for the latter's mobile wallet users.
- ❖ The **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (**SEBI**) seeking effective implementation of the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016** and its allied rules and regulations, which have redefined the debt-equity relationship and aims to promote **entrepreneurship and debt market**.
- ❖ India's largest bank, **State Bank of India**, has signed a Memorandum of Agreement (**MoU**) with **Bank of China (BOC)**, the third largest Bank in the world by Capital size and one of the major players in the Chinese Banking Industry, to **enhance business synergies** between both the banks.
- ❖ Union Finance Minister **Arun Jaitley** chaired **34th** meeting of the **Goods and Services Tax Council** in **New Delhi**.
- ❖ **The Government** has exceeded the **disinvestment target** for the current fiscal by **5000 crore rupees**.
 - ✓ As against a target of **Rs.80,000 crore** for disinvestment for the current year, the divestment receipts have touched **Rs.85,000 crores**.
 - ✓ The disinvestment target for the **next fiscal year** has been fixed at **Rs.90,000 crore**.
- ❖ The **Reserve Bank of India** again deferred the implementation of the **Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS)** by **banks** as the requisite legislative amendments are still under consideration.
 - ✓ The RBI in February 2016 had proposed implementation of new accounting standards for banks for both standalone financial statements and consolidated financial statements with effect from April 1, 2018.
- ❖ **Fitch Ratings** cut **India's economic growth** forecast for the next financial year starting April 1, to **6.8 per cent** from its previous estimate of **7 per cent**, on weaker than expected momentum in the economy.
 - ✓ The rating agency has also cut growth forecasts for **FY20** and **FY21** to **7 per cent** from **7.3 per cent** and **7.1 per cent** from **7.3 per cent**.
- ❖ **The National Stock Exchange of India Limited (NSEIT)**, the IT-services focused subsidiary of the National Stock Exchange, that it has acquired **Aujas Networks Ltd.**, a company which provides **information security consulting** and **IT risk management services**.
 - ✓ NSEIT currently provides technology solutions across industries such as capital markets, financial markets, banking and insurance.
 - ✓ **NSEIT: CEO & MD:** N Muralidharan, **Aujas: CEO:** Sameer Shelke.
- ❖ The country's largest lender **State Bank of India (SBI)** said it has raised **Rs.1,251.30 crore** by issuing **Basel III-compliant bonds**.
- ❖ The **U.K. Sinha** led **Expert Committee** on Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (**MSME**) of the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** undertook a comprehensive review of the MSME sector to identify causes and to propose long term solutions for its development.
- ❖ **NITI Aayog** has organized a **FinTech-2019** Conclave at Dr. Ambedkar International Center, **New Delhi**. The Conclave was inaugurated by RBI Governor, **Shaktikanta Das**.
- ❖ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** Governor **Shaktikanta Das** has said that the central bank of the country has appointed 5-member committee under the chairmanship of **Nandan Nilekani** to further deepen **digital payments** and enhance **financial inclusion** through Financial Technology (**Fintech**).
 - ✓ **Fintech**, is computer programs and a new technology innovation that aims to compete with traditional financial methods in the delivery of financial services.
- ❖ The President of the Indian National Congress, **Rahul Gandhi** on March 25, 2019 announced a **Minimum Income Guarantee Scheme (NYAY)** for the poorest **20 per cent** of Indian families if voted to power.
 - ✓ The poorest families in India, will receive **Rs 72,000 Per Year**.
 - ✓ The scheme is expected to directly benefit around **5 crore families** and **25 crore people**.
- ❖ The **Reserve Bank of India** slapped **Rs.2 crore** as penalty for non-compliance of regulatory directions regarding **SWIFT** operations in **Punjab National Bank**.

- ❖ **Bank of Baroda** has signed memorandum of understanding (MoU) with **six firms** namely Skymet Weather Services, Weather Risk Management Services, BigHaat, Agrostar India, EM3 Agri Services and Poorti Agri Services to develop "**Baroda Kisan**". It will provide solutions for all major agricultural requirements through its holistic approach.
- ❖ **The Government** announced that the deadline for the linking of **Aadhaar with PAN** has been extended to **September 30, 2019**.
- ❖ **Election Commission** has approved a request of the **Rural Development Ministry** to **revise the wages** under the **MGNREGA scheme** from **April 1**.
 - ✓ The wages paid under the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)** are linked with the **Consumer Price Index for agricultural labourers (CPI-AL)**.
- ❖ **The Government** has decided to infuse **Rs 5,042 crore rupees** into state-owned **Bank of Baroda** ahead of 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**.
- ❖ The **Reserve Bank of India** set the average base rate to be charged by **Non- Banking Financial Companies (NBFC)** and **Micro Finance institutions (MFI)** at **9.21%** for the first quarter (April to June).
- ❖ The **interest rates** on **Small-Saving Schemes** including Public Provident Fund (PPF) and National Savings Certificate (NSC) have been kept **unchanged** by the Government for the April-June quarter of the **financial year 2019-20**.

CORPORATE AFFAIRS

- ❖ **Bengaluru** based semiconductor company "**SIGNALCHIP**" unveiled **India's first** Indigenous **Semiconductor Chips** for **4G/LTE** and **5G NR MODEMs** at an event in **New Delhi**, which was addressed by the Secretary, Telecom, **Mrs Aruna Sundararajan**.
- ❖ The **National Health Authority (NHA)**, which is the apex body responsible for implementation of **Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Uber** – a ride-hailing app to provide **free healthcare services to Uber drivers**.
- ❖ **IFFCO Tokio General Insurance** launched '**bank locker protector policy**', the first stand-alone bank locker cover offered by any insurance company with a plan to protect the contents of a bank locker such as jewelry, title documents, and other valuables.
- ❖ The **Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)** launched its own payment aggregator system, **IRCTC iPay**, a step which will help promote government's **Digital India** initiative.
- ❖ The **Union Minister of Commerce and Industry** has launched a tutorial video on "**Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)**" for school students and the **Geographical Indications (GI)** website.
 - ✓ The video is available on CIPAM's YouTube Channel and will form part of the existing resource pool on CIPAM's official website **www.cipam.gov.in** which is freely available for public.
- ❖ The **National Green Tribunal** has slapped a fine of **Rs 500 crore** on German auto major Volkswagen for damaging the environment through the use of "**cheat device**" in its diesel cars in India.
- ❖ The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)** has approved the acquisition of debt-laden **Lanco's 500 MW Teesta hydro-electric power project** in **Sikkim** by state-owned **National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC)**.
- ❖ A resolution plan of **Rs. 42,000 crores** submitted by **Arcelor Mittal** for acquisition of **Essar Steel Ltd.** was approved by the Ahmedabad bench of the **National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)**.
- ❖ **Azim Premji**, chairman of **Wipro Ltd** earmarked **34 percent** of his shares which is worth **Rs 52,750 crore** to an endowment under the Azim Premji Foundation.
- ❖ **WhatsApp** has joined hands with **National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM)** Foundation, to tackle the challenge of **Fake News**.
 - ✓ The initiative will be launched as a part of **NASSCOM's MyKartavya Program**. The partnership is aimed at training approximately **1 Lakh Indians**, The first training session will be reportedly hosted on **March 27 in Delhi**.
- ❖ The **Integral Coach Factory (ICF)** in **Chennai** has manufactured as many as **301 coaches** in the month of February, taking the total for this fiscal to **2,919**. This puts it among the **largest railcar builders** in the world, beating top Chinese manufacturers who produce around **2,600 coaches** a year.
 - ✓ Besides ICF Indian Railways has 2 coach manufacturing facilities namely **Rail Coach Factory**, Kapurthala and **Modern Coach Factory**, Raebareli.
- ❖ The **Telangana government** and **ANI Technologies**-owned **Ola Cabs**, an app-based public transportation company, signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to towards strengthening the **traffic infrastructure** in the city.
- ❖ State-owned **Power Finance Corporation (PFC)** has signed a share purchase agreement to acquire all **52.63 per cent shares** of the government in **Rural Electrification Corporation (REC)** for about **Rs 14,500 crore**.
- ❖ **Hyundai Motor Group** and **Kia Motors Corporation** announced a strategic partnership to invest **300 million dollars** (about Rs 2,000 crore) in ride-hailing platform **Ola** for providing **smart mobility solutions**.

- ❖ US-based e-commerce platform **eBay** has partnered with **Google** to offer **Google Pay** as a form of payment option in its new “**managed payments**” plan.
- ❖ **Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL)** has launched **smart garbage bins** made of stainless steel which integrates technology for smart waste management.
 - ✓ These Smart Garbage Bins made up of SAIL SALEM stainless steel will be installed in underground **Reinforced Cement Concrete (RCC)** pits at the **Smart Garbage Station**.
- ❖ The consortium of State-owned **Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)** and **Bharat Petro Resources Ltd (BPRL)**, **Urja Bharat Pte Ltd** has acquired an oil block in Abu Dhabi, where the two will invest **USD 170 million**.
- ❖ The Tech Giant **Apple** has partnered with **Goldman Sachs** and **Mastercard**, announced a new credit card called **Apple Card**.
 - ✓ **Apple Card** can be used along the wallet app of the iPhone. It was a virtual credit card which will replace the traditional credit card with the smart and secure one.
- ❖ **Facebook** launched two new tools called “**Candidate Connect**” and “**Share You Voted**”, specifically for Indian users to encourage **civic engagement** on its platform during the **general elections 2019**.
- ❖ **Adani Port and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ)** claimed that it has become the **first Indian port** operator to handle cargo movement of **200 million tonnes (MT)** in **2018-19**.
- ❖ Commerce Secretary, **Dr. Anup Wadhawan**, launched **blockchain** based **coffee e-marketplace** through video conferencing in **New Delhi**.
- ❖ **Tesla** has developed its ‘**largest power storage system in Asia**’ at Osaka train station in Japan to reduce energy demand and provide emergency backup power to trains in Japan.
- ❖ **GAIL India Ltd** joined hand with **Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL)** to cooperate in the development of **solar power projects**.

DEFENCE & SECURITY

- ❖ The **8th** edition of joint military exercise “**Sampriti**” between the armies of **India and Bangladesh** began with an impressive ceremony at Bongobondhu Cantonment in **Tangail, Bangladesh**.
- ❖ The Union Home Minister **Shri Rajnath Singh** inaugurated the project **BOLD-QIT (Border Electronically Dominated QRT Interception Technique)** under **CIBMS (Comprehensive Integrated Border Management system)** on **India-Bangladesh** border in Dhubri District of Assam.
- ❖ The **United States** and **South Korea** decided to call off their joint exercise “**Foal Eagle**” and “**Key Resolve**” and instead bifurcate them into smaller exercises. This is being done to ease tensions with **North Korea**.
- ❖ Exercise **Al Nagah III 2019** is the bilateral joint exercise between **India and Oman**.
 - ✓ The **3rd** in the series of the joint exercise was held from 12 to 25 March 2019 at Jabal Al Akhdar Mountains in **Oman**.
 - ✓ **Oman: Capital:** Muscat, **Currency:** Omani rial.
- ❖ Home Minister **Rajnath Singh** inaugurates ‘**Smart Fencing**’ Project in Assam; CIBMS project will vastly improve the capability of BSF in detecting and controlling the cross border crimes.
 - ✓ Two pilot projects covering about 71 Kms on Indo-Pakistan Border (10 Kms) and Indo-Bangladesh Border (61 Kms) of **Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS)** have been completed.
- ❖ **India and Russia** have signed an agreement for the leasing of a **nuclear-powered attack submarine** for the Indian Navy for a period of 10 years.
 - ✓ Russia will be delivering the **Akula II-class submarine**, to be known as **Chakra III**, to the Indian Navy by **2025**.
- ❖ **Defence Research and Defence Organisation (DRDO)** successfully test fired the Guided **PINAKA** from Pokhran ranges.
 - ✓ **DRDO: Headquarter:** New Delhi, **Chairman:** G. Satheesh Reddy
- ❖ **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** successfully test fired indigenously developed, low weight, fire and forget **Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM)** for the **2nd** time in the Pokhran ranges of Rajasthan desert.
- ❖ Chief of the Naval Staff, **Admiral Sunil Lanba**, presided over the day long review session of largest War Game of the Indian Navy – the **Theatre Level Operational Readiness Exercise (TROPEX 19)** in **Kochi, Kerala**.
- ❖ The **Africa-India Joint Field Training Exercise (AFINDEX-19)** between the **Indian Army** and **16 African nations** was commenced in **Pune, Maharashtra** for training the participating contingents in **Humanitarian Mine Assistance (HMA)** and **Peace Keeping Operations (PKO)** under the United Nations Charter.
- ❖ The **33rd** edition of the **India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (Ind-Indo Corpat)** was started on March 19, 2019 and will continue till 4th April 2019 at **Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Islands**.
 - ✓ **Indonesia: Capital:** Jakarta, **Currency:** Indonesian rupiah.
- ❖ Exercise ‘**6th Mitra Shakti**’ between **India and Sri Lanka** will be conducted from **March 26 to April 8** for the year 2018-19, in **Sri Lanka**.
 - ✓ **Sri Lanka: Capital:** Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte, **Currency:** Sri Lankan rupee.

- ❖ **India** has carried out **Operation Sunrise** to wipe out the insurgent camps planning to hit the Indian workers at the **Kaladan Transit project**.
 - ✓ Operation Sunrise was a joint operation carried out by both **Indian** and **Myanmar armies**.
- ❖ The **34th** Meeting of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisations (SCOs)** Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (**RATS**) Council held in **Tashkent, Uzbekistan**.
 - ✓ A joint exercise '**Sary – Arka – Antiterror 2019**' will be held as decided by the RATS in the session. India, Pakistan and other member nations will participate in the joint anti-terrorism exercise which will be held this year.
- ❖ The **first batch** of **four** Boeing heavy-lift **Chinook Helicopters**, CH-47F (I) was inducted in **Indian Air Force (IAF)** at Air Force Station, **Chandigarh**, in Squadron No 126 Helicopter Flight (**Feather weights**).
- ❖ Admiral **Sunil Lanba**, Chief of the Naval Staff commissioned a state of the art "**Nuclear, Biological, Chemical Training Facility - ABHEDYA**", at INS Shivaji, Lonavla, **Maharashtra**.
- ❖ The **3rd** Installment of the Joint Naval Exercise of **India** and **Australia**, **AUSINDEX** will be held off the coast of **Vishakhapatnam** from April 2 to 16. The joint exercise will focus on **anti-submarine warfare**, as part of efforts to ramp up bilateral naval cooperation in the **strategic Indian Ocean region**.
- ❖ The **Langkawi International Maritime Aero Expo (LIMA-2019)** has started in Langkawi, Malaysia from 26 March 2019 to 30 March 2019. Indian Air Force (**IAF**) is participating in the **Maritime Aero Expo** for the **first time**, during which it has showcased its indigenously developed **Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)-Tejas**.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- ❖ The Union Human Resource Minister **Prakash Javadekar** launched the **STARS scheme** on **National Science Day** (28th February). The scheme will be implemented at the cost of **Rs 250 crores**.
 - ✓ STARS is an acronym for **Scheme for Translational and Advanced Research in Science** to fund Science projects.
- ❖ **Param-Shivaay, a supercomputer**, was inaugurated at **Indian Institute of Technology- Banaras Hindu University (IIT-BHU)** under the **National Supercomputing Mission**.
 - ✓ Under this project, the **Center for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)** has developed the first supercomputer '**Param Shivay**' of 833 teraflop capacities. India's **first supercomputer** called **PARAM 8000** was launched in **1991**.
 - ✓ At present, **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology** has **Pratyush supercomputer**, which is the fastest supercomputer in India.
- ❖ Indian Space Research Organisation (**ISRO**) has launched a special programme for School Children called "**Young Scientist Programme**" "**YUva Vigyani KARYakram**" from 2019.
 - ✓ The Program is primarily aimed at imparting basic knowledge on Space Technology, Space Science and Space Applications to the younger ones with the intent of arousing their interest.
 - ✓ **ISRO: Headquarter:** Bengaluru, **Director:** Kailasavadivoo Sivan.
- ❖ **Pulkit Sapra**, from Delhi and **Suman Muralikrishnan**, from Chennai, former students and researchers at the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi** have created a laptop for visually-impaired called "**DotBook**".
- ❖ The web portal "**Indian Science, Technology and Engineering Facilities Map (I-STEM)**" has been developed by the **Centre for Nano Science and Engineering (CeNSE)** at the Indian Institute of Science, **Bengaluru**.
 - ✓ I-STEM portal will enable easy and timely access of **resources to researchers** working anywhere in the country.
- ❖ 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.
 - ✓ 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 map showing its location.
- ❖ The **34th** Inception day of **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)**, was celebrated in **New Delhi**.
 - ✓ **NCRB is mandated to empower the Indian Police with Information Technology (IT)** and is responsible for collecting, maintaining and analyzing the crime data of the country.
 - ✓ It is the **nodal agency for an authentic source of data on crime, accidents, suicides, and prisons for policy matters and research**.
- ❖ Just in time for International Women's Day, **NASA** announced that it will be conducting the first-ever, **all-female space walk**.
 - ✓ Astronauts **Christina Koch** and **Anne McClain** will exit the International Space Station after the **first woman** performed a spacewalk.
 - ✓ **NASA :Headquarter:** Washington, D.C., United States, **Administered by:** Jim Bridenstine.
- ❖ The **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur** will adopt **Amazon Web Services (AWS)** Educate programme to help students gain **cloud computing skills** including hands-on experience in **artificial intelligence (AI)**.

- ❖ **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)** of the Department of Space, Government of India, Bengaluru to set up an **ISRO-IITR Space Technology Cell (STC)** at IIT Roorkee, **Uttarakhand**.
 - ✓ An aim to strengthen institutional interactions and thereby enhance the scope of the activities pursued under STC commensurate with the programmatic goals of ISRO.
- ❖ **Microsoft** has announced that it has partnered with The **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)** to promote its Project '**Sangam**' which is developed to accelerate **Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)** in India. It is one of the world's largest Cleanliness Programme.
- ❖ **The Election Commission** has launched a mobile application '**Observer App**' through which the Electoral Observers can submit the relevant document and material to Election Commission directly.
- ❖ **India's first** missile tracking ship (VC 11184), called the **Ocean Surveillance Ship (OSS)**, has been successful sea trials. the tracking ship built by **Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL)**.
 - ✓ There are only four other countries - the **US, Russia, China, and France** - that have have similar vessels in their arsenal.
- ❖ The **Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD)**, Government of India, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Afghanistan Government** to collaborate on **Digital Education Initiatives**, which include many prominent programs developed by **Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT)** at **IIT Madras**.
 - ✓ **Afghanistan: Capital:** Kabul, **Currency:** Afghan afghani.
- ❖ **Indian Institute of Public Health Gandhinagar, Gujarat (IIPHG)** in collaboration with **National Mental Health Program**, Department of Health and Family Welfare, **Government of Gujarat** has developed a mobile application called as '**Conquer Exam, Be a Warrior**' for students to **reduce the exam pressure**.
 - ✓ **Gujarat: Capital:** Gandhinagar, **Chief Minister:** Vijay Rupani, **Governor:** Om Prakash Kohli.
- ❖ The Coast Guard ship '**Vijit**' the **first Indian** Coast Guard ship to visit **Sabang, Indonesia**. This visit of the coast guard ship follows from the first-ever-visit of Naval Ship **INS Sumitra** to Sabang in July 2018.
 - ✓ **India and Indonesia** and strengthening cooperation in the area of maritime security and safety between **New Delhi and Jakarta**.
- ❖ **Xiaomi** launched **Mi Pay**, a **UPI (Unified Payments Interface)** Based mobile payment service in India to send money from one bank account to another or between **UPI (Unified Payments Interface)** accounts.
- ❖ A new application named '**Shiksha Vani**' was launched by **Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)** to upload podcast on **Class 10, 12** exam evaluation process in a timely manner.
- ❖ **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** will launch **29 satellites** including the primary payload **EMISAT**, on the **1st April**. Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, **PSLV-C45** will take off from **Satish Dhawan Space Centre** in **Sriharikota**.
- ❖ **Australian researchers**, at the Australian Research Council (ARC) Centre of Excellence for **Nanoscale BioPhotonics**, have developed a new automated **non-invasive technique** for **diagnosing eye surface cancer**.
 - ✓ The novel technique involves custom-building of an advanced imaging microscope linked with computing and **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** operations.
- ❖ The **Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute of Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST)** has recently developed an **anti cancer anti-inflammatory drug** conjugated to the **human serum Albumin**.
- ❖ **India** has proved its capability of defending its outer space assets after **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has conducted a successful **Anti-Satellite (ASAT)** missile test "**Mission Shakti**" from the **Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island** (earlier, Wheeler island) in **Odisha**.
 - ✓ There are many countries which have A-SAT capability but it has been demonstrated by only 4 countries: **United States, Russia, China and India**.
- ❖ 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.

SPORTS

- ❖ West Indies cricketer **Chris Gayle** became the **first** player in the world to hit **500 sixes** the **14th** batsman and second from the Caribbean after **Brian Lara**, to reach the milestone of **10,000 ODI runs**.
- ❖ **Shashank Shekhar** won the 10 kilometer race of **Nepal's Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Open Marathon and Run for Fun** which was held in **Kathmandu, Nepal**.
- ❖ At the **Makran Cup boxing tournament** which was held in **Chabahar, Iran**, Indian boxers collected a rich haul of 8 medals, including one gold, five silver and two bronze to finish their campaign on a high.
 - ✓ Haryana's **Deepak Singh** won the only **gold** for India, beating **Jaafar Naseri** in the (46-49kg) light fly category.
- ❖ 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 issued.
 - ✓ **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.

- ❖ **Olympic Council of Asia** decided to invite **Oceania Nations** to compete in **2022 Asian Games** for the **first** time after a meeting held in **Bangkok**.
 - ✓ **Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah** of Kuwait, is re-elected as president of the powerful **Olympic Council of Asia**.
 - ✓ The **Olympic Council of Asia (OCA)** has decided to reintroduce Cricket in the **2022 Asian Games** to be held at **Hangzhou, China**.
- ❖ The **57th International Wrestling Tournament 'Dan Kolov – Nikola Petrov'** conducted from 28th feb-3rd Mar 2019 in **Ruse, Bulgaria**.
 - ✓ **Bajrang Punia** won **gold medal** in 65 kg. He dedicates the gold to wing commander **Abhinandan Varthaman**.
 - ✓ **Pooja Dhanda** won **gold** in 59 kg women's freestyle category.
 - ✓ **Sakshi Malik** settled for a silver medal in the 65 kg category.
 - ✓ **Sandeep Tomar** claimed silver medal in the Men's 61kg category. **Vinesh Phogat** claimed silver medal in the Women's 53kg.
- ❖ **Roger Federer** has claimed the **100th ATP title** of his career with after beating 20-year-old Greek **Stefanos Tsitsipas** in the final of the **Dubai Tennis Championships**.
- ❖ **Manpreet Singh** named captain of Indian hockey team for **Sultan Azlan Shah Cup**.
- ❖ **England** defeated **India** in the 3rd and final **Women's Twenty20** International in Barsapara Cricket Stadium in **Guwahati, Assam**.
- ❖ **Kavinder Singh Bisht** in the 56kg-category struck **gold medal** at the **38th GeeBee Boxing Tournament** in **Helsinki**.
- ❖ The **2019 All England Open Badminton Championships** was held in Arena Birmingham, **England** from 6th March 2019 to 10th March 2019.

CATEGORY	WINNER	RUNNER
Men's Single	Kento Momota (Japan)	Viktor Axelsen(Denmark)
Women's Single	Chen Yufei (China)	Tai Tzu-ying(Taiwan)
Men's Doubles	Mohammad Ahsan and Hendra Setiawan (Indonesia)	Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik(Malaysia)
Women's Double	Chen Qingchen and Jia Yifan (China)	Mayu Matsumoto and Wakana Nagahara (Japan)
Mixed Double	Zheng Siwei and Huang Yaqiong (China)	Yuta Watanabe and Arisa Higashino (Japan)

- ❖ The **Supreme Court** appointed senior advocate **PS Narasimha** as mediator for resolving various disputes related to cricket administration within the cricket body, **the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)**.
- ❖ **Indian** athlete from Kerala, **K.T. Irfan** has qualified for the **Tokyo Olympics** as he finished **4th** in the men's 20 kilometer category at the **Asian Race Walking Championships** in **Nomi, Japan**.
- ❖ **The Board Of Control For Cricket In India (BCCI)** announced the sports gaming platform **Dream 11** as the official partner for **VIVO Indian Premier League (IPL)** to boost the digital gaming.
- ❖ South African all-rounder **Jean Paul Duminy** (34) has announced his **retirement** from ODIs, after the **2019 World Cup** which shall start on May 30 in **England**.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **India** finishes **2nd** in **Asian Youth Athletes Championship** held in **Hong Kong** with a gold added to the medal tally on the final day of the championship.
 - ✓ India secured **2nd position** in the overall medals tally with **26 medals** including 8 gold, 9 silver and 9 bronze medals.
 - ✓ **China topped** the championship with 31 medals including 12 gold, 11 silver and 8 bronze. **Japan** ranked **third** in the Championship with 20 medals. Japan got 6 gold, 8 silver and 6 bronze medals.
- ❖ The **15th Special Olympics World Summer Games 2019** for athletes with **Intellectual disabilities** held in Abu Dhabi, **United Arab Emirates**.
 - ✓ **India wins 368 medals** at the Special Olympics World Summer Games including 85 gold, 154 silver and 129 bronze. **Jitendra Pawal** won a gold medal in the 200m race.
- ❖ Organisers of the **Tokyo 2020 Olympics** unveiled a **cherry-blossom** shaped torch for the Games as the city prepares for the famed flower season to begin in coming days.
- ❖ India's Asian champion **Gopi Thonakal** has **qualified** for the **World Athletics Championships** to be held in the Qatari capital Doha in September-October 2019.
- ❖ Indian woman golfer **Diksha Dagar** became only the **2nd 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.
- ❖ **India** clinched **South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Women's Championship 2019** by defeating **Nepal** in Biratnagar, Nepal. It was for the **5th time** in a row India.

- ❖ **Suresh Raina**, a batsman of Chennai Super Kings became the **first** batsman to make a record by surpassing **5,000 runs** in the **Indian Premier League** in Chennai.
- ❖ **Telangana Sports Journalist Association (TSJA)** named **London Olympics Bronze** medalist **Saina Nehwal** as sports person of the year, **Pullella Gopichand** as Coach of the Year and **PV Sindhu** as Outstanding Performer in women's section. Badminton Association of Telangana received Association of the Year award at the **Annual Telangana Sports Journalist Association Awards 2018** held at **Hyderabad**.
- ❖ The mega celebration of Cricket, **Indian Premier League (IPL)** witnessed its **first** ever **Mankading** in its history in the match of **Kings XI Punjab** and **Rajasthan Royals**. Rajasthan Royals opener **Jos Buttler** became the **first** victim of 'Mankading' in the history of the Indian Premier League (IPL).
 - ✓ Kings XI Punjab skipper **Ravichandran Ashwin** dismissed the Rajasthan Royals opener Jos Buttler through mankading.
- ❖ **Indian** paddler **Archana Kamath** clinched a **silver** in the **under-21 women's singles** section of the Seamaster International Table Tennis Federation (**ITTF**) Challenge Plus **2019 Oman Open table tennis tournament** at **Muscat**.
- ❖ **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**.
- ❖ **Indian** duo of **Smriti Mandhana** and **Jhulan Goswami** continue to top the batting and bowling charts in the latest **ICC Women's ODI Player Rankings**.
- ❖ **International Olympics Committee (IOC)** gave provisional **green light** for the inclusion of Breakdancing in the **Paris Olympics 2024**. **Surfing, Skateboarding** and **sport climbing** also got approval for provisional inclusion in Summer Olympics 2024 from IOC.
- ❖ **India** has lost to **South Korea** in the final of **Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey tournament** at Ipoh in **Malaysia**.

AWARDS & HONOURS

- ❖ Vice President **M Venkaiah Naidu** presented Kalam Innovation in **Governance Award 2019** at the **3rd** edition of **Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Summit on Innovation and Governance**, in **New Delhi**.
- ❖ The **Union Minister** for Water Resources, River development and rejuvenation **Nithin Gadkari** presented **82 National Water Awards** in **14 categories** for the year 2018 at a ceremony held in **New Delhi**.
 - ✓ The **Department Of Geology** at Kakatiya University, Warangal Telangana received the **best campus in India** in terms of **water usage**. **Panjab University** secured **2nd** position in the category.
 - ✓ **Madurai district** (Tamil Nadu) received **first prize** for **rejuvenations and creating** new water bodies in the **National Water Awards 2018**.
 - ✓ In best state category **Maharashtra, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh** bagged **1st, 2nd and 3rd** prizes resource management in India.
- ❖ **ASSOCHAM** (The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India), which is one of the apex trade associations of India has conferred '**Non-Life Insurer of the Year Award 2019**' to **Bharti AXA General Insurance** which is a joint venture between **Bharti Enterprises** and **French insurance giant AXA**.
- ❖ **Prayagraj Kumbh Mela 2019** has been placed in the **Guinness World Records** in three sectors.
 - ✓ The three sectors are:
 - Largest traffic and crowd management plan,
 - The biggest painting exercise of public sites under "Paint my City" scheme, and
 - The biggest sanitation and waste disposal mechanism.
- ❖ 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**.
- ❖ **Indore** has bagged the **cleanest city award** for **3rd** straight year, The **2nd** and **3rd** positions followed by **Ambikapur** in **Chhattisgarh** and **Mysore** in **Karnataka** under **Swachh Survekshan, 2019**. 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.
 - ✓ The '**Cleanest Big City**' award has been bagged by **Ahmedabad**, while **Raipur** is the '**Fastest Moving Big City**'.
 - ✓ **Ujjain** has been the adjudged the '**Cleanest Medium City**' and **Mathura-Vrindavan** bagged the tag of the '**Fastest Moving Medium Cities**'.
- ❖ **TVS Motor** was awarded the '**Green Era Award for Sustainability**' at Lisbon, Portugal. The company also won the '**Quality and Business Excellence Award**' for its unmatched product quality. The research for the awards was conducted by **Otherways Management and Consulting**, France.
- ❖ Japanese Architect **Arata Isozaki** has received the **Pritzker Prize 2019**.
- ❖ The **Biju Patnaik International Airport (BPIA)** in **Bhubaneswar** won the **Airport Service Quality (ASQ)** award for being the best airport in size and region (2-5 million passengers in Asia-Pacific) for the year 2018.
 - ✓ **Odisha: Capital:** Bhubaneswar, **Chief Minister:** Naveen Patnaik, **Governor:** Ganeshi Lal.

- ❖ The **Indira Gandhi International (IGI)** airport, **New Delhi** was declared as **the best airport** in the category of over **"40 million passengers per annum (MPPA)"** in **Asia Pacific** by **Airports Council International (ACI)** in the **Airport Service Quality (ASQ)** Programme for 2018.
- ❖ President **Ram Nath Kovind** presented the **Nari Shakti awards, 2018** on the occasion of **International Women's Day** on 8th March. **Nari Shakti awards** are the highest civilian honour for women in India.
 - ✓ **44 Nari Shakti awards** were presented for the year 2018 and the awardees include Scientists, entrepreneurs, environmentalists, social workers, farmers, artists, masons, a woman marine pilot, a woman commando trainer, journalists and film-makers.
- ❖ The **Bilingual** correspondent with the **BBC Priyanka Dubey** has been named for the **Chameli Devi Jain Award** for an Outstanding **Woman Journalist for the year 2018**.
- ❖ **Raghuram Rajan**, former governor of **RBI** has been chosen for the '**Yashwantrao Chavan National Award 2018**' by **Yashwantrao Chavan Prathisthan** for his contribution to **economic development**.
- ❖ The **Ministry of Tourism, Government of India** has won the **First Prize** in the category of **TV Cinema Spot** at the prestigious **international Golden City Gate Tourism Awards 2019**. The awards were received by **Shri Yogendra Tripathi**, Secretary, Tourism at **ITB, Berlin**.
- ❖ The **Union Minister** for Women and Child Development, **Maneka Gandhi**, felicitated the **30 winners** of the '**Web Wonder Women**' contest organized by the Ministry of Women and Child Development in **New Delhi**.
- ❖ **ACKO General Insurance** was awarded the prestigious **Golden Peacock Innovative Product Award-2019**, for their contextual micro insurance product - "**Ola Ride Insurance**".
- ❖ **Sona Yukti**, a skill development institute, was honoured with the **Social Enterprise Network (SEN)** sustainability award for education by **Young Presidents Organisation** at its annual event held in **Cape Town, South Africa**.
- ❖ **Jammu-born** film director and novelist **Ved Rahi** has been selected for prestigious '**Kusumagraj**' national award for **literature**. The award is instituted by the city-based **Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University (YCMOU)** and carries a cash prize of **Rs 1 lakh**, a memento and a citation.
- ❖ Social entrepreneur from **Tamil Nadu**, **Padmanaban Gopalan**, founder of **No Food Waste**, was named the winner of the **Commonwealth Youth Award** for the **Asian region** worth **3,000 Pounds** at a ceremony at the **Commonwealth Secretariat** in **London**.
- ❖ President **Ram Nath Kovind** conferred **3 Kirti Chakras** and **15 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**.
 - ✓ One of the **Param Vishisht Seva Medal** was conferred on **Army Chief General Bipin Rawat**.
- ❖ The President of India, **Shri Ram Nath Kovind**, inaugurated the **Festival of Innovation and Entrepreneurship** in **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**. He also presented the **10th Biennial National Grassroots Innovation Awards**.
 - ✓ **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**.
- ❖ **Swati Shingade** of **Pune**, has bagged the first prize of **DD Mahila Kisan Award** for 2018-19.
- ❖ 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 **Ram Nath Kovind** presented **Gallantry Awards and Distinguished Service Decorations** at the **Defence Investiture Ceremony** held at **Rashtrapati Bhavan**.
 - ✓ **Kirti Chakras** were conferred on **Sepoy Vijay Kumar** of **Indian Army** and Constable **Pradip Kumar Panda** of **CRPF** posthumously.
- ❖ **Brazilian** physicist and astronomer **Marcelo Gleiser** won the **2019 Templeton Prize**.
- ❖ Former India hockey captain **Sardar Singh** along with **13 Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** members, have been named in various Standing Committees with of the **Olympic Council of Asia (OCA)** at its **38th General Assembly** which held in **Bangkok**.
- ❖ Hindi writer **Leeladhar Jagudi** honoured with **Vyas Samman 2018** for his collection of poems "**Jitne Log Utne Prem**" published in 2013.
- ❖ Mathematician **Karen Uhlenbeck** (76) became the **first woman** to be conferred with 6 million Norwegian kroner (\$700,000) **Abel Prize**, which is regarded as **Nobel prize of mathematics**.
- ❖ Journalist and writer **Raghu Karnad** became the **2nd Indian** to win the **Windham-Campbell Prize**; after **Jerry Pinto** who won the prize in 2016 for his novel '**Em And the Big Hoom**'. **Karnad** won the prestigious award for his debut book '**The Farthest Field: An Indian Story of the Second World War**'.

- ❖ **Lalit Kala Akademi** has announced the winners of the **15 winners** of the **60th Annual Academy Awards**. The awardees will be honoured with a plaque, a shawl and prize money of **Rs 1 lakh** during the **60th National Exhibition of Art**.
- ❖ A science teacher from rural Kenya, **Peter Tabichi** has won the prestigious **Global Teacher Prize 2019** which honours the world's best teacher.
- ❖ **Asian Rich List 2019** was released by India's High Commissioner to the UK **Ruchi Ghanashyam**. The list is the compilation of the 101 wealthiest Asians in **Britain** and highlights exceptional entrepreneurial achievement over the last 12 months. The list was released at the **Asian Business Awards**.
 - ✓ London-based NRI industrial tycoons, the Hinduja family top the **Asian Rich List 2019** for the **6th successive year**.
 - ✓ Business tycoon **Lakshmi Mittal** and his son **Aditya Mittal** remained in **2nd** place. **S P Lohia** took **3rd**.
- ❖ The **64th Filmfare Awards 2019** was held at Jio Garden, BKC, **Mumbai**. The event was hosted by Bollywood's leading Actors, Directors, Musicians and Singers.
 - ✓ 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.
- ❖ President **Ram Nath Kovind** received Croatia's highest civilian order, the **Grand Order of the King of Tomislav**, during his official visit to the nation.
- ❖ **Skytrax World Airport Awards** named Singapore's **Changi Airport** as the **world's best aviation hub** for the **7th time** in a row, while **Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport, New Delhi** climbed 8 places to rank at **59th Position**.
- ❖ Nobel Prize-winning economist **Amartya Sen** has been honoured with the prestigious **Bodley Medal**, the highest honour bestowed by the **University of Oxford's** world-famous Bodleian Libraries for his contribution in literature, culture, science, and communication.
- ❖ A Delhi government school teacher, **Manu Gulati** has been honoured with the **Martha Farrell award for Excellence in Women's Empowerment 2019** in the Most Promising Individual category.
- ❖ **Dr. Rajendra Kumar Joshi**, the founder and chairman of the **RUJ Group** has been conferred with the prestigious **Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award**. He was awarded by the **Embassy of India** in Switzerland.
- ❖ 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.

PERSON APPOINTED /RESIGNED

- ❖ **Shri Ajay Narayan Jha** joined the **15th Finance Commission** as its Member. He joins in place of **Shri Shaktikanta Das** who had resigned as a Member of the Commission after being appointed as **Governor, Reserve Bank of India**.
- ❖ **Bhagwan Lal Sahni** who hails from **Muzaffarpur, Bihar** has been appointed as the chairman of the **National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)**.
- ❖ Air Marshal **R D Mathur** assumed charge as the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the **Eastern Air Command** of the **Indian Air Force (IAF)**.
- ❖ Air Marshal **Raghunath Nambiar**, who is presently the chief of Eastern Air Command, has been designated as the new chief of **Western Air Command (WAC)**.
- ❖ **Hasmukh Adhia**, the ex-finance secretary was appointed as **non-executive chairman** of **Bank of Baroda**.
- ❖ **Anil Kumble**, a former India captain and great leg spinner was re-appointed ICC (**International Cricket Council**) Cricket Committee **Chairman** for a final 3 year term in a board meeting of cricket council in Dubai.
- ❖ Indian Sports Administrator **Randhir Singh** appointed as the Chairman of Coordination Committee of **2022 Asian Games**, which will be hosted in **Hangzhou, China**.
- ❖ **Kaja Kallas**, the leader of the Reform Party has been appointed as the **first female** Prime Minister of **Estonia**.
 - ✓ **Estonia: Capital:** Tallinn, **Currency:** Euro.
- ❖ **P Venkata Ramesh Babu** has been appointed as the **Director General** of the **National Archives of India** by the Central government.
- ❖ **Soumya Swaminathan** was one of the three deputy director-generals and the **first** Indian to hold the position at **WHO**.
- ❖ Distinguished scientist **Ajit Kumar Mohanty** has been appointed Director of **Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC)**.
- ❖ **Indian-American** television personality and food expert **Padma Lakshmi** has been appointed by the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** as its newest **Goodwill Ambassador**, supporting the agency's fight against **inequality and discrimination** around the world.

- ❖ The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet** approved the appointment of Economic Affairs Secretary **Subhash Chandra Garg** as **Finance Secretary**. He succeeds **A.N. Jha**, who retired on January 31.
- ❖ The **President** has accepted the resignation of **Shri Kummanam Rajasekharan** as **Governor of Mizoram**.
 - ✓ The President of India appoint **Prof. Jagdish Mukhi**, Governor of Assam to discharge the functions of the **Governor of Mizoram**, in addition to his own duties, until regular arrangements for the office of the Governor of Mizoram is made.
- ❖ **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**.
- ❖ **Manpreet Vohra** appointed as the next Ambassador of **India to Mexico**.
 - ✓ **Mexico: Capital:** Mexico City, **Currency:** Mexican peso.
- ❖ **Kishan Dan Dewal** appointed as the next Ambassador of **India to the Republic of Armenia**.
 - ✓ **Armenia: Capital:** Yerevan, **Currency:** Dram.
- ❖ **B. S. Mubarak** concurrently accredited as the next Ambassador of **India to the Republic of El Salvador**.
 - ✓ **El Salvador: Capital:** San Salvador, **Currency:** United States dollar.
- ❖ **Mohammad Shtayyeh** has been named as **Palestinian Prime Minister** by President of Palestinian **Mahmoud Abbas**.
- ❖ **Aditya Kumar Misra**, a veterinary scientist specializing in economically significant diseases of goat, has been appointed as the **new chairman** of the **Agricultural Scientific Recruitment Board (ASRB)**.
- ❖ The Governor administration in Jammu and Kashmir appointed "**Metro Man**" **Elattuvalapil Sreedharan** as Principal Advisor for **two Mass Rapid Transit Corporations** in the state — Jammu Mass Rapid Transit Corporation and Srinagar Mass Rapid Transit Corporation in the state.
- ❖ Senior bureaucrats **Anup Kumar Dubey** and **Sushil Kumar** were appointed **special directors** in the Enforcement Directorate (**ED**).
- ❖ **Axis Bank** appointed **Rakesh Makhija** as its new Non-Executive Part-Time Chairman.
- ❖ The **Government** also appointed **M. R. Kumar** as the Chairman of the **Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)** for a period of 5 years.
- ❖ **KVS Manian** and **Gaurang Shah** appointed as Kotak Mahindra Bank's **whole-time directors** for a three-year term effective from the date of approval from the **Reserve Bank of India**.
 - ✓ **Kotak Bank: Headquarter:** Mumbai, **MD/CEO:** Uday Kotak, **Tagline:** Lets make money simple.
- ❖ **Anurag Bhushan** has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the **Republic of Malawi**.
 - ✓ **Malawi: Capital:** Lilongwe, **Currency:** Kwacha.
- ❖ **Santosh Jha** has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the **Republic of Uzbekistan**.
 - ✓ **Uzbekistan: Capital:** Tashkent, **Currency:** Uzbekistani som.
- ❖ **Ms. Padmaja** has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the **Republic of Fiji**.
 - ✓ **Fiji: Capital:** Suva, **Currency:** Fijian dollar.
- ❖ 38-year-old transgender activist **Shree Gauri Sawant** from Mumbai has been appointed as **first transgender** election ambassador by The **Election Commission of India**.
- ❖ Kazakhstan President **Nursultan Nazarbayev** has announced his **resignation** after nearly 30 years in power.
- ❖ Former cricketer **Gautam Gambhir** joined the BJP in presence of Union Ministers **Arun Jaitley** and **Ravi Shankar Prasad** in New Delhi.
- ❖ **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, 2019**.
- ❖ **India's** fastest growing payments platform **PhonePe** appointed Bollywood superstar **Aamir Khan** as its **brand Ambassador**.
- ❖ The **Defence Ministry** has announced the appointment of Vice Admiral **Karambir Singh** as the next **Navy chief**. He will succeed Admiral **Sunil Lanba**, who is retiring on **31 March**.
- ❖ **Jet Airways** Founder and Chairman **Naresh Goyal** and his wife **Anita Goyal** resigned from the board on March 25, 2019 amid the reports of looming financial crisis in the airlines.
- ❖ **Hitachi Payment Services Pvt. Ltd.** (Hitachi Payments) announced the appointment of **Rustom Irani** as its new **managing director**.
- ❖ **Shambhu S Kumaran** appointed as next **India's Ambassador to Kingdom of Morocco**.
- ❖ **Basketball Federation of India** has appointed veteran coach **Veselin Matic** as the national **men's team coach**.
- ❖ Comoros President **Azali Assoumani** was re-elected as **president** according to results published by the electoral commission.
 - ✓ **Comoros: Capital:** Moroni, **Currency:** Comorian franc.
- ❖ Social innovator **Neha Upadhyay** was selected by **Yale University** of America as **World Fellow of 2019**. This is the **University's Global Leadership Development Initiative**. For this, **16 people** have been selected from all over the world including Neha. They will be given 4 months of academic and leadership training.
- ❖ **Shri Abhay Thakur**, has been designated as the Ambassador of **Benin**. Presently he is the High Commissioner of India to Nigeria.

- ✓ **Benin: Capital:** Porto-Novo,
- ✓ **Nigeria: Capital:** Abuja,
- ✦ **PolicyX.com** - An online **insurance** web aggregator has roped in legendary cricketer **Virender Sehwag** as it's Brand Ambassador.
- ✦ lawyer **Zuzana Caputova** (45) won Slovakia's presidential election and become **Slovakia's first female president**.
- ✓ **Slovakia: Capital:** Bratislava,
- ✦ Assam filmmaker **Rima Das** becomes Ambassador of **Toronto International Film Festival's** 'Share Her Journey' campaign.

Currencies: CFA franc, West African CFA franc.

Currency: Nigerian naira.

Currency: Euro.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

- ✦ Union Finance Minister, **Arun Jaitley** released a book titled '**Mann Ki Baat – A Social Revolution on Radio**' during a function in New Delhi.
- ✦ The **Fate of Butterflies**, **Nayantara Sahgal** new novel was unveiled at a function hosted by **Namita Gokhale** at Oxford Bookstore, New Delhi.
- ✦ The book "**Designing Destiny: The Heartfulness Way**" which has been written by spiritual teacher **Kamlesh Patel**.
- ✦ Finance Minister **Arun Jaitley** released the book "**Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas**" - a collection of selected speeches of Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, in the presence of Information and Broadcasting Minister **Col Rajyavardhan Rathore**.
- ✦ Releasing a book titled '**Indian Fiscal Federalism**', authored by former RBI Governor **Y.V. Reddy** and co-authored by Advisor to Telangana Government **G.R. Reddy**, **Dr. Rangarajan** said: The introduction of GST is an important step towards the reform of the indirect tax structure.
- ✦ The Prime Minister, **Shri Narendra Modi**, released the **Dictionary of Martyrs of India's Freedom Struggle**, at an event in Lok Kalyan Marg, **New Delhi**.
- ✦ The Minister for Civil Aviation, **Shri Suresh Prabhu** releases a **Coffee Table Book: "Cruising New Heights- Flying For All"** on achievements of **Ministry of Civil Aviation**.
- ✦ The popular Reference Annuals '**Bharat 2019**' and '**India 2019**' were released by **Shri Amit Khare**, Secretary, Ministry of I&B.
- ✦ **The Great Disappointment: How Narendra Modi Squandered A Unique Opportunity to Transform the Indian Economy** book released by economic commentator and Congress member **Salman Anees Soz**.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ Former RBI Governor **Raghuram Rajan** release his book '**The Third Pillar**'-How Markets and the State leave the Community Behind' at a function in **New Delhi**.

OBITUARY

- ✦ **Zhores Alferov** who won the **Nobel Prize in Physics** in 2000 and was also a member of Russian parliament, passed away.
- ✦ Academic and Manufacturing expert and founder of **Warwick manufacturing Group (WMG)**, **Lord Kumar Bhattacharyya** passed away.
- ✦ **Andre Previn**, Legendary Composer and 4-Time Oscar Winner passed away.
- ✦ Former Deputy Prime Minister of Nepal and Senior leader of ruling Nepal Communist Party (NCP), **Bharat Mohan Adhikari** passed away.
- ✦ American actor **Luke Perry** has died in **California**.
- ✦ Former New Zealand batsman **Bill Playle**, passed away in New South Wales, Australia.
- ✦ **Jerry Merryman**, one of three people at **Texas Instruments (TI)** credited with inventing the **world's first** handheld electronic calculator in 1960s, passed away.
- ✦ **Daniel Rudisha**, a former teacher who became a Kenyan athletics coach passed away.
- ✦ The **21st Lt Governor of Puducherry** and former Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee (PPCC) chief, **Virendra Kataria**, passed away.
- ✦ Art Historian and Picasso Biographer, **Sir John Richardson** passed away.
- ✦ Veteran Hindi Newsreader **Vinod Kashyap** passed away.
- ✦ Senior **journalist and environmental** activist **Darryl D'Monte** passed away.
- ✦ Goa Chief Minister **Manohar Parrikar** passed away in Panaji.
- ✦ Veteran Bengali actor, **Chinmoy Roy** who was known for his portrayal of comic characters, passed away.
- ✦ Former Supreme Court judge **Mr. Satya Brata Singh** passed away.
- ✦ Former White House economist and Princeton University professor **Alan Krueger** passed away.
- ✦ **Channabasappa Satyappa Shivalli**, Karnataka's minister for Municipal Administration and Local Bodies passed away.
- ✦ Kala Prapoorna awardee, **Vinjamuri Anasuya Devi** passed away.
- ✦ Renowned South Asian singer, **Shahnaz Rahmatullah** Popularly known as **Shahnaz Begum**, passed away at her Baridhara residence Dhaka, Bangladesh.

- ❖ A social activist, **Ghulam Nabi Rathar** of Manigam Kangan, Jammu and Kashmir passed away.
- ❖ Well-known Malayalam writer and poet **Ashita** passed away.
- ❖ Eminent folk artist, radio commentator, harmonium player, music composer and author **Vinjamuri Anasuya Devi** passed away.
- ❖ Former Australian Spinner, Coach and commentator, **Bruce Yardley** passed away.
- ❖ Russia's space agency says pioneering Soviet-era cosmonaut **Valery Bykovsky**, who made the first of his three flights to space in 1963, has died at age 84.

Days|Week|Year

- ❖ 1st March 2019:- **Zero Discrimination Day**.
✓ **Theme:-** Act to change laws that Discriminate.
- ❖ 1st March 2019:- **43rd Civil Accounts Day**.
- ❖ 1st March 2019:- **World Civil Defence Day**.
✓ **Theme:-** Children's safety, our responsibility.
- ❖ 3rd March 2019:- **World Hearing Day**.
✓ **Theme:-** Check your Hearing.
- ❖ 3rd March 2019:- **World Wildlife Day**.
✓ **Theme:-** Life below water: for people and planet.
- ❖ 4th March 2019:- **World Day of the Fight Against Sexual Exploitation**.
- ❖ 8th March 2019:- **International Women's Day**.
✓ **Theme:-** Think Equal, Build Smart, Innovate for Change.
✓ International Women's Day 2019 campaign theme: **#Balance for Better**.
- ❖ 14th March 2019:- **World Kidney Day**.
✓ **Theme:-** Kidney Health for Everyone Everywhere.
- ❖ 15th March 2019:- **World Sleep Day**.
✓ **Slogan:-** 'Healthy Sleep, Healthy Aging'
- ❖ 15th March 2019:- **World Consumer Rights Day**.
✓ **Theme:-** Trusted Smart Products.
- ❖ 16th March 2019:- **National Vaccination Day**.
- ❖ 18th March 2019:- **Ordnance Factories Day**.
- ❖ 18th March 2019:- **Global Recycling Day**.
✓ **Theme:-** Recycling into the Future.
- ❖ 20th March 2019:- **The World Sparrow Day**.
✓ **Theme:-** I love sparrows.
- ❖ 20th March 2019:- **International Day of Happiness**.
✓ **Theme:-** Happier Together.
- ❖ 21st March 2019:- **International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**.
✓ **Theme:-** Mitigating and countering rising nationalist populism and extreme supremacist ideologies.
- ❖ 21st March 2019:- **World Poetry Day**.
- ❖ 21st March 2019:- **International Day of Forests**.
✓ **Theme:-** Forests and Education – Learn to Love Forests.
- ❖ 21st March 2019:- **World Down Syndrome Day**.
✓ **Theme:-** Leave no one behind.
✓ Camping:- **#LotsOfSocks!**
- ❖ 22th March 2019:- **World Water Day**.
✓ **Theme:-** Leaving no one behind (motto of 'water for all').
- ❖ 23rd March 2019:- **World Meteorological Day**.
✓ **Theme:-** The Sun, the Earth and the weather
- ❖ 24th March 2019:- **World Tuberculosis Day**.
✓ **Theme:-** It's time.
- ❖ 24th March 2019:- **International Day for Achievers**.
- ❖ 25th March 2019:- **International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade**.
✓ **Theme:-** Remember Slavery: The Power of the Arts for Justice.
- ❖ 26th March 2019:- **World Purple day**.
- ❖ 27th March 2019:- **World Theatre Day**.
- ❖ 30th March 2019:- **Earth Hour**.
✓ **Theme:-** #Connect2Earth.