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TNPSC GATEWAY

MONTHLY MAGAZINE FOR TNPSC EXAMS

APRIL - 2019



- ✓ Morocco -US Joint Exercise AFRICANLION 2019 started in Morocco
- ✓ NuGen Mobility Summit To Be Held in November 2019
- ✓ India ranked 17th in the global startup ecosystem from 37
- ✓ India wins ICC Test Championship Mace for 3rd straight
- ✓ 'Indian constitution' Book released in Konkani
- ✓ President kovind receives croatia's highest civilian award
- ✓ India's defence satellite EMISAT successfully launched by ISRO
- ✓ Sri Lanka's 1st satellite 'Raavana-1' launched into space

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My Dear Aspirants,

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

We at **VETRII IAS** Study Circle are committed to provide the right guidance, quality coaching and help every aspirant to achieve his or her life’s cherished goal of becoming a civil servant.

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Wishing You All The Very Best !!

M. SHUNMUGAM
DIRECTOR
Vetrii IAS Study Circle.

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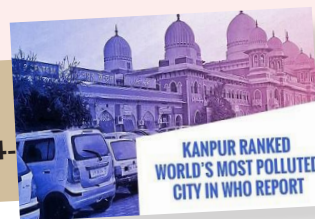


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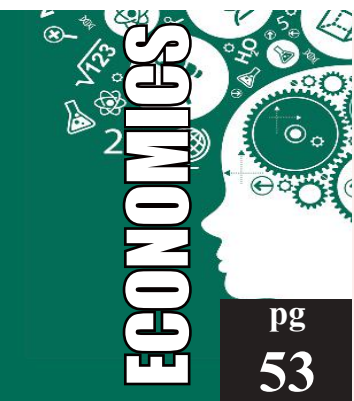
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**MAJOR
INDUSTRIAL
ACCIDENT**



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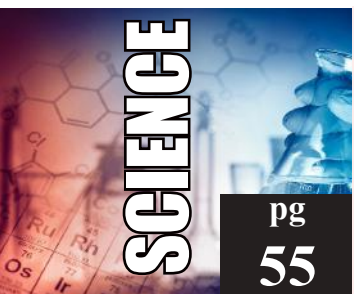


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1. History



1.1 IMPORTANT DAYS

Mar 25

International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade

- The **theme** for International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade 2019 is “**Remember Slavery: The Power of the Arts for Justice**”.

AIM

- The day was **first** observed in **2008** and it was recognized by **The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** by adopting a resolution in 2007.

International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members

- International Day of Solidarity with detained and missing staff members was observed all over the world to mark the anniversary of the abduction of **Alec Collett**, a former journalist who was kidnapped by armed gunman in 1985. The day aims to prepare action, demand justice and to protect UN staff and peacekeepers, the workers in non-governmental community and the press.

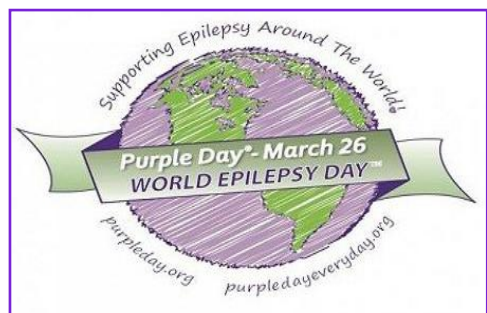
Key Points:

- Alec Collett was working for the **United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)**.

Mar 26

World Purple Day

- **Epilepsy Awareness Day** which is commonly known as **World Purple Day** is observed on **March 26** in order to encourage the people to wear the colour to increase the awareness of Epilepsy.



Epilepsy awareness day

- Epilepsy Awareness Day is observed annually on March 26th. The day has become known as 'Purple Day' as people are encouraged to wear the color to increase awareness of Epilepsy.
- Nearly **50 million people** in the world are having Epilepsy as per the **World Health Organization (WHO)** which does not have a known cause.



Mar 27

World Theatre Day

- It was initiated by International Theatre Institute in 1961.
- Every year, various national and international theatre events are organized on this day. Famous theatre director, playwright, academic and faculty member, **Carlos CELDRAN** from Cuba has been selected as the speaker of World Theatre Day message 2019.

Mar 30

Rajasthan Diwas Day

- Rajasthan came into existence as it was previously known as **Rajputana**.

Key points :

- On **30th March 1949**, the state was formed.

Apr 01

84th Foundation Day of Odisha celebrated

- The Odisha Day is also known as **"Utkal Divas"**.

AIM :

- To commemorate the sacrifices of people for the formation of Odisha province in **1936**.

Apr 02

World Autism Awareness Day

- The theme for 2019 was **"Assistive Technologies, Active Participation"**



- AIM :**
1. The day was first observed in 2008.
 2. Autism is a variable developmental disorder that appears by age three and is characterized by lack of the ability to communicate with others and to form normal social relationships.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS WEEK - 1ST TO 7TH APRIL 2019**AIM :**

- To raise awareness regarding the **precautions to be taken to prevent blindness**. The target of the day is on detection, cure and treatment of eye diseases.
- Indian Government has also launched another campaign '**Vision 2020: The Right to Sight**' in collaboration with WHO to prevent blindness.

Apr 04**INTERNATIONAL MINE AWARENESS DAY - 4TH APRIL****AIM :**

- To raise awareness about landmines and the actions that need to be taken towards their eradication. The **Theme** for International Mine Awareness Day 2019 is "**United nations promotes SDGs -Safe Ground -Safe Home**". (SDG -Sustainable Development Goals)

Apr 05**India celebrated National Maritime Day**

- Theme 2019 - "**Indian Ocean- An Ocean of Opportunity**".

AIM :

- To support the global economy, the most well-organized, safe and sound environmentally responsive approach of transporting goods from one corner to another corner of the world.
- First time this day was celebrated on **5th April, 1964** to inform people and spread awareness about intercontinental commerce and the economy worldwide.

Apr 06**International day of Sport for Development and Peace**

- To promote healthy lifestyles and emphasizes the international Olympic Committee focus on giving as possible access to sport.

- To recognize the power of sport in promoting peace and erasing cultural barriers worldwide.

Apr 07**National Handloom Week observed from 7th April to 14th April**

- A book named '**The Indian textile Sourcebook**' authored by **Avalon Fotheringham** and published by Thames and Hudson will launch on 9th April.

Apr 07**World Health Day****AIM :**

- To spread awareness about equal healthcare facilities worldwide, the importance of Health and Wellness and to kill the myths around Health.

Key Points :

- It is started by **World Health Organisation**.
- Theme of World Health Day 2019 – **“Universal health Coverage: Everyone, Everywhere”** and the slogan is **“Health for All”**.

International Day of Remembrance as the 25th Commemoration of the 1994 Rwanda Genocide

- The day commemorates the slaughter of 800,000 people (where Tutsis and moderate Hutus were killed by members of the army, militias, and civilians of the Hutu community for a period of 100 days during the 1994 genocide in Rwanda in central Africa.

Platinum Jubilee Commemoration of the Battle of Kangla Tongbi - 7 April 2019

- The Platinum Jubilee of the Battle of Kangla Tongbi War was commemorated by Army Ordnance Corps. The commemoration day was observed to honour the supreme sacrifice made by the courageous **Ordnance Personnel of 221 Advance Ordnance Depot** in the line of duty during the **night of 6/ 7 April 1944 (during World War-II)**.

Apr 08**International Romani Day celebrated - 8th April, 2019**

- The **(ERCC) European Roma Rights Centre** brings into limelight the grave fact about the **6 million Romani people (living in the EU, European Union)** and **4 million** living in the enlargement region **(Montenegro, Serbia, North Macedonia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and Turkey)** who till date remains the most underprivileged ethnic group of Europe.

Apr 09**54th Valour Day - 9th April**

- **President Ram Nath Kovind** launched **Veer Parivar App** for assistance to the next of kin of the CRPF martyrs.
- **History of Day:** on April 9, 1965, a small contingent of 2nd Battalion of CRPF successfully fought against Pakistani Brigade at Sardar Post in the Rann of Kutch in Gujarat.

Apr 09

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ORGANISED ON 9TH-10TH APRIL TO LINK EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

- To celebrate the **birth anniversary of Dr. Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann**, the founder of Homoeopathy; the World Homoeopathy Day 2019 is observed on **April 10, 2019** all over the globe.

- The week following the birth date of Hahnemann (10th April 1955-2nd July 1843) i.e **10th-16th April** is commemorated as the **World Homeopathic Awareness Week**.

Apr 11

'Safe Motherhood Day'

- Theme 2019 - 'Midwives for Mothers'.

AIM :

- The Indian Government along with The White Ribbon Alliance (WRAI) (UNICEF is an active member of WRAI) conducted a **national stakeholders' meeting**, in Delhi, to discuss on the **pressing issues relating to women's health**.

Apr 12

World Aviation and Cosmonautics Day

- On **April 12, 1961**, Soviet cosmonaut **Yuri Gagarin** carried out the famous flight in **spacecraft Vostok 1** started from **Baikonur Cosmodrome**.

About Federation Aeronautique Internationale (FAI):

- **Founded** : 1905
- **President**: Robert Henderson
- **Mission Statement** : "FAI – the organization for the promotion of air sports and recreational flying".
- **Vision Statement** : "A world where safe participation in air sports and recreational flying is available to everyone at reasonable cost"

AIM :

- In November 1968, the **61st General Conference of the Federation Aeronautique Internationale (FAI)**, known as the **World Air sports Federation**, decided to celebrate **World Aviation and Cosmonautics Day on April 12**.
- Many countries organize a so-called **Yuri's Night** on April 12. The first Yuri's Night was celebrated on the 40th anniversary of the first manned flight into space in 2001.

- The festival points to promote public interest in space exploration.

Apr 12

The International Day of Human Space Flight

- The day marks the anniversary of the **first ever human space flight undertaken by Yuri Gagarin**. This day is also celebrated as **'Cosmonautics Day'** in Russia since **1963**.

1. Yuri Gagarin, a Soviet citizen carried out the first human space flight on **April 12, 1961**.

Apr 7 - 13

World Allergy Week

- Theme: **"The Global Problem of Food Allergy"**.

AIM :

- The prime objective of the campaign is to raise awareness of the effect of allergic diseases and related disorders in our communities and provide support for the proper training, diagnosis, management, and prevention of the diseases.

Apr 13

Centenary of Jallianwala Bagh Massacre

- On 13th April 1919 a huge number of people gathered at Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar to celebrate the **harvest festival of Baisakhi and to protest against the Rowlatt Act**.

➤ On that event, troops of the British Indian Army under the command of Colonel **Dyer** opened fire at the people.

- **Dominic Asquith**, the British High Commissioner to India, laid a wreath at the Jallianwala Bagh Memorial to mark the centenary of the massacre.
- Also, British Prime Minister Theresa May described the Jallianwala Bagh massacre as a **"shameful scar"** on British Indian history.

Rajouri Day

- More than 20,000 men, women, and children were massacred on April 13, 1948.
- **On 12 April 1948**, Rajouri was recaptured from rebels and Pakistan Army personnel who had infiltrated from across the border.
- The **Year 2019** is being celebrated as the **'Year of Next of Kin'** to help families of martyrs.

About Jammu and Kashmir :

- **Governor:** Satya Pal Malik
- **National Park:** Dachigam National Park, Hemis National Park, Kishtwar National Park, Salim Ali National Park

64TH RAILWAY WEEK FUNCTION OF RAILWAY BOARD ORGANIZED IN RAIL BHAWAN, NEW DELHI

- The 64th Railway Week Function of Railway Board was organized at **Rail Bhawan** in **New Delhi**.
- The chairman of Railway Board, **V K Yadav** presented Running Efficiency Shield, awards and merit certificates to officials of Railway Board for their exemplary performances for 2018-19.

Details of the Awards presented in the 64th Railway Week Function:

SI No	Categories	Number of Awardees
1	Best Maintained Sections	4
2	Outstanding Performance	45
3	Sports	Total- 49
		Individual Awards- 37
		Group Awards- 12
4	Cultural Activities	10
		Individual Awards- 9
		Group Awards- 1
Total Awards		108

Apr 17**World Haemophilia Day**

- It was started in 1989 by the **World Federation of Hemophilia** (WFH) which chose to bring the community together on April 17 in honour of WFH founder Frank Schnabel's birthday.

Key points :

- The **theme** of this year's World Hemophilia Day is **'Outreach and Identification'**.
- The day was observed with the slogan – **'Reaching Out: The First Step to Care'**.

Apr 17**Mahaveer Janma Kalyanak**

- Jain community celebrated Mahavir Jayanti or Mahaveer Janma Kalyanak, or the Birth Anniversary of **Vardhamana Mahavira** in memory of Lord Mahavira. Mahavir Jayanti is observed on the 13th day of the bright half of the moon in the month of Chaitra as per the Hindu Calendar.
- 1. Mahavira, **24th and the last, Tirthankara**, spiritual teacher in Jainism was born in **Ahalyabhumi** and belonged to the **Ikshvaku dynasty**.
- 2. As a part of celebrations, the statues of lord Mahavira were given a ceremonial bath called abhisheka to carry out a procession, **Rath Yatra**, with his idol.
- 3. All believers strictly adhere to a particular satvik diet on this day.

About Jainism :

- **Traditional Name** : Jain Dharma
- **Firsttirthankara** : Rishabhanatha
- **Jain Festivals** : Mahamastakabhisheka festival, Diwali
- **Main religious premises of Jainism**: ahimsa , anekantavada , aparigraha, asceticism.

Bangladesh observed Mujibnagar day

- In memory of the provisional government formation in Meherpur in 1971 as a tributes toBangabandhu Sheikh MujiburRahman, Father of the Nation, at the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum, in Dhanmondi, Dhaka.
- Bangabandhu became the President , Syed Nazrulislam as acting president and Tajuddin Ahmed as the Prime minister, Mujibnagar government was formed on this day in Meherpur'sBaidyanathtala, later renamed as Mujibnagar.

Apr 18**World Heritage Day**

- This year, the theme of the World Heritage Day is "**Rural Landscapes**".
- The aim of the day is to emphasize the importance of safeguarding various sites around the world that have achieved world heritage status.
- The day was proposed by the International Council on Monuments and Sites on 18th April 1982 and approved by the General Assembly of UNESCO in 1983.

Apr 19**World Liver day**

- To raise awareness about liver and following a lifestyle which supports liver health.

Good Friday

- In honor and remembrance of **Jesus's Crucifixion** and Christians believe Jesus was crucified on Good Friday and rose again three days later which is marked as **Easter**.

Apr 20**NATIONAL FIRE SERVICE WEEK - 14TH TO 20TH APRIL**

- In remembrance of the lives lost in the devastating fire that erupted and the explosions that followed on **14th April 1944** at the Victoria Dock in Bombay Port.
- The Fire Services Day is observed on April 14th every year **since 1968**.
- The **Tata Steel** celebrated the National Fire Service Week across all locations in India. The opportunity would be used to create fire safety awareness among the employees, contractor & community to prevent and manage fire and fire-related emergencies.

Apr 21**National Civil Service Day**

- This year the focus is on '**Evolving Strategies for Transforming Aspirational Districts**' and the function is organized by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances and Pensions on which PM gives "**Prime Minister Award for Excellence in Public Administration**" to best civil servants. First time this award was given in 2006 at the function in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

Administrative Professionals (Secretary's) Day

- To recognize the work of secretaries, receptionists, administrative assistants and other administrative support professionals.
 1. The last full week of April is observed as Administrative professionals week.
 2. First National secretaries week was celebrated on **June 1 to 7 in 1952** and first Admin day is observed on **June 4, 1952**, which is sponsored by National Secretaries Association.

World Creativity and Innovation Day

- To encourage people to use creativity in problem-solving for all issues related to achieving the 2015 Sustainable Development Goals.
- The day was first commemorated in over 50 countries around the world on **21st April 2002**. In 2006, this day became a week starting from 15th April, which is **Leonardo Davinci's** birthday; an icon of cross-disciplinary creativity in the arts and sciences.

Apr 22

GLOBAL EARTH DAY

- **Theme 'Protecting Our Species'**

Key Highlights

- i. The objective of Earth Day is to share responsibilities among people of this world and set agenda for a peaceful coexistence with the nature.
- ii. First time, Earth Day was celebrated in the US in 1970. US senator **Gaylord Nelson** propounded the idea of celebrating the Earth Day.

International Mother Earth Day

- This resolution was introduced by The Plurinational State of Bolivia and supported by more than 50 member states.



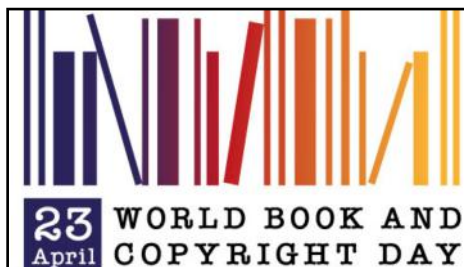
Key Highlights

- i. The resolution recognizes that the Earth and its ecosystem are our home and promoting harmony between nature and Earth should be our prime concern.
- ii. International Mother Earth Day also recognizes the collective responsibility of the people which is also called for in the Rio Declaration in 1992.

Apr 23

World Book and Copyright Day

- On April 23, 1616 prominent writers Cervantes, Shakespeare and Inca Garcilaso de la Vega all died so UNESCO's General Conference held in Paris in 1995, had selected April 23 as a World Book and Copyright Day.



- i. Each year UNESCO and other international organisations select World Book Capital for a period of one year. This year **Sharjah, UAE** has been selected as a World Book Capital for 2019.

- ii. This year World Book and Copyright Day event focuses on six broad themes: inclusivity, reading, heritage, outreach, publishing and children with a slogan “Read – you are in Sharjah”.

Apr 24

First Official International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace

- To promote the day, the UN General Assembly convened a one-day high-level plenary meeting on the same day.



Key Points:

- This date was designated as International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace on 12 December 2018 by the UN General Assembly through resolution A/RES/73/127.

World Day for Laboratory Animals

- For the movement to end the suffering of animals in laboratories around the world and their replacement with advanced scientific non-animal techniques. The adjoining week is known as “**World Week for Animals in Laboratories**”.
- It was established in **1979** by the British National Anti-Vivisection Society (NAVS). They described the day as an “international day for commemoration” for animals in laboratories.
- The Society was founded in London in 1875 by Irish activist Francis Power Cobb.

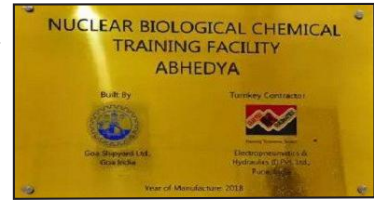


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1.2 DEFENCE

ABHEDYA INITIATED AT INS SHIVAJI, LONAVALA

- The state of the art **Nuclear, Biological, Chemical Training Facility** (NBCTF) named **ABHEDYA** of Indian Navy has been commissioned at **INS Shivaji**, Lonavla in Mumbai by Admiral Sunil Lanba, PVSM AVSM ADC, Chief of the Naval Staff.



1. It will provide training to naval personnel in detection, protection against and decontamination of nuclear, biological and chemical agents.
2. The theme of the logo of technical training establishment is **“Propelling the Indian Navy since 1945”**.
3. It was constructed by **Goa Shipyard Limited** (GSL).

MITRASHAKTI – VI, A JOINT TRAINING EXERCISE BETWEEN INDIAN AND SRI LANKA

- The joint training exercise **MITRASHAKTI – VI** between **Indian and Sri Lanka Army** is being held at **Diyatalawa in Sri Lanka** to strengthen interoperability, mutual understanding and built a better relationship between both the armies.

FIRST INDIAN ARMY MOUNTAINEERING EXPEDITION TO MT MAKALU FLAGGED OFF



- 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.
- In furtherance of the objective of summiting all challenging peaks above 800M, Indian Army is launching its maiden expedition to Mt Makalu in Mar-May 2019.
- Mt Makalu is considered amongst the most dangerous peaks and summiting the peak is considered extremely challenging due to inclement weather conditions and freezing temperatures.
- Makalu is the fifth highest mountain in the world at 8,485 metres (27,838 ft). It is located in the Mahalangur Himalayas 19 km southeast of Mount Everest.

Key Points:

- An Indian contingent of **120 Army personnel**, including 11 officers took part in this exercise.
- It is an annual event held in India and Sri Lanka alternatively. The previous exercise (**MITRASHAKTI – V**) was held at **Pune, India** where 120 personnel of Sri Lanka Army had participated.

INDIA BECOMES THE 4TH COUNTRY TO CONDUCT A-SAT MISSILE TEST “MISSION SHAKTI” SUCCESSFULLY

➤ 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. It took just 3 minute.



1. The target was hit by the DRDO developed **Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) Interceptor Missile**, in Low Earth Orbit (LEO) in a “Hit to Kill” mode at a height of 300 km from the earth’s surface. The satellite used as target in the mission was one of India’s existing satellites.
2. Mission Shakti is a joint programme of DRDO and the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**.
3. There are many countries which have A-SAT capability but it has been demonstrated by only 4 countries: United States, Russia, China and India.

THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT CLEARS PROCUREMENT OF 464 RUSSIAN TANKS UNDER THE T-90 PROJECT

➤ The Cabinet Committee of Security has cleared the procurement of **464 Russian tanks under T-90 project in a deal worth over Rs 13,500 crore.**



Details Of The Procurement Deal :

- The tanks would be given to the **Armoured Corps of the force** which will be furthered used by them for **deployment along the India-Pakistan border.**
- The new deal would increase the number of **T-90s in the Army to 2,000 along with the remaining T-72 and T-55s.**
- The acquisition also includes a **Make-in-India element for integration at the Heavy Vehicles Factory in Avadi (near Chennai).**
- The T-90 tanks will be built with **thermal imaging night sights** which will be advantageous to the tank commander **during night battles.**

INDIAN NAVY INKED A PACT WITH CSIR

- **Indian Navy and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** have signed Memorandum of understanding to tackle joint research and development of **advanced technologies** for the Indian Navy.



Key Points :

- The agreement will facilitate a formal framework for interaction between Indian Navy and CSIR.
- This will be a collaborative arrangement between labs of Indian Navy and CSIR to facilitate joint R&D activities in diverse fields of Mechanical, Electronics, Communication, Computer Science, etc.

MOROCCO –US JOINT EXERCISE AFRICAN LION 2019 STARTED IN MOROCCO

- **Morocco- US** sponsored exercise '**African Lion 2019**', takes place at Morocco. It is conducted from **March 16 to April 7, 2019**. The annual Military exercise materialize in the region of **Agadir, Tifnit, Tan-Tan, Tata and Ben Guerir** with the participation of thousands of military personnel.



Key Points :

- The drills include training on Counter terrorism operations, land and air exercises and also tactical stimulation.
- Additionally, Military Units from **Canada, Spain, Great Britain, Senegal and Tunisia** are taking part in the **16th Edition** of this Exercise.

INDIAN ARMY PATROL FOUND WRECKAGE OF WORLD WAR II US AIRCRAFT

- A 12-member patrol team of the **Indian Army** along with a police official has discovered the **wreckage of a World War II vintage US Air Force aircraft** in Roing district of **Arunachal Pradesh** on 30th March, 2019.

Key points

- The wreckage was located in a remote location at a distance of 30km from Roing and was covered by thick undergrowth and buried under five feet of snow.
- The discovery of this aircraft and other warlike stores will lead to the revelation of some historical inputs

INDIAN COAST GUARD OFFSHORE PATROL VESSEL 'VEERA' COMMISSIONED BY GENERAL BIPIN RAWAT



- Indian Coast Guard vessel **Veera** has been commissioned by **General Bipin Rawat**, Chief of Army Staff in the presence of Director General of **Indian Coast Guard Rajendra Singh**, Chief of Eastern Naval Command Vice Admiral Karambir Singh and other senior dignitaries of the central and state government in a ceremony organised at Eastern Naval Command in Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
1. **Veera**, the third in the series of the new generation **Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV)** is under the administrative and operational command of the coast guard regional headquarters.
 2. This is indigenously designed and built by Larsen & Toubro Ltd. at its shipbuilding facility at **Kattupali in Chennai**.

Specifications :

- The **98 metre long, 15 metre** wide patrol vessel has a **3.6 metre** draft and a range of 5,000 nautical miles. The vessel is fitted with a 30mm naval gun and will be fitted with 12.7mm Gun with FCS.
- The vessel is equipped with advanced technology navigation and communication equipment, sensor and machinery. It is also equipped with an Integrated Bridge System (IBS), **Integrated Platform Management System (IPMS), Automated Power Management System (APMS) and High Power External Fire Fighting System (HPEFS)**.
- The ship displaces approx 2200 tons (GRT) and is propelled by two 9100 KW diesel engines to attain a maximum speed of 26 knots.
- The ship is designed to carry one twin-engine helicopter and four high-speed boats including two inflatable boats for boarding operation, Search and Rescue, Law Enforcement and Maritime Patrol. The ship is also capable of carrying limited pollution response equipment to contain oil spill at sea.
- Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) is commanded by **Commandant Girish Datt Raturi** and managed by 12 officers and 94 men.
- The commissioning of **ICGS Veera** will enhance the Indian Coast Guard's operational capability to discharge the multifarious maritime tasks. It will give a boost to the maritime protection of our vast coastline of Eastern Seaboard.

INDIAN NAVY WARSHIPS TO TAKE PART IN PLA NAVY ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS IN CHINA

- As part of the 70th Anniversary of People's Liberation Army Navy celebrations in china, two Indian Navy warships, namely **INS Kolkata** and **INS Shakti** will participate in the Chinese international fleet review maritime parade in Qingdao, on April 23.
 1. The main objective of the IFR is to promote goodwill, co-operation strengthening and exhibit their organizational capabilities.
 2. INS Kolkata is a warship of Kolkata class stealth guided missile destroyers.
 3. INS Shakti is a deepak class fleet tanker.

About Indian Navy :

- **Founded** : 1612
- **Anniversaries** : Navy Day (4 December)
- **Chief of the Naval staff** : Admiral Sunil Lanba

FIRST EDITION OF NAVAL COMMANDERS' CONFERENCE OF 2019 STARTED



- The **first edition** of Naval Commanders' Conference held in **Delhi** and will continue **till 25th April 2019**. The Hon'ble Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman addressed Naval Commanders Conference on the opening day.
- The themes of 'Functional Reorganization of Indian Navy towards enhancing Operational Efficiency' and 'Optimal Manning' were the core of discussions in this conference.
- The conversations were planned on the adaptation of new capabilities, controlling technologies like '**Big Data Analytics**' and '**Artificial Intelligence**' for solutions in the domains of naval combat.

A GUIDED MISSILE DESTROYER 'INS IMPHAL'

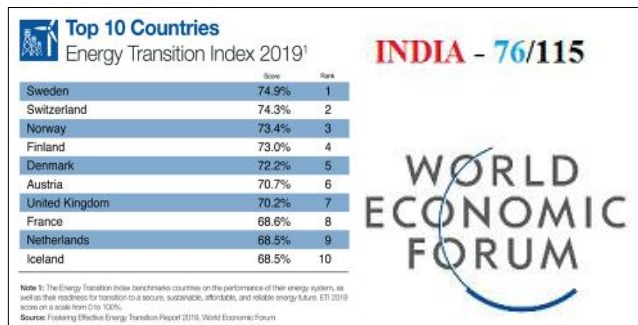
- **I**ndigenously designed and constructed third ship under **Project 15B**, 'INS Imphal' a guided missile destroyer launched by Navy Chief at **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL)** in **Mumbai**. This ship is designed by the **Indian Navy's Directorate of Naval Designs, New Delhi**.

Key Highlights :

- Each ship weight 3,037 tonnes, spans 163 metres in length, 17.4 metres at beam and can displace 7,300 tonnes. The ships will be propelled by four gas turbines which can achieve speed of more than 30 knots.
- The guided missile destroyer has incorporated several modern concept of new design which helped in improved survivability, see keeping, stealth and manoeuvrability.

1.3 SUMMIT & CONFERENCE

INDIA RANKS ON THE SECOND EDITION OF WEF GLOBAL ENERGY TRANSITION INDEX IS 76



- **India ranks 76th (among 115 countries) on a global energy transition index** which was compiled by Geneva-based World Economic Forum (WEF), based on their energy system performance and affordability.
- In the second edition of the Energy Transition Index, India improved its rank by two points from last year (2018) higher than China (82nd).
- Despite the fact that India has high pollution levels and high CO₂ intensity amongst these 115 countries, it has made a significant improvement in its **energy access and regulations** in recent years.

INDIA'S POVERTY RATE REDUCED AS PER GLOBAL MULTIDIMENSIONAL POVERTY INDEX 2018

- In accordance with the **2018 global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)**, India's poverty rate has shown a drastic decrease in 10 years, **from 55% to 28%**. The index has shown that, in the years between 2005-06 and 2015-16, 271 million people are moved out of poverty in India.
 1. Apart from the huge progress, **India** is still a home to the **highest number of MPI** poor comprising **364 million** poor in 2015-16. Although the number is reduced from 635 million in 2005-06.
 2. More than half of the India's multidimensional poor (196 million) are from the four states viz. **Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh** and **Madhya Pradesh** while **Delhi, Kerala** and **Goa** have lowest multidimensional poverty.

About Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) :

- The MPI report has covered 105 countries, which was compiled by the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** and the **Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative**.
- MPI is calculated on the basis of three key dimensions: **health, education** and **standard of living**, comprising 10 indicators.

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113 MN PEOPLE OF 53 COUNTRIES FACED SEVERE HUNGER IN 2018

► In accordance with the annual **2019 Global Report on Food Crisis**, around 113 million people across 53 countries faced severe hunger in 2018. In comparison to the figures of 2017, the **number is reduced from 124 million** but it requires urgent humanitarian assistance.



1. The report prepared by 15 leading global and regional organizations was led by **UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**, the **World Food Programme (WFP)** and **International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)**. It was released by **Food Security Information Network (FSIN)**.
2. The report examined 53 countries that are vulnerable to food crises and provided the causes of severe food insecurity for 27 countries which were mainly **persistent conflict** and **adverse weather events**.
3. The **two-thirds** of the total number of people facing acute food insecurity are in **8 countries** viz. Yemen, Congo, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Syria, Sudan, South Sudan and Northern Nigeria.

NAMAMI GANGE GETS APPROVED WITH GLOBAL RECOGNITION AT GLOBAL WATER SUMMIT

- National Mission for Clean Ganga or **Namami Gange** which is India's flagship programme, was approved, with the '**Public Water Agency of the Year**' award at the Global Water Summit held in **London**.



Key points :

- National Mission for Clean Ganga was awarded this year for its initiatives in the water sector which brings remarkable improvements in the lives of people.
- 2019 edition of Global Water Summit was a 3-day event held at **Sofitel London Heathrow Hotel**, Hounslow which started from on **8th April**.

About Namami Gange programme

- This programme is an integrated mission for Ganga rejuvenation. It has a comprehensive multi-sectoral intervention with multi-stakeholder involvement and adopts a basin based approach which includes Ganga and its tributaries.

17TH MENA WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM HELD IN JORDAN



- **17th edition of World Economic Forum on the Middle East and North Africa** was held at **Dead Sea, Jordan**. Over 1000 representatives from more than 50 countries participated in the meeting. It is the **10th meeting in Jordan** and **17th meeting in the MENA region**.

Key Points :

- More than 100 start-ups from Arab region have participated in the ceremony and discussed with industry and government leaders about the future of their industries during the two-day event.
- The event witnessed a lot of effective talks on projects to improving social as well as economic life of 400 million population of the MENA region.

About World Economic Forum :

- Headquarters : Cologne, Switzerland
- Chairman : Klaus Schwab

NUGEN MOBILITY SUMMIT TO BE HELD IN NOVEMBER 2019

- The **International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT)** is organizing a **NuGen Mobility Summit, 2019**, at Manesar, NCR, from 27th to 29th November 2019.
- The objective of the Summit is to share new ideas, learnings, global experiences, innovations and future technology trends for faster adoption, assimilation and development of advanced automotive technologies for a smarter and greener future.

2ND EDITION OF INDO-VIETNAM BILATERAL EXERCISE 'IN - VPN BILAT EX' CONCLUDES

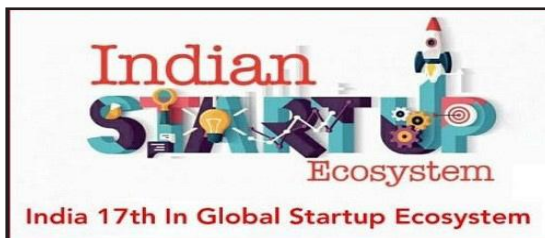


- **The Indian Navy** held the 2nd edition of the bilateral maritime exercise between the Indian Navy and Vietnam Peoples' Navy, (IN - VPN BILAT EX) at Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam during 13th to 16th April, 2019.

Key points :

- The exercise was undertaken as a part of the ongoing Overseas Deployment of Eastern Fleet ships to South East Asian countries.
- INS Kolkata under the command of Captain Aditya Hara and INS Shakti under the command of Captain Sriram Amur participated in the exercise.

INDIA RANKED 17TH IN THE GLOBAL STARTUP ECOSYSTEM FROM 37



- **India** ranked 17th position among 100 countries in the global startup ecosystem in 2018, from the 37th spot last year in the Startup Ecosystem Ranking for 2019 as per the data released by **StartupBlink**.

Key Points :

- The **United States, United Kingdom, and Canada** are the **top three** countries ranked the first, second and third respectively in terms of global rankings.
- This ranking was based on the strength of its startup ecosystem.
- Bengaluru, New Delhi, and Mumbai are the cities with the most vibrant startup ecosystems in India. **Bengaluru** was as the top startup city in India at 11th spot, while New Delhi followed in the 18th spot. Mumbai stood at 29th rank.

SAUDI ARABIA IS GOING TO HOST G20 SUMMIT IN RIYADH IN NOVEMBER 2020

- Saudi Arabia will host G20 summit in **November 2020** in **Riyadh**. This will be the first G20 meeting in the Arab world and the 15th meeting of the G20 (Group of Twenty).



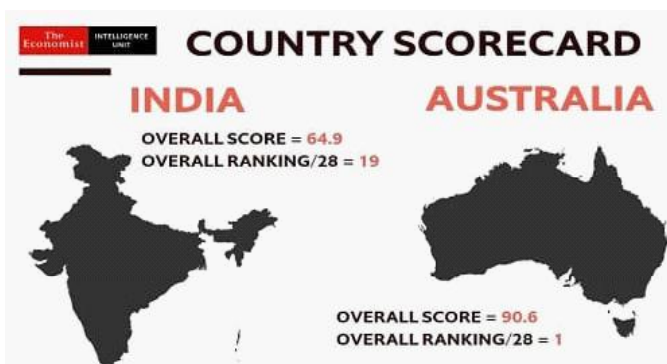
Country	Capital	Currency
United States Of America (USA)	Washington, D.C.	United States Dollar
Japan	Tokyo	Japanese yen
Saudi Arabia	Riyadh	Saudi rial
Argentina	Buenos Aires	Argentine peso
Australia	Canberra	Australian dollar
Brazil	Brasilia	Brazilian real
Canada	Ottawa	Canadian dollar
Republic of Korea (ROK), also South Korea	Seoul	Korean won
China	Beijing	Renminbi
France	Paris	Euro, CFP franc
Germany	Berlin	Euro
India	New Delhi	Indian rupee
Indonesia	Jakarta	Indonesian rupiah
Italy	Rome	Euro
Mexico	Mexico City	Mexican peso
Republic of South Africa	Cape Town, Pretoria, Bloemfontein	South African rand
Russia	Moscow	Russian ruble
Turkey	Ankara	Turkish lira
United Kingdom	London	Pound sterling

Key points :

- The G20 summit 2018 was held in **Buenos Aires**, Argentina where Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince, Mohammad Bin Salman Al Saud represented his kingdom. The G20 summit of 2019 will be held in **Osaka**, Japan in June 28-29.
- For the very 1st time, the G20 summit was held in **2008 in Washington, D.C.** with the prime objective of reviving the world economy from the worst financial crisis in more than 70 years. The G20 Summit is formally known as the 'Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy'.

INDEX OF CANCER PREPAREDNESS (ICP) RELEASED BY ECONOMIST INTELLIGENCE UNIT (EIU)

➤ The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) has released the **2019 Index of Cancer Preparedness (ICP)** in which out of **28** countries India is in **19th** position from the top. The wide range of data indicates variation of cancer preparedness of countries i.e. methods to treat and prevent cancer.



- i. Cancer in 2018 caused 9.6 million deaths worldwide making it the 2nd biggest killer.
- ii. The title of the report under which ICP has been introduced is **“Cancer preparedness around the world: National readiness for a global epidemic.”**

About Index of Cancer Preparedness (ICP):

- i. The objective of ICP is to allow benchmarking of national efforts and identifying the best practices in addressing the cancer challenge.
- ii. The three broad domains under which ICP explores the issue of cancer preparedness are as follows:
 - policy and planning
 - care delivery
 - health systems and governance.

The four essentials of cancer preparedness Index as released by EIU are as follows:

- Essential investment (appropriate spending and resources)
- Roadmap (effective planning)
- Foundation (functioning health systems)
- Intelligence (availability and quality of cancer-related data).

Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU):

- The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), founded in 1946, with its headquarters in London, England, is the research and analysis division within The **Economist Group** and the world leader in global business intelligence. Its present Managing Director is Robin Bew, formerly the company’s Editorial Director and Chief Economist.

1.4 EMINENT PERSONS

ADANI BECOMES FIRST INDIAN PORT OPERATOR TO RECORD 200 MMT CARGO MOVEMENT



- Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) has recorded cargo movement of more than 200 million metric tonnes (MMT) at nine ports along the east and west coasts, becoming the first Indian port operator to achieve the milestone.
- Their projection were to reach this milestone by 2020 but they could achieve it ahead of schedule.
- APSEZ plans to double the growth up to 400 MMT by 2025.

SHAH RUKH KHAN CONFERRED WITH HONORARY DOCTORATE FROM UNIVERSITY OF LAW, LONDON

- Eminent Bollywood actor **Shah Rukh Khan** was conferred with an honorary doctorate in Philanthropy by the **University of Law, London**. He was awarded this for his efforts to give back to society.



Key points

- i. He has received the merit during a graduation ceremony which had more than 350 students in attendance.
- ii. Earlier, the actor was also conferred with honorary doctorates from the University of Bedfordshire and the University of Edinburgh.

TIME'S 100 MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE LIST

- TIME Magazine has released 100's most influential people list in which Reliance Industries Chairman **Mukesh Ambani**, public interest litigators **Arundhati Katju** and **Menaka Guruswamy** who fought the legal battle for LGBTQ rights are among Indians have been named.

Indians in TIME's 100 most influential list

Name	Profession	Category	Rank
Arundhati Katju	Lawyer	Pioneers	9 th
Menaka Guruswamy	Lawyer	Pioneers	9 th
Mukesh Ambani	Businessman	Icons	13 th

1.5 SPORTS & GAMES

THE TOKYO ORGANISING COMMITTEE OF THE OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES (TOKYO 2020)

- **Paralympic torch** was unveiled by the **Tokyo Organising Committee** of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (Tokyo 2020) which will take place between 13th and 25th August 2020 to represent the Torch Relay.



Key Points:

- The torch is made from the same **recycled aluminum** and is modeled after the **Japanese cherry blossom or “sakura”**. The color of the torch is **“Sakura Pink”**.
- On 13th August 2020, The Paralympic torch relay will begin in Japan, four days after the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Closing Ceremony.

VIRAT KOHLI AND SMRITI MANDHANA NAMED WISDEN'S LEADING CRICKETERS OF THE YEAR 2019

- **Wisden Cricketers' Almanack** has named **Virat Kohli** and **Smriti Mandhana** as the **Leading male and female cricketer of the year 2019**.



1. Smriti Mandhana bagged the women's Leading Cricketer of the year for the first time while Indian men's team captain was named for the **third straight year**.
2. The Afghanistan leg-spinner, **Rashid Khan**, was named the **Leading Twenty20 Cricketer** for the **second successive time**.
3. In **2018**, Kohli **scored 2735 runs** across the three formats and Mandhana **scored 669 and 662 runs** in ODIs and T20Is during the course of 2018.
4. Kohli was also chosen as one of the **five Wisden Cricketers of the year**, along with **Jos Buttler, Tammy Beaumont, Rory Burns** and **Sam Curran**.

About Wisden Cricketers' Almanack:

- Wisden Cricketers' Almanack (**“The Bible of Cricket”**) is a cricket reference book issued annually in the **United Kingdom**.
- In 1998, an Australian edition of Wisden Cricketers' Almanack and in 2012, Indian edition was launched.
- English Cricketer **John Wisden** established the Book in **1864**.

BREAK DANCING AND THREE OTHER MAKES NEXT MOVE TO OLYMPIC STATUS AT PARIS 2024



- The Executive Board of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has recommended adding breakdancing, skateboarding, sport climbing and surfing to the 2024 Paris Olympic Games.
- This decision was taken by the IOC’s executive board in the meeting held in Lausanne, Switzerland, Final Decision will be taken after the end of 2020.

USEFUL INFO	
International Olympic Committee (IOC)	
IOC President	Thomas Bach
IOC Headquarters	Lausanne, Switzerland

MIAMI OPEN HELD IN FLORIDA FROM 18TH MARCH TO 31ST MARCH 2019

- **2019 Miami Open** which was the 35th edition of Miami Open, held at Miami Gardens in **Florida, USA** from 18th March to 31st March 2019. It is a part of Masters 1000 category of **2019 ATP (Association of Tennis Professionals)** Tour and Premier mandatory Category of **2019 WTA (Women Tennis Association) Tour**.



List of Winners

Category	Winner	Runner Up
Men’s Single	Roger Federer (Switzerland)	John Isner (USA)
Women’s Single	Ashleigh Barty (Australia)	Karolina Pliskova (Czech Republic)
Men’s Double	Bob Bryan (USA) and Mike Bryan (USA)	Wasley Koolhof (Netherlands) and Stefanos Tsitsipas (Greece)
Women’s Doubles	Elise Mertens (Belgium) and Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus)	Samantha Stosur (Australia) and Zhang Shuai (China)

Highlights :

- For the first time the tournament took place on the **hard Rock Stadium**.
- **Roger Federer** won his 4th ATP Miami title in Men’s Single Category.
- Former Australian Cricketer, **Ashleigh Barty** became the first ever Australian winner of the tournament.

INDIA OPEN (BADMINTON) HELD NEW DELHI FROM 26TH MARCH TO 31ST MARCH 2019

- India Open which is officially known as **YONEX-SUNRISE India Open 2019** was organized by the **Badminton Association of India** at the K.D. Jadhav Indoor hall in **New Delhi** from 26th March to 31 March 2019. It was the eighth tournament of **2019 BWF (Badminton World Federation) World Tour**.

1. The Total Prize money of the tournament was \$350,000.

List of Winners

Category	Winner	Runner Up
Men's Single	Viktor Axelsen (Denmark)	Kidambi Srikanth (India)
Women's Singles	Ratchanok Intanon (Thailand)	He Bingjiao (China)
Men's Doubles	Lee Yang (Taiwan) and Wang Chi-lin (Taiwan)	Ricky Karanda Suwardi (Indonesia) and Angga Pratama (Indonesia)
Women's Singles	Greysia Polii (Indonesia) and Apriyani Rahayu (Indonesia)	Chow Mei Kuan (Malaysia) and Lee Meng Yean (Malaysia)
Mixed Doubles	Wang Yilu (China) and Huang Dongping (China)	Praveen Jordan (Indonesia) and Melati Daeva Oktavianti (Indonesia)

About Badminton World Federation (BWF) :

- Headquarters: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- President: Poul-Erik Hoyer Larsen

About Badminton Association of India

- Headquarters: New Delhi
- President: Himanta Biswa Sarma

THE FIRST INDUCTEE OF COMIC-CON MUSEUM'S CHARACTER HALL OF FAME



- **Batman** will become the first Inductee of **Comic-Con Museum's Character Hall of Fame** in a ceremony at 50th Annual Comic-Con International in San Diego, USA on 17th July 2019.
- The Batman is a fictional character of **DC Comics**. The Character of Batman was created by artist. **Bob Kane** and writer. **Bill Finger**. Batman first appeared in **Detective Comics #27** in 1939.

INDIA WINS ICC TEST CHAMPIONSHIP MACE FOR 3RD STRAIGHT YEAR

- **India** has retained **ICC Test Championship mace** for the third year in a row after finishing at the top of ICC Test team rankings on the cut-off date of April 1. It has also won the purse of **USD 1 million**.



Key Points :

- The runner up, **New Zealand** has won \$500,000 prize money after finishing with 108 points.
- South Africa finished 3rd with 105 points.
- 9 nations will compete across 27 series and 71 Test matches to reach the ICC World Test Championship Final in 2021.

TOP-10 OF PSA WORLD RANKING

- **Saurav Ghosal** moved up two places to become the **first Indian male squash player** to break into the top 10 of the latest **PSA (Professional Squash Association)** world ranking. He is ranked at 10th Place which is his career best ranking.



Key Points :

- Saurav Ghosal performed brilliantly in the **2018-2019 PSA World Championship** which was held in Chicago, USA and reached up to the quarter finals.
- Two Indian Women Squash player named **Joshna Chinappa and Dipika Pallikal** had entered into top 10 of PSA World ranking earlier

Professional Squash Association (PSA)

- Headquarters: Leeds, England
- Chairman: Ziad Al-Turki
- President: Ali Farag (Men) and Jenny Duncalf (Women)

Squash Rackets Federation of India (SRFI)

- Headquarters: Chennai
- President: Debendranath Sarangi
- Coach: Cyrus Poncha

FIFA RANKINGS: BELGIUM STAYED ON TOP SPOT

- **FIFA** (The **Federation Internationale de Football Association**) rankings have been issued on 4th April, 2019. **Belgium** has hold off World Cup winners France to retain the first rank. England rose up to 4th position above Croatia by defeating them in the World Cup semi-finals.

Key Points

- Indian** football team gained two places to rise to **101st position** in the rankings. With 1219 total ranking points, the Indian team lies 18th among the Asian countries.
- Belgium has edged world France for the top spot and Brazil remains at the 3rd Position. Uruguay and European champions Portugal trade places at 6th and 7th position.

DREAM11 BECOMES INDIA'S FIRST BILLION-DOLLAR GAMING STARTUP

- **Dream11** has just become a Unicorn, that is a billion-dollar startup. Few exciting developments have made Dream11 to be India's **first gaming unicorn** which has made it to the elite club of privately-held startups valued at **\$1 billion** or more.



Key Points :

- Steadview Capital of London and Hong Kong has invested \$60 million in Dream11, against a valuation of \$1-\$1.5 billion.

FOUR SPORTS INCLUDING BREAKDANCING GOT PROVISIONAL GREEN LIGHT FOR PARIS OLYMPICS 2024

- **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.



Key Points :

- This decision was taken by the IOC's executive board in the meeting held in Lausanne, Switzerland. Final Decision will be taken after the end of 2020.
- This will contribute to make the program of the Games more gender-balanced, more youthful and more urban.

AN OVERVIEW OF ESPN INDIA AWARDS 2018

- The **ESPN India awards for 2018** in which PV Sindhu was conferred with the sportsperson of year award in female category and Neeraj Chopra was conferred with the sportsperson of the year award in Male category.



Award	Winner
Sportsperson of the Year (Male)	Neeraj Chopra (Javelin throw)
Sportsperson of the Year (Female)	PV Sindhu (Badminton)
Emerging Sportsperson of the Year	Saurabh Chaudhary (Pistol Shooting)
Coach of the Year	Jaspal Rana (Pistol Shooting)
Comeback of the Year	Saina Nehwal (Badminton)
Match of the Year	Amit Panghal (Boxing)
Team of the Year	Women Table Tennis team
Differently-abled Athlete of the year	Ekta Bhyan (Para-athletics)
Lifetime Achievement award	Pradip Kumar 'PK' Banerjee (Football)
Moment of the Year	Women's 4*400m relay team

MAHARSHI BADRAYAN VYAS SAMMAN 2019

- A Scholar of Pali, **Dr. Gyanaditya Shakya**, has been honoured with the **Presidential Award of Maharshi Badrayan Vyas Samman 2019** with prize money of INR 1,00,000 and a certificate. He accepts award from Vice- President of India M Venkaiah Naidu.



Key Points :

- Dr. Shakya was conferred the award for his outstanding contribution in the field of Pali language and literature.
- He was selected for the award by the department of Higher education, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India for his five books namely **Bauddha Dharma Darshan Mein Brahmavihara Bhavana, Anagatavasa, Chakesadhatuvasa, Panca+gatidipani and Gandhavasa.**
- He was awarded with **Vividh (Shraman) Puruskar** by Governor of Uttar Pradesh **Shri Ram naik** and Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh **Shri Yogi Adityanath.**

About Presidential Award of MaharshiBadrayanVyasSamman :

- **Introduced:** 2002
- **Field:** Sanskrit, Persian, Arabic, Pali, Prakrit, Classical Oriya, Classical Kannada, Classical telugu and Classical Malayalam

'GLOBAL SLAG COMPANY OF THE YEAR' AWARD WAS WON BY TATA STEEL

- **Tata Steel** bagged the 'Global Slag Company of the Year' award at the **14th Global Slag Conference and Exhibition 2019**, for its innovative practices in the development of new applications for **Steel by-products (Slag)**.



Key Points :

- The conference was held recently in **Aachen, Germany**, and is one of the largest global annual slag events, attended by major steelmakers, steel mill service providers & associated companies.
- The global companies like **Arcelor Mittal, CHC Resources Corporation, Contrasteel, Ecocem, Harsco Metals & Minerals, Koryo Slag Cement Co. Ltd., Metallo Belgium N.V.** also received this award.

About Tata Steel Ltd

- **CEO:** V. Narendran
- **Founder:** Jamsetji Tata
- **Founded:** 25 August 1907, Jamshedpur
- **Headquarters:** Mumbai

INDONESIAN NURAENI NAMED BEST ATHLETIC COACH IN ASIA 2019

- Asian Athletic Association (AAA) declared **Indonesian Eni Nuraeni** as the best **athletic coach in Asia** for the **short-haul run category in 2019**. It was published by the **Indonesian Athletic Sports Association (PB PASI)**.
 1. Eni instructs young sprinter **Lalu Muhammad Zohri** to win the 100m gold medal in 10.20 seconds in the 2019 Grand Prix Malaysia Open athletics championships.
 2. Zohri is a gold medal winner in 100m in 10.18 in the IAAF World U20 Championships in Tampere, Finland in 2018
 3. He also gained the gold medal in 10.27 in the Asian Junior Championships in Gifu, Japan.

About Asian Athletic Association (AAA) :

- **Headquarters :** Singapore
- **President:** Dahlan Jumaan al-Hamad

MEENA KUMARI MAISNAM CLINCHED GOLD MEDAL AT COLOGNE BOXING WORLD CUP 2019

- **Meena Kumari** Maisnam has clinched gold medal under **54 kg** by continuing her enthusiastic form to finish on the top of the podium by edging Thailand's Machai Bunyanut on points in the summit clash at the Cologne Boxing World Cup 2019 in Cologne, Germany.



GARIN BECOMES FIRST CHILEAN ATP CHAMPION TITLE IN 10 YEARS

- Chilean professional tennis player **Christian Garin** (22) won his **first ATP title** in 10 years in the final of the US Men's Clay Court Championships in Houston. He beat Norway's **Casper Ruud**.



Key Points :

- He became the **first Chilean** to win an ATP Tour title since **Fernando Gonzalez** in 2009.
- He reached the final by defeating American Sam Querrey.
- This Championship is an annual ATP Tour tennis tournament which was started in **1910** and is the **last remaining ATP World** Tour-level tournament in the United States to be played on clay courts.

About Chile

- **Capital:** Santiago
- **Currency:** Chilean peso

MITHALI RAJ NAMED AS GOODWILL AMBASSADOR OF STREET CHILD CRICKET WORLD CUP 2019

- Ace cricketer MithaliDorai Raj, Captain of the Indian women's cricket team, has been named as the goodwill ambassador of the Indian team for the Street Child Cricket World Cup 2019. Mithali joins IPL franchise **Rajasthan Royals** and former captain **Sourav Ganguly** in supporting the team.



1. This is the first cricket world cup for street-connected children and final will be played at **Lord's in London** on **May 7**.

MAHENDRA SINGH DHONI NAMED AS THE BRAND AMBASSADOR OF REDBUS



- Cricketer **Mahendra Singh Dhoni** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Bus ticketing platform **redBus** to strengthen the redBus brand.

Key Points :

- At present, Dhoni is the brand ambassador of sports firm Dream11, Colgate, MasterCard, Orient Fans, BharatMatrimony, Indigo Paints, SRMB Steel, and health supplement brand Revital H.
- RedBus started its operation in **2006**, works with over 2500 bus operator and have sold more than 180 million bus tickets till date. It is also a part of the **MakeMyTrip group**.

About Redbus

- **Founded:** August 2006
- **CEO:** Prakash Sangam
- **Headquarters:** Bengaluru

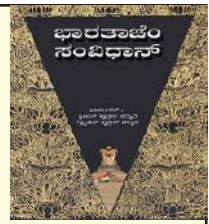
1.6 BOOKS & AUTHORS

‘INDIAN CONSTITUTION’ BOOK RELEASED IN KONKANI

- The Mangaluru Bishop **Peter Paul Saldanha** has released A **Konkani** translation of the **Indian Constitution** at the Rosario cathedral.

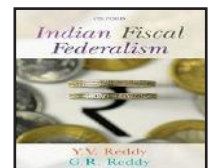
Key Points:

- Prof **Stephen Quadros Permude**, who has authored several books in Konkani has translated the book.
- It has been brought out by the **Mangaluru diocesan commission**, which is led by its convener Fr J B Crasta.



INDIAN FISCAL FEDERALISM

- The Governor of Reserve Bank of India, **Shaktikanta Das** launched the book **“Indian Fiscal Federalism”** authored by **Dr. Y.V. Reddy** and **G.R. Reddy**. The launch event of the book was addressed by the Chairman of the 15th Finance Commission **NK Singh**, in New Delhi.



1. Dr. Y.V. Reddy has served as the Governor of RBI during 2003-2008 and as the Chairman of the 14th Finance Commission of India.
2. Dr. G.R. Reddy is serving as the Advisor (Finance) to the Government of Telangana.

'MODI AGAIN' AND 'SAFFRON SWORDS'

- The Indian Publishing company, Garuda Prakashan Private Limited, launched its two books “#Modi Again” and “Saffron Swords – Centuries of India is Resistance to Invaders”.
- 1. “**#Modi Again: Why Modi is right for India, An Ex-Communist’s Manifesto**” authored by **Aabhas Maldahiya**, states the reasons about how Narendra Modi is right for India.
- 2. “**Saffron Swords: Centuries of India is Resistance to Invaders**” written by **Manoshi Sinha Rawal** is a book on 52 unsung warriors of India from last 1300 years.

Related Points:

- Garuda CEO - Sankrant Sanu

DIARY OF AN AWESOME FRIENDLY KID: ROWLEY JEFFERSON’S JOURNAL

- **Jeff Kinney**, an eminent author has emerged out with a new book titled “Diary of an Awesome Friendly Kid: Rowley Jefferson’s Journal”. The book is written from the opinion of Rowley Jefferson, the best friend of ‘Diary of a Wimpy Kid’ supporter Greg Heffley.

Key points :

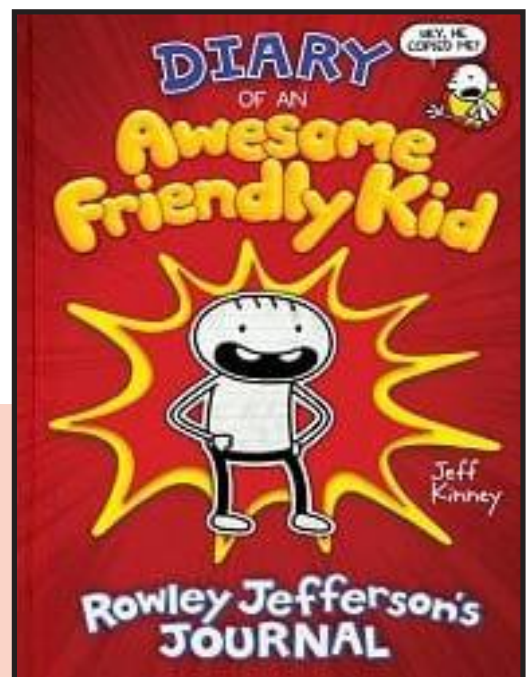
- This book is Jeff Kinney’s first outside of his “Diary of a Wimpy Kid” series.
- The book is written in Kinney’s trademark humour. It will also mark around 350 black-and-white illustrations

KUNDAN: SAIGAL’S LIFE & MUSIC

- ‘**Kundan: Saigal’s Life & Music**’, book authored by documentary filmmaker and former DDG of Doordarshan **Sharad Dutt** was released on 4th April, on the 115th birth anniversary of Saigal.

Key Points:

- i. The book has been transcated in English by **Jyoti Sabharwal** of **Stellar Publishers**.
- ii. Sharad Dutt won the **National Award** (Swarna Kamal for best book on cinema) in 2005 for the original book in Hindi.
- iii. **Kundanlal Saigal** was an Indian singer and actor who is considered the **first superstar of the Hindi film industry**.



SUDHANSHU KUMAR, THE FOUNDER OF DIGITAL SUK- OON WON THE “BEST DIGITAL AGENCY AWARD”

- **Sudhanshu Kumar**, the founder of **Digital Sukoon** has been honored with the **Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Nobel Award** by **International Human Rights Council** at Hotel Sea Princess Juhu Mumbai.

Key points :

- This agency named as the **Best Digital Agency of the Year 2019**.
- The other recipients of this award in various categories were **Yogesh Lakhani** of Bright Outdoor Media, Actor **Johnny Lever**, **Jasleen Matharu**.

TELUGU POET K SIVA REDDY HONOURED WITH THE PRESTIGIOUS SARASWATI SAMMAN 2018

- Telugu poet **K Siva Reddy** has been honoured with the prestigious **Saraswati Samman, 2018** with a cash prize of **15 lakh rupees** for his collection of poetry titled '**Pakkaki Ottigilite**'.

Key points :

- It is one of the highest literary awards, instituted by the **KK Birla Foundation** in 1991.
- He was born in **1943** in Karmurivari Palem near Tenali, **Andhra Pradesh**.
- He has won several awards, including the **Sahitya Akademi Award** for his book '**Mohana! Oh, Mohana!**'.
- The Saraswati Samman award was given annually for an outstanding literary work written in any **22 Indian languages** listed in **Schedule VIII of the Constitution of India**.

PM NARENDRA MODI CONFERRED WITH RUSSIA’S HIGHEST STATE HONOUR

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with the '**Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle**', by Russia for exceptional services in promoting bilateral ties.



- Narendra Modi was awarded with this award for his exceptional services to enhance privileged strategic partnership between Russia and India.
- The award is the highest civilian honor of the Russian Federation which was established by Czar Peter I of Russia in the 17th century.

SELECTED SPEECHES OF DR. BHIMRAO AMBEDKAR IN THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

- A booklet of the 'Selected speeches of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar in the Constituent Assembly' was published by Prasar Bharati Chairman, A Surya Prakash on an event in New Delhi.

Key points :

- It was organized to commemorate the contributions of Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, popularly known as **Babasaheb Ambedkar**, for the **upliftment of underprivileged** in the country.
- Babasaheb Ambedkar was an Indian jurist, economist, politician, social reformer and the **architect of the Constitution of India**. He was also **independent India's first law and justice minister**.

KHOONI VAISAKHI

- A book containing English translation of the 100 year old classic Punjabi poem about Jallianwala Bagh massacre, '**Khooni Vaisakhi**' has been released in **Abu Dhabi** and was commended by India's Ambassador to the UAE Navdeep Singh Suri.

Key points :

- It was translated by Mr. Suri whose grandfather, revolutionary poet and novelist **Nanak Singh**, who was a Jallianwala Bagh survivor, wrote it after witnessing the Jallianwala Bagh massacre on 13th April 1919.
- The book was also released in **New Delhi** on **13 April** this year to mark the 100 years of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre that took place in Amritsar.

1.7 AWARDS & HONOURS

NATIONAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AWARD 2019

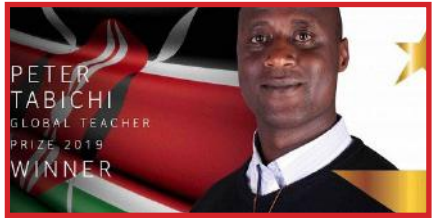
- **The Intellectual Property Rights cell (IPR cell)** of Kerala Agricultural University (KAU) has been selected for the **National Intellectual Property Award 2019** for its contributions in best facilitation for registration of Geographical Indications and promotion of registered GI in the country.

Key Points :

- This award comprising prize money of **Rs1 lakh** and will be presented in a function to be held in New Delhi on **26th April**, World IP Day.
- The award was constituted by the Indian Intellectual Property Office under the central ministry of industry and commerce to confer the persons and organizations working in the field of patents, trademarks and Geographical Indications (GI). **Bhayanakam**
- Malayalam film **Bhayanakam (Fear)** which was directed by **Jayaraj** won the best **cinematography award** at the Beijing International Film Festival and had also won the best cinematography award at the 65th National Film Awards.

PETER TABICHI CONFERRED WITH GLOBAL TEACHER PRIZE FOR 2019

➤ Peter Tabichi, a member of the Franciscan religious order has been conferred with the prestigious Global Teacher Prize for 2019 at a ceremony in Dubai hosted by Hollywood actor, Hugh Jackman.



1. Peter Tabichi gives away 80 per cent of his monthly income to the poor.
2. The award recognises the “exceptional” teacher’s commitment to pupils in a remote part of Kenya’s Rift Valley.

PRESIDENT KOVIND RECEIVES CROATIA’S HIGHEST CIVILIAN AWARD



- President Ram Nath Kovind was honoured with Croatia’s highest civilian award - the Grand Order of the King of Tomislav.
- Kovind is in the European country as part of his eight-day three-nation visit to Croatia, Bolivia and Chile to further strengthen bilateral ties between India and the three countries.
- The civilian order was awarded to heads of state for their important contribution towards the development of state relations between Croatia and their respective countries.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY’S BODLEY AWARD

➤ **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.

Key Points :

- In 1998, He was awarded the prestigious **Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences** for his work in welfare economics and social choice theory.

SWACHTA PAKHWADA AWARDS 2019

- Three organizations All India Radio, Publication Division and Children’s Film Society of India conferred **Swachta Pakhwada Award 2019**. The award was given by **Amit Khare**, Secretary Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
- The award was received by Director General of All India Radio F. Sheheryar and Director General (News) Ms. Ira Joshi on behalf of All India Radio.

NOBEL PRIZE OF COMPUTING

- Regarded as “Godfathers of AI”, **Yoshua Bengio**, **Geoffrey Hinton**, and **Yann LeCun**, have been recognized with **Nobel Prize of computing, Turing Award 2018**. The **\$1 million annual prize** recognized their work for developing the AI (Artificial intelligence) subfield of deep learning. The troika has developed a base for the recent growth of AI technologies, through their work in the 1990s and 2000.



About Winners :

- **Geoffrey Hinton** is a faculty member in the University of Toronto and Brain researcher of Google.
- **Yoshua Bengio** is a professor at the University of Montreal and founder of AI company called Element AI.
- **Yann LeCun** is a chief AI scientist of Facebook and a professor at New York University (NYU).

About Turing Award:

- Initiated in 1966, this annual award is named after British mathematician **Alan M. Turing**, whose work laid the foundation for computer science and artificial intelligence.
- It honors the individual for contributing major technical importance in the computer field.
- First recipient – **Alan Perlis**.

NOBEL LAUREATE AMARTYA SEN HONOURED WITH OXFORD UNIVERSITY'S BODLEY MEDAL

- Nobel Prize-winning economist Amartya Sen has been awarded the prestigious Bodley Medal, the highest honour bestowed by the University of Oxford's world-famous Bodleian Libraries.
- The Medal is awarded to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the fields in which the Bodleian is active, including literature, culture, science and communication.
- This year's other winner of the Bodley Medal is Nobel Prize-winning novelist Kazuo Ishiguro.
- Past winners of the honour include physicist Stephen, Hawking, novelist Hilary Mantel and inventor of the World Wide Web Tim Berners-Lee.



PRAVASI BHARATIYA SAMMAN AWARD CONFERRED UPON DR. RAJENDRA KUMAR JOSHI



- **Dr. Rajendra Kumar Joshi**, the founder and chairman of the RUJ Group has been conferred with the prestigious Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award on 29th March, 2019. He was awarded by the **Embassy of India in Switzerland**, on behalf of the President of India with a commendation letter and a medal.

Key points :

- He claimed this award was for his magnificent achievements in the field of science, education and medicine.
- The theme of 2019 Pravasi Bharatiya Divas convention was **“Role of Indian Diaspora in building New India.”**

About Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award

- The **Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award (PBSA)** is the highest honour which is conferred on Non-resident Indians by the President of India for their significant contributions towards bringing honour and glory to India.

JOHN DIRKS CANADA GAIRDNER GLOBAL HEALTH AWARD

- **Vikram patel**, a psychiatrist and professor of global health at Harvard Medical school, has been honoured with prestigious **John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health award** with prize money of \$100,000 by The Gairdner Foundation.

Key Points :

- This award was given for his **world-leading research in mental health**, providing knowledge on the burden and determinants of mental health problems in low-and-middle-income countries and for the treatment of mental health.

INDIAN ASTROLOGER DR. SOHINI SASTRI FELICITATED BY D. LITT IN ASTROLOGY

- Indian **Astrologer Dr. Sohini Sastri** has been honoured with **‘D. Litt in Astrology’ by National American University, USA** at an event held in Mumbai at Classique Club for her immense knowledge and contribution towards Astrology.

Key Points:

- Bollywood singer **Mohit Chauhan** and choreographer **Terence Lewis** were also awarded Doctorates at the same event.
- She was honoured with **Doctorate in Astrology in the year 2018** by Victoria Global University, USA and also a receipt of **‘Champions of Change Award’** by Honourable Vice-President of India, M. Venkaiah Naidu.

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

- **Hero MotoCorp** Chairman, **Dr. Pawan Munjal** has been honoured with '**the Asian Tour with a Special Achievement Award**' at the ceremony of Hero Indian Open Golf tournament for his contributions to Asian Golf.



Key Points :

- Dr. Pawan Munjal is a **fine golfer** himself. He has been supporting the **Hero Indian Open** for 14 years, along with the **Hero Women's Indian Open, the Hero Challenge series on the European Tour and the Hero World Challenge on the PGA Tour** and also hosts **multiple golf tournaments** in India, including the marquee Hero Indian Open for both men and women.

ASIAN TOUR FELICITATES HERO CHAIRMAN PAWAN MUNJAL FOR CONTRIBUTION TO GOLF IN ASIA

- **Hero MotoCorp - Chairman, Dr. Pawan Munjal** was recently felicitated by the **Asian Tour** with a **Special Achievement Award** for his contributions to **Asian Golf**.
- Dr. Munjal was presented with a special salver by leading Indian golfer Shiv Kapur, representing the players on the Asian Tour.

UAE HONOURS PM MODI WITH THE HIGHEST CIVILIAN HONOUR, ZAYED MEDAL

- UAE honoured PM Narendra Modi with its highest civilian award, the **Zayed Medal** for boosting the bilateral ties between both of the nations.



Eligibility to acquire this award :

- United Arab Emirates's highest civilian decoration, the Order of Zayed, awarded to those who contribute to international leadership in strengthening relations with the country.
- **Past recipients of this award** were Russian president Vladimir Putin, former US president George W Bush, French leader Nicolas Sarkozy and German politician Angela Merkel.

Background:-

- The Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi **Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan** visited India on **24-26 of January, 2017** as the chief guest for Republic Day celebrations in New Delhi and Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited **UAE on February 10-11, 2018**.

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AIMA AWARDS 2019

It was held On 8th April 2019 At Hotel Taj Palace, New Delhi

Serial Number	Award Category	Award Winner
1	Lifetime Contribution Award	Azim H Premji Chairman, Wipro Ltd
2	Outstanding Institution Builder	Prathap C Reddy Founder-Chairman, Apollo Hospitals Group
3	Corporate Citizen Award	Devi Prasad Shetty Founder & Chairman Narayana Hrudalaya
4	Entrepreneur of the year	Sanjiv Bajaj Managing Director, Bajaj Finserv Ltd
5	Business Leader of the Year	Sanjiv Mehta Chairman & Managing Director, Hindustan Unilever Ltd
6	Lifetime Contribution to Media	Mahendra Mohan Gupta Chairman & Managing Director, Jagran Prakashan Ltd and Editorial Director, Dainik Jagran
7	Outstanding Contribution to Media	Uday Shankar President, 21st Century Fox, Asia and Chairman and CEO, Star India

8	Indian MNC of the Year	Pawan Goenka, Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd, Managing Director and Member of the Group Executive Board
9	MNC in India of the Year	T Krishnakumar, Coca-Cola India, President & CEO, India & Southwest Asia
10	Outstanding PSU of the Year	Sanjiv Singh, Chairman, Indian Oil Corporation Ltd
11	Director of the Year	Rajkumar Hirani Director, Producer, Writer & Editor – Sanju

NEW ZEALAND PRIME MINISTER'S SIR EDMUND HILLARY FELLOWSHIP FOR 2019

- **Rio Paralympics silver medalist Deepa Malik** has been honoured with the **New Zealand Prime Minister's Sir Edmund Hillary Fellowship for 2019** in recognition of her "inspiring achievements".



Key points :

- She won the silver medal in **shot put F53** event in Rio Paralympics in 2016.
- She became the **first Indian woman** to win a medal at the **Paralympic Games** and **the first Indian woman to win medals in three consecutive Asian Para Games** in 2010, 2014 and 2018.
- She was also honoured with India's civilian honour **Padma Shri** and the prestigious **Arjuna Award** for excellence in sports and secured a place in the **Limca Book of World Records four times**.
- This fellowship was given by the **Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern** to strengthen the ties between India and New Zealand.

About New Zealand

- **Capital** : Wellington
- **Prime minister** : Jacinda Ardern
- **Currency** : New Zealand dollar

FREEDOM OF THE CITY OF LONDON

- The Chairman and Managing Director of the **General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC)**, **Alice G. Vaidyan** has been honoured with the **Freedom of the City of London** for the recognition of her work to promote insurance ties between India and the UK.



Key points :

- On the event of **first India-UK Insurance Summit**, she was nominated for the traditional honour by **the Lord Mayor of London, Peter Estlin**, and **City of London Corporation Policy Chair Catherine McGuinness**.
- The event was the precursor of the **Global InsurTech Summit** in **Mumbai**, which will be held later in the year.
- **The Freedom of the City of London** is an honour bestowed by **City of London Corporation** to the individuals who make an impact in the financial hub of London, referred to as the City or the Square Mile.

About General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC)

- **Headquarters:** Mumbai
- **Founded:** 22nd November 1972

IMAGE OF A CRYING TODDLER AT US BORDER WON THE WORLD PRESS PHOTO AWARD 2019

- An image of **a little girl crying**, as she and her mother have been taken into custody by US border officials in Texas won the prestigious World Press Photo of the Year.



Key Points :

- Veteran Getty photographer **John Moore** took the picture in the Rio Grande Valley on 12th June 2018.
- The little girl in this picture name **Yanela** and her mother **Sandra Sanchez** illegally crossed the US-Mexican border last year.
- The picture caused a public outcry about Washington's controversial policy to separate thousands of migrants from their children.
- Also, Dutch-Swedish photographer **Pieter Ten Hoopen** won the **"World Press Photo Story of the Year Award"** for the image of 2018 mass-migrant caravan to the US border.

MINT'S TEENA THACKER CONFERRED WITH 2019 CITI JOURNALISTIC EXCELLENCE AWARD

- Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism has selected Mint's **Teena Thacker** as the winner of the 2019 Citi Journalistic Excellence Awards.

Key Points :

- She has been conferred with this award for her long story titled '**How Johnson & Johnson is scooting from the hip**' in Mint.
- In the article, she has scanned the battle for compensation by Indian patients in detail.

GUILLERMO CANO PRESS FREEDOM PRIZE 2019

- Reuters journalists, **Kyaw Soe Oo** and **Wa Lone** have been selected for **UNESCO/Guillermo Cano Press Freedom Prize 2019** are being conferred as praise to their commitment, courage and resistance to freedom of expression.



About UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize :

- The award is a tribute to Colombian journalist **Guillermo Cano Isaza**. On 17 December 1986, he was killed in front of the offices of his newspaper El Espectador in Bogota, Colombia.
- The prize honours an institution or person who has made a notable contribution to the defence and promotion of press freedom.
- The Prize was founded on the initiative of UNESCO's Executive Board and is awarded by the DG of the Organization, on the occasion of World Press Freedom Day, on 3 May.

About Reuters :

- **Parent organization:** Thomson Reuters Corporation
- **CEO:** James C. Smith
- **Headquarters:** Canary Wharf, London, United Kingdom
- **Founder:** Paul Reuter
- **Founded:** October 1851

2019 PULITZER PRIZE ANNOUNCED

- **The Pulitzer Prize** is an award for achievements in newspaper, magazine and online journalism, literature, and musical composition in the **United States**.
- It was established in 1917 by provisions in the will of American (Hungarian-born) **Joseph Pulitzer** who had made his fortune as a newspaper publisher and is administered by **Columbia University** in New York City.



Following is the complete list of 2019 Pulitzer Prize winners:

JOURNALISM	
Category	Winner
Public service	Staff of the South Florida Sun Sentinel
Criticism	Carlos Lozada of The Washington Post
Editorial writing	Brent Staples of the New York Times
BOOKS, DRAMA, AND MUSIC	
Category	Winner
Fiction	“The Overstory” by Richard Powers
Drama	“Fairview” by Jackie Sibblies Drury
History	“Frederick Douglass” by David W. Blight
Biography or autobiography	“The New Negro” by Jeffrey C. Stewart
Poetry	“Be With” by Forrest Gander
General nonfiction	“Amity and Prosperity” by Eliza Griswold
Music	“p r i s m” by Ellen Reid
Special Citation	Aretha Franklin

YUSUF HAMIE, THE CHAIRMAN OF CIPLA, RECEIVED UK ROYAL SOCIETY HONOUR

- Padma Bhushan awardee **Yusuf Hamied (82)** who is the chairman of **Cipla** pharmaceutical company was honoured in the 2019 list of new fellows of the **UK’s Royal Society**.



Key points :

- It is an independent scientific academy of the **UK and the Commonwealth**, for promoting excellence in science.
- He was born on 25th July 1936 in Vilnius, Lithuania, raised in Mumbai and known for his effort to **produce low-cost drugs** to treat diabetes, cancer and other diseases
- The UK Royal Society elected 51 eminent scientists as Fellows of the Royal Society.

1.11 CULTURAL PANORAMA

JASHN-E-ITTIHAAD

- A music and poetry festival titled '**Jashn-e-Ittihaad**' was held at the **Jamia Milia Islamia central university** in **New Delhi** to spread awareness about unity amongst the youth.



Key Points :

- The festival was organized by **Delhi-based entertainment company Question Associates Pvt Ltd.**
- In this event, people enjoyed the **soulful Hindi and Urdu poetry**, music and performances that made them feel good as well as spread awareness about unity and integrity.
- Some great poets like **Irshad Kamil and Waseem Bareilvi** participated in this festival.

1.12 INDIA & ITS NEIGHBOURS

BOLD KURUKSHETRA-2019

- A **three-day** joint military exercise between **India and Singapore** named '**Bold Kurukshetra-2019**' started in Jhansi's Babina Cantonment, Uttar Pradesh to strengthen cooperation against terrorism, develop defence technology and boost maritime security.



Key Points :

- **Colonel SP Singh** led the Indian counterpart, and **Lieutenant Colonel Tong Chong Kiat** led the Singapore counterpart. **Brigadier Ranjan Keron** reviewed the march past of both the contingents.
- **Background of this exercise:** An official agreement signed between India and Singapore in **November 2017** to strengthen defence ties between their respective armed forces and for this agreement, personnel from the Singapore Armed Forces will receive training along with the Indian Armed Forces.

INDIA TO BE GUEST OF HONOUR COUNTRY AT 29TH ABU DHABI INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR

- The **29th edition of the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair (ADIBF)** started and will conclude on 30th April at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre. **India** has been nominated as the **“Guest of Honour”** country which reflects the strong relations between the leadership and the people of the UAE and India.



Key Points:

- i. The fair will involve over 1000 participants from more than 50 countries and 30 publishing houses from India are taking part in the fair. The fair aims to highlight the UAE's rich heritage, showcase its authenticity, and cultural.



Our Website : www.vetriias.com

1.13 APPOINTMENTS

ABHAY THAKUR APPOINTED AS THE NEXT AMBASSADOR OF INDIA TO THE REPUBLIC OF BENIN

- **Shri Abhay Thakur**, a 1992 batch of Indian Foreign Service officer has been designated as the **Ambassador of Benin**.

Key Points :

- Presently he is the **High Commissioner of India to Nigeria**.
- India does not have a Resident Diplomatic Mission in Benin.

About Nigeria :

- **Capital:** Abuja
- **Currency:** Nigerian naira
- **President:** Muhammadu Buhari

About Benin:

- **Capital:** Porto-Novo
- **Currencies:** CFA franc, West African CFA franc
- **President:** Patrice Talon

LAWYER ZUZANA CAPUTOVA WON THE ELECTION OF SLOVAKIA'S PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

- Lawyer **Zuzana Caputova (45)** won **Slovakia's presidential election** and become Slovakia's **first female president**. She will succeed **Andrej Kiska**.



Key points :

- She was born on 21st June 1973 in Bratislava.
- She was honoured with the **Goldman Environmental Award in 2016** for her strong and resolute leadership regarding the Pezinok landfill affair, Caputova.

About Slovakia

- Capital: Bratislava
- Currency: Euro
- Prime Minister: Peter Pellegrini

LORI LIGHTFOOT ELECTED AS FIRST BLACK WOMEN MAYOR OF CHICAGO

- **Lori Lightfoot**, a 56 year old former federal Prosecutor and practicing lawyer has been elected as **Chicago's first Black Women Mayor**.



1. Lightfoot is an African American Women who has worked in private legal practice partner at **Mayor Brown**.
2. **Lightfoot** is also the first lesbian Leader for the City.
3. She will succeed **Rahm Emanuel**, who previously served as chief of staff under former US President **Barack Obama**.

KESHAV MURUGESH TAKES OVER AS NASSCOM CHAIRMAN

- **NASSCOM (National Association of Software and services companies)**, an IT industry body has appointed **Keshav Murugesh**, CEO of WNS Global Services Group as its **Chairman** for 2019-20. This appointment of the Nasscom Chairman and Vice Chairman is done by the Executive Council.



Key Points :

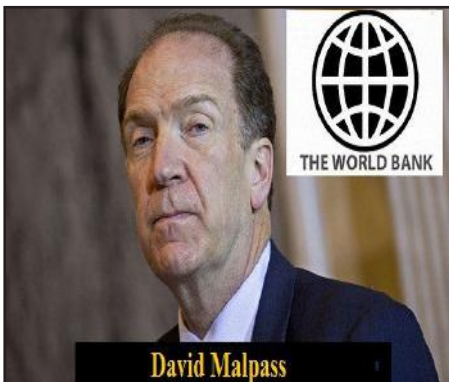
- Currently, he is the Vice Chairman of Nasscom, and has succeeded Rishad Premji.
- Nasscom also designated Pravin Rao, Infosys COO UB as its Vice Chairman for 2019-20.

About NASSCOM:

- **Headquarters:** Noida, Uttar Pradesh
- **Chairman:** Rishad Premji

DAVID MALPASS HAS BEEN ELECTED AS WORLD BANK PRESIDENT

- **Davis Malpass** senior Treasury official and staunch supporter of President Donald Trump, was unanimously chosen as the **next president of the World bank**. He will succeed **Jim Yong-Kim**.



Key Points :

- He was born on 8th march 1956 in Michigan
- **Kristalina Georgieva**, chief executive officer of the bank, has been acting as the **interim President**. Malpass is nominated by Donald Trump.
- He is currently serving as **Under Secretary of the Treasury for International Affairs** and Previously held a senior role in the US State Department for Latin American Affairs.

About World Bank

- **Headquarters :** Washington, D.C., United States
- **Founded :** 1944
- **Founders :** John Maynard Keynes, Harry Dexter White

ISRAEL'S BENJAMIN NETANYAHU HEADED TO FIFTH TERM AS PRIME MINISTER

- **Benjamin Netanyahu** appeared to head a historic **5th term** as Israel's prime minister with close-to-complete unofficial election results giving his right-wing Likud and other nationalist and religious parties a solid majority in parliament.

Key Points :

- The results have dimmed hopes of a negotiated solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
- With 97.4% of the vote counted, Likud and its traditional political allies were in command of a 65-55 majority in parliament.



About Israel:

- **Capital:** Jerusalem
- **Currency:** Israeli new Shekel

ABDELKADER BENSALAH APPOINTED AS ALGERIA'S FIRST NEW PRESIDENT IN 20 YEARS

- The speaker of the upper house **Abdelkader Bensalah** (77) has been appointed as **Algeria's first new president in 20 years** by the Lawmakers of Algeria.



Key Points :

- Lawmakers appointed Algeria's first new president after the resignation of veteran leader **Abdelaziz Bouteflika**.

About Algeria

- **Capital:** Algiers
- **Currency:** Algerian dinar
- **Prime Minister:** Nouredine Bedoui

PWC INDIA NAMES PADMAJA ALAGANANDAN AS CHIEF PEOPLE OFFICER, JAGJIT SINGH STEPS DOWN

- PwC India announced the appointment of Padmaja Alaganandan as the firm's new Chief People Officer (CPO). She takes over the role from **Jagjit Singh**.



Key Points :

- Padmaja has been associated with PwC for the last eight years. Earlier, she was the Technology sector lead for PwC's Advisory Line of Service. Before that, she was the leader of the firm's People and Organization Consulting practice.

GAGANDEEP KANG IS FIRST INDIAN WOMEN IN 359 YEARS TO JOIN ROYAL SOCIETY

➤ Gagandeep Kang, 56 year old, executive director of Translational Health Science and technology Institute at Faridabad, has become the first Indian female scientist to be elected as a **Fellow of the royal Society (FRS)** in the **UK in the 359** year history of the prestigious scientific academy.

About UK :

- **Capital** : London
- **Currency** : Pound sterling
- **Prime Minister** : Theresa May

1. Dr. Kang, Called India's vaccine "**God Mother**", developed a vaccine against Rota Virus and was first identified by AIIMS, **New Delhi in 1985**.
2. Total 51 scientists were elected as FRS.
3. Dr. Yusuf Hamied was elected as Honorary Fellow.

MEA APPOINTED JAIDEEP SARKAR AS INDIA'S NEXT HIGH COMMISSIONER TO SOUTH AFRICA

➤ A 1987-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer **Jaideep Sarkar**, currently serving as **India's ambassador in Bhutan**, appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the **Republic of South Africa**. He will succeed **Ruchi Ghanashyam**.

Key Highlights :

- After joining IFS service, Sarkar served in many different Indian missions in Tokyo, Seoul and Bangladesh.
- He also served in the Finance Ministry from 1992-1996. His responsibility is to deal with economic relations with **European Union** member countries.
- In 2004, Sarkar appointed as a director in **Prime Minister's Office (PMO)**. As a director, he dealt with



Static GK

Country	Capital	Currency
Republic of South Africa	Cape Town, Pretoria, Bloemfontein	South Africa rand
Bhutan	Thimphu	Bhutanese Ngultrum
Japan	Tokyo	Japanese Yen
South Korea	Seoul	Korean Won
Bangladesh	Dhaka	Bangladeshi Taka
Israel	Tel Aviv	Israeli New Shekel

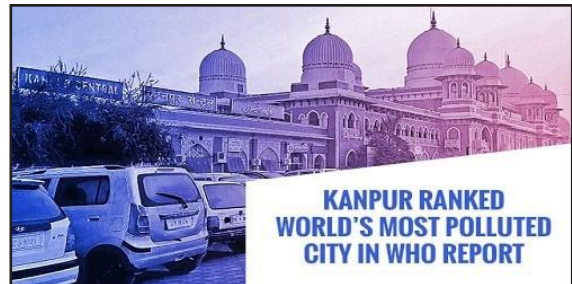


2. Political Science

2.1 POLITICAL PARTIES AND POLITICAL SYSTEMS IN INDIA

'POLITICAL LEADERS POSITION AND ACTION ON AIR QUALITY IN INDIA 2014-2019

- The quality of air in **Varanasi, Prime Minister Modi's 2014 Lok Sabha constituency**, is positioned **3rd** on the **WHO's (World Health Organisation) list of 15 most polluted cities** in the world, by the **'Political Leaders Position and Action on Air Quality in India**



2014-2019' report, released by **Climate Trends. Kanpur (in Uttar Pradesh)** is the most polluted city in the world and is **positioned 1** on the list.

1. **The air quality index (AQI) in Varanasi** reached a warning **490 (notified as 'severe')** in 2017 and **384** (notified as 'very poor') in December 2018.
2. 14 of the 15 most polluted cities in the world (mentioned by World Health Organisation (WHO) **are in India. Out** of them, 4 are in Uttar Pradesh.

ELECTION COMMISSION INVOKES ARTICLE 324 TO DEFER PM MODI BIOPIC

- India's Electoral Commission has issued an order to ban display of any biopic or publicity material during Manual Code of Conduct, which could sub serve the purposes of any political entity or any individual entity connected to it.

Key points :

- The ban was concerned with the biopic film on Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- Election Commission has invoked powers under Article 324 to defer the display of any publicity until after the country's parliamentary elections.

3. Geography



3.1 POLICY ON ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

KANDHAMAL HALDI (TURMERIC) GETS GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS (GI) TAG

- Kandhamal Haldi (turmeric), Odisha's locally grown turmeric in its **Kandhamal district** has received the Geographical Indications (GI) tag from Intellectual Property India. It is organically grown by tribals.
- In 2018, Kandhamal Apex Spices Association for Marketing (KASAM) in Phulbani, had applied for registration of the Kandhamal turmeric. It was accepted under sub-section (1) of Section 13 of the **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999**.



Related Points :

- Intellectual Property India is an organization functioning under the aegis of the Union ministry of commerce & industry.

3.2 NATURAL DISASTERS - SAFEGUARD MEASURES

MAJOR INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT

- UN labour agency **International Labour Organisation (ILO)** in its recent report titled **"The Safety and the Health at the Heart of the Future of Work- Building on 100 years of Experience"** termed Bhopal Gas Tragedy as one of the world's 'major industrial accident' which killed more than 15,000 people due to the result of at least 30 tons of highly toxic **Methyl Isocyanate (MIC)** gas leak in **Union Carbide pesticide plant** in **Bhopal** in 1984.



Key Highlights :

- In the report, ILO has reported that more than 600,000 workers were affected due to leak of toxic gas from Union Carbide plant.

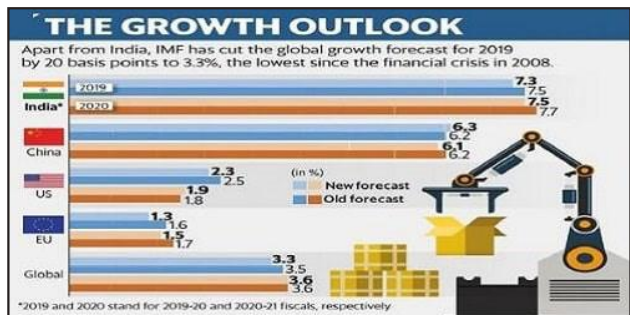


4. Economics

4.1 CURRENT SOCIO - ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

INDIA'S GROWTH RATE TO INCREASE FROM 7.3% IN 2019 TO 7.5% IN 2020

- According to the IMF, India's growth rate is estimated to rise **from 7.3% in 2019 to 7.5% in 2020** provided it receives **impetus from the fiscal policy** and is backed by the ongoing recovery of **investment and consumption within expanded approach of monetary policy**.



1. According to the latest **(WEO) World Economic Outlook**, India's growth rate was **7.1% in 2018** against **China's 6.6%**, whereas the IMF estimated a growth rate of **6.3% in 2019** and **6.1% in 2020 for China**.
2. According to the report, India's growth is approximated to stabilise at just under **7% over the medium term**. This will be possible when structural reforms will continuously be implemented and infrastructure gridlocks would be eased.

INDIA TURNS TO NET STEEL IMPORTER IN FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019

- **India** has become a net importer of steel in the fiscal year 2018-2019 that ended on 31 March for the first time in 3 years, as the 25% import duty on steel products imposed by the US diverted supplementary supplies to India.

Key Points :

- India's steel imports increased by **4.7% to 7.84 million tonnes** in 2018-19 from 7.48 million tonnes a year earlier.
- Exports fell by 34% to 6.36 million tonnes from 9.62 million tonnes over.

STANFORD STUDY REVEALED THAT GLOBAL WARMING SHRANK INDIAN ECONOMY BY 31 PERCENT

- Stanford study shows how earth's temperature changes have increased inequalities which resulted in the shrinking of the Indian economy by 31 percent due to global warming. The study published in the journal titled '**Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences**'.

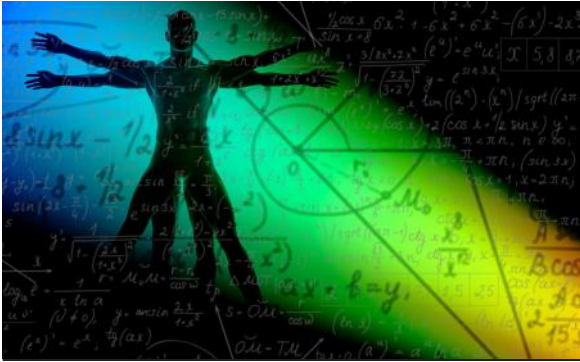
Key Highlights

- The study revealed that since the 1960s the concentrations of greenhouse gases have increased in earth's atmosphere which has benefited cooler countries like Norway and Sweden and harmed economic growth of warmer countries like India and Nigeria.
- The study also shows that from 1961 to 2010, global warming has decreased the wealth per person of the world's poorest countries by 17-30 percent.

Country	Capital	Currency
Norway	Stockholm	Swedish Krona
Sweden	Oslo	Norwegian
Nigeria	Abuja	Nigerian Naira



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5. Science

5.1 SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

ISRO LAUNCHES YOUNG SCIENTIST PROGRAMME FOR SCHOOLKIDS

- On the lines of Centre Govt mission “**Jai Vigyan, Jai Anusandhan**”, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has initiated Young Scientist Programme named “**YUva Vigyani KARYAKRAM**” – (**Yuvika**) for school children with a purpose to enhance their interest in the emerging areas of Space activities by imparting basic knowledge on Space Technology, Space Science and Space Applications. This two week long programme is regarded as “**Catch them young**”.

Features of Yuvika :

- The programme will be of two weeks duration during summer holidays (second half of May 2019) and is scheduled to be held at 4 centers of ISRO.
- Students of 9th standard (in the academic year 2018-19) and waiting to join 10th Std (or just joined 10th Std) are eligible for the online registration from 25 March 2019 (1800 hrs) to 03 April 2019 (1800 hrs).

About ISRO

- Establishment – 1969
- Headquarters – Bengaluru
- Director – Kailasavadivoo Sivan

ISRAELIS CAVE EXPLORERS UNVEILED ‘WORLD’S LONGEST SALT CAVE’



- On 28th March 2019, the **Israeli cave explorers** discovered the world’s longest cave named **Malham** near the **Dead sea**, beating the record-holder in Iran.
- The cave is spread in an area of 10 kilometers (6.25 miles) and it runs through the Israel’s largest mountain, Mount Sodom and spills out to the southwest corner of the adjacent Dead Sea.

INDIA'S DEFENCE SATELLITE EMISAT SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHED BY ISRO

- ISRO's workhorse launch vehicle **Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV C-45)**, in its **47th mission**, has successfully launched the **436 kg EMISAT** and **28 co-passenger satellites** into their designated orbits from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. This was the **71st launch vehicle mission** for Sriharikota



- The military satellite, EMISAT, was successfully injected into intended sun-synchronous polar orbit of **748 km height**.
- The foreign satellites have been launched under an agreement with **the Antrix Corporation**, the commercial arm of ISRO, consisting of **24** from the **US**, **two** from **Lithuania** and **one** each from **Spain** and **Switzerland**.
- Emisat is a satellite based on ISRO's **Indian Mini Satellite -2 (IMS-2)** bus platform. The satellite is aimed at **electromagnetic spectrum measurement**.

MUREIN ENDOPEPTIDIASEK

- The Center for Cell and Molecular Biology (CCMB) scientists have discovered a new enzyme called "**Murein EndopeptidaseK**" which helps to cut bacterial cell walls, so it is possible for a new drug treatment that prevents bacterial resistance by existing antibiotics.
- Scientists from all around the world are trying to understand these events. They are studying about Dr.Reddy's lab how Coli bacterial cells act to separate cholera, lepsy, tuberculosis, and many other diseases.
 - Pavan Kumar Chodiseti, research student and his mentor Dr. Manjula Reddy were the backbone of this discovery.

Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology :

- Director:** Rakesh K. Mishra
- Location :** Hyderabad, Telangana, India
- CCMB has been selected as a **Centre of Excellence** by UNESCO Global Network for Molecular and Cell Biology.

'NIRBHAY' – INDIA'S SUB SONIC CRUISE MISSILE SUCCESSFULLY TEST FIRED OFF ODISHA COAST

- 'Nirbhay', long range sub sonic cruise missile indigenously designed and developed by Bengaluru – based Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), a lab under Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).The missile test fired from launch complex-3 of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur, Odisha.



Specifications of Missile :

- The missile is nuclear capable, can be equipped with 300kg warhead.
- It can strike land targets at a distance up to 1000 km at an altitude as low as 100 metre so that missile can avoid detection by enemy radar.
- It has an ability to reach speed of 0.6-0.7 Mach and can be deployed from multiple platforms. The missile weighs 1,500 kg, width of 0.52 meters and has a wingspan of 2.7 metre.
- It has an engine powered by rocket booster and turbofan. The missile has Inertial Navigation System which guides the missile and Radio Altimeter to determine its height.
- The missile is equipped with a Ring Laser Gyroscope (RLG) based guidance, control and navigation system. It is also armed with a **MEMS- based Inertial Navigation System (INS)** and the GPS system. The Nirbhay missile also has capability of striking a multiple targets at a time.

FIRST EVER IMAGE OF A BLACK HOLE CAPTURED BY THE ASTRONOMERS

- Astronomers Captured the **First Image of a Black Hole** which was a halo of dust and gas, tracing the outline of a colossal black hole at the center of the **galaxy M87** with the help of **The Event Horizon Telescope (EHT)** observations.

Key points :

- Black holes were first predicted by Einstein's theory of relativity and these are the **extreme cosmic objects**, containing incredible amounts of mass within a tiny region.
- The galaxy is **53 million light-years** away from Earth.
- This telescope is made of up **eight independent observatories** and acts as one enormous detector. It collected the data for the **first black hole image** in **April 2017** but it took two years for scientists to assemble the images.
- The detail observations of black hole published in the Journal named **Astrophysical Journal**.

WORLD'S LARGEST AIRPLANE MADE ITS FIRST TEST FLIGHT OVER CALIFORNIA

- The **world's largest airplane** a Stratolaunch behemoth has made its first test flight in California.



Key Points :

- It has two fuselages and six Boeing 747 engines and is designed to carry into space, and drop a rocket that would in turn ignite to deploy satellites.
- An engineering company named '**Scaled Composites**' built this airplane and was financed by **Paul Allen** who was the co-founder of Microsoft.

CHINA DEVELOPS WORLD'S FIRST ARMED AMPHIBIOUS DRONE BOAT 'MARINE LIZARD'

- The world's first armed amphibious drone boat (named '**Marine Lizard**' and guided by China's **BeiDou Navigation Satellite System**) which could be used in land and sea assault operations, has been successfully tested by China. It also possesses the capability of forming a combat triad with aerial drones and other drone ships.

**Key Points :**

- The drone ship has been built by **Wuchang Shipbuilding Industry Group** under China Shipbuilding Industry Corporation (**CSIC**).
- Marine Lizard has passed the delivery checks and left factory on 8 April, 2019 in Wuhan (the capital of Central China's Hubei Province).
- The drone ship has a maximum operation range of **1,200 kms** and can be remotely controlled with the help of satellites.
- Marine Lizard, **12-metres-long**, is shaped in the form of a ship. It is a trimaran and is driven by a diesel-powered hydrojet that can reach a maximum speed of **50 knots** while maintaining its furtiveness.

HORSFIELD'S BRONZE CUCKOO' (CHALCITES BASALIS)

- A new species of East Asian birds 'Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo' (*Chalcites basalis*) have been spotted at Andaman And Nicobar. This species is a native of Australia and New Guinea. According to Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) sighting of these birds have increased ever since the 2004 Indonesian tsunami.

About 'Horsfield's Bronze Cuckoo':

- They are differentiated by their green and black feathers at their back.
- The tiny bird measures roughly about 15 cm and weighs 22 g
- Two other 1st time visitors were also recorded on the islands over 2017-18 that included The Zappey's Flycatcher (*Cyanoptila cumatilis*) a song bird that breeds in China and spends the winters in the Malay peninsula, Sumatra and Java.

FIRST EARTH-SIZE PLANET: HD 21749B DISCOVERED BY NASA'S TESS EXOPLANET MISSION

- The **Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite** (TESS) has discovered an Earth-sized planet, **HD 21749b** and a “**sub-Neptune**” world, revolving around the star, **HD 21749**. The star lies **53** light-years from Earth.

Key Points :

- The research study has been published on 15th April, 2019 in 'The Astrophysical Journal Letters'.
- TESS was launched to Earth orbit in April 2018 on a **SpaceX Falcon 9** rocket.
- One tool termed as 'Planet Finder Spectrograph' (**PFS**) on the 'Magellan II telescope' in Chile helped to confirm the planetary nature of the TESS signal and measure the mass of HD 21749b.
- HD 21749b is about **23** times heavier and **2.7** times wider than Earth. It is gaseous, has a substantial atmosphere but not as puffy as Uranus and Neptune. HD 21749b has an orbital period of 36 Earth days.
- HD 21749b's surface temperature is mostly around 300 degrees Fahrenheit (150 degrees Celsius). HD 21749c, the new neighbour also appears to be of the same size as Earth.

NASA CHOOSES SPACEX TO LAUNCH FIRST EVER ASTEROID-WALLOPING MISSION IN 2021

- SpaceX, a private Aerospace company, will provide launch services for NASA's Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) mission, the first-ever mission to redirect an asteroid. DART mission, \$69 million contract, will blast off aboard a Falcon 9 rocket from Vandenberg Air Force Base, California in June 2021. In October 2022, the spacecraft will smash into “**Didymoon,**” the 540-foot-wide (165 meters) satellite of Didymos, a near-Earth asteroid.
 1. If all goes with no trouble, the observation about the collision will help researchers to evaluate the kinetic impactor strategy of hazardous-asteroid deflection.
 2. After this mission, in 2023, A candidate European mission called Hera would launch toward the Didymos system and get there in 2026.

About SpaceX :

- **Name** : Space Exploration Technologies Corp.
- **Headquarters**: Hawthorne, California
- **Founded** : 2002
- **CEO** : Elon Musk
- **Services** : Orbital rocket launch
- **Products**: Falcon launch vehicles, Dragon capsules, Merlin, Raptor and Kestrel rocket engines, ASDS landing platforms.

KEPLER-47D

- A group of researchers, led by astronomers at San Diego State University, by using data from NASA's Kepler Space Telescope, detected the new Neptune-to-Saturn size planet orbiting between two previously known planets Kepler-47b and Kepler-47c. This new planet named as Kepler-47d. The research was recently published in the **Astronomical Journal**.

Key Highlights :

- According to a new study, Kepler-47d is about seven times larger than Earth and also the largest of the three planets in the Kepler-47 circumbinary system. The Kepler-47 system is approximately 3.5 billion-years-old and it is 3,340 light years away in the direction of the constellation Cygnus.
- After the discovery of Kepler-47d, now there are three planets in **Kepler-47**, that are orbiting two suns. Kepler-47 is binary star system and only known as **multi-planet circumbinary system**. **Circumbinary** planets are those that orbit two stars.
- Kepler-47d's equilibrium temperature is roughly around 50 degree Fahrenheit (10 degree Celcius), while Kepler-47c is -26 degree Fahrenheit (-32 degree Celcius). The innermost planet which is also the smallest circumbinary planet known is a much hotter 336 degree Fahrenheit (169 degree Celcius).

SRI LANKA'S 1ST SATELLITE 'RAAVANA-1' LAUNCHED INTO SPACE

- Sri Lanka launched its first satellite 'Raavana-1' weighing **1.05 kg** into space from the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport at NASA's Wallops Flight Facility on Virginia's East Shore. The satellite is expected to orbit **400 km** away from earth and will have the lifespan of an estimated **1.5 years**.



1. Raavana 1 bordered to the **Antares rocket** carrying Cygnus cargo spacecraft and has reached ISS (International Space Station) today.
2. The satellite was designed and built at the Kyushu Institute of Technology, Japan by 2 Sri Lankan research engineers, namely, Tharindu Dayarathna and Dulani Chamika Vithanage.

Key points of the mission :

- The camera mission of Raavana 1 is to take pictures of Sri Lanka and its neighbouring countries.
- Raavana 1's Lora Demonstration Mission would be able to data download next satellites.
- The Attitude Determination and Control Mission of the satellite would try to reduce the angular velocity of the satellite using magnetic torquers.

A NEW 'STATE' OF MATTER WHICH CAN BE SOLID AND LIQUID AT THE SAME TIME DISCOVERED

- On 10th April 2019, a new state of matter which can be **solid and liquid** at the **same time** has been discovered by **scientists of the University of Edinburgh**.

Key points :

- The study was led by **Dr. Andreas Hermann** of the university's School of Physics and Astronomy and was published in the **journal** named **'Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.'**
- This distinct state of matter is known as **'the chain-melted state.'**
- In this study, scientists found that **more than half a dozen** other elements, including **sodium and bismuth**, were able to reach the 'the chain-melted state' if they were put into the right environments. Also, **Potassium** is one of the simplest metals which can form very **complicated structures** under extremely high pressures and temperatures.
- The study was carried out in collaboration with scientists from **Xi'an Jiantong University in China** and was supported by the European Research Council and **the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council**.

NASA REVEALED THAT MERCURY HAS A MASSIVE SOLID INNER CORE

- NASA (The National Aeronautics and Space Administration) has revealed that Mercury, the smallest planet in the solar system has a massive solid inner core.
- The final trip around Mercury before crash-landing in 2015 was made by NASA's **'MESSENGER'**. The spacecraft orbited Mercury for around 2011 to 2015 and it was its second mission to Mercury.

Key points:

- i. According to NASA's information, both Mercury and the Earth have metallic cores and like Earth, Mercury's outer core is of liquid metal. But there are indications that Mercury's innermost core which is nearly 85% of Mercury's volume is solid and it is nearly of the same size as Earth's inner core.
- ii. The new mission is on its way to Mercury. It is termed **'BepiColombo'** and is a joint mission by the European Space Agency (**ESA**) and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (**JAXA**) to explore Mercury from 2 unique vantage points.
- iii. BepiColombo is Europe's 1st mission to Mercury. It was set off in 2018 and on arriving at Mercury in 2025, it will experience temperatures more than 350°C.

- iv. The mission comprises two spacecrafts: the Mercury Planetary Orbiter (**MPO**) and the Mercury Magnetospheric Orbiter (**MMO**).

About Mercury:

- i. Mercury is the closest planet to the Sun and is also the smallest planet in the solar system.
- ii. It takes Mercury **59** Earth days for rotation and **88** Earth days for revolution.
- iii. MESSENGER (March 18, 2011) was the second mission after Mariner 10's 1975 flyby to reach Mercury.

UNIVERSE'S FIRST MOLECULE, FORMED 14 BILLION YEARS AGO, DETECTED IN SPACE

- Scientists have discovered the most ancient type of molecule in our universe, **Helium Hydride ion(HeH⁺)** in space, which supports the theories assumed to have formulated the universe after the Big Bang Theory.
- This molecule is believed to occur when a helium atom shares its electron with a hydrogen nucleus or a proton.
- This positive ion is considered the first molecule in the universe formed 380,000 years after the big bang (**Era : Recombination Epoch**) and is regarded as the first Molecular Bond. The latest news was published by Journal Nature.
 1. This was invented by scrutinizing the **NGC 7027** planetary nebulae.
 2. The information collected using a tool called a **Sofia**, a joint venture between NASA and German Aerospace Center, has a specially modified Boeing 747SP aircraft with a 2.7 m telescope and other equipment at 13,700 meters (45,000 feet).

IIT ROORKEE IDENTIFY A NEW METHOD TO DETECT BREAST

- The Research team led by **Kiran Ambatipudi** from the Biotechnology Department at the Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee has identified a new method to detect breast and ovarian cancer. The research published in the journal, '**FASEB Bioadvances**'.

Key Points :

- They identified certain **proteins** present in the saliva that could act as salivary biomarkers in the diagnosis of breast and ovarian cancers.
- Total of 646 proteins was identified, of which 409 proteins were confidently identified across all four groups. In addition to 409 identified proteins, 352 proteins were common in all blood groups, while 57 were either present/absent exclusively in one group or common in any two/three blood groups.

5.2 LATEST DISCOVERIES ON HEALTH SCIENCE

ICMR HAS RELEASED GUIDELINES FOR CANDIDA AURIS

- Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has issued guidelines for *Candida auris*, multi-drug resistant yeast that causes fatal invasive infections. Since 2009, the infection has been reported worldwide.

What is *Candida auris* infection?

- *Candida auris* (*C. auris*) is an uncommon fungus that can cause serious bloodstream, wound and ear infections. It can be more difficult to treat than other candida infections, as they are often resistant to antifungal medicines.
 - Candida auris* is contagious and patients carry the fungus somewhere on their body without it causing any symptoms or an infection. This is known as colonisation.
 - C. auris* forms non-dispersible cell aggregates and stays for a longer time in the environment in addition to its thermotolerant (heat tolerant) and salt tolerant properties.

WORLD'S FIRST MALARIA VACCINE LAUNCHED IN MALAWI



- The world's first malaria vaccine **RTS,S** is also known as **Mosquirix** has launched in Malawi, one of three countries in Africa in a landmark pilot programme coordinated by the **World Health Organisation (WHO)**. The other two African countries are **Ghana and Kenya**. This vaccine was created by British Pharmaceutical giant **Glaxo Smith Kline (GSK)** in 1987 and after that vaccine has undergone 30 years of testing which was supported by many organizations including a non-profit organization **PATH**. This pilot project aims to reach **360,000 children per year** in all three countries.

ICMR GUIDELINES FOR CANDIDA AURIS INFECTION TREATMENT

- There is no method for entire curability due to variation of vulnerability from patient to patient.
- Fluconazole should be avoided.
- Patients should be tested for antifungal susceptibility.
- Echinocandins is the first-line therapy for *C. auris* infection.
- Flucytosine (MIC50, 0.125–1 µg/ml) has shown good activity for urinary tract infection, but the drug is advised not to be used alone.
- Posaconazole (range, 0.06–1 µg/ml) shows excellent in vitro activity against *C. auris*, but till date no data is available for use on patients.

How can a patient contract *C. auris*?

- If the patient is from ICU or transferred from another hospital after a long stay.
- Multiple interventions & prior antifungal exposure in any patient.

- If in a commercial system the presence of these viruses are there -Candida haemulonii, C. famata, C. guilliermondii, C. lusitaniae, C. parapsilosis, Rhodotorulaglutinis, Candida sake, Saccharomyces and if the Candida appears to be resistant to fluconazole and high MIC to voriconazole.

Prevention

- Patients should be kept in isolated rooms or with other patients with the same infection.
- WHO (World Health Organization) for hand-hygiene recommended using all 6 steps that should be followed strictly by all staff and patient attendants before and after contact.

5.3 MASS MEDIA & COMMUNICATION

EARTH HOUR 2019 OBSERVED ACROSS THE WORLD

- The Earth Hour 2019 was observed on March 30, 2019 at 8.30 pm local time to take a global call on climate change.
- It was thirteenth edition of Earth Hour and to mark this day, cities worldwide turned their lights off for one hour from 8.30 pm to 9.30 pm local time.
- The campaign of Earth Hour 2019 was '#Connect2Earth'. It was aimed at building mass awareness on importance of nature and create unstoppable movement for nature similar to when the world came together to tackle climate change.



GOOGLE OPENS ITS 1ST AFRICAN LAB IN GHANA

- **Google** has launched its first African artificial Intelligence (AI) laboratory in Accra, capital city of **Ghana**, to tackle Africa's challenges. The lab will collaborate with researchers in Ghana and across Africa to create the need impact in the country.

Key Points :

- The technology would address economic, political and environmental issues.
- The new laboratory will use Artificial Intelligence technique to develop solutions in healthcare, education and agriculture.

About Ghana

- **Capital:** Accra
- **Currency:** Ghanaian cedi
- **President:** Nana Akufo-Addo

GOOGLE UNVEILS NEW CLOUD PLATFORM, ANTHOS

- Google has launched a new open platform named '**Anthos**' to run and manage apps from anywhere. It lets users run applications on the public cloud or on existing on-premise hardware investments.
 1. It helps the users to manage workloads running on third-party clouds like **Microsoft Azure** and **Amazon AWS**.
 2. Google also announced "Anthos Migrate" in beta, which auto-migrates virtual machines from on-premises, or other clouds directly into Kubernetes Engine with minimal effect.
 3. VMware, Dell EMC, HPE, Intel and Lenovo have committed to deliver Anthos.



About Google Inc :

- **Founded** : 1998, California
- **Founders** : Larry page, Sergey Brin
- **Headquarters** : California
- **CEO** : Sundar Pichai



Our Website : www.vetriias.com

6. National Dairy of Events



FINTECH CONCLAVE COMMENCED IN NEW DELHI

- **NITI Aayog** has organized a **FinTech Conclave** at Dr.Ambedkar International Center, New Delhi. The Conclave was inaugurated by RBI Governor, **Shaktikanta Das**.



Key Points:

- The motive of the conference is to shape India's continued ascendancy in FinTech, build the narrative for future procedure and policy efforts, and to deliberate steps for completing financial inclusion.

TASHIGANG BECOMES THE WORLD'S HIGHEST POLLING STATION

- **Tashigang** at an altitude of 15,256 feet has now become the **world's highest polling station** in the sleepy hamlet of Buddhist-dominated Lahaul-Spiti district of **Himachal Pradesh**.

Key points :

- Tashigang polling station falls in one of the 17 assembly segments that form the Mandi Lok Sabha seat.
- This polling station covers two villages of Tashigang and Gete. As per the revised electoral rolls, the two villages have 48 voters, of which 30 are men and 18 women.

Highest polling booth



About Himachal Pradesh

- Capital- Shimla
- CM- Shri Jai Ram Thakur
- Governor- Acharya Dev Vrat

OOTY'S MUON DETECTION FACILITY MEASURES POTENTIAL OF THUNDERCLOUD

- For the first time in the world, **researchers at the GRAPES-3 muon telescope facility in Ooty** have measured a **thundercloud's electrical potential**, size, and height which was passed overhead on 1st December 2014. This measure will help to navigate aircraft and to prevent short circuits in aeroplanes.



Key Points:

- The Thunderstorms can reach voltages **ten times greater** than those previously recorded which was 1.3 billion volts.
- Sunil Gupta at the **Tata Institute of Fundamental Research in Mumbai, India**, and his team used the GRAPES-3 facility in Ooty, India, to record muons.

IN CHILD MARRIAGE INCIDENTS, TRIPURA RANKS SECOND HIGHEST IN INDIA

- **Tripura** ranks **second place** in India in terms of **child marriages** among girls between the age of **15 and 19 years**, according to a report released by the **National Family Health Survey (NFHS), Young Lives** – an international study on childhood poverty.

Key points :

- Tripura occupies **21.6 percent** which is significantly higher than the **national average of 11.9 percent** of child marriage incidents.
- The four districts include **Dhalai, South Tripura, North Tripura**, and West Tripura have the highest number of child marriage.

About Tripura

- Capital: Agartala
- Governor: Kaptan Singh Solanki
- Chief Minister: Biplab Kumar Deb

HYPER LOCAL CONNECTIVITY APP “BHONGA” INITIATED IN MUMBAI

- A hyper-local connectivity app called **“Bhonga”** has been developed by Mumbai-based Company **Linkus Infratech**, to connect users to their neighborhood people in the city even without an Internet connection.
 1. “Bhonga” is a Marathi word which means megaphone or loudspeaker.
 2. This app automatically provides the lists the user living within the radius of one **kilometre**. The app supports voice notes as well as photos.

GOVERNMENT DECLARES NEXT CENSUS OF INDIA IN 2021



- The Home Ministry announced that the next census of India will be carried out in 2021 with March 1 of that year.
- The decision has been taken by the central government under the powers conferred by section 3 of the Census Act, 1948 (37 of 1948).
- For Jammu and Kashmir and snowbound non-synchronous areas of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, the reference date shall be the first day of October, 2020.
- India's last census was carried out in 2011 when the country's population stood at 121 crore.
- The Census of India 2011 represents the 15th such operation (since 1872) and the seventh after Independence.

DHANBAD IN JHARKHAND SCORED 95.3% IN TERMS OF THE HIGHEST 4G AVAILABILITY IN INDIA

- **Dhanbad**, the coal capital of India scored **95.3 percent** and became the **number one city** in terms of **highest 4G availability in India** by the report name '**OpenSignal's hottest city for 4G Availability**'.



Key points :

- **Ranchi** which has 95% of 4G Availability, ranked **second** and **Srinagar** ranked **third** with the score of 94.9% on the list with 4G Availability.
- **Raipur and Patna** ranked **fourth and fifth place** with a score of 94.8% and 94.5% respectively.

About Jharkhand

- Capital: Ranchi
- Chief Minister: Raghubar Das

G-20 FINANCE MINISTERS AND CENTRAL BANK GOVERNORS' MEETING

- **G-20** conducted the joint **World Bank-IMF** Development Committee and the IMF's International Monetary and Financial Committee meeting during the 2019 Annual Spring Meeting in Washington, DC.

Key Points :

- The meeting is held to discuss progress on the work of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.
- The meeting was held to explain Structural Reform Steps package and the economic policies of the new period and also featured seminars, regional briefings focused on the global economy and financial markets.

PRESIDENT RAMNATH KOVIND RELEASED NIRF, ARIIA 2019 RANKINGS : IIT MADRAS RANKED NO.1



- President Ramnath Kovind Published **National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2019** and **Atal Ranking of Institutions for Innovation Achievements (ARIIA) 2019** ranking for higher educational institutes in India at **Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi**.
- The rankings are as follows:
 1. **Overall Category – IIT Madras**
 2. **Top institute in Universities category -IISC Bangalore**
 3. **Universities category – IISc Bangalore (first),JNU New Delhi (second)**
- The first NIRF ranks were released in **2016**.
- This is the **fourth edition** of the NIRF rankings.

THE LONGEST SUSPENSION BRIDGE 'MAITRI'

- The Indian Army has achieved a record-breaking feat by constructing **'Maitri'**, the **260-foot longest suspension bridge** over the **Indus river** in the **Leh-Ladakh region** in just **40 days**.
 1. The combat engineers belonging to **'Sahas aur Yogyata'** regiment of **'Fire and Fury Corps'** of the Indian Army undertook the construction of 'Maitri'.
 2. **500 tonnes** of bridge equipment and construction material was ferried to build this bridge.
 3. The bridge 'Maitri' was inaugurated on 1st April, '19 by senior war veterans in the presence of Lt. Gen Yogesh Kumar Joshi and General Officer Commanding 'Fire and Fury Corps'.



METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT ISSUES 'YELLOW' WEATHER WARNING FOR HIMACHAL PRADESH

- **The Meteorological Department** issued a yellow weather warning for rain in **Himachal Pradesh** by forecasting thunderstorm with hail in isolated places over the state.

Key Points :

- Meteorological Department has issued colour-coded warnings to alert people ahead of severe or hazardous weather.
- Code color yellow is the **least dangerous weather warning** which indicates the possibility of severe weather over the next few days that could affect people.

UNION TERRITORIES AND TWENTY STATES JOIN PAN-INDIA SINGLE EMERGENCY HELPLINE NUMBER '112'



➤ To get immediate assistance to the people who are in trouble, Union territories and Twenty states have joined in a pan-India network of single emergency helpline number '112', which is implemented by central government's **Nirbhaya Fund** (2012 Delhi gangrape case).

1. Police (100), women(1090) and fire(101) helpline numbers are amalgamated in this and is similar to '911' in US.
2. Kerala, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu, Nagaland, Gujarat, Telangana, Lakshadweep, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Dadar and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, Jammu and Kashmir are the joined states and UTs.
3. When a person activates the panic button on the mobile, it will trigger an emergency call to 112. Emergency response Centre (ERC) can receive panic call via voice call to 112, the '112' mobile app or email requests on state ERSS website. A long press of the '5' or '9' key will activate the panic call in normal case.

A TWO-DAY MEETING OF 21ST ASEAN-INDIA SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING HELD IN NEW DELHI

➤ The 21st ASEAN-India Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) was held at New Delhi to improve the connectivity and strengthen the cooperation in the maritime sector between Indian and the ASEAN countries.



Key Points :


- It was co-chaired by **Smt. Vijay Thakur Singh**, SOM Leader and Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs, Govt of India and H.E. Mrs. Busaya Mathelin, SOM Leader and Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kingdom of Thailand.
- India welcomed **Thailand** for its role as **Country Coordinator** of the ASEAN-India dialogue partnership for the period 2018-2021 and also praised Thailand for the **Chairmanship of ASEAN** for 2019.

About Association of South-east Asian Nations (ASEAN)

- **Headquarters:** Jakarta, Indonesia
- **Founded:** 8th August 1967
- **Member Countries:** Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam

PHAYENG VILLAGE OF MANIPUR TAGGED AS INDIA'S FIRST CARBON-POSITIVE SETTLEMENT

- **Phayeng**, a scheduled caste village of the Chakpa community in Imphal West district of **Manipur** has been tagged as **India's first carbon-positive settlement**.



Key Points:

- The village is surrounded by three densely forested hillocks with fruit trees at centre and a stream flowing through it.
- Also, it has been revived from the dry and denuded village through the sheer determination of its residents and funding **under National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC)**, which is a central scheme launched in 2015-16 to support adaptation for climate change impact in various states.

NGT SETS UP CENTRAL MONITORING COMMITTEE TO CONTROL POLLUTION

- A bench headed by **NGT (National Green Tribunal) Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel** has formed a Central Monitoring Committee to enforce a national plan reduce the pollution.

Key points :

- The Committee will further synchronize with the River Rejuvenation Committees of the states and supervise the implementation of the action plans.
- The committee is set to establish **350 river** stretches across the country to deal with the pollution as it has caused serious threat to safety of water and environment.

About NGT

- National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 is an act of the Parliament of India which enables creation of a special tribunal to handle the expeditious disposal of the cases pertaining to environmental issues.

3-DAY NATIONAL CARDIOLOGY CONFERENCE STARTED IN LUCKNOW

- The **3-day National Cardiology Conference 2019** has been started at Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of medical sciences in **Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh**.

Key Points :

- Vice President **M.Venkaiah Naidu** was the **chief guest** of this conference.
- The conference was organized by **Dept of Cardiology**.
- The conference being held for the **first time in Uttar Pradesh** to provide an opportunity to showcase newer innovations in Cardiology which can help to deliver cost-effective cardiology care for the patients.

THE 4TH RESILIENT CITIES ASIA - PACIFIC CONGRESS 2019 STARTED IN NEW DELHI



➤ The 4th Resilient Cities Asia-Pacific Congress 2019 organized by the **International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI)** and co-hosted by South Delhi Municipal Corporation started in **New Delhi**. It will conclude on 17th April 2019.

1. It offers a lot of innovative solutions that build resilience to climate change at the sub-national level.
2. Local governments in the Asia Pacific region is the main target of the event.
3. The RCAP 2019 is a platform for discussing the opportunities and mechanisms of executing the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

INDIA'S FIRST FOREIGN INTERACTIVE BIRD PARK LAUNCHED BY ESSELWORLD IN MUMBAI

➤ India's first exotic Bird Park '**EsselWorld Bird Park**' was launched by EsselWorld Leisure Pvt. Ltd., the family entertainment arm of the \$6-billion Essel Group in **Mumbai**.



Key Points :

- The Park is spread over 1.4 acres of land and surrounded by flora and fauna.
- It is home to over **500 exotic birds** from more than 60 species of flying, terrestrial and aquatic birds and has 200 species of special plants and trees for the birds.
- The star attractions at the Bird Park are the African Grey Parrot, Blue Gold Macaw, Cockatiel, Rainbow Lorikeet, Toucan, Black Lory, Violet Turaco and many other varieties of bird.
- EsselWorld is the largest amusement park in the country and **Water Kingdom Park** in Mumbai is **one of the largest Theme Water Parks** in Asia.

BIANNUAL ARMY COMMANDERS' CONFERENCE BEGAN IN NEW DELHI

- The **biannual Army Commanders' Conference** began in **New Delhi** for the planning and execution process of the Indian Army.



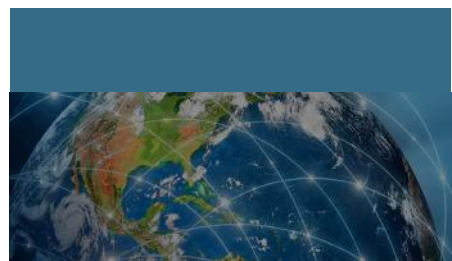
Key Points :

- Some issues like the **management of the extant security dynamics, mitigation of future security threats** were discussed in this conference.
- Other issues, such as **development of infrastructure** for improvement of capacity along the Northern borders, **review of strategic railway lines, optimization of a limited budget** to ensure making up of critical insufficiency in ammunition and welfare of troops also discussed.
- Defence Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** delivered her opening address at the conference and the **Chief of the Army Staff**, Bipin Rawat, chaired the conference.



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7. International Affairs



LIMA 2019 AERO EXPO HELD IN LANGKAWI, MALAYSIA

- **Langkawi International Maritime Aero Expo (LIMA) 2019** held in **Langkawi, Malaysia**. Indian Air force for the first time is participating in the relationship between the services.



Key Points:

- India's indigenous supersonic fighters jet **Tejas will take part** in the Malaysia's LIMA 2019 Expo. The anti submarine warfare corvette **INS Kadmat with also participate** in LIMA 2019.
- The Expo will provide Indian Air Force an opportunity to interact with the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) Counterparts and create a close relationship with them.

FIRST GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON SYNERGIES BETWEEN THE 2030 AGENDA

- The first global multi-stakeholder conference on synergies is summoned by **(UN DESA) the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the (UN FCCC) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change** between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change, in Copenhagen, **Denmark**. It is hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Energy, Utilities and Climate.
 1. Before the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) provides a detailed analysis and review of SDG (Sustainable Development Goal) 13 on climate change in 2019, the conference will serve as an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on SDG 13 (climate action).
 2. The objective of the Climate and SDGs Synergy Conference is to encourage action around the Sustainable Development Goals and provide strategies for boosting up the connection between the SDGs and climate action. It also focuses on maximizing co-benefits by encouraging action from global, regional and country-level stakeholders.

WORLD'S BEST AVIATION HUB FOR THE SEVENTH TIME

- Skytrax World Airport Awards named **Singapore's Changi Airport** as the the world's best aviation hub for the **seventh time** in a row, while **Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport**, New Delhi climbed 8 places to rank at **59th Position**.



Key Points :

- The **Skytrax World Airport Awards** are voted for by customers in a global airport customer satisfaction survey and the awards were distributed at the **Passenger Terminal Expo 2019** in London.
- **Tokyo International Airport** was ranked at the second spot whereas Incheon International Airport ranked at the third spot.

WORLD CUP 2022 SECURITY DEAL SIGNED BETWEEN QATAR AND FRANCE IN DOHA



- **FIFA (The Federation Internationale de Football Association) World Cup 2022** security agreement aimed at building a strategic partnership for the preparation of the world cup and management of the security of event, signed between **Qatar and France**.
- The agreement was signed after the meeting of Qatar Prime Minister, **Sheikh Abdallah bin Khalifa al-Thani** and French Prime minister, **Edouard Philippe**.

INDIA AND US RENEW TRIANGULAR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION IN ASIA AND AFRICA



- **India and the US** has signed an agreement to the **Statement of Guiding Principles (SGP)** on triangular cooperation for global development to facilitate with a framework to promote bilateral cooperation to meet the developmental ambitions of partner countries, particularly in Asia and Africa.

Key points :

- This agreement was signed by **Devyani Khobragade**, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs of India, and **Mark Anthony White**, Mission Director for the USAID in India.
- This amendment to the Statement of Guiding Principles agreement extends the validity of the pact up to 2021.

ISRAEL UNVEILS WORLD'S LONGEST SALT CAVE

- Israeli researchers say they have discovered the world's longest salt cave near the desert site.
- The total length of the cave is around 10 km (6.2 miles).
- Malham Cave is located under Mount Sodom (Israel's largest mountain located southwest of the salty Dead Sea).
- The new discovery has taken away a 13-year record held by the Cave of the Three Nudes (3N Cave) since 2006. It is a 6.85 km (four miles) salt cave in Iran's Qeshm Island.



THE LARGEST ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM IN ASIA WAS BUILT BY TESLA

- **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.



Key points :

- It was Launched in partnership with **Kintetsu**, a railway operator in Japan's Osaka.
- Tesla has installed **42 Powerpacks units at Osaka train station** in Japan which will provide enough amount of energy to safely move a train and its passengers for up to **30 minutes** to the nearest station if any power failure happens.
- This **7 megawatt-hours (MWh)** system is not only the **largest** energy storage project in **Asia**, but also the **fourth largest** in the greater **Asia-Pacific (APAC) region**.

JAPAN UNVEILS NAME OF ITS NEW IMPERIAL ERA 'REIWA'

- **Japan** has announced that the name of its new imperial era, set to begin on **1 May**, will be '**Reiwa**', signifying order and harmony. The country's current era, **Heisei**, will end in April.
- The name '**Reiwa**' which consists of two Chinese characters, the first meaning 'good' or 'beautiful' as well as 'order' or 'command' and the second meaning '**peace**' or 'harmony'.

CHINA LAUNCHED ITS 2ND GENERATIONAL DATA RELAY SATELLITE, TIANLIAN II-01

- **China** successfully launched its first second generational data relay satellite named **Tianlian II-01** with the help of a Long March-3B Carrier rocket from **Xichang Satellite Launch Centre** in Sichuan Province.

Key Points :

- The Satellite will provide, data relay, transmission services, measurement and control for China's manned spacecraft, satellites and carrier rockets along with other non-spacecraft users.
- China Academy of Space Technology which is under China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation has developed this satellite.

AUSTRALIA LAUNCHED 7 NATION MILITARY EXERCISE IN INDIAN OCEAN

- Australia is conducting 7 nation **Indian Ocean military exercise** along with **Sri Lanka, India, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia and Singapore**. Australia sent 4 Naval Ships and one military aircraft along with around 1000 security personnel making it one of the biggest military exercise.

Key Points :

- The exercise is aimed to counter the growing Chinese influence in the India Ocean.
- The Australian forces started the exercise from Sri Lanka and reached India on 26th March 2019. After India, Australian forces moved to other participating nations and will return after two and half months.

About Australia

- Capital: Canberra
- Prime Minister: Scott Morrison
- Currency: Australian Dollar

JAPANESE UNVEILS NAME OF ITS NEW IMPERIAL ERA 'REIWA'

- **Japanese** printers have issued the name for its new imperial era which will be set in motion on 1st May 2019 as the public tried to make sense of the meaning of "**Reiwa**" a day after its unveiling gripped the nation.



Key Points :

- The name '**Reiwa**' which consists of two Chinese characters, the first meaning 'good' or 'beautiful' as well as 'order' or 'command' and the second meaning 'peace' or 'harmony'.
- The new era begins on May 1 when Crown Prince Naruhito ascends the Chrysanthemum Throne a day after his father Emperor Akihito abdicates.

SOUTH KOREA UNVEILS 5G NETWORKS EARLY TO SECURE WORLD FIRST

- South Korea has unveiled the world's first nationwide 5G mobile networks. This has made South Korea to be the first providers of the super-fast wireless technology.

Key points

- Top 3 telecom providers namely SK Telecom, KT, and LG Uplus have begun their 5G services on 3rd April.
- This 5G service will bring smartphones to instantaneous connectivity which will be 20 times faster than 4G, allowing users to download entire movies in less than a second.
- This service is important for the future development as it is expected to bring about \$565 billion in global economic benefits by 2034.

About South Korea

- ◆ **Capital:** Seoul
- ◆ **Currency:** Won
- ◆ **President:** Moon Jae-in

WORLD'S LARGEST E-WASTE RECYCLING HUB

- The **world's largest e-waste recycling plant** has opened in **Dubai Industrial Park, Dubai** by 'Enviroserve' company with a total cost of \$5 million.

Key Points:

- It will recycle Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE), IT asset disposition (ITAD), refrigerant gas and specialized waste. The processing capacity of this recycling hub is **100,000 tonnes** of total integrated waste (per year), of which **39,000 tonnes is e-waste**.
- The recycling hub will use state-of-the-art reclamation technology, which beat the European Union's standards for e-waste.
- The project is supported by the Swiss Government Export Finance Agency.

LONDON BECOMES FIRST CITY TO IMPLEMENT 24×7 POLLUTION CHARGE ZONE

- On 8th April, 2019, **London** became the first city in the world to implement a **Ultra Low Emission Zone** for 24×7 hours a week, inside which vehicles will have to meet tough emissions standards.



Key Points :

- This zone aims to reduce toxic air pollution and protect public health.
- Motorists who drive into the zone in a vehicle that does not meet the new emission standard will have to pay a daily charge.

GOOGLE'S WING LAUNCHES ITS FIRST COMMERCIAL DRONE DELIVERY SERVICE IN AUSTRALIA



- **Alphabet**, Google's parent company, launched its **first commercial drone service** through its **Wing** subsidiary in **Canberra, Australia** after the country's **Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA)**, granted it regulatory approval.

1. The drones will deliver **coffee, food, and over-the-counter medicines** directly to clients' homes using a connected smartphone app.
2. In the primary stage, Wing is coupling with Australian retailers including Capital Chemist, Drummond Golf, Pure Gelato, Kickstart Espresso, Bakers Delight, Jasper + Myrtle, and Guzman Y Gomez.
3. Drones will not be permitted to fly over main roads and it has a specific timetable.

INDIA AND SWEDEN LAUNCHES JOINT PROGRAMME ON SOLUTION FOR SMART CITIES

- India and Sweden inked a pact that will deal a range of challenges around smart cities and clean technologies among others. The programme co-sponsored by **Indian Department of Science and Technologies (DST)** and Swedish agency **Vinnova**.
 1. Vinnova donated to Swedish participants upto 2,500,000 Swedish Krona (around Rs. 1.87 crore). From Indian side, provided upto 50% per project to the Indian partners.
 2. Triple helix model of innovation that include participation of industry, academia and government is implemented in this project.

About Sweden :

- **Capital** : Stockholm
- **Currency**: Swedish krona

FIRST-EVER GLOBAL COALITION LAUNCHED FOR CLEAN COOLING

- The 1st ever global coalition on **clean and efficient cooling** was launched at First Global Conference on Synergies **between the 2030 Agenda and Paris Agreement** in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Key points :

- This coalition's aim is to identify solutions and mobilise action to accelerate progress towards clean and efficient cooling.
- Global Cool coalition was supported by the UN, Climate and Clean Air Coalition, the Kigali Cooling Efficiency Program and Sustainable Energy for All.

INDIA AND THE NETHERLANDS AGREED TO IMPROVE THE BILATERAL COOPERATION IN VARIOUS FIELDS

- India was agreed to improve the **bilateral cooperation** with **the** Netherlands in various fields, including political, economic scientific and cultural cooperation.

Key points :

- **A. Gitesh Sarma**, the Secretary (West) in Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) led The **Indian delegation and Johanna (Yoka) Brandt**, Secretary General in Ministry of Foreign Affairs, led the Dutch delegation.
- They exchanged views on regional and multilateral issues, including cooperation at the United Nations and other international fora.
- At the **25th edition of the CII-DST Tech Summit** which will be held in New Delhi in **October 2019, Netherlands** will participate as the **partner country**.

HONG KONG SURPASSES JAPAN TO BE WORLD'S 3RD BIGGEST STOCK MARKET

- Stock market of Hong Kong has surpassed Japan to become the world's third most valuable. Now Hong Kong's stock market remains behind the **US and China**.



Key points :

- Hong Kong's market value stood at \$5.78 trillion, surpassing Japan's market value at \$5.76 trillion tally for the first time since 2015.
- Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index has increased by 17 percent this year through Tuesday, when it closed at its highest. Topix Index of Japan advanced at 8.3 percent in this period.

INDIA TO BE GUEST OF HONOUR COUNTRY AT ABU DHABI INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR (ADIBF) 2019

- UAE selected **India** as the **Guest of Honour** country at the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair, ADIBF 2019, to attract a significant increase in the number of visitors with various events and activities.



Key Points :

- The event will be held from **24th to 30th April 2019**. The purpose of this **29th edition** of the book fair is to highlight the UAE's rich heritage, showcasing its authenticity, modernity, as well as its cultural and literary output.
- India's selection as the Guest of Honour will strengthen the relationship between India and UAE.

About United Arab Emirates (UAE):

- **President:** Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan
- **Prime Minister:** Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
- **Capital:** Abu Dhabi
- **Currency:** Dirham

INDIA JOIN HANDS WITH JAPAN AND UAE TO SET UP TWO PROJECTS IN AFRICA

- India joined hands with **Japan** and the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** to implement **two projects** in Africa as it seeks to extend its footprint on the continent as a counter to China's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

Key Points :

- India will build a **cancer hospital** in **Kenya** in collaboration with Japan and is to set up an **information and communications technology (ICT) center in Ethiopia** in partnership with the UAE.
- Through this partnership, India has undertaken many projects like the ambitious Pan African e-network project on tele-education and tele-medicine which provides "integrated" satellite, fiber optics and wireless network between educational and medical institutes in Africa and India.

About Japan

- **Capital:** Tokyo
- **Currency:** Japanese yen
- **Prime Minister:** Shinzo Abe

About United Arab Emirates (UAE)

- **Capital:** Abu Dhabi
- **Currency:** United Arab Emirates dirham
- **President:** Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan
- **Prime Minister:** Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum

NORWAY TOPPED AND INDIA RANKED 140TH IN WORLD PRESS FREEDOM INDEX 2019

- **Reporters Without Borders** released World Press Freedom Index 2019 in which Norway topped the index in third consecutive year and India drops down by two positions (138th rank in 2018) to be ranked **140th out of 180 countries** in 2019. The reason for decrease in the India's rank is because of at least six Indian journalists being killed in last one year.



Top 5 countries in World Press Freedom Index 2019

Rank	Country
1 st	Norway
2 nd	Finland
3 rd	Sweden
4 th	Netherlands
5 th	Denmark

Key Highlights :

- Two African countries Ethiopia and Gambia have significantly improved their ranking from 150th to 110th and 122nd to 92nd respectively as compared to 2018.
- In South Asia region, countries have poorly ranked as compared to last year. Pakistan dropped three places to 142 and Bangladesh dropped four places to 150.

About Reporters Without Borders:

- **Reporters Without Borders (RWB)** or its original name **Reporters Sans Frontiers (RSF)** is an international non-profit, non-governmental organization worked on the issues relating to freedom of press and freedom of information.
- **Headquarter** – Paris, France
- **Director General** – Christophe Deloire

Bottom 5 countries in World Press Freedom Index 2019

Rank	Country
176 th	Vietnam
177 th	China
178 th	Eritrea
179 th	North Korea
180 th	Turkmenistan

INDIA'S HAJ QUOTA INCREASED TO 2 LAKH BY SAUDI ARABIA

- **India's Haj Quota** has been increased by about 25,000, raising the number to **2 lakh** from 1.75 lakh by Saudi Arabia.

Key Highlights :

- Saudi Crown Prince **Mohammed bin Salman** gave the assurance to Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a meeting in February.
- This will help the huge number of pilgrim of Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, and Bihar to embark pilgrimage this year.



INDONESIA RELEASES RAMAYANA STAMP

- Indonesia released a special stamp on the theme of **Ramayana at the 70th anniversary** of the establishment of diplomatic ties between India and Indonesia event in the presence of India's **Ambassador Pradeep Kumar Rawat** and Indonesia's Deputy Foreign Minister Abdurrahman Mohammad Fachir to mark the 70th anniversary of diplomatic ties with India.
- Indonesian sculptor Padmashri Bapak NyomanNuart designed the stamp and it features a scene from Hindu epic Ramayana in which Jatayu valiantly fought to save Sita.
- A specially signed version of the stamp will be on display at the philately museum, jakarta.



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8. Tamilnadu Affairs



THE TITLE OF WORLD'S LONGEST RAILWAY STATION NAME BY AN ALPHABET

- **Chennai Central Railway station** in Tamil Nadu, officially known as Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. M.G. Ramachandran Central Railway Station with its 57-character count missed the chance of having the title of **world's longest railway station name** by an alphabet.

Key Points :

- The title was won by Llanfairpwll railway station in Wales, also known for its 58 letters long name 'Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlllantysiliogogoch'.
- Although, the erstwhile Chennai Central railway station which was renamed after the legendary actor-turned-politician Dr. M.G. Ramachandran is still the longest railway station name in India.



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9. General Knowledge



1) RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

Scheme	Date of Launch	Provisions
Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana	September 25, 2014	It is a Government of India Project to engage rural youth specially BPL and SC/ST segment of population, in gainful employment through skill training programmes.
Integrated Rural Development Program	1978	self-employment program to raise the income-generation capacity of target groups among the poor and The scheme has been merged with another scheme named Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) since 01.04 1999.
Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act	February 6, 2006	Legal guarantee for one hundred days of employment in every financial year to adult members of any rural household willing to do public work-related unskilled manual work at the statutory minimum wage of Rs. 120 per day in 2009 prices.
Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana	December 25, 2000	Good all-weather road connectivity to unconnected villages
Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana	April 1, 2005	Programme for creation of Rural Electricity Infrastructure & Household Electrification for providing access to electricity to rural households

Scheme	Date of Launch	Provisions
Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana	September 25, 2001	Providing additional wage employment and food security, alongside creation of durable community assets in rural areas.
Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana	April 1, 1999	Bring the assisted poor families above the poverty line by organising them into Self Help Groups (SHGs) through the process of social mobilisation, their training and capacity building and provision of income generating assets through a mix of bank credit and government subsidy.

2) URBAN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

Scheme	Date of Launch	Provisions
Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JnNURM)	December 3, 2005	a programme meant to improve the quality of life and infrastructure in the cities. To be replaced by Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation.
Pooled Finance Development Fund Scheme		Pooled Finance Development Fund (PFDF), which would enable the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) including small and medium sized municipalities to raise funds from the market on a sustainable basis to meet their investment needs. PFDF will provide credit enhancement to ULBs to access market borrowings based on their credit worthiness through State level Pooled Finance Mechanism viz. a State Pooled Finance Entity (SPEF).
Rajiv Awas Yojana	2013	It envisages a “Slum Free India” with inclusive and equitable cities in which every citizen has access to basic civic infrastructure and social amenities and decent shelter

Scheme	Date of Launch	Provisions
HRIDAY – Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana	January 1, 2015	The scheme seeks to preserve and rejuvenate the rich cultural heritage of the country.
Smart Cities Mission	June 25, 2015	To enable better living and drive economic growth stressing on the need for people centric urban planning and development.
AMRUT	June 25, 2015	To enable better living and drive economic growth stressing on the need for people centric urban planning and development.

3) LIST OF NOBLE PRIZE WINNERS FROM INDIA

Name	Field	Year
Rabindranath Tagore	Literature	1913
CV Raman	Physics	1930
Mother Teresa	Peace	1979
Amartya Sen	Economic Sciences	1998
Har Gobind Khorana	Physiology or Medicine	1968
Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar	Physics	1983
Venkatraman Ramakrishnan	Chemistry	2009
Ronald Ross	Physiology or Medicine	1902
Rudyard Kipling	Literature	1907
14th Dalai Lama	Peace	1989
V. S. Naipaul	Literature	2001
Kailash Satyarthi	Peace	2014

10. Practice Questions



- 1) When is the International Mine Awareness Day observed?
 - A. April 2
 - B. April 3
 - C. April 4
 - D. April 5
- 2) April 1 to 7 is observed as Prevention of _____ Week every year in India.
 - A. Diabetes
 - B. Cancer
 - C. Blindness
 - D. Malaria
- 3) Which country honours PM Modi with the highest civilian Award ?
 - A. Canada
 - B. UAE
 - C. Saudi Arabia
 - D. USA
- 4) India & Bolivia Sign --- MoUs In Various Fields Including Culture, Mining, Space
 - A. 8
 - B. 5
 - C. 6
 - D. 7
- 5) New method to purify water used in -----
 - A. Oil refinement
 - B. Microgold
 - C. Vitamin
 - D. Nuts
- 6) Shiv Sena to contest 20 Lok Sabha seats in -----
 - A. Bihar
 - B. TamilNadu
 - C. Kerala
 - D. West Bengal
- 7) Adani Becomes 1st Indian Port Operator To Record ----- Cargo Movement
 - A. 200 MMT
 - B. 450 MMT
 - C. 560 MMT
 - D. 850 MMT
- 8) Hyper local connectivity app Bhonga initiated in -----
 - A. Mumbai
 - B. Chennai
 - C. Hyderabad
 - D. Pune
- 9) A Book of poem Khooni Vaisakhi on Jallianwala Bagh massacre released in _____
 - A. UAE
 - B. Pakistan
 - C. Indonesia
 - D. Russia
- 10) 'VARUNA' is the naval exercise between India and _____.
 - A. Singapore
 - B. France
 - C. Russia
 - D. Japan

- 11) Which Indian Navy Ship will take part in Chinese Navy's 70th anniversary celebrations?
A.INS Ranvijay
B.INS Vikramaditya
C.INS Shakti
D.INS Gomati
- 12) Which Indian wrestler regained top spot in the latest world wrestling rankings?
A.Bajrang Punia
B.Sakshi Malik
C.Yogeshwar Dutt
D.Sushil Kumar Solanki
- 13) _____To Set Record For Longest Spaceflight By A Woman
A. Christina Koch
B. Leslie Bebout
C. Nadie Barlow
D. Jennifer Dungan
- 14) When was the State Himachal Pradesh formed?
A.1971 B.1948
C.1964 D.1949
- 15) When did Himachal Pradesh celebrate 72nd Himachal Day?
A.14th April B.15th April
C.16th April D.17th April
- 16) The World Haemophilia Day is observed on _____.
A.April 19 B.April 16
C.April 18 D.April 17
- 17) Which of the following is to test Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) planetary-defence mission?
A.JAXA
B.Israel Space Agency
C.ISRO
D.Space X
- 18) World Heritage Day is observed on _____.
A.April 16 B.April 17
C.April 18 D.April 19
- 19) First Earth-Size planet: HD 21749b discovered by _____.
A. NASA
B. ISRO
C. Center for Scientific Research and Innovation
D. Stanford University, United States
- 20) Which of the following is awarded for excellence in newspaper journalism, literary achievements, musical composition?
A.Nobel Prize
B.Abel Prize
C.Pulitzer Prize
D.Oscar Awards
- 21) India will build a cancer hospital in Kenya in collaboration with _____.
A.Malaysia B.Japan
C.Singapore D.Kuwait

- 22) Who won the 'World Press Photo of the Year 2019' Award?
A. Chris McGrath
B. Bence Mate
C. Pieter Ten Hoopen
D. John Moore
- 23) _____ captured the first-ever image of Black hole?
A. Compton Gamma Ray Observatory (CGRO)
B. Spitzer Space Telescope (SST)
C. Hubble Space Telescope (HST)
D. Event Horizon Telescope (EHT)
- 24) Astronomers captured the first-ever image of a black hole in a galaxy known as _____.
A. Bode's Galaxy
B. Centaurus A
C. Small Magellanic Cloud (NGC 292)
D. Messier 87 (M87)
- 25) Where is the headquarters of Asian Athletic Association (AAA) located?
A. China B. India
C. Singapore D. Malaysia
- 26) Which of the following Indian city is ranked one on the WHO's list of '15 most polluted cities in the World'?
A. Varanasi B. Kanpur
C. Faridabad D. Delhi
- 27) Google launched its 1st drone delivery service in _____.
A. Finland
B. United States
C. Japan
D. Australia
- 28) Which of the following Country assisted Sri Lanka to build its new railway line after 1948?
A. India B. USA
C. Indonesia D. China
- 29) Who was elected as the new president of International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) - India?
A. Vinod Rai
B. Sunil Bharti Mittal
C. Vikramjit Singh Sahney
D. Jawahar Vadivelu
- 30) Who is the President of the World Gold Council (WGC)?
A. David Tait
B. Rooney John
C. David Harquail
D. Aram Shishmanian
- 31) The World Homoeopathy Day (WHD) is observed every year on _____.
A. April 9 B. April 10
C. April 12 D. April 11

- 32) Which of the following joint military exercise is between India and Singapore?
A.Ex AUSTRALIA HIND
B.Ex SHAKTI
C.Bold Kurukshetra-2019
D.Ex PRABAL DOSTYK
- 33) What is the theme for 2019 National Maritime Day?
A.Indian Ocean-An Ocean of opportunity
B.Indian Shipping- An Ocean of opportunity
C.Indian Ocean - The history of the Sailing
D.None of the above
- 34) When does India observe National Maritime Day?
A.April 4 B.April 5
C.April 6 D.April 7
- 35) Which country honoured Indian PM Narendra Modi with its highest civilian award Zayed Medal?
A.United Arab Emirates
B.Saudi Arabia
C.Qatar
D.Kuwait
- 36) Which country launched World's First National 5G Network?
A.Indonesia
B.India
C.South Korea
D.Pakistan
- 37) Which country launched its 2nd Generation data relay satellite, Tianlian II-01?
A.Russia
B.South Korea
C.Japan
D.China
- 38) India's defense satellite EMISAT successfully launched by ----
A.ISRO
B.Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)
C.Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC)
D.Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR.
- 39) Odisha celebrated its _____th foundation day on April 1, 2019.
A.84 B.76 C.88 D.79
- 40) -----inish with 16 gold medals at Asian Airgun Championship
A.India
B.Pakistan
C.Saudi Arabia
D.Indonesia
- 41) When is the World Autism Awareness Day observed?
A.March 30
B.April 1
C.April 2
D.April 3

- 42) What is the theme for World Autism Awareness Day 2019?
A. Opening Doors to Inclusive Education
B. Assistive Technologies, Active Participation
C. Toward Autonomy and Self-Determination
D. Employment: The Autism Advantage
- 43) Which team won ICC Test Championship mace for 3rd straight year?
A. South Africa B. New Zealand
C. India D. Australia
- 44) Who won Bahrain Grand Prix 2019?
A. Charles Leclerc
B. Valtteri Bottas
C. Lewis Hamilton
D. Max Verstappen
- 45) Who won the Miami Open (tennis) 2019 for Men's singles?
A. John Isner
B. D. Shapovalov
C. Rafael Nadal
D. Roger Federer
- 46) Government recently extended PAN-Aadhaar linking deadline to _____.
A. September 30, 2019
B. May 30, 2019
C. June 30, 2019
D. August 30, 2019
- 47) Which team won Azlan Shah Cup 2019?
A. Japan B. Malaysia
C. India D. South Korea
- 48) Who is designated as new Strategic Forces Command (SFC) Chief?
A. NS Dhillon
B. Suresh kumar
C. Mohammed Ali
D. Vikram Singh
- 49) Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) was launched in _____.
A. 2016 B. 2012
C. 2014 D. 2015
- 50) Which of the following is the world's most advanced experimental vaccine to provide partial protection against malaria in young children?
A. RTS, S vaccine
B. Varicella vaccine
C. DTap vaccine
D. Polysaccharide vaccine
- 51) When the World Book and Copyright Day is observed every year?
a) 22 April b) 23 April
c) 24 April d) 25 April
- 52) Which country is hosting the Asia Badminton Championships 2019?
a) India b) Japan
c) China d) Russia

- 53) Nepal launched its first satellite NepaliSat-1 from which country?
A.Germany B.Russia
C.India D.United States
- 54) When was the International Day for Monuments and Sites was observed?
A.16th April B.17th April
C.18th April D.19th April
- 55) Which of the following is Sri Lanka's first Satellite?
A.COLOMBO
B.Raavana-1
C.SupremeSAT
D.LankaSAT
- 56) The World Liver Day (WLD) is observed every year on _____.
A.April 18 B.April 19
C.April 20 D.April 17
- 57) Which country will host the annual G20 leaders' summit in 2020, first in Arab world?
A.Qatar B.Egypt
C.Bahrain D.Saudi Arabia
- 58) Which country ranked top in World Press Freedom Index 2019?
A.Norway B.Netherlands
C.Finland D.Sweden
- 59) Jean Michel Lapin elected as the new prime minister of _____.
A.Belize B.Jamaica
C.Panama D.Haiti
- 60) Two Indian women lawyers named in Time's 100 Most Influential People 2019 list are _____.
A.Karuna Nundy and Meenakshi Lekhi
B.Indira Jaising and Pinky Anand
C.Menaka Guruswamy and Arundhati Katju
D.Vrinda Grover and Meenakshi Arora
- 61) When is the World Parkinson's Day observed?
A.April 9 B.April 10
C.April 11 D.April 12
- 62) Which country honours PM Narendra Modi with its highest civilian award
A.Russia
B.Indonesia
C.Saudi Arabia
D.Pakistan
- 63) Who is awarded as the Freedom of the City of London?
A.Vivek Sharma
B.Nithish Kumar
C.Alice G. Vaidyan
D.Rajesh Kumar
- 64) Who was selected as the new President of the World Bank?
A.Kyle Peters
B.Christine Lagarde
C.Philippe Le Houerou
D.David Malpass

- 65) Who is appointed as First Woman Vice-Chancellor of the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration?
A.Suresh Kumar
B.Jamia Millia
C.Naresh kumar
D.Vidhya Krishnan
- 66) When is the the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)'s Valour Day or Shaurya Diwas celebrated?
A.April 5 B.April 7
C.April 8 D.April 9
- 67) The National Safe Motherhood Day (NSMD) is celebrated every year on _____.
A.April 12 B.April 10
C.April 11 D.April 13
- 68) Which country bow out of 2020 Olympic Qualifying tournament ?
A.India B.Pakistan
C.New Zealand D.Indonesia
- 69) Who was named as the Wisden Almanack's 'Leading Cricketer of the Year' 2018 for the third straight time?
A.Henry Nicholls
B.Steven Smith
C.Kane Williamson
D.Virat Kohli
- 70) Where was the month-long Indo-US military exercise held?
A.Kolkata B.Hyderabad
C.New Delhi D.Calcutta
- 71) Who is appointed as the Chairman of Nasscom?
A.U.B.Pravin Rao
B.Rishad Premji
C.Rakesh Bharti Mittal
D.Keshav Murugesh
- 72) Which team retained top spot in the latest FIFA world football rankings?
A.Belgium B.France
C.Brazil D.England
- 73) Who conferred with Honorary Doctorate from University of Law, London
A.Shah Rukh Khan
B.Anil Kapoor
C.Shahid Kapoor
D.Kareena Kapoor
- 74) What is the theme of 2019 World Health Day?
A.Universal health coverage: everyone, everywhere
B.Halt the rise: beat diabetes
C.Depression: Let's talk
D.Healthy heart beat, Healthy blood pressure
- 75) World Health Day is observed on _____.
A.April 9 B.April 8
C.April 7 D.April 6
- 76) How many member states are there in European Union?
A.28 B.30 C.32 D.34

- 77) --launched Modi Again and Saffron Swords
A.Garuda Prakashan
B.Suresh Kumar
C.Naresh Karthick
D.Vikram Kumar
- 78) Who won the John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Award?
A.Sanjiv Chopra
B.Vikram Patel
C.Karthik Ramanna
D.Krishna G. Palepu
- 79) Who became the first Indian male squash player to enter the list of top 10 in the latest PSA world rankings?
A.Saurav Ghosal
B.Ramit Tandon
C.Mahesh Mangaonkar
D.Vikram Malhotra
- 80) COMCASA is India's military-information sharing pact with _____.
A.Russia
B.United States
C.South Korea
D.Germany
- 81) Which Indian film won best cinematography award at 2019 Beijing International Film Festival?
A.Village Rockstars
B.Bhayanakam
C.Baahubali 2: The Conclusion
D.Aalorukkam
- 82) How many states and Union territories so far joined a pan-India network of single emergency helpline number '112'?
A.25 B.22 C.15 D.20
- 83) What is the theme of 2019 World Earth Day?
A.Trees For the Earth
B.Clear The Air
C.Protect Our Species
D.End Plastic Pollution
- 84) Which of the following Naval Ship was decommissioned after three decades of service?
A.INS Arihant
B.INS Chakra
C.INS Sindhurashtra
D.INS Kozhikode
- 85) ----- remembers Marshal of the Air Force Arjan Singh on his birth centenary
A.President Ram Nath Kovind
B.Shri Suresh rajan
C.Shri Prakash Javedakar
D.Shri Rajesh Sharma
- 86) Who won gold in the 54 kg category at the Boxing World Cup at Cologne in Germany?
A.Meena Kumari Maisnam
B.Pwilao Basumatary
C.Sonia Chahal
D.Mary Kom
- 87) When was IRDA established?
A.1965 B.1954
C.1999 D.2001

- 88) Who initiated the UNESCO/ Guillermo Cano Press Freedom Prize 2019?
A.WHO's Executive Board
B.UN's Executive Board
C.UNESCO's Executive Board
D.EU's Executive Board
- 89) Who was sworn in as the New Prime Minister of Palestine?
A.Mahmoud Abbas
B.Mohammed Ishtaye
C.Rami Hamdallah
D.Reuven Rivlin
- 90) Who is appointed as Secretary of Defence Finance?
A.Gargi Kaul
B.Suresh Varma
C.Naresh Kumar
D.Rajesh Khanna
- 91) Which country successfully tested the world's first floating nuclear power plant (NPP)?
A.China B.Russia
C.India D.US
- 92) Which of the following mission of NASA recently recorded marsquake, a quake on the planet Mars?
A.MAVEN
B.Mars Orbiter Mission
C.Curiosity
D.InSight
- 93) Which Airways became 1st major airline to operate plastic-free flight?
A.Singapore Airlines
B.Qatar Airways
C.Thai Airways
D.Etihad Airways
- 94) Who is the first non-European to win the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1913?
A.Ramdhari Singh Dinkar
B.Kailash Satyarthi
C.Akilan
D.Rabindranath Tagore
- 95) Who won the Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize 2019?
A.Meghna Pant
B.Rana Dasgupta
C.Avalok Langer
D.Janice Pariat
- 96) Which pair won their 2nd World Cup gold in the 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team event at the ISSF World Cup 2019 in Beijing?
A. Manu Bhaker and Saurabh Chaudhary
B. Anjum Moudgil and Divyansh Singh Panwar
C. Apurvi Chandela and Deepak Kumar
D. Heena Sidhu and Rizvi Shahzar

- 97) Which Bank launched India's First 'Green Car Loan' at Lower Interest Rates?
 A.Canara Bank
 B.HDFC Bank
 C.State Bank of India
 D.Axis Bank
- 98) Who is named IPIs 71st World Press Freedom Hero in 2019?
 A.Cyril Almeida
 B.Elstain Duruck
 C.John Williams
 D.Williams Duck
- 99) What is the rank of India in Asian Athletics Championships 2019 held in Doha, Qatar?
 A.Second B.Fourth
 C.Third D.First
- 100) Which team recently secured ODI status for first time?
 A.Canada B.Hong Kong
 C.Namibia D.United States

ANSWER Key

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

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