

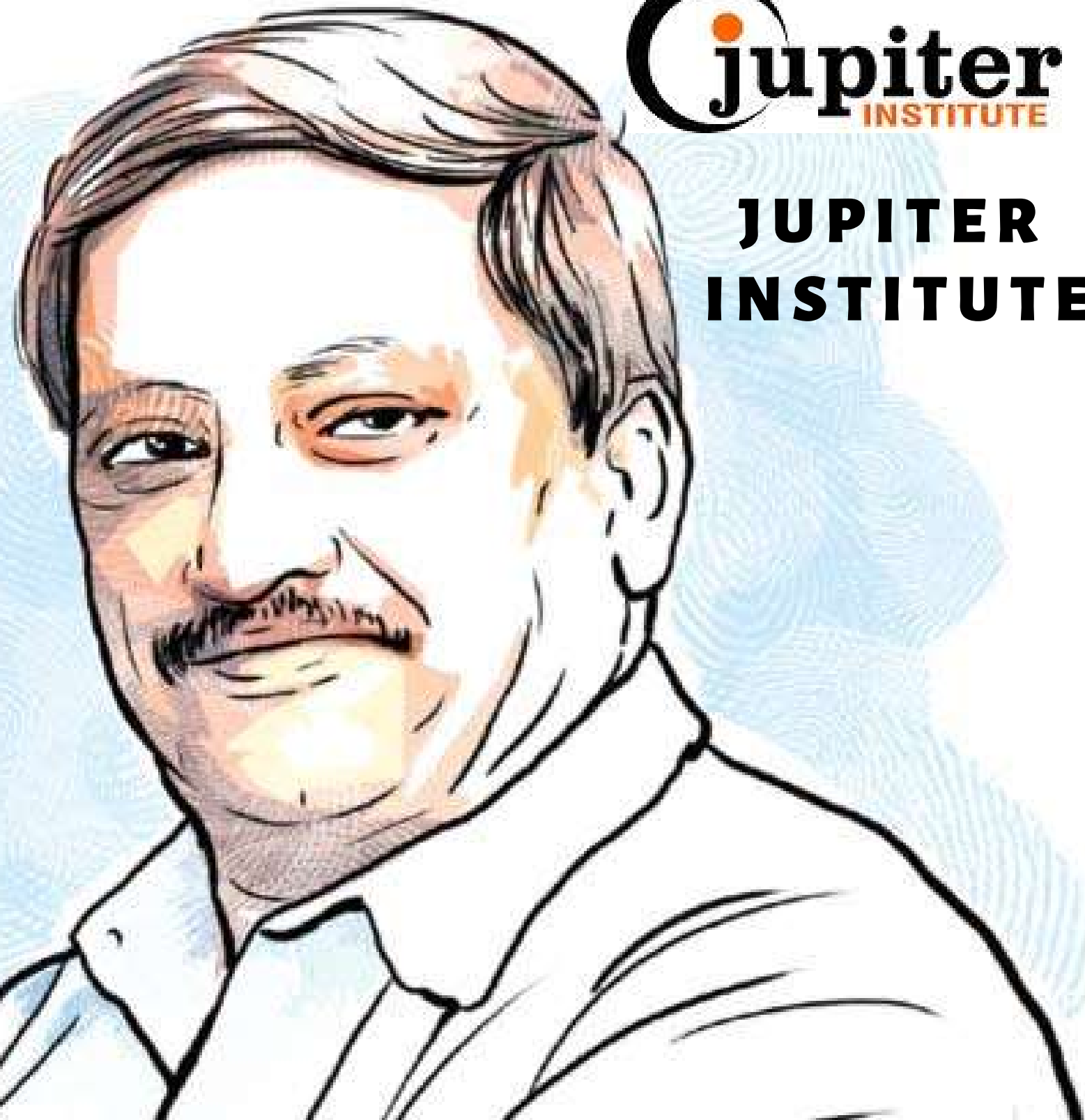
ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW RELATED TO YOUR EXAMS

CURRENT AFFAIRS

100 PRACTICE QUESTIONS INCLUDED



**JUPITER
INSTITUTE**



MARCH 2019

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Current Affairs: Important Days

Date	Important Day	Theme for 2019
1-Mar	Zero Discrimination Day	Act to change laws that Discriminate
3-Mar	World Wildlife Day	Life below water for people and planet
8-Mar	International Women's Day	Think Equal, Build Smart, Innovate for Change
14-Mar	World Kidney Day	Kidney Health for Everyone Everywhere
15-Mar	World Sleep Day	Healthy Sleep, Healthy Aging
21-Mar	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	Mitigating and countering rising nationalist populism and extreme supremacist ideologies
21-Mar	World Poetry Day	
21-Mar	World Down Syndrome Day	
22-Mar	International Day of Forests	Forests and Education.
23-Mar	World Meteorological Day	The Sun, the Earth and the Weather
24-Mar	World Tuberculosis Day	It's time
25-Mar	International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade	Remember Slavery The Power of the Arts for Justice

Current Affairs: Appointments**International Appointments:**

Name	Designation
Indian-American Neomi Rao	US Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia
Mohammad Shtayyeh	New Prime Minister of Palestinian
Zinedine Zidane	Real Madrid Coach

National Appointments:

Name	Designation
Pinaki Chandra Ghose	India's first Lokpal, anti-corruption ombudsman
Pramod Sawant	New Goa Chief Minister
Vice Admiral Karambir Singh	Next Navy Chief
Gauri Sawant	First transgender election ambassador
R. Kumar	New Chairman of LIC
Ausaf Sayeed	New Ambassador of India to Saudi Arabia
Padma Lakshmi	UNDP's Goodwill Ambassador

Air Marshal RD Mathur	Assumes charge of Eastern Air Command of IAF
Air Marshal Raghunath Nambiar	Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Western Air Command
Rear Admiral Krishna Swaminathan	Assumes charge as Flag Officer Sea Training (FOST)
Rear Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh	Western Fleet Commander
Rear Admiral Rajesh Pendharkar	Assumed the charge as the Flag Officer Commanding Maharashtra Naval Area
Rear Admiral Suraj Berry	Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet
Radm Mahesh Singh	Flag Officer Commanding Karnataka Area
Shailendra Handa	Special Election Expenditure Observers for Maharashtra
Madhu Mahajan	Special Election Expenditure Observers for Tamil Nadu
Sh Vivek Dube	Special Central Police Observer for States of Andhra and Telangana
C Lalsawta	Mizoram's first Chairman of the new-constituted Lokayukta
Sanjay Jayavarthanavelu	Chairman of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Southern Region
Satish Reddy	Deputy Chairman of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Southern Region
Justice (Retd.) DK Jain	BCCI's ad-hoc Ethics Officer
PS Narasimha	Mediator to resolve disputes of admin in BCCI

Current Affairs: Awards and Honours

Person/Organisation	Award
Tripura's Tribal Musician Thanga Darlong	AB Vajpayee Life Time Award
The Central Zone Power Distribution Company (CZPDC), Bhopal West Zone Power Distribution Company (WZPDC) Indore —	Saubhagya Award under Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana
Veteran Marathi writer and poet	Vasant Abaji Dahake 'Janasthan' Award
TVS Motor Company	'Green Era Award for Sustainability'
Indian Bank	Best Bank Award from the Tamil Nadu government
Abhinandhan	Bhagwan Mahavir Ahimsa Puraskar
Alastair Cook (England cricket)	Knighthood Award
Bharti AXA General Insurance	Non-Life Insurer of The Year Award 2019 by the Assocham
Arata Isozaki (Japanese architect)	Pritzker Architecture Prize 2019
Acko General Insurance (Mumbai)	Golden Peacock Innovative Product Award 2019 - under the Insurance Category
Priyanka Dubey (BBC)	Chameli Devi Jain Award (Outstanding Woman Journalist for 2018)
Ministry of Tourism	International Golden City Gate Tourism Awards 2019 (TV cinema spot' category)
Vice President Venkaiah Naidu	Doctor Honoris Causa from University of Peace
Sona Yukti Social Enterprise Network (SEN)	sustainability award for education
Ved Rahi (Film director and novelist)	Kusumagraj national award for literature
Former RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan	'Yashwantrao Chavan National Award 2018'
Kane Tanaka(116-year) (Japan)	Guinness World Records as the oldest living person in the world

Padmanaban Gopalan	Commonwealth Youth Award
Kent RO Systems Pvt. Ltd	Best Domestic Water Purifier Award 2018-19
Swati Shingade	DD Mahila Kisan Award
Sociologist and political psychoanalyst Ashis Nandy	Hans Kilian Award 2019
Brazilian physicist Marcelo Gleiser	Templeton Prize 2019
Hindi writer Leeladhar Jagudi	Vyas Samman 2018
Kenyan science teacher Peter Tabichi	\$1m global teacher award
President Ram Nath Kovind	Croatia's highest civilian award - the Grand Order of the King of Tomislav
Yoshua Bengio, Geoffrey Hinton, and Yann LeCun	Turing Award 2018 (Nobel prize for computing)
Amartya Sen And Novelist Kazuo Ishiguro	Oxford University's Bodley Medal
Dr Rajendra Joshi	Pravasi Bhartiya Samman Award
Alemba Yimchunger (forest guard of Nagaland)	Earth Day Network Star Award

Current Affairs: Banking and Finance

World Bank to provide 250 Million dollar for NRETP to boost Rural incomes

- World Bank to provide 250 Million dollar for the National Rural Economic Transformation Project (NRETP) to boost Rural Incomes across 13 States in India. The loan will help women in rural households develop viable enterprises for farm and non-farm products.

RBI to infuse Rs 12,500 crore via OMOs

- The Reserve Bank of India, RBI has said it will infuse 12,500 crore rupees into the system through open market operations (OMOs). OMOs are money market tools to infuse or suck out liquidity from the system.

RBI issues guidelines to prevent market abuse

- The Reserve Bank of India has come out with guidelines to prevent misuse of price-sensitive information by participants in markets for financial instruments.

SBI launches cardless ATM withdrawals

- State Bank of India launched 'YONO Cash' for cardless withdrawal of cash at over 16,500 SBI ATMs across the country.

RBI appoints five-member committee to deepen digital payments

- The central bank of the country has appointed 5-member committee under the chairmanship of Nandan Nilekani to further deepen digital payments and enhance financial inclusion through Fintech.

RBI slaps Rs 2 crore penalty on PNB

- The Reserve Bank of India has slapped a penalty of Rs 2 crore on Punjab National Bank for non-compliance of regulatory directions with regard to SWIFT operations. SWIFT is a global messaging software used for sharing information on inter-bank transactions by financial entities.

Government decides to infuse around Rs 5000 Cr into Bank of Baroda

- The government has decided to infuse around five thousand crore rupees into state-owned Bank of Baroda ahead of merger of two other public sector lenders Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank with Bank of Baroda.
- The merger of Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank with Bank of Baroda would be effective from 1st April.

Current Affairs: Defence

Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue – 2019

- In continuation of the process of engaging the global strategic community in an annual review of India's opportunities and challenges in the Indo-Pacific region, the second edition of Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD) – 2019 will be held on 05 and 06 March 2019 at New Delhi.

CISF creates Guinness world record in single-line bicycle parade

- The Central Industrial Security Force, CISF, has made history by creating a Guinness world record in a single line bicycle parade to mark the 50 years of the paramilitary force.
- The record was created at the Yamuna Expressway in Noida. The CISF was raised in 1969 and has about one lakh 80 thousand personnel in its ranks.

SAMPRITI 2019

- The eighth edition of joint military exercise 'SAMPRITI' between the armies of India and Bangladesh in Tangail, Bangladesh. The joint military exercise 'Sampriti' is aiming to increase mutual cooperation between the armies of two countries.

Foal Eagle

- United States and South Korea said that they will end their annual large-scale joint military exercises as Washington pursues efforts to improve ties with North Korea.
- Foal Eagle is the biggest of the regular joint exercises held by the allies, and has always infuriated Pyongyang. In the past, it has involved 200,000 South Korean forces and some 30,000 US soldiers.

Al Nagah 2019

- The third edition of the bilateral joint exercise between India and Oman, Al Nagah 2019 will begin from 12th of this month at Jabel Al Akhdar Mountains in Oman. The aim of this exercise is to enhance interoperability in counter terrorist operations in semi urban mountainous terrain.

Rs 35, 000 cr released to be disbursed under OROP for defence personnel

- Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman says 35 thousand crore rupees have been released to be disbursed under the One-Rank One-Pension (OROP) for the defence personnel.

USSOCOM commander meets Army Chief General Bipin Rawat

- Commander US Special Operations Command of Army General Raymond Thomas who is on an official visit to India called on Army Chief General Bipin Rawat. Both the Generals deliberated on the developing regional security environment and issue of global terrorism.

50th Raising Day ceremony of CISF

- PM Modi was addressing the 50th Raising Day ceremony of CISF at Indrapuram in Ghaziabad district of Uttar Pradesh.

Indian defence lab develops 'combat drugs' to reduce casualties in Pulwama type attacks, warfare

- With 90 per cent of gravely wounded security personnel succumbing to injuries within a few hours, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO's) medical laboratory has come up with a range of 'combat casualty drugs' that can extend the golden hour till the trooper is shifted to hospital.

Man Portable Anti Tank Guided Missile

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test fired indigenously developed, low weight, fire and forget Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) for the second time in the ranges of Rajasthan desert.

Australia to embark on its largest ever defence engagement with Sri Lanka

- Australia will embark on its largest ever defence engagement with Sri Lanka next week as part of the Indo-Pacific Endeavour 2019. More than 1,000 defence personnel will be involved in the exercise comprising of Australian Naval, Army and Air force and their assets.

Navy hires multipurpose vessel for logistics support

- The Southern Naval Command has hired the services of multipurpose vessel MV Triton Liberty from M/s Triton Maritime Pvt Ltd for providing logistics support to the Lakshadweep and Minicoy Islands, sorties across Kerala and Mahe, support to naval harbour operations and other miscellaneous support functions for a period of one year from mid-March.

Second Scorpene submarine Khanderi ready for induction

- The Navy is set to induct the second Scorpene submarine Khanderi by early May. The remaining submarines in the series are in advanced stages of manufacturing and trials. Khanderi was launched in January 2017 and has since been undergoing a series of trials

Africa-India Field Training Exercise-2019

- The inaugural Africa-India Field Training Exercise-2019 for India and African nations called AFINDEX-19 scheduled from 18 March to 27 March 2019 started with a grand opening ceremony on 18 March 2019 at Aundh Military Station, Pune.
- The aim of the exercise is to practice the participating nations in planning and conduct of Humanitarian Mine Assistance and Peace Keeping Operations under Chapter VII of United Nations Peace Keeping Operations.

IND-INDO CORPAT

- Indonesian Naval Ship and Maritime Patrol Aircraft arrived at Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, India for the Opening Ceremony of the 33rd edition of the India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (IND-INDO CORPAT) to be held from 19 Mar to 04 Apr 2019.

Exercise MITRA SHAKTI

- Exercise MITRA SHAKTI is conducted annually as part of military diplomacy and interaction between armies of India & Sri Lanka. The joint exercise for the year 2018-19 will be conducted from 26 March to 08 April 2019 in Sri Lanka.

India-U.S. looking to develop unmanned aerial vehicles

- India and the U.S. have identified small air launch unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) and a lightweight small arms technology project along with aircraft maintenance for defence collaboration.

Indian Navy – first Responder to Cyclone ‘IDAI’ in Mozambique

- The ships of First Training Squadron of Indian Navy (Sujata, Sarathi and Shardul) operating in the Southern Indian Ocean were diverted to Port Beira, Mozambique based on request received from the Government of Mozambique to provide Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) to the local population post the devastation caused by cyclone ‘IDAI’ which struck the coast of Mozambique on 15 Mar 19.

Indian Air Force to participate in LIMA 2019

- Indian Air Force will participate in Langkawi International Maritime Aero Expo, LIMA 2019. The expo will take place in Langkawi, Malaysia from 26th to 30th of this month.

Development of Combat Management System for Indigenous Aircraft Carrier through Private Sector

- The Combat Management System (CMS) for the Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC) developed with M/s Tata Power Strategic Engineering Division (TPSED), in collaboration with Weapon and Electronics System Engineering Establishment (WESEE) and M/s MARS, Russia.

IAF inducts first four heavy-lift Chinook helicopters

- Indian Air Force (IAF) formally inducted the four heavy-lift Chinook helicopters. Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa announced the induction at a ceremony held at Air Force base in Chandigarh.

- The Chinook helicopter has fully integrated digital cockpit management system and is capable of transporting fully-equipped infantry soldiers for specialised operations.

Navy's nuclear, biological, chemical training facility launched

- Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Sunil Lanba inaugurated the Indian Navy's Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Training Facility (NBCTF) at INS Shivaji in Lonavala.
- The NBCTF, christened "Abhedya", impenetrable in Sanskrit, will help train personnel of naval ships fitted with nuclear, biological and chemical detection and protection systems.

Military exercise Mitra Shakti

- The joint training exercise MITRASHAKTI – VI between Indian and Sri Lanka Army is being held at Diyatalawa in Sri Lanka. It is one of the largest bilateral army exercises to be conducted in the region.

LIMA-19

- Indian Navy's frontline ASW corvette, INS Kadmatt arrived at Langkawi, Malaysia on a seven days official visit. The ship is scheduled to participate in the 15th edition of Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition, LIMA-19.

Mountaineering Expedition to Mt Makalu

- First Indian Army Mountaineering Expedition to Mt Makalu (8485m) comprising five Officers, two JCOs and eleven OR was flagged off by Director General Military Training on 26 Mar 2019.

India successfully tests anti-satellite missile

- Defence Research and Development Organisation, DRDO successfully conducted an Anti-Satellite (A-SAT) missile test, Mission Shakti from Dr A P J Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha.
- Mission Shakti aimed at strengthening India's overall security.

INS Magar Departs for Mozambique with Relief Material

- INS Magar, an amphibious warfare vessel, departed Mumbai for Port Beira in Mozambique with essential relief material for the cyclone ravaged areas.

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Current Affairs: Economic Affairs

Indian economy expected to grow at 7.3% in 2019-20

- Indian economy is expected to grow at 7.3 per cent in calendar years 2019 and 2020, the US-based rating agency Moody's.

GST collection in February stands at Rs 97,247 cr

- The GST collection in the month of February stood at 97 thousand 247 crore rupees. However, the collection in previous month was over one lakh crore rupees.

China slashes its GDP target to 6-6.5%

- The world's second largest economy China slashed its GDP target to 6 to 6.5 per cent this year.

Government fixes sugar sale quota for March

- The government has fixed sugar sale quota for the month of March. Sugar mills can sell 24.5 lakh tonne of the sweetener in the open market in the current month. The Centre has allocated sugar quota for sale to each of the 524 mills in the country.
- The rate was increased recently from 29 rupees per kg to help mills realise maximum revenue and clear cane price arrears of farmers.

96.5% of households in rural India have access to toilet

- The National Annual Rural Sanitation Survey, NARSS 2018-19 has found that 96.5 per cent of the households in rural India have access to a toilet. The survey also re-confirmed the Open Defecation Free (ODF) status of over 90 per cent of villages which were previously declared and verified as ODF by various districts and States.

Eight sectors expected to add over 10 crore jobs by 2025

- The Confederation of Indian Industry, CII said eight segments of the economy alone expected to create over 10 crore jobs by 2025. The eight sectors that CII highlighted include retail, construction, transport and logistics, tourism and hospitality, handlooms and handicrafts, textiles and apparels, food processing, and automotive.

India will become five trillion dollar economy by 2025

- Addressing the Indian community at San Jose in Costa Rica, The Vice President asserted that India will become a five trillion dollar economy and the third largest consumer market in the world by 2025.

Industrial growth slows to 1.7% in January 2019

- Industrial output growth stood at 1.7 per cent in January this year on account of slowdown in the manufacturing sector. Factory output as measured in terms of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) had grown by 7.5 per cent in January last year.

National guidelines on responsible business conduct

- Ministry of Corporate Affairs has released national guidelines on responsible business conduct. These guidelines urge businesses to actualize the principles in letter and spirit. It should also respect and promote the well-being of all employees, including those in their value chains.

National Company Law Appellate Tribunal reserves its order on petition by Reliance Communications

- The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal has reserved its order on a petition by Reliance Communications which has approached the tribunal seeking the release of income tax refunds to clear dues of Ericsson.

'Green' coffee may brew better farm incomes

- Giving fresh hope to coffee growers, the State Industries Department is gearing up to set up a carbon neutral farm project in Wayanad district of Kerala. A carbon-neutral project in Kerala promises to change the lives of Wayanad ryots.
- A carbon neutral village coffee park would be set up for which the State government had earmarked Rs.150 crore for first phase construction works.

GST council approves transition plan for new GST rates on residential properties

- GST council approved a transition plan for new goods and services tax rates on residential properties under which developers of under-construction buildings may either opt to shift to the revised lower rates without input tax credit or stick to the previous rates.

EU regulators fine Google €1.49 billion

- European Union (EU) antitrust regulators handed down a €1.49 billion fine to Google for blocking rival online search advertisers, marking the company's third penalty in two years.

GST Authority clarifies on change/transfer in ownership of sole proprietorship

- The Goods and Services Tax, GST Authority has clarified that transfer or change in the ownership of business will include transfer or change in the ownership of business due to death of the sole proprietor.

Government begins seizing properties of terror financiers to curb terror funding

- The government has started seizing properties belonging to terror financiers in a big way as part of its efforts to curb terror funding. Thirteen persons and their properties have so far been identified by the National Investigation Agency, NIA, in this connection.

Employment generation in formal sector touched 17-month high: EPFO

- The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) in its latest released payroll data has said that net employment generation in the formal sector touched a 17-month high of 8.96 lakh in January, 2019.

ADNOC awards onshore block to Indian consortium

- A consortium of two Indian oil companies, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited and Indian Oil Corporation Limited have been awarded the exploration rights for Abu Dhabi Onshore Block 1.
- The Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, ADNOC, Monday signed agreements awarding the exploration rights.

Current Affairs: International

UNSC designates Hamza bin Laden under its sanctions list

- The United Nations Security Council has designated Hamza bin Laden under its sanctions list. The son of former Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden is now subject to a travel ban, assets freeze and an arms embargo.

US President asks China to immediately remove all tariffs on US agricultural products

- US President Donald Trump has asked China to immediately remove all tariffs on US agricultural products.

US slaps new sanctions on Venezuela

- The United States has slapped new sanctions on Venezuela. The sanctions were imposed a day after Russia and China vetoed a US and European resolution at the UN Security Council that called for unimpeded aid deliveries.

US seeks information on potential misuse of American-made F-16 by Pakistan

- The United States is seeking information on the potential misuse of American-made F-16 fighter jets by Pakistan against India in violation of the end-user agreement.

Pakistan restores Samjhauta Express services to Delhi

- Pakistan restored the Samjhauta Express services between Lahore and Delhi, days after the train was suspended due to tense bilateral ties.

Israel, Russia to cooperate on pullout of foreign forces from Syria

- Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said his country and Russia are to form a joint team to examine the withdrawal of foreign forces from Syria.

Syria takes part in first Arab meeting since 2011

- Syria attended a meeting of Arab states for the first time since conflict broke out there in 2011. UAE already reopened its embassy in Damascus last December.

France reiterates support for India's permanent seat in Reformed UN Security Council

- France has reiterated its support for India as the permanent member of the UN Security Council (UNSC). France which assumed the March Presidency of the UNSC, reiterating its support for India, Germany and Japan as permanent members of an expanded Council.

US officially closes Jerusalem consulate

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

Russia suspends participation in Intermediate-Range Nuclear treaty with US

- Russian President Vladimir Putin has officially suspended the country's participation in a key Cold War-era nuclear arms-control treaty with the United States.

Nepal Government officials join INGAF training course in New Delhi

- The Third group of 22 officials of Nepal's Ministry of Finance joined their training course on 'Global Perspectives on Public Financial Management' at the Institute of Government Accounts and Finance (INGAF) in New Delhi.
- The training is being held under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme of the Ministry of External Affairs.

Hafiz Saeed-led Jamaat-ud-Dawa placed in list of banned organisations

- Mumbai terror attack mastermind Hafiz Saeed-led Jamaat-ud-Dawa and its wing Falah-e-Insaniat Foundation have been formally placed in the list of banned organisations by Pakistan.

Washington's decision to withdraw India from GSP list

- Commerce Secretary AnupWadhawan said, US' decision to withdraw India's name from Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) list will not have any significant impact on country's 5.6 billion dollar exports to the country. The, economic value of GSP benefits are very moderate.

Two Nobel Prizes for literature will be awarded this year

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

US revises visa policy for Pakistan

- The US has revised its visa policy for Pakistani citizens by slashing visa validity from five years to one year. Journalists and media persons will not be allowed to stay in the country for over three months without renewing travel permit. Pakistan also issues visas for three months to American journalists.

EU vetoes plan to add Saudi Arabia to money-laundering list

- Envoys from 28 EU member states unanimously rejected a proposal by the European Commission to add Saudi Arabia and other nations to the bloc's money-laundering blacklist.

Saudi Arabia criticized over human rights by 36 countries

- Thirty-six countries have signed an open letter criticising Saudi Arabia's human rights record. The collective rebuke was signed by all countries in the European Union plus Australia, Canada, Norway, New Zealand, Liechtenstein, Monaco and Montenegro.

NATO Chief rules out nuclear missile deployment to Europe

- NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg has ruled out deploying ground-based nuclear missiles to Europe. The agreement bans all ground-launched missiles, conventional or nuclear, with ranges of 310 to 3,400 miles.

Finland government resigns over failed reforms

- Finnish Prime Minister Juha Sipilä's centre-right government has resigned, just five weeks ahead of the Parliamentary election. The resignation came after the government failed to push through a flagship social and health care reform package.

116-year-old Japanese woman officially named oldest person

- 116-year-old Japanese woman Kane Tanaka has been honoured as the world's oldest living person by Guinness World Records. The previous oldest living person was another Japanese woman, Chiyo Miyako, who passed away last July, aged 117.

India's envoy to Pakistan return to Islamabad

- The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has said, India's High Commissioner to Pakistan Ajay Bisaria will return to Islamabad.

North Korea preparing missile launch, suggest satellite images

- In North Korea, satellite images of a facility near Pyongyang suggest that the country may be preparing to launch a missile or a satellite.

PM Modi, Bangladesh counterpart jointly inaugurate development projects

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina, jointly unveiled e-plaques for development projects in Bangladesh, through video conferencing.
- Both the leaders unveiled e-plaques for the supply of buses and trucks, the inauguration of 36 community clinics, 11 water treatment plants, and extension of National Knowledge Network to Bangladesh.

China protests US criticism of policies on religion

- China protests the United States for criticising Beijing's policies toward Muslim and Tibetan Buddhist minorities and saying the country was at war with faith.

China, US reach consensus on many key issues

- China and the United States have reached a consensus on many key issues, including exchange rates, during the latest round of talks to negotiate a comprehensive trade deal, in Washington.

North Koreans voting to elect rubber-stamp Parliament

- North Koreans are voting today to elect the country's rubber-stamp Parliament, the second such election since Kim Jong-un took power.
- Voting for the Supreme People's Assembly is mandatory and there's no choice of candidates. Turnout is always close to 100 per cent and approval for the governing alliance is unanimous. On Election Day, the entire population aged 17 or older must come out and vote.

UK becomes latest to ground Boeing 737 Max 8 jets after Ethiopian Airlines crash

- The United Kingdom has become the latest country to ban the Boeing 737 Max 8 aircraft from operating in or over national airspace following Ethiopia plane crash. The UK has joined the growing list of countries including Malaysia, Singapore, China, Australia and Ethiopia in grounding the aircraft.

US to withdraw its remaining diplomatic staff from embassy in Caracas

- The United States has decided to withdraw its remaining diplomatic staff from the embassy in Caracas as the crisis in Venezuela worsens.

UN requests Sri Lanka to establish hybrid court

- The United Nations has again requested Sri Lanka to establish a hybrid court consisting of international judges, lawyers and investigators to probe war crime allegations during three-decade long LTTE war.

India and US ask Pakistan to take concerted action to dismantle terror infrastructure operating on its soil

- India and the United States have agreed that Pakistan needs to take concerted action to dismantle the terrorist infrastructure and deny safe haven to all terror groups operating in its territory.

India awards 200 Golden Jubilee Scholarships

- The Indian Embassy in Nepal awarded 200 Golden Jubilee Scholarships to meritorious Nepali students for continuing various undergraduate courses at colleges and universities. These Scholarships are part of India's efforts to support human resources development in Nepal for the overall socio-economic development of the Himalayan nation and its people.

United States to set up six nuclear power plants in India

- India and the United States have committed to strengthen bilateral security and civil nuclear cooperation, including the establishment of six US nuclear power plants in India.

New Zealand bans Boeing 737 MAX aircrafts

- New Zealand has announced the grounding of Boeing 737 MAX aircraft from its airspace in the wake of a deadly plane crash in Ethiopia. Country's Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) said it was imposing the temporary suspension after consultation with other regulators.

US Senate votes to end support for Yemen war

- The US Senate rebuking Donald Trump's foreign policy and his alliance with Riyadh has voted to end support for the bloody Saudi-led war effort in Yemen.

Boeing recommends temporary suspension of its entire world fleet of 737 MAX aircraft

- One of the largest global aircraft manufacturers Boeing has recommended a temporary suspension of its entire world fleet of the 737 MAX aircraft.
- The move comes after several countries, including India, China, European Union and the United States banned the use of the aircraft in wake of the Ethiopian Airlines crash that killed all 157 people on board.

United States slams China for its human rights violations

- The United States has slammed China for its human rights violations in the country.

Door open for India to bring serious trade proposal to table: US

- The US has said that the door is open if India is prepared to bring a serious proposal to the table to address the issues related to trade and market access.

India to continue efforts to get Masood Azhar listed under UN 1267 sanctions

- New Delhi will continue to make concerted efforts to ensure that JeM chief Masood Azhar gets listed under UN 1267 sanctions regime with 14 of the 15 UN Security Council Members supporting India to list him as a global terrorist.

2019 Slovakia presidential election

- The Slovakian Presidential election is going to take place over two rounds on 16th and 30th March 2019. This is the fifth direct election of the President in Slovakia's history.

Cyclone Idai affects over 1.5 million people in three southern African countries

- Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi have been hit by a vicious cyclone that has killed nearly 150 people, left hundreds more missing and stranded tens of thousands.
- According to the UN and government officials, Cyclone Idai has affected more than 1.5 million people in the three southern African countries.

Russia slams new Western sanctions against its officials

- Russia has slammed new Western sanctions against its officials over their role in a naval confrontation with Ukraine last year. The United States, Canada and the European Union slapped new sanctions on more than a dozen Russian officials and businesses in response to Moscow's alleged aggression in Ukraine.

China terms Mumbai terror attacks as most notorious

- China has described the 2008 Mumbai attacks carried out by Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terror outfit as one of the most notorious terrorist attacks.

UN patent data show Asia innovation surge

- United Nations said that more than half of all international patent applications filed last year came from Asia, a further sign of innovation shifting from west to east.
- US remained the leading individual country for applications in 2018.
- India registered the largest innovation jump of any country last year. Patent applications jumped more than 27 per cent from 1,583 in 2017 up to 2,013.

Indian-origin Jagmeet creates history, enters Canada parliament

- Indian-origin Jagmeet Singh has created history in Canada when he made his debut in the House of Commons as the first non-white leader of a major opposition party in the country.

Kazakhstan President resigns after nearly 30 years in power

- Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev has announced his resignation after nearly 30 years in power. The 78-year old leader had ruled the country since it emerged from the collapse of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s. The Chairman of the Kazakh Senate would take over.

Kazakhstan to rename country's capital Astana as Nursultan

- Kazakhstan's parliament voted to rename the country's capital Astana as Nursultan in honour of longtime ruler Nursultan Nazarbayev, a day after he resigned as president.
- Kazakhstan's new interim president Kassym-Jomart Tokayev proposed renaming the capital. Astana replaced Kazakhstan's largest city Almaty as the capital in 1997.

New Zealand bans assault weapons

- New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern has imposed an immediate ban on assault weapons like military style semi-automatic and assault rifles under tough new gun laws following the killing of 50 people in the country's worst mass shooting.

EU agrees to postpone Brexit beyond 29 March

- European Union leaders have agreed on a plan to delay the Article 50 process, postponing Brexit beyond 29 March.

Pakistan to receive over 2 billion US Dollars loan from China

- Cash-strapped Pakistan will receive over 2 billion US Dollars loan from China by Monday to provide a boost to its ailing economy. Pakistan has received 1 billion US dollars each from Saudi Arabia and the UAE, as part of the bailout packages by the two Gulf nations to help shore up Islamabad's dwindling foreign currency reserves.

UN council passes resolution to combat terrorist financing

- The UN Security Council has unanimously passed the first-ever resolution ordering members to enforce laws against terror financing.

Venezuela's Juan Guaido barred from public office for 15 years

- Venezuela has barred opposition leader Juan Guaido from holding public office for 15 years.

France's 'yellow vest' demonstrators

- France's "yellow vests" are expected to stage further anti-government protests despite the authorities vowing a "zero tolerance" approach. The protests began in rural France on November 17 over fuel tax increases and quickly ballooned into a full-scale anti-government rebellion that two months of public policy debates have failed to defuse.

India-funded educational campus inaugurated in Nepal

- Educational campus constructed with Government of India's financial grant of 35.5 million Nepalese rupees was inaugurated in Nepal.

Sri Lankan President hands over proposal to declare Tripitaka as UNESCO World Heritage

- Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena handed over a proposal seeking to declare the Theravada Tripitaka, the sacred ure of Buddhists, as a UNESCO World Heritage.
- The Theravada Tripitaka was declared a National heritage of Sri Lanka by President in January this year.

Voting ends in Thailand's first general election

- In Thailand, counting is underway at over 90,000 polling stations after the voting came to an end in country's first general election since 2014 military coup.

PM orders top-level judicial inquiry into Christchurch mosque attacks

- New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern ordered an independent judicial inquiry into whether police and intelligence services could have prevented the Christchurch mosque attacks on March 15.

Australia warns social media executives of jail over extremist content

- Australia warned social media giants on Tuesday that executives could be jailed if they fail to quickly remove extremist material from their platforms.

Trump sign proclamation recognising Israel's sovereignty over Golan Heights

- US President Donald Trump has signed a proclamation recognising Israel's sovereignty over the Golan Heights and told that Israel has an absolute right to self-defence.

- Israel captured the Golan Heights from Syria in the 1967 war but its sovereignty over the territory is not recognized by the international community.

US, Russia lock horns over Venezuela

- US and Russia clashed publicly over Venezuela, raising geopolitical stakes over the oil-producing nation after Moscow sent dozens of soldiers to Caracas amid what it alleged was a budding coup.

Earthquake strikes off Japan

- In Japan, an earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 5.4 struck off Miyazaki Prefecture, on the southeast coast of Kyushu Island.

Syria asks UN Security Council to hold meeting on Golan Heights

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

European Parliament adopts controversial copyright reforms

- European Parliament adopted controversial copyright reforms championed by news publishers and the media business. However, tech giants including Google have opposed it. Under the reform, European law for the first time would hold platforms legally responsible for enforcing copyright, requiring them to check everything that their users post to prevent infringement.

India, Bangladesh to start cruise service

- India and Bangladesh will start a cruise service that would take passengers through the Sunderbans to Dhaka. Addressing a conference on Multipolarism in Asia: Issues and Challenges in New Delhi, joint secretary of External Affairs Ministry, Vikram Doraiswami said, the move aims to strengthen inland waterway routes between the two countries.

US circulates draft resolution at UNSC to blacklist JeM chief Masood Azhar

- The United States has circulated a draft resolution to the United Nations Security Council to blacklist Masood Azhar, Chief of Pakistan-based terrorist group Jaish-e-Mohammad.

Current Affairs: National

Number of deaths on account of accidents comes down by 81%

- Railway Ministry said that the number of deaths on account of accidents has come down by 81 percent in the last five years. The Ministry said the major priority for the Railways has been safety and security of its passenger.

Government extends ban on SIMI

- The government has extended ban on the Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI), which was involved in a series of terror acts in the country, for five years. The Home Ministry termed the SIMI as an unlawful association.

Indian Air Force pilot Abhinandan Varthaman returns home

- Indian Air Force Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthman arrived in New Delhi last night after he was handed over to Indian authorities by Pakistan at Attari-Wagah border.

Foundation stone of a tertiary cancer centre

- Goa Health Minister Vishwajit Rane laid the foundation stone of a tertiary cancer centre in Panaji. He also laid the foundation stone for a day care centre for mentally ill persons and launched an awareness program on Swawlambhan scheme, which aims to make women self-reliant.

Union Minister inaugurates several oil, gas projects

- Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated and laid foundation of several oil and gas projects in Tripura in Agartala. Tripura is ranked number one in production of natural gas in the country as the state produces 4.96 mmscmd gas per day which is highest in the country.

10-day Entrepreneurship Development Programme concludes in Kargil

- 10-day Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) for budding entrepreneurs under Jammu and Kashmir Rural Employment Generation Programme (JKREGP) concluded at the Language Center in Kargil.

PM launches Integrated Command, Control Centres

- The Prime Minister launched the Integrated Command and Control Centers under the Mission at Gangtok and Namchi in Sikkim, Pasighat and Itanagar in Arunachal Pradesh and Agartala in Tripura through video conferencing in New Delhi.

11 more State DD Channels on Satellite footprint

- PrasarBharati has brought 11 more state DD channels, including five channels of North-Eastern States, on the Satellite footprint of India through DD Free Dish which will push the outreach and accessibility of Doordarshan. It is for the first time that Chhattisgarh, Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Uttarakhand have got their own DD Channel on a Satellite Network through DD Free Dish.

Committee to examine insurance cover to advocates

- The government has set up a committee to examine the issues related to framing of a proper, structured scheme for providing insurance cover to advocates and suggest modalities for its implementation. Law and Justice Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad has set up the five-member panel under the chairmanship of Secretary Legal Affairs.

- The committee will recommend a comprehensive insurance scheme for the welfare of advocates all over the country to address concerns relating to untimely death and medical insurance.

Foundation stone for Doon-Mussoorie ropeway project

- Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat has laid the foundation stone for the 300-crore rupees Dehradun-Mussoorie ropeway project.

Nagaland launches 1st round polio immunization

- Nagaland launched the first round of immunisation as part of the nationwide Pulse Polio programme. One-and-a-half lakh children of less than five years will be given polio drops to sustain polio eradication.

Lok Sabha polls to be held in 7 phases

- Lok Sabha elections will be held in seven phases from April 11 to May 19.
- The Assembly elections in Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh will also be held simultaneously.

Exclusion from NRC draft will not affect voting rights

- The Election Commission of India, ECI, told the Supreme Court that exclusion of names of persons from draft NRC in Assam will not affect their voting rights in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls provided their names feature in the electoral rolls.

Supreme Court revokes life ban on Sreesanth in spot-fixing case

- The Supreme Court revoked the life ban on former Indian cricketer S. Sreesanth in a case of spot-fixing and asked the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to re-examine its quantum of punishment.

The Lokpal and Lokayukta Act

- The Lokpal and Lokayukta Act, which envisages appointment of a Lokpal at the Centre and Lokayuktas in states to look into cases of corruption against certain categories of public servants, was passed in 2013.

107 th Foundation Day Celebration

- Bihar is celebrating its 107th foundation day today. It was on this day in 1912, Bihar was carved out of Bengal presidency.

Government to not send representative to Pakistan National Day event

- India said it has decided not to send any government representative to Pakistan National Day event at the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi which is taking place.

Holi being celebrated across the country

- The festival of colours – Holi is being celebrated across the country. The festival signifies the victory of good over evil and the arrival of spring. GI Certification for five varieties of Indian coffee
- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India has recently awarded Geographical Indication (GI) to five varieties of Indian coffee. They are:
- Coorg Arabica coffee, Wayanaad Robusta coffee, Chikmagalur Arabica coffee, Araku Valley Arabica coffee and Bababudangiris Arabica coffee
- Centre bans Yasin Malik-led JKLF under anti-terror law
- The Centre has banned the separatist leader Yasin Malik – led Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) under anti-terror law. It has been done in accordance with policy of zero tolerance against terrorism and the government has acted strongly against the terrorists.

President leaves on three-nation visit

- President Ram Nath Kovind has left on a three-nation visit to Croatia, Bolivia and Chile.

ECI appoints Special Expenditure Observers for 6 States

- Election Commission has appointed Special Expenditure Observers for six States in view of the forthcoming elections. These states are Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Nagaland and Telangana.
- The poll body appointed former member of CBDT, Gopal Mukherjee as special expenditure observer for Andhra Pradesh and Telangana while former Director General I-T (Investigation), D D Goel has been deployed in Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland.
- Shailendra Handa who was earlier appointed as special expenditure observer for Maharashtra has been given additional charge of Gujarat while Madhu Mahajan will supervise Karnataka in addition to Tamil Nadu.

ECI appoints Special Central Police Observers for States

- Election Commission of India has appointed former Director General of Border Security Force K K Sharma as a Special Central Police Observer for Lok Sabha polls in West Bengal and Jharkhand.
- Former IPS officer Mrinal Kanti Das as Special Central Police Observer for Tripura and Mizoram.

Coffee Board Activates Blockchain Based Marketplace in India

- Commerce Secretary, Dr. Anup Wadhawan, launched blockchain based coffee e-market place through video conferencing in New Delhi. India is the only country in the world where entire coffee is grown under shade, handpicked and sun dried.

Punjab & Haryana High Court bars mentioning of caste in FIRs

- Punjab and Haryana High Court has barred the mentioning of caste in the FIRs. The court directed its judicial officers and the governments of Punjab, Haryana and the Union Territory of Chandigarh, not mention the caste of the accused, victims or witnesses in any of the proceedings before it.

Andhra Pradesh

USEFUL INFO	
Capital	Amaravati/Hyderabad
Chief Minister	N. Chandrababu Naidu
Governor	E. S. L. Narasimhan

'Vishnu Nivasam' gets ISO certification

- The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) has certified the 'Vishnu Nivasam', the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams' (TTD) rest house and pilgrim accommodation complex here. This institution is the first TTD-run facility to be given the certificate.

Assam

USEFUL INFO	
Capital	Dispur
Chief Minister	SarbanandaSonowal
Governor	Jagdish Mukhi

Home Minister inaugurates BOLD-QIT project

- Home Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the project BOLD-QIT (Border Electronically Dominated QRT Interception Technique) on India-Bangladesh border in Dhubri District of Assam. Information and Technology Wing of BSF undertook the project BOLD-QIT under Comprehensive Integrated Border Management system

Over 7 lakh first time voters in Assam

- In Assam, over seven lakh first time voters will cast their vote in the forthcoming General Election, which will be held in three phases in the state. Assam has 14 Lok Sabha seats.

Folk-cultural rally in Nalbari to promote voters awareness

- In Assam, as a part of the unique and innovative approach being initiated by Nalbari District Administration to promote voters awareness, a folk-cultural rally was taken out at Nalbari.
- The folk cultural troupes including Dhuliya, Ojha paali, Puppetry, Naam party and Biya naam promoted awareness among the voters and brought to town a festive gear for the ensuing Lok Sabha election. **Campus Ambassadors appointed to woo young voters**

- Campus Ambassadors have been appointed to woo young voters in Assam ahead of the Lok Sabha elections. 12 Campus Ambassadors would carry out various awareness activities including street plays, poster making, VVPAT demonstration in educational institutes in the district.

Enajori initiative

- Assam Chief Electoral Officer Mukesh Sahu launched the Enajori initiative in Guwahati. It is a special initiative for persons with disabilities with an aim that ‘No Voter to be Left behind’.
- It is a joint initiative of CEO Assam and Social Welfare Department with an objective to make Lok Sabha Elections accessible to Persons with Disability, PwD voters.

Goa

USEFUL INFO	
Capital	Panaji
Chief Minister	Pramod Sawant
Governor	Mridula Sinha

Goa CM Manohar Parrikar passes away at 63

- Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar passed away in Panaji after a prolonged illness. A six-time MLA and former Defence Minister, Mr Parrikar was born on 13th December, 1955. He graduated from Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai with a B.Tech degree in metallurgical engineering. Mr Parrikar was first elected to the Goa assembly in 1994.
- He served as a Rajya Sabha MP from November 2014 to September 2017. The popular leader would be remembered for his efforts in infrastructure and education development in the state and bringing the International Film Festival of India to Goa in 2004.

CM Pramod Sawant wins floor test

- BJP led Goa government under new chief minister Pramod Sawant won the floor test in the legislative assembly by 20 to 15 votes.

Dipak Pauskar sworn in as Cabinet Minister

- In Goa, Dipak Pauskar was sworn in as a Cabinet Minister by Governor Mridula Sinha at the Raj Bhavan in Dona Paula. Pauskar replaces deputy Chief Minister Sudin Dhavalikar in the Council of Ministers.

Gujarat

USEFUL INFO	
Capital	Gandhinagar
Chief Minister	Vijay Rupani

Governor

Om Prakash Kohli

PM Modi inaugurates Ahmedabad Metro first phase

- Prime Minister inaugurated the first phase of the Ahmedabad Metro Rail project and laid the foundation of the second phase of the project.

Dandi March Anniversary

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tributes to Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi and all those who marched with Babu to Dandi in pursuit of justice and equality. Eighty nine years ago, on this day Mahatma Gandhi embarked on the iconic Dandi March.

Himachal Pradesh

USEFUL INFO	
Capital	Shimla
Chief Minister	Jai Ram Thakur
Governor	Acharya Dev Vrat

Fresh yellow weather warning

- In Himachal Pradesh the meteorological department has issued a fresh yellow weather warning for snowfall, rain.
- Yellow is the least dangerous out of the weather warnings – it indicates the possibility of severe weather over the next few days.

Jammu and Kashmir

USEFUL INFO	
Capital	Jammu (Winter) Srinagar (Summer)
Chief Minister	-
Governor	Satya Pal Malik

EC appoints three special observers

- The Election Commission (EC) has formed a three-member committee to assess the situation on the ground in Jammu and Kashmir before it takes a decision about holding the Assembly elections in the troubled state.

Kerala

USEFUL INFO	
Capital	Thiruvananthapuram
Chief Minister	Pinarayi Vijayan
Governor	P. Sathasivam

Use of flex, other non-biodegradable materials

- The Kerala High Court prohibited the use of flex and other non-biodegradable materials for campaigning throughout the state ahead of the Lok Sabha elections.

Paramotoring launched at Padinjarekkara Beach

- The District Tourism Promotion Council (DTPC) launched a paramotor sporting event at Padinjarekkara Beach between Ponnani and Tirur.

Jalam Jeevamritham campaign

- The Kerala Water Authority (KWA) has established 207 vending points for water supply in regions facing acute shortage this summer. The initiative is part of the Jalam Jeevamritham campaign.

Hridyam

- In an effort at capacity building, for the first time, the Health Department has now opted for e-learning solutions and it is proving to be a huge hit amongst all health-care providers. Health Department and the National Health Mission launched Hridyam in 2017.

Karnataka

USEFUL INFO	
Capital	Bengaluru
Chief Minister	H. D. Kumaraswamy
Governor	Vajubhai Vala

SVEEP to focus on youth

- To enhance the percentage of polling in the Lok Sabha election, it has been planned to conduct youth festivals at the taluk level under Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) campaign.

Madhya Pradesh

USEFUL INFO	
Capital	Bhopal

Chief Minister	Kamal Nath
Governor	Anandiben Patel

Centre for Disability Sports

- A Centre for Disability Sports will be set up at Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh. Centre will ensure effective participation of Persons with Disabilities in sports activities and also enable them to compete at national and international levels. The project is expected to be completed by 31st March, 2021.

Ancient tribal language Gondi to be taught in tribal districts

- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath has decided to include Gondi in the primary education curriculum of the state's tribal-dominated districts.

MP govt announces to give Rs 5000 each to all cleanliness employees of six clean cities

- In Madhya Pradesh, the state government has announced to give five thousand rupees each to all the cleanliness employees of six clean cities of as honorarium for their excellent work.
- The six cities Indore, Ujjain, Dewas, Khargone, Nagda and Bhopal having included in the top 20 clean cities in 4237 cities of the country.

MP govt issues ordinance to give 27% quota to OBCs

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

Maharashtra

USEFUL INFO	
Capital	Mumbai
Chief Minister	Devendra Fadnavis
Governor	Chennamaneni Vidyasagar Rao

Government to appoint Lokpal in universities

- Maharashtra government will appoint a Lokpal in all universities except agricultural universities to resolve student grievances. Maharashtra would be the first state in the country to have such a Lokpal for universities.

Second phase of Monorail in Mumbai launched

- Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Railway Minister Piyush Goyal inaugurated the second phase of Monorail in Mumbai. It is the country's first monorail system.

CM Fadnavis unveils state's new 5-year industrial policy

- Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis unveiled the state's new 5-year industrial policy emphasising on high-technology and employment generating businesses. The policy, which will be effective from 1st of April this year, aims to attract investments worth 10 lakh crore rupees.

Meghalaya

USEFUL INFO	
Capital	Shillong
Chief Minister	Conrad Sangma
Governor	Tathagata Roy

Meghalaya CM presents budget

- Meghalaya Chief Minister, Conrad K Sangma, who holds the finance portfolio, presented the budget of 2019-20 in the ongoing assembly session with a fiscal deficit of 1323 crore rupees, which is around 3.65 per cent of the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP).

New Delhi

USEFUL INFO	
Chief Minister	Arvind Kejriwal
Governor	Anil Bajjal

Inauguration of 28 major infrastructure projects

- Home Minister Rajnath Singh will inaugurate 28 major infrastructure projects of the Central Armed Police Forces, Delhi Police and other Central Police Organizations in New Delhi.

'AzaadiKeDiwane' Museum inaugurated

- The Minister of State for Culture (Independent charge) and Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Dr. Mahesh Sharma inaugurated 'AzaadiKeDiwane' museum at Red Fort, Delhi. Created by Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), the museum within the Red Fort complex pays homage to all the unsung heroes of freedom struggle of the nation.

Smriti Irani inaugurates refurbished Handloom Haat at Janpath, New Delhi

- Textiles Minister Smriti Irani today inaugurated the refurbished Handloom Haat at Janpath in New Delhi. The main objective of the Haat is to provide infrastructure support to handloom agencies to augment their sales of handloom products and to showcase the exquisite variety of products produced all over the country.

PM released the new series of visually impaired friendly circulation coins

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi released the new series of visually impaired friendly circulation coins in New Delhi. He released the coins of one, two, five, ten and twenty rupees.

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

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

Debris from anti-satellite test to disintegrate in 45 days

- The satellite targeted with an Anti-Satellite (ASAT) missile under Mission Shakti has broken up into at least 270 pieces, most of which are expected to disintegrate within 45 days.
- The satellite has disintegrated into at least 270 pieces which has also been confirmed by the North American Aerospace Defence Command (NORAD).

Aide of Pulwama attack mastermind sent to NIA custody

- Delhi court sent Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorist Sajjad Khan, a close aide of Pulwama attack mastermind Muddasir to NIA custody till March 29..

Tamil Nadu

USEFUL INFO	
Capital	Chennai
Chief Minister	Edappadi K. Palaniswami
Governor	Banwarilal Purohit

PM to launch various projects in Tamil Nadu

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch five National Highways projects worth around three thousand crore rupees in Kanniyakumari, Tamil Nadu. He will also launch a Road Safety Park and Transport Museum.

DMK, AIADMK release election manifestos

- DMK president M K Stalin released the party’s election manifesto in Chennai. AIADMK coordinator O Panneerselvam also released the party manifesto.

Polling hours extended in Madurai Lok Sabha constituency

- In Madurai Lok Sabha constituency, polling hours are being extended by an additional two hours. Tamil Nadu Chief Electoral Officer Satyabrata Sahoo gave the information in Chennai. The decision comes following a demand in view of popular Kallazhagar festival in the city, in which lakhs of people converge every year.

Supreme Court considering report on elephant corridors

- The Supreme Court is considering a report filed by its amicus curiae to direct States through which elephant corridors run to submit voluntary relocation/rehabilitation plans for people who live in these eco-sensitive zones.
- In Tamil Nadu, a report submitted by the Nilgiris Collector in the apex court in August 2018 revealed that 821 buildings, constructions, occupancies had encroached on the notified corridor.

Telangana

USEFUL INFO	
Capital	Hyderabad
Chief Minister	K. Chandrashekar Rao
Governor	Narasimhan

Home Minister inaugurates NIA office

- Union Home Minister inaugurated Rajnath Singh NIA office in Hyderabad. He also inaugurated Guwahati office from Hyderabad.

Nutrition boost for adolescent girls

- In a move to address nutritional problem among adolescent girls, the International Crops Research Institute for Semi Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) and National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), a wing of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), launched a project called 'Iron for Adolescents' or 'FeFA'. The term FeFa has been chosen as Fe is the symbol of iron while 'FA stands for For Adolescents'.

Corn cob drying facility launched

- Kaveri Seeds which develops quality hybrids of key Indian crops has announced the commencement of its corn cob drying facility at Molangur in Karimnagar. The plant is Asia's largest and the first of its kind cob dryer.

Drastic fall in Singur water levels

- Drastic fall in Singur water levels drives animals out. Diversion of Singur water to Sriram Sagar Project in Rajanna-Sircilla district about two years ago had its adverse impact not only on the farm sector and drinking water but also on animals.

Uttar Pradesh

USEFUL INFO	
Capital	Lucknow
Chief Minister	Yogi Adityanath
Governor	Ram Naik

PM Modi inaugurates ordnance factory in Amethi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched 17 developments projects worth 538 crore rupees at Amethi in Uttar Pradesh. These projects include a factory to manufacture AK 203 rifles, the latest version in Kalashnikov series with Russian collaboration.

Kumbh 2019 concluded

- In Uttar Pradesh, 49 days long Kumbh 2019 the largest religious congregation in the world, concluded with over one crore devotees taking the holy dip at Sangam in Prayagraj on the occasion of 'Mahashivratri'.

PM inaugurates Civil Terminal at Hindon airport, Metro projects in Lucknow & Ghaziabad

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Hindon Airport Civil Terminal in Ghaziabad. He also inaugurated Dilshad Garden – Shaheed Sthal Section of Delhi Metro Red Line and foundation stone of Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System RRTS. It will be the first RRTS of the country being built at a cost of 30 thousand crore rupees.

Current Affairs: Schemes and Programs**Young Scientist Programme**

- Indian Space Research Organisation has launched a special programme for School Children called "**Young Scientist Programme**" "**YUvaVigyanikAryakram**" from this year. The Program is primarily aimed at imparting basic knowledge on Space Technology, Space Science and Space Applications to the younger ones with the intent of arousing their interest in the emerging areas of Space activities.

Pradhan MantriShram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM-SYM) Yojana

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, launched the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan (**PM-SYM**) **Yojana at Vastral in Gujarat**. The national pension scheme for workers and labourers of unorganized sector was announced in the interim budget in February this year. He also distributed the PM-SYM pension cards to select beneficiaries.
- It will provide **monthly pension of 3000 rupees** to the employees of unorganized sector after **60 years of age**.

One Nation, One Card

- PM launches One Nation, One Card in **Ahmedabad** for **Mobility Single Card** for seamless travel through different metros and other transport systems. National Common Mobility Card, NCMC- India's first indigenously developed payment platform Scheme to provide financial assistance for transport, marketing of agriculture products

- The government has introduced a scheme for providing financial assistance for **transport and marketing** of agriculture products with a view to boosting export of farm commodities to certain countries in **Europe and North America**.
- Under the Transport and Marketing Assistance scheme, the government would reimburse a certain portion of freight charges and provide assistance for marketing of agricultural produce.
- It would be available for exports affected from **March 1 this year to March 2020**.

Jan Aushadhi scheme

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that the **Jan Aushadhi scheme**, under which the government provides quality medicines at affordable rates, has led to savings worth around one thousand crore rupees for common people.

India Cooling Action Plan

- India is one of the first countries in the world to develop a comprehensive **Cooling Action plan** which has a long term vision to address the cooling requirement across sectors and lists out actions which can help reduce the cooling demand. Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, **Dr. Harsh Vardhan** released the **India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP)**.

Star rating programme

- Star rating programme launched for **Microwave Ovens and Washing Machines**; expected to save over 3.0 Billion Units by 2030.
- National Energy Efficiency Strategy Plan **2031 – UNNATEE** (Unlocking NATional Energy Efficiency potential) also launched.

“Menstrual Hygiene Management Program”

- **Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)**, under the guidance of Ministry of Steel, has associated with district administration of **Nuh in Haryana** in an unique initiative under Corporate Social Responsibility for supporting the **“Menstrual Hygiene Management Program”**.

Current affairs: Science and technology

Tropical cyclone Idai

- In Mozambique, at least 19 people died and more than 70 others were injured after cyclone Idai hit the central part of the country.

Fish farms told not to rear African catfish

- The Fisheries Department of Tiruvannamalai has told farms that rearing African catfish is an offence and anyone doing so should destroy them immediately. The government imposed a ban on farming of the invasive species that is proliferating in water bodies across the State, posing a threat to native aquatic species.
- Native to Africa and the Middle East, where it inhabits freshwater lakes, rivers, swamps, and urban sewage systems, the African catfish was introduced all over the world in the early 1980s for aquaculture.

Integrate TB services with primary health system

- Of the 10 million new tuberculosis (TB) cases reported globally in 2017 by the World Health Organization, 2.74 million were from India, showing a marginal reduction from 2.79 million in 2016.
- Government has set a highly ambitious target of “eliminating TB by 2025”, five years ahead of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) target.

India achieves 84 % reduction in TB deaths among HIV patients: UN

- India has achieved an 84 per cent reduction in tuberculosis deaths among people living with HIV by 2017. According to the Joint United Nations Programme on the UNAIDS, it is the highest recorded decline among over 20 nations and it is also three years ahead of the 2020 deadline.
- World Health Organization estimates show that globally, TB deaths among people living with HIV have fallen by 42 per cent since 2010.

NGT directs CPCB to prepare a noise pollution map

- The National Green Tribunal, NGT, has directed the Central Pollution Control Board, CPCB, to prepare a noise pollution map and remedial action plan to solve the issue across the country.

Inventions / Discovery

India's newest frog evolved 60 million years ago

- The discovery of the starry dwarf frog, a nocturnal amphibian that lives under leaf litter on a mountaintop in Kerala's Wayanad. The team named the new species the starry dwarf frog *Astrobatrachus kurichiyana* (genus *Astrobatrachus* after its starry spots and *kurichiyana* in honour of the Kurichiya tribal community who live in the area). It is just 2 cm long and sports pale blue spots and brilliant orange thighs. Genetic analysis reveals that the species is at least 60 million years old.

Humans can detect the earth's magnetic fields

- Scientists have long known that turtles, birds, honeybees and even bacteria can sense the earth's magnetic field and use them for navigation. A team of researchers from California Institute of Technology, U.S. and the University of Tokyo has shown that humans do indeed unconsciously respond to the changes in the earth's magnetic fields.

IIT Madras converts petroleum waste toluene into useful product

- Using platinum nanocatalyst, a two-member team at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras has successfully converted petroleum waste-product toluene into benzoic acid. Benzoic acid is used as a food preservative (E210) and medicine for fungal/bacterial infection.

Space Science**First person on Mars may be a woman, says NASA**

- NASA recently announced that it will have its first all-female spacewalk at the end of the month. NASA has said that the first person to set foot on Mars is likely to be a woman.

3 astronauts on Soyuz craft successfully reach ISS

- A Russian cosmonaut and two US astronauts arrived at the International Space Station aboard a Russian Soyuz spacecraft, five months after the failed launch of a rocket carrying two of the passengers.

NASA to send helicopter to Mars

- According to NASA, "the Mars Helicopter, a small, autonomous rotorcraft, will travel with the agency's Mars 2020 rover mission, currently scheduled to launch in July 2020.

ISRO to launch 29 satellites

- Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) will launch 29 satellites including the primary payload EMISAT, on the first of April. Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, PSLV-C45 will take off from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota tentatively at 9:30 AM carrying the satellites onboard.
- EMISAT has been developed for monitoring radar network by India.

PSLV to launch military's monitor in the sky

- PSLV mission carrying EMISAT, the country's first satellite for gathering electronic intelligence (ELINT) to locate hostile radars for the military; will also be the longest flight for the Indian polar launch vehicle.
- The April 1 mission is numbered C-45 and carries 28 small, foreign customer satellites from four countries. One satellite each from Spain, Switzerland and Lithuania are also part of the payload.

App & Web Portal**e-Dharti App**

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

e-Dharti GeoPortal

- e-Dharti GeoPortal, through which the lessee of the property will be able to see the basic details of property along with map showing its location.

cVIGIL

- The app, cVIGIL, launched by the EC for keeping tabs on those violating the poll code and expenditure limit. On the app, citizens can upload photographs and videos on what they deem to be violations of poll code from the spot with location-based details.

PWD app

- A mobile application called 'PWD' for making voting easier and implement the poll body's slogan of Accessible Elections for over two lakhs Divyang voters across the state.
- The app would facilitate Divyang voters special facilities including wheelchairs, ramps and transport from home at polling booths during the Lok Sabha elections.

'Sankalp' app

- In Assam, the Bongaigaon district administration has developed a mobile app Sankalp to particularly reach out to the first-time voters. It is a special initiative taken to encourage the first-time voters.

Current Affairs: Sports**Cricket:****Indian cricketers donate match fee to National Defence Fund**

- As a mark of respect for the CRPF personnel who lost their lives in the Pulwama terrorist attack, the Indian cricketers Friday sported special Army caps during the third ODI against Australia in Ranchi and donated their match fee to the National Defence Fund.

India Vs Australia Oneday Series

- Australia defeated India by 35 runs in the final ODI to clinch the five-match series 3-2.

Afghanistan record maiden Test win, beat Ireland by 7 wickets

- Afghanistan's cricket team recorded its maiden Test win, beating Ireland by seven wickets in a one-off game at Dehradun in Uttarakhand.

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

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

PCB pays over Rs 11 cr as compensation to BCCI

- The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has paid 1.6 million US dollars, equivalent to over eleven crores in Indian currency, to the Board of Control for Cricket (BCCI) as compensation after losing a case in the ICC's Dispute Resolution Committee.

Sri Lanka's Malinga to retire after Twenty20 World Cup

- Sri Lankan limited overs captain Lasith Malinga will retire from international cricket after next year's Twenty20 World Cup.

Tennis:

Dubai Tennis Championship

- In Dubai Tennis Championship, Swiss tennis star Roger Federer moved to within two wins of a 100th career title after a tough win against Marton Fucsovics to reach the semi-finals.

Roger Federer claims 100th ATP title

- Roger Federer has claimed the 100th ATP title of his career beating Greek Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-4, 6-4 in the final of the Dubai Tennis Championships. The 20-time grand slam champion is the second man, after American Jimmy Connors to claim 100 titles.
- Federer will have to win 10 more titles to beat Connors' men's record of 109, while Martina Navratilova holds the all-time record having won 167 women's singles crowns during her career.

Indian Wells ATP Masters

- In tennis, Indian qualifier Prajnesh Gunneswaran achieved the biggest win of his career when he stunningly knocked world number 18 Nikoloz Basilashvili out of the Indian Wells ATP Masters event in the USA.

Prajnesh rises to career-high ranking of 84

- India's Prajnesh Gunneswaran rises to career-high rank of 84 but injured Yuki Bhambri dropped out of top-200 for the first time in almost two years.
- In the recently released ATP rankings, Prajnesh had collected 61 points after reaching the third round at the ATP Master series event, where he beat world number 18 Nikoloz Basilashvili to register the biggest win of his career.

Football:

5th SAFF Women's Championship

- The fifth South Asian Football Federation, SAFF, Women's Championship kicks off in Biratnagar, Nepal.
- India has clinched the SAFF Women's Championship Football for the fifth time in a row, defeating hosts Nepal 3-1 in the final. This was India's 23rd straight victory in the championship since its inception in 2010.

India to host U-17 Women's Football World Cup in 2020

- India will host the Under-17 Women's Football World Cup in 2020. This will be the second FIFA tournament India will be hosting, after the U-17 Men's World Cup in 2017.

Hockey:

Sultan Azlan Shah Cup

- Manpreet Singh named captain and Surender Kumar will be the Vice-Captain of the 18-member Indian hockey team to play in the upcoming 28th Sultan Azlan Shah Cup. It will be held in Ipoh, Malaysia.
- India has lost to South Korea in the final of Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey tournament at Ipoh in Malaysia. South Korea lifted the title, defeating India in a shoot out 4-2.

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

- Goalkeeper Savita will captain an 18-strong Indian women's hockey team for the five-match series against Malaysia.

Other Sports:

International Beach Volleyball Tournament

- Visakhapatnam hosts its first-ever International Beach Volleyball Tournament. India becomes the 50th country to host an FIVB Beach Volleyball World Tour. Participating countries include Russia, Poland, South Africa, Austria, Czech Republic, USA and Japan.

Yonex All England Championships 2019

- Badminton's greatest show, the Yonex All England Championships 2019 begins in Birmingham. Only the top 32 in the Badminton World Federation (BWF) rankings qualify for the tournament.
- Saina Nehwal lost to Tai Tzu-Ying of Taipei 15-21, 19-21 in quarterfinal clash at the All England Championship at Birmingham. It was her 13th straight defeat against Tai Tzu-Ying, who has not lost to Saina since 2015.

Dan Kolov-Nikola Petrov Tournament

- **Gold Medal** – BajrangPunia in 65 kilogram freestyle, Pooja Dhanda in women's 59 kg category.
- **Silver Medal** – SaritaMor in women's 59 kg category, Sakshi Malik in 65 kg women's freestyle, Sandeep Tomar in 61kg men's freestyle events.

Finland boxing tournament

- Kavinder Singh Bisht in the 56kg-category struck gold while Shiva Thapa in the 60kg category, Govind Sahani, Mohammed Hussamuddin and Dinesh Dagar claimed silver medals; Sumit Sangwan, Sachin Siwach and Naveen Kumar got bronze in their categories. at the 38th GeeBee Boxing Tournament in Helsinki, Finland.

Makran Cup

- National champion Deepak Singh (49 kg) was the lone Indian boxer to notch up a gold while P Lalitha Prasad (52kg), Manish Kaushik (60kg), Duryodhan Singh Negi (69kg), Sanjeet (91kg) and Satish Kumar (91kg) claimed silver medals in the Makran Cup in Chabahar, Iran.

Special Olympics World Games 2019

- Special Olympics World Games 2019 which is being held from March 14 to March 21 in UAE, has made history by welcoming a record-breaking 200 nations ahead of the Games. Of the 200 nations, 195 will compete in the Games and five will observe. It is being held in West Asia for the first time.
- India has so far won a total of 188 medals at the Special Olympics World Games in Abu Dhabi. The medals include 50 gold, 63 silver and 75 bronze medals.
- India has won more than 368 medals at the Special Olympics World Games 2019 at Abu Dhabi in UAE. The medal tally stands at 85 Gold, 154 Silver and 129 Bronze.

Dipa Karmakar qualifies for vault finals in Artistic Gymnastics World Cup

- Dipa Karmakar has made it to the Vault Finals after finishing third in the qualifying round of the Artistic Gymnastics World Cup at Baku in Azerbaijan.

Kamalpreet Kaur wins gold in women's discus throw event

- In the Federation Cup Athletics held at Patiala, Kamalpreet Kaur grabbed the spotlight by winning a gold medal with a throw of 60.25 metres in the women's discus throw event and also qualified for the Asian Championships.

Asian Youth Athletics Championships

- India bagged five medals, including two gold, in the Asian Youth Athletics Championships in Hong Kong.

Thiem defeats Federer to win Indian Wells Masters

- Dominic Thiem fought back from a set down to defeat Roger Federer 3-6 6-3 7-5 in the final of the Indian Wells Masters, winning a Masters 1000 title for the first time in his career.

Ladies European Tour title

- Diksha Dagar became only the second Indian woman golfer to win on the Ladies European Tour after pipping Lee-Anne Pace by one shot at the South African Open.

Gopi Thonakal qualifies for World Athletics Championships

- In marathon, India's Asian champion Gopi Thonakal has qualified for the World Athletics Championships to be held in the Qatari capital Doha in September-October this year. He achieved qualification after finishing 11th in the Seoul International Marathon.

Special Olympics: India bags 70 medals

- In Special Olympics, India have bagged 70 medals including 18 golds, 22 silver and 30 bronze, so far, at Abu Dhabi.

India's Irfan KT qualifies for 2020 Tokyo Olympics

- India's Irfan KT qualified for next year's Tokyo Olympics. He made the cut after finishing fourth at the Asian Race Walking Championship at Nomi in Japan. Irfan clocked 1 hour 20 minutes and 57 seconds in the 20-kilometre walk to attain the standard qualifying mark for the Olympics.

ISSF Shotgun World Cup

- In shooting, India's Prithviraj Tondaiman shot two perfect rounds of 25, to stay on course for the men's trap finals at the ISSF Shotgun World Cup being held at Acapulco, Mexico.

Tokyo 2020 Olympics torch unveiled

- Organisers of the Tokyo 2020 Olympics unveiled a cherry-blossom shaped torch for the Games as the city prepares for the famed flower season to begin in coming days.

Asia Mixed Team Badminton Championships

- India crashed out of the Asia Mixed Team Badminton Championships at Hong Kong after losing 2-3 to Chinese Taipei.

India Open Super 500 Badminton

- India Open Super 500 Badminton started in New Delhi. PV Sindhu and Kidambi Srikanth will look to regain form and reclaim a title.
- Kidambi Srikanth lost in straight games to Viktor Axelsen of Denmark in the men's singles summit clash at the Yonex-Sunrise India Open badminton tournament in New Delhi.

Breakdancing makes next move to Olympic status

- The Executive Board of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has recommended adding breakdancing, skateboarding, sport climbing and surfing to the 2024 Paris Olympic Games when the full membership meets in June.

Manu Bhaker, Saurabh Chaudhary clinch gold

- Young pistol shooters Manu Bhaker and Saurabh Chaudhary clinched a gold medal each, their second in the competition at the 12th Asian Airgun Championships in Taoyuan, Chinese Taipei.
- Manu won the women's 10 metre Air Pistol while Saurabh bagged a team gold in the men's event.
- Abhishek Verma also won individual silver in the men's 10-metre Air Pistol.
- The women's pistol team also won a bronze.

Asian Airgun Championship

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

Current Affairs: Summit and Conference

International Summits/Conference:

7th Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Intercessional Ministerial Meeting

- The Ministers from the 16 RCEP Participating Countries (RPCs) attended the 7th RCEP Intercessional Ministerial Meeting held on 2 March 2019 in Siem Reap, Cambodia.

Foreign Secretary Gokhale meets US under Secretary of State Hale

- Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale and the U.S. Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs David Hale held Foreign Office Consultations in Washington, DC.

India gets first TIR shipment via Chabahar Port from Afghanistan

- The first shipment under the United Nations 'Transports Internationaux Routiers' (TIR) convention arrived in India from Afghanistan through Iran's Chabahar Port. India had joined the TIR Convention (the United Nations Customs Convention on International Transport of Goods under cover of TIR Carnets) on June 15, 2017.

1st meeting between India and Pakistan

- The first meeting between India and Pakistan to discuss and finalize the modalities for Kartarpur Corridor will be held at Indian side of the Attari-Wagah border. Both Indian and Pakistani delegations reached Amritsar to participate in the meeting.

Fourth United Nations Environment Assembly

- India piloted resolutions on two important global environment issues relating to Single-use Plastics and Sustainable Nitrogen management at the fourth session of United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) which was held in Nairobi from 11th to 15th March 2019. **Theme – Innovative Solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable production and consumption.**

First BRICS Sherpa meeting concludes

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

European Council summit

- British Prime Minister Theresa May is attending the crucial European Council summit at Brussels. At the meeting, Ms May will put her case before European Union leaders for an extension to the Brexit withdrawal process till 30th of June.

FinTech Conclave 2019

- NITI Aayog is organizing a day-long FinTech Conclave at Dr. Ambedkar International Center, New Delhi. The objective is to shape India's continued ascendancy in FinTech, build the narrative for future strategy and policy efforts, and to deliberate steps for comprehensive financial inclusion.
- The Indian FinTech ecosystem is the third largest in the globe, attracting nearly USD 6 billion in investments since 2014.

Nepal Investment Summit

- The Government of Nepal is organizing "Nepal Investment Summit 2019" on March 29 -30 in Kathmandu. This summit will unveil potential opportunities for investment in various sectors in Nepal including Hydropower, Tourism, Infrastructure, Industry, Transport, Agriculture and Information and Communication Technology.

India-Bolivia business Forum

- Indian President addressed the India-Bolivia business Forum. 60% of Bolivian gold is exported to India. Bolivia is the 8th leading trading partner of India in Latin America region. India offers US\$ 100 million line of credit to Bolivia for Financing Development Projects.

India-Croatia Economic Forum

- President Ram Nath Kovind will participate in the India-Croatia Economic Forum meeting in Zagreb, the capital of Croatia.

National Summit / Conference:

Construction Technology India Event

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi addressed the Construction Technology India Event, 2019 event at Vigyan Bhavan. He said that elements from several schemes, including PM Awas Yojana, HRIDAY and AMRUT, are oriented towards transforming the housing sector.

34th edition of Aahar – the International Food and Hospitality Fair

- The 34th edition of Aahar – the International Food and Hospitality Fair commenced in New Delhi. The five-day fair, organized by India Trade Promotion Organization, ITPO, features wide range of food products, machinery, food and beverages equipment, hospitality and decor solutions, confectionery items from over 560 participants from India and foreign countries.

Womeninnovators

- Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Suresh Prabhu was addressing a National Seminar on procurement and marketing support to MSMEs and the launch of Womeninnovators on the occasion of International Women's Day in New Delhi.

First Workshop on India Energy Modeling Forum

- The NITI Aayog and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) organized the first workshop on development of the India Energy Modeling Forum (IEMF), which has been envisaged as a pan-stakeholder platform for debating ideas, scenario-planning & discussing the India's energy future.

National Women Livelihood Meet -2019

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, attended the National Women Livelihood Meet-2019 held at Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, on International Women's Day.

International workshop on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure

- International workshop on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure will begin in New Delhi on March 19. The two-day event is being organized by the National Disaster Management Authority in collaboration with United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction.
- Experts from 33 countries representing a wide variety of development and disaster risk contexts, multilateral development banks, the United Nations, the private sector, academia, policy think tanks and other stakeholders participated in the workshop.

14th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnerships

- The 14th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnerships concluded in New Delhi. The three-day conclave was organized by the Ministry of Commerce in association with Confederation of Indian Industry and EXIM Bank of India.

Steel Ministry organizes Vigilance Conclave

- Ministry of Steel organized a two-day Vigilance Conclave in New Delhi which concluded. The Conclave was aimed at sensitizing the officials of Steel PSUs on the basic principles and procedures to be followed while taking

important administrative and commercial decisions relating to various functions including procurements, contracts, personnel and finance.

Festival of Innovation and Entrepreneurship

- The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated the Festival of Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Gandhinagar, Gujarat today (March 15, 2019). He also presented the 10th Biennial National Grassroots Innovation Awards.



100 MCQ for Practice:

1) Which is the world's longest salt cave near the desert site that is discovered by Israeli researchers recently?

- a) Malham Cave
- b) Ziatium Cave
- c) Chriven Cave
- d) Sultane Cave
- e) None of these

2) The Home Ministry announced that the next census of India will be carried out in which year?

- a) 2020
- b) 2021
- c) 2022
- d) 2023
- e) 2024

3) Government launched Blockchain Powered E-Marketplace for Coffee sellers in which city?

- a) Mumbai
- b) Kolkata
- c) New Delhi
- d) Bangalore
- e) Hyderabad

4) Tashigang village is now the highest polling station in the world. The village is in which state?

- a) Manipur
- b) Meghalaya

- c) Jammu and Kashmir
- d) Himachal Pradesh
- e) Sikkim

5) Name the Assam Chief Electoral Officer who launches the Enajori initiative in Guwahati.

- a) Mukesh Sahu
- b) Mahesh Bhut
- c) Suresh Kanth
- d) Sakthi Kanth
- e) None of these

6) In a report released by the National Family Health Survey (NFHS), Young Lives – an international study on childhood poverty, which state records second highest number of child marriages?

- a) Meghalaya
- b) Tripura
- c) Mizoram
- d) Manipur
- e) Rajasthan

7) The Reserve Bank of India upped the investment limit for FY2019-20 for foreign portfolio investors (FPI) in Central government securities (G-Secs) to what percent of outstanding stock of securities from 5.5 per cent in FY2018-19?

- a) 6.3%
- b) 6.2%
- c) 6.1%
- d) 6.0%

e) 5.9%

8) What is the interest rate on National Savings Certificates (NSC) for the April-June quarter?

a) 4%

b) 8.7%

c) 8.0%

d) 7.7%

e) 8.5%

9) Punjab National Bank (PNB) will sell its stake in PNB Housing Finance to General Atlantic and Varde Partners for approximately what amount?

a) Rs. 1,850 crore

b) Rs. 1,950 crore

c) Rs. 1,750 crore

d) Rs. 1,550 crore

e) Rs. 1,650 crore

10) The country's fiscal deficit touched approximately what per cent of the full-year revised budgeted estimate at the end of February 2019?

a) 134%

b) 136%

c) 138%

d) 130%

e) 128%

11) Name the NRI scientist who has been conferred with the Pravasi Bhartiya Samman Award by the President of India Ram Nath Kovind?

a) Dr Rajendra Joshi

b) Dr Sateesh Bhoopathy

c) Dr Ramesh Chandra

d) Dr Anirudh Chakravarthy

e) None of these

12) State-owned Power Finance Corporation (PFC) completed the acquisition of majority stake in (REC) Rural Electrification Corporation Ltd by transferring what amount to the government?

a) Rs.12000 crore

b) Rs.13500 crore

c) Rs.14000 crore

d) Rs.14500 crore

e) Rs.14750 crore

13) IIT-Kharagpur partnered with which IT company for advanced research in 5G and AI?

a) TCS

b) HCL

c) Wipro

d) Capgemini

e) Infosys

14) Who was appointed as Brand Ambassador of Aeronutrix's Fast&Up Rope for the growth of the fast-moving healthcare goods business in India.

a) Manish Pandey

b) Mayank Agarwal

c) Wriddiman Saha

d) Juspreeth Bhumrah

e) Hardik Pandya

15) Graham Reid to be appointed as India men's hockey coach. He belongs to which country?

- a) Australia
- b) England
- c) New Zealand
- d) South Africa
- e) Germany

16) Name the Hyper local connectivity app that is launched by Linkus Infratech.

- a) Vierdha
- b) Surthi
- c) Megha
- d) Bhonga
- e) None of these

17) Famous personality Prafulla Rajguru passed away. He is related with which profession?

- a) Social Activist
- b) Film Director
- c) Journalist
- d) Golf Player
- e) Sitar Player

18) At least ____ of the 521 sitting MPs are crorepatis and 174 of them have declared criminal cases against them

- a) 420
- b) 425
- c) 435
- d) 430
- e) 415

19) The interest rate on Senior Citizen Savings Scheme (SCSS) for April-June quarter of 2019 has been fixed at _____

- a) 8.9%
- b) 8.5%
- c) 8.2%
- d) 8.7%
- e) 8.8%

20) The University Grants Commission (UGC) has prohibited imparting distance degree programmes in _____

- a) Agriculture
- b) IT
- c) Bachelor Degree in Science
- d) Bachelor Degree in Nursing
- e) None of these

21) India observes National Immunization Day (NID) on what date?

- a) 15th march
- b) 16th March
- c) 17th March
- d) 18th March
- e) 19th March

22) Which among the following banks gets RBI approval for acquisition of Gruh Finance?

- a) Bank of Baroda
- b) Bandhan Bank
- c) IDBI Bank

d) UCO Bank

e) Union Bank of India

23) Name the cardless cash withdrawal service that has launched by the The State Bank of India for its customers which will allow them to withdraw cash from ATMs without their debit cards.

a) IONO

b) YONO

c) ZONO

d) YOKO

e) YOON

24) Who was conferred with the DD Mahila Kisan Award for 2018-19?

a) Swati Shingade

b) Sravanthi Shingade

c) Usha Shingade

d) Namrata Shingade

e) Sailaja Shingade

25) Who has received Changemaker of the Year Award from ManMohan Singh?

a) Prasanta Kumar Swain

b) Bezwada Wilson

c) Anuj Verma

d) Sridhar Vembu

e) Arun Jaitley

26) Which company listed in the top of Indian brands of 2019 published by Interbrand, part of the Omnicom Media Group?

a) Tata Group

b) Reliance Group

c) Airtel

d) HDFC

e) LIC

27) Which bank has appointed KVS Manian and Gaurang Shah as whole-time directors for a three-year term effective from the date of approval from the Reserve Bank of India?

a) Kotak Mahindra Bank

b) ICICI Bank

c) Axis Bank

d) HDFC Bank

e) IndusInd Bank

28) Who was appointed as next ambassador of India to republic of Uzbekistan?

a) Pratap Jha

b) Santosh Jha

c) Vikram Jha

d) Sirivardhane Jha

e) Suprajeeth Jha

29) Who has appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Fiji?

a) Saroja

b) Sunnetha

c) Ramadevi

d) Padmaja

e) None of these

30) Who was appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Malawi?

- a) Chandrashekhara Verghese
- b) Mahesh Chettri
- c) Santosh Pratik
- d) Jagadeesh Chatterjee
- e) Anurag Bhushan

31) Which state topped in the Climate Vulnerability Index released by the The Department of Science and Technology (DST)?

- a) Assam
- b) Mizoram
- c) Sikkim
- d) Meghalaya
- e) Manipur

32) Which Indian Institute of Technology collaborates with ISRO to set up Space Technology Cell?

- a) IIT Madras
- b) IIT Kanpur
- c) IIT Roorke
- d) IIT Kharikhpur
- e) IIT Hyderabad

33) FeFA Girls Initiative), a new initiative to address malnutrition among adolescents was launched by ICRISAT partnered with which state government?

- a) Andhra Pradesh
- b) Telangana
- c) Gujarat

- d) West Bengal
- e) Karnataka

34) Which Indian Institute of Technology is getting India's first-of-its-kind supercomputer?

- a) IIT Madras
- b) IIT Kanpur
- c) IIT Roorke
- d) IIT Kharikhpur
- e) IIT Hyderabad

35) Which city hosted the First BRICS Sherpa meeting?

- a) New Delhi
- b) Moscow
- c) Brazilia
- d) Curitiba
- e) Cape Town

36) Which city hosted the 3rd edition of Namaste Thailand festival?

- a) New Delhi
- b) Mumbai
- c) Jaipur
- d) Ahmedabad
- e) Kolkata

37) Name the the first Indian Coast Guard ship to visit Indonesia?

- a) Praddep
- b) Vijit
- c) Kalyan

d) Neet

e) Mayur

38) Who becomes second Indian to win Ladies European Tour title?

a) Aditi Ashok

b) Diksha Dagar

c) Vijaya Meerut

d) Sumathi Pradeep

e) None of these

39) Who becomes first Indian athlete to qualify for Tokyo Olympics?

a) K T Irfan

b) Sandeep Kumar

c) Manish Singh Rawat

d) Gurmeet Singh

e) Vikas Gowda

40) Manohar Parrikar passed away. He is the current chief minister of which state/UT?

a) Karnataka

b) Maharashtra

c) GOA

d) Jharkhand

e) Uttarakhand

41) World Sleep Day is held the Friday before Spring Vernal Equinox of each year. What is the theme for the year 2019?

a) Healthy Sleep, Healthy Aging

b) Join the Sleep World, Preserve Your Rhythms to Enjoy Life

c) Restful Sleep, Easy Breathing, Healthy Body

d) When sleep is sound, health and happiness abound

e) Good Sleep is a Reachable Dream

42) 50th Raising Day celebrations of Central Industrial Security Forces (CISF), were held at which city?

a) Lucknow

b) Ghaziabad

c) Meerut

d) Kanpur

e) Noida

43) Name the Japanese women who been honored by the Guinness World Records as the oldest living person in the world.

a) Kane Akio

b) Kane Fujiko

c) Kane Kazuha

d) Kane Tisaka

e) Kane Tanaka

44) Name the traditional and homemade product manufactured at Marayoor, a place in Idukki district of Kerala, that has bagged Geographical Indication tag.

a) Marayoor Jaggery

b) Marayoor Chikki

c) Marayoor Mint

d) Marayoor Meti

e) None of these

45) Country's first oil museum to come up in which city?

- a) Shillong
- b) Guwahati
- c) Bhopal
- d) Ahemadabad
- e) Kolkata

46) National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation to be set up at which state?

- a) Meghalaya
- b) Madhya Pradesh
- c) Mizoram
- d) Maharashtra
- e) Manipur

47) Which bank is going to use the repo rate of RBI as a benchmark to set the savings deposit interest rates and interest rates for short-term loans from May 01, 2019?

- a) State Bank of India
- b) Punjab National Bank
- c) Bank of India
- d) Indian Bank
- e) Bank of Baroda

48) Who has been appointed as the head to committee on Comprehensive Insurance Scheme for Advocates?

- a) Suresh Srivastava
- b) Mahesh Srivastava

c) Anirudh Srivastava

d) Alok Srivastava

e) None of these

49) Which is the General Insurance Company that has won the Golden Peacock Innovative Product/Services Award – 2019 under the Insurance Category?

- a) Acko General Insurance Limited
- b) IFFCO Tokio General Insurance Limited
- c) ICICI Lombard
- d) TATA AGI
- e) None of these

50) Journalist Priyanka gets Chameli Devi Jain award. She works for which broadcasting channel?

- a) Sky News
- b) CNN
- c) BBC
- d) NBC News
- e) BCC

51) 'Web Wonder Women' contest was held in which city?

- a) New Delhi
- b) Varanasi
- c) Bangalore
- d) Hyderabad
- e) None of these

52) Which country bags 1st prize at the international 'Golden City Gate Tourism Awards 2019' in 'TV cinema spot' category?

- a) USA
- b) India
- c) Russia
- d) Germany
- e) Australia

53) Name the new communications satellite launched by China marking 300th mission.

- a) ChinaSat 6C
- b) ChinaSat 7C
- c) ChinaSat 8C
- d) ChinaSat 9C
- e) ChinaSat 10C

54) Ashu Khullar appointed as CEO of which bank?

- a) Standard Chartered Bank
- b) ICICI Bank
- c) Axis Bank
- d) Citi Bank
- e) HDFC Bank

55) Mohammad Shtayyeh named as Prime Minister of which country?

- a) Israel
- b) Jordan
- c) Iran
- d) Lebanon
- e) Palestine

56) Name the book authored by Rhythm Waghlikar is set to release on May 12 on the occasion of the Mother's Day.

- a) Gauri- The Urge to Fly
- b) Ghazi – The Space to Dive
- c) Gayam – Time to react
- d) Sakthi – The Power of women
- e) None of these

57) With which country did India signed two documents based on waiving visa requirements for Diplomatic and Official passport holders and the signing of the Letter of Intent to collaborate in the field of Biotechnology.

- a) Costa Rica
- b) Panama
- c) Puerto Rica
- d) Nicaragua
- e) Belize

58) HP India has signed an MoU with which state to build a Center of Excellence (CoE) for additive manufacturing powered by HP's 3D printing technology.

- a) Andhra Pradesh
- b) Madhya Pradesh
- c) Himachal Pradesh
- d) Telangana
- e) Karnataka

59) India and World Bank Signs _____ million dollar Loan Agreement for the Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP).

- a) \$135 million
- b) \$137 million

- c) \$142 million
- d) \$147 million
- e) \$157 million

60) According to Monster Salary Index Women in India earn what percent less than men?

- a) 19%
- b) 22%
- c) 25%
- d) 27%
- e) 32%

61) World TB Day is celebrated every year on 24 March annually to commemorate the date when Dr. Robert Koch. What is the theme of the day for the year 2019?

- a) It's time
- b) Unite to End TB
- c) Gear up to end TB
- d) Wanted: Leaders for a TB-free world
- e) Stop TB in my lifetime

62) International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims is observed on what date?

- a) March 21st
- b) March 22nd
- c) March 23rd
- d) March 24th
- e) March 25th

63) Name the project launched by The Rubber Skill Development Council (RSDC) which is aimed at skilling,

upskilling and reskilling 10 lakh personnel involved in the rubber sector, by 2020.

- a) Project Swayam
- b) Project Saamrath
- c) Project Sumedha
- d) Project Suvedana
- e) None of these

64) Which country becomes first G7 nation to join China's 'Belt and Road' Initiative?

- a) Canada
- b) France
- c) Germany
- d) Italy
- e) United Kingdom

65) India's deepest shaft cave Krem Um Ladaw was discovered recently in which state?

- a) Meghalaya
- b) Madhya Pradesh
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Mizoram
- e) Manipur

66) SBI raises what amount by issuing Basel III-compliant tier-I bonds?

- a) Rs. 1,201.30 crore
- b) Rs. 1,251.30 crore
- c) Rs. 1,215.30 crore
- d) Rs. 1,051.30 crore
- e) Rs. 1,200.30 crore

67) According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), India's foreign exchange (forex) reserves surged to what billion USD in week to March 15, 2019?

- a) \$ 405.638 billion
- b) \$ 406.638 billion
- c) \$ 408.638 billion
- d) \$ 410.638 billion
- e) \$ 426.638 billion

68) Government extends IGST, compensation cess exemption till which month of the year 2020?

- a) March
- b) April
- c) May
- d) June
- e) July

69) Who was named 'Sportsperson of The Year' at the annual Telangana Sports Journalists Association awards function?

- a) PV Sindhu
- b) Saina Nehwal
- c) Ambathi Rayudu
- d) Mithali Raj
- e) Parupalli Kashyap

70) Peter Tabichi, a maths and physics teacher has won the Varkey Foundation Global Teacher Prize 2019. He belongs to which nation?

- a) Sudan
- b) Chad
- c) South Korea

- d) North Korea
- e) Kenya

71) The healthcare industry's apex body NATHEALTH appointed whom as its president for the year 2019-20?

- a) Deepak Chopra
- b) Vinay Kumar
- c) Sudarshan Ballal
- d) Ramesh C Deka
- e) Arvinder Singh Soin

72) What is India rank in the recently WEF's global Energy Transition index 2019?

- a) 74th
- b) 79th
- c) 76th
- d) 52nd
- e) 48th

73) According to the world airport traffic rankings Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport 12th busiest in the world. Which is the world busiest airport?

- a) Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (Georgia, US)
- b) Beijing Capital International Airport (China)
- c) Dubai International Airport (United Arab Emirates)
- d) Los Angeles International Airport (California, US)
- e) Tokyo's Haneda Airport (Japan)

74) Name the Rocket that Launches Earth-Watching PRISMA Satellite for Italy?

- a) Garuda

- b) Vega
- c) Vidya
- d) Nandii
- e) None of these

75) NITI Aayog has organised one day FinTech Conclave at which city?

- a) New Delhi
- b) Mumbai
- c) Bangalore
- d) Hyderabad
- e) Chennai

76) Which country has donated 69 million dollars to the United Nations World Food Programme to provide vital aid to 28 countries in the Middle East, Africa, and Asia?

- a) Qatar
- b) Japan
- c) Singapore
- d) Kuwait
- e) Switzerland

77) Which company has signed a share purchase agreement to acquire all 52.63 per cent shares of the government in Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) for about Rs 14,500 crore?

- a) Ashok Layland
- b) Power Grid Corporation of India
- c) REC Limited
- d) Power Finance Corporation
- e) None of these

78) ESPNcrinfo in partnership with which IIT launches data science based 'Superstats'?

- a) IIT Madras
- b) IIT Roorke
- c) IIT Khanpur
- d) IIT Kharkpur
- e) IIT Hyderabad

79) Which country has signed an agreement with the United States that allow American ships and warplanes to take advantage of his ports and airports?

- a) Yemen
- b) UAE
- c) Oman
- d) Iran
- e) India

80) Name the book launched by Former Chief Election Commissioner of India Hamid Ansar Navin Chawla's recently?

- a) Every Vote Counts
- b) Your Voice Your Vote
- c) Your Vote Matters
- d) Turn out vote
- e) None of these

81) World Forestry Day of Forests is celebrated every year on March 21st to raise public awareness about the values, significance and contributions of the forests to

balance life cycle on the earth. What is the theme for the year 2019?

- a) Learn To Love Forests
- b) Forests and Sustainable Cities
- c) Forests and Energy
- d) Forests and Water
- e) None of these

82) World Down Syndrome Day is observed on what date of every year?

- a) 21st March
- b) 22nd March
- c) 23rd March
- d) 24th March
- e) 25th March

83) World Poetry Day is celebrated on 21 March every year. When was the World Poetry Day celebrated for the first time?

- a) 1999
- b) 2000
- c) 2010
- d) 2013
- e) 2015

84) Which country renames its capital to Nursultan after countries ex-President?

- a) Afghanistan
- b) Kazakhstan
- c) Malaysia
- d) Uzbekistan

e) Tajikistan

85) Who was honoured with Hans Kilian Award 2019?

- a) Vinit Candy
- b) Surve Hope
- c) Ashis Nandy
- d) Prithk Pope
- e) None of these

86) Who was awarded 2019 Templeton Prize worth \$1.4 million for his work on blending science and spirituality?

- a) Suzana Herculano
- b) Sara Imari Walker
- c) Jim Young Kim
- d) Marcelo Gleiser
- e) None of these

87) Name the Hindi writer who honoured with the Vyas Samman 2018 by the KK Birla Foundation?

- a) Kunwar Narayan
- b) Manglesh Dabral
- c) Kedamath Singh
- d) Leeladhar Jagudi
- e) Ashok Vajpeyi

88) Which government agency appoints Shailendra Handa & Madhu Mahajan as Special Expenditure Observers?

- a) ECI
- b) AADHAR
- c) UPSC

d) CBI

e) UIDAI

89) Which airline company becomes first Indian low-cost airline to join IATA?

a) Indigo

b) Air India Express

c) Spice Jet

d) Jet Airways

e) Air India

90) Which company partners with NASSCOM to Impart Digital Literacy?

a) Instagram

b) Youtube

c) Whatsapp

d) Snapchat

e) None of these

91) Name the public sector bank that inks pact with Bank of China for business opportunities?

a) Punjab National Bank

b) State Bank of India

c) Indian Bank

d) Syndicate Bank

e) Bank of Baroda

92) Exim Bank gives what amount line of credit to Congoto finance three solar power projects in the central African country?

a) \$80mn

b) \$83mn

c) \$86mn

d) \$93mn

e) \$103mn

93) Which IT company has created a Blockchain-based global payment network that transmits monetary value in the form of digital assets, commonly known as cryptocurrencies or 'stable coins'?

a) Intel

b) IBM

c) Samsung

d) TCS

e) HCL

94) Who was awarded with 'Uttam Yudh Seva Medal' for successfully organizing the counter-terrorist operations in Jammu & Kashmir?

a) Pradip Kumar Panda

b) Anil Kumar Bhatt

c) Vijay Kumar

d) Irfan Ramzan Sheikh

e) None of these

95) Name the US Economist, who advised its two presidents, has passed away recently at the age of 58 years?

a) Kenneth Arrow

b) Paul Samuelson

c) Milton Friedman

d) Alan B. Krueger

e) None of these

96) Lasith Malinga to retire from international cricket after Twenty20 World Cup. He plays for which country?

- a) Australia
- b) India
- c) Sri Lanka
- d) West Indies
- e) South Africa

97) RBI denies ____ Banks proposal to name change

- a) PNB Bank
- b) IDBI
- c) YES Bank
- d) Axis Bank
- e) Corporation Bank

98) Facebook will organise 'AI for India Summit' on 26 March 2019 in ____

- a) Bengaluru
- b) Mumbai
- c) Hyderabad
- d) Visakhapatnam
- e) Amaravathi

99) Name the India's first forest certification scheme, which gets global recognition by a Geneva based non-profit firm.

- a) Certification Standard for Habitat restoration and improvement
- b) Certification Standard for Sustainable Forest Management

c) Certification Standard for Protection and Conservation measures

d) Certification Standard for Mitigation of Human Wildlife Conflict

e) None of these

100) Cabinet minister C.S.Shivalli ,who had died recently belongs to which state?

- a) West Bengal
- b) Gujarat
- c) Meghalaya
- d) Karnataka
- e) None of these



Answers:

1) Answer: A)

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.

2) Answer: B)

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.

3) Answer: C)

The Commerce Ministry launched a blockchain-based coffee e-marketplace in New Delhi. India has become the first country in the world to have a blockchain-based marketplace app for coffee trading launched by the Coffee Board of India and developed by Eka Software. The platform aims to "premium-ise" coffee, add "bean-to-cup traceability" and cut the role of middlemen. Around 20 coffee farmers, exporters, roasters, importers and retailers are already registered on the platform.

4) Answer: D)

Tashigang, a small Himachal Pradesh village at an altitude of 15,256 feet, is now the highest polling station in the world. Located around 29 km from the India-China border, 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.

5) Answer: A)

Assam Chief Electoral Officer Mukesh Sahu launched the Enajori initiative in Guwahati. It is a special initiative for persons with disabilities with an aim that 'No Voter to be Left behind'. It is a joint initiative of CEO Assam and Social Welfare Department with an objective to make Lok Sabha Elections accessible to Persons with Disability, PwD voters. Section 11 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 states that Election Commission of India and State Election Departments shall ensure that all polling stations are accessible to persons with disabilities and all materials related to the electoral process are easily understandable by and accessible to them.

6) Answer: B)

Tripura ranks second position with respect to the highest prevalence of child marriage among girls aged 15 years to 19 years at 21.6 per cent which is significantly higher than the national average of 11.9 per cent. Also found that more than 80 per cent of child marriages were registered in three districts of the state. The four districts include Dhalai, South Tripura, North Tripura, and West Tripura have the highest number of child marriage. A report released by the National Family Health Survey (NFHS), Young Lives – an international study on childhood poverty.

7) Answer: D)

The Reserve Bank of India upped the investment limit for FY2019-20 for foreign portfolio investors (FPI) in Central government securities (G-Secs) to 6 per cent of outstanding stock of securities from 5.5 per cent in FY2018-19. The limit for FPI investment in State

development loans (SDLs) and corporate bonds has been left unchanged at 2 per cent and 9 per cent of outstanding stocks. The current limit of Rs. 6,49,900 crore, the revised limit for FPI investment in debt for FY2020 has been set at Rs. 6,98,300 crore for the first half, and Rs. 7,46,500 crore for the second half of the financial year.

8) Answer: C)

Interest rates on small saving schemes such as National Savings Certificate and Public Provident Fund will remain unchanged for the April-June quarter.

Schemes	Interest Rates
Savings Deposit	4%
Senior Citizen Savings Scheme (SCSS)	8.7%
Public Provident Fund Account (PPF)	8.0%
National Savings Certificates (NSC)	8.0%
Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP)	7.7% (maturity- 112 months)
Sukanya Samridhi Accounts	8.5%

9) Answer: A)

Punjab National Bank (PNB) will sell its stake in PNB Housing Finance to General Atlantic and Varde Partners for Rs. 1,851.60 crore. Varde Partners and General Atlantic will buy 1.09 crore shares each. The shares will be acquired at Rs. 850 per share, valuing the purchase at Rs. 925.80 crore each for the buyers. After the transaction, PNB will continue to hold a 19.78 per cent stake in the housing finance arm, and will remain the promoter and strategic shareholder of the company

10) Answer: A)

The country's fiscal deficit touched 134.2 per cent of the full-year revised budgeted estimate at the end of February 2019. The fiscal deficit target for FY19 was revised upwards to 3.4% of GDP in the interim budget for FY20 presented on February 1 from 3.3% estimated initially. The fiscal deficit for April-February 2018-19 was Rs. 8.51 lakh crore as against the revised estimate (RE) of Rs. 6.34 trillion for the entire year, according to Controller General of Accounts (CGA) data. The government's tax revenue stood at Rs. 10.94 trillion and

non-tax revenue was Rs 1.7 trillion. Total expenditure incurred by the government during April-February 2018-19 was Rs. 21.88 trillion (89.08 per cent of RE), of which Rs. 19.15 trillion was on revenue account and Rs. 2.73 trillion on capital account.

11) Answer: A)

Swiss-based NRI scientist Dr Rajendra Joshi has been conferred with the Pravasi Bhartiya Samman Award by the President of India Ram Nath Kovind. The Indian Ambassador to Switzerland Sibi George handed over the award citation signed by the President to Dr Joshi at his residence in Switzerland. The Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award (PBSA) is the highest honour conferred on Non-resident Indians by the President of India for their significant contributions towards bringing honour and glory to India.

12) Answer: D)

State-owned Power Finance Corporation (PFC) completed the acquisition of majority stake in (REC) Rural Electrification Corporation Ltd by transferring Rs. 14,500 crore to the government. The transaction has helped the government meet its disinvestment target of Rs 80,000 crore for the current financial year. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs had approved the strategic sale of the government's 52.63 percent shareholding in REC to PFC, along with the transfer of management control in December 2018. PFC has raised money from Bank of Baroda, Life Insurance Corporation and State Bank of India, among others, to make the payment.

13) Answer: C)

IT services major Wipro has partnered with IIT Kharagpur to collaborate on industry-focused applied research in the areas of 5G and artificial intelligence (AI). The two organisations will focus on AI research applicable in the healthcare, education and retail sectors as well as in domains such as climate change and cybersecurity. In addition, subject matter experts from Wipro and IIT-Kharagpur will promote knowledge

sharing through guest lectures, workshops and seminars on 5G and AI.

14) Answer: B)

Indian Test Cricketer, Mayank Agarwal, appointed as Brand Ambassador of Aeronutrix’s Fast&Up Rope for the growth of the fast-moving healthcare goods business in India. Fast&Up is the flagship sports nutrition brand of Aeronutrix Sports Products Private Limited. Backed by innovative Swiss technology.

15) Answer: A)

Australian Graham Reid is set to be named as the Indian men’s hockey team chief coach till the 2022 World Cup after the national federation. The Indian men’s team is without a chief coach after the unceremonious sacking of Harendra Singh in January following a less-than-impressive quarterfinal exit at the World Cup in Bhubaneswar last year. A veteran of 130 international matches, Reid was a member of the Australian team that won the silver medal in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics.

16) Answer: D)

The launch of hyper-local connectivity app titled ‘Bhonga’. The app is an initiative by Linkus Infratech Private Limited. The app is designed keeping in mind the connect beyond family and friends. It is designed to connect people within the same locality without worrying about whether they know each other or not. Bhonga is a simple app which once downloaded allows the user send a message to all those who have this app in the 1 km radius. The user can use the app to reach out to everyone around for posting messages which may be an emergency, an offer, a query or even an opinion or information which he believes may be of help to people around him. Bhonga is a Marathi word which means megaphone or loudspeaker.

17) Answer: C)

Veteran journalist and academician Prafulla Rajguru has passed away. Rajguru had retired as the head of the department of English from DCB Girls College in Jorhat in 1997. Rajguru authored four books and was a member of several social organisations like the Asom Sahitya Sabha. He was also the founder president of Jorhat Press Club and was its adviser till his death.

18) Answer: D)

At least 430 (83%) of the 521 sitting MPs are crorepatis and 174 (33%) of them have declared criminal cases against them. It is according to a report by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), an NGO working in electoral reforms. Out of 430 crorepati MPs, 227 are from BJP, 37 are from Congress, 29 from AIADMK, among others, it added.

19) Answer: D)

Interest rates on small saving schemes such as National Savings Certificate and Public Provident Fund will remain unchanged for the April-June quarter.

Schemes	Interest Rates
Savings Deposit	4%
Senior Citizen Savings Scheme (SCSS)	8.7%
Public Provident Fund Account (PPF)	8.0%
National Savings Certificates (NSC)	8.0%
Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP)	7.7% (maturity- 112 months)
Sukanya Samridhi Accounts	8.5%

20) Answer: A)

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has prohibited imparting distance degree programmes in agriculture. As per UGC Open and Distance Learning Regulations, 2017, professional programmes such as medicine and engineering are not permitted to be offered in distance mode. YCMOU and IGNOU are among the institutions offering degree and diploma programmes in agriculture science.

21) Answer: B)

India observes National Immunization Day (NID) on 16th March every year. National Immunization Day was first observed on 16th March 1995 when first dose of Oral Polio Vaccine was given. The observance of National Immunization Day is an attempt to enhance awareness for the eradication of polio from planet earth. Every year on this day, millions of children are immunized with the polio vaccine

22) Answer: B)

Bandhan Bank has received no objection from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for the proposed acquisition of Gruh Finance. Gruh Finance, the affordable housing finance arm of HDFC Ltd, was taken over in January by Kolkata-based Bandhan Bank in a share-swap deal. As part of the deal, Bandhan Bank has to transfer 14.9 per cent stake to HDFC for merging Gruh with itself.

23) Answer: B)

The State Bank of India has launched the YONO Cash service for its customers which will allow them to withdraw cash from ATMs without their debit cards. A part of SBI's digital banking platform, You Only Need One (YONO), the cardless cash withdrawal service will be available across 16,500 ATMs of the bank in the country. Such SBI ATMs will be called YONO Cash Point. SBI customers can use the YONO app on their smartphones to withdraw cash from SBI ATMs, or YONO Cash Points, without using their debit and credit cards.

24) Answer: A)

Swati Shingade of Pune, Maharashtra has bagged the first prize of DD Mahila Kisan Award for 2018-19. As many as 110 women farmers participated in the award competition, out of which five were selected for the grand finale. Prasar Bharati Chairman A Surya Prakash gave away the award to Ms. Shingade at a grand finale event organized by DD Kisan Channel in New Delhi.

25) Answer: E)

Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh presented the BusinessLine Changemaker Of The Year award to Union Minister Arun Jaitley for successfully introducing the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

The awards were given in five categories:

Social Transformation

Digital Transformation

Young Changemaker

Iconic Changemaker

Changemaker of the Year

26) Answer: A)

Tata, Reliance and Airtel emerged as the top three Indian brands of 2019 published by Interbrand, part of the Omnicom Media Group, an advertising and public relations conglomerate. Tata continued to hold the top position in the best Indian Brands ranking as its brand value grew by 6%, mainly due to Tata Consultancy Services (TCS). Knocking its competitor Airtel off from the second spot, Reliance's brand value grew by 12%, bolstered by the success of Jio. This also explains the 13% degrowth in Airtel's brand value. Following Airtel at number three, HDFC Bank, LIC, State Bank of India, Infosys, Mahindra, ICICI Bank and Godrej rounded off the top 10 list.

27) Answer: A)

Kotak Mahindra Bank has appointed KVS Manian and Gaurang Shah as whole-time directors for a three-year term effective from the date of approval from the Reserve Bank of India. Manian is currently working as the president – corporate, investment bank. Shah is the president- group chief risk officer of the bank. The appointment of Manian and Shah is also subject to share-holders. The board approved the re-appointment of Prakash Apte as Independent Director of the bank for a five-year period from March 16, 2019, to March 17, 2024. The board also appointed Uday Shankar,

President of 21st Century Fox, Asia, as Independent Director of the bank from March 16, 2019, for a period of five years.

28) Answer: B)

Shri Santosh Jha has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Uzbekistan. Jha a 1993 batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer presently Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of India, Washington

29) Answer: D)

Ms. Padmaja has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Fiji. She presently working as Deputy Director General, Indian Council for Cultural Relations

30) Answer: E)

Anurag Bhushan, a 1995 cadre Indian Foreign Service officer, presently Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Malawi.

31) Answer: A)

The Department of Science and Technology (DST) commissioned a study to assess the climate risks faced by States in India. This follows an assessment of the global warming risks faced by 12 Himalayan States. On a scale ranging 0-1, 1 indicating the highest possible level of vulnerability, at the top of the scale were Assam with a score of 0.72 and Mizoram at 0.71, Whereas Sikkim, with an index score of 0.42 was relatively less vulnerable.

32) Answer: C)

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee in Uttarakhand tied up with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to set up a Space Technology Cell at its campus. The need to strengthen their institutional interactions and thereby enhance the scope of the activities pursued under STC commensurate with the

programmatic goals of ISRO. The activities of STC shall be directed to maximise the use of the research potential, infrastructure, expertise and experience that already exist in ISRO and IIT Roorkee. IIT Roorkee will be responsible for overall management of Space Technology Cell by providing required infrastructure, administrative and other support.

33) Answer: B)

FeFA (Iron for Adolescent Girls), a new initiative to address malnutrition among adolescents was launched. Through this project, ICMR-National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) and the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) will work in partnership with the Government of Telangana to address these important issues. FeFA Girls includes two components: i) to establish diet-based approaches for improvement in haemoglobin and iron status in adolescent girls, and ii) to generate scientific evidence on nutritional benefits of groundnut and pearl millet (ICRISAT mandate crops) on human health.

34) Answer: D)

The IIT Kharagpur has signed an MoU with Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) to set up a Petaflop high performance computing facility and data center funded under the National Supercomputing Mission. The department of science and technology (DST), along with experts from Niti Ayog, DRDO and IISc, will help IIT Kharagpur develop this supercomputer. A Petaflops is a unit of computing speed equal to 1,000 million million (10¹⁵) floating-point operations per second.

35) Answer: D)

The first BRICS Sherpa meeting under the Presidency of Brazil concluded at Curitiba in Brazil. Secretary, Economic Relations in the Ministry of External Affairs, T S Tirumurti led the Indian delegation India conveyed its support for the priority areas set out by Brazil, particularly to take forward BRICS cooperation on counter terrorism in a meaningful and concrete manner

with BRICS member countries. BRICS countries – Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa

36) Answer: A)

3rd edition of Namaste Thailand festival, aimed at strengthening bilateral ties and increasing cultural exchange between India and Thailand, held in New Delhi. The three-day festival was organised by the Royal Thai Embassy. The festival will feature stage performances by Thai artistes including the much popular Thai folk-jazz band Asia-7.

37) Answer: B)

Indian Coast Guard Ship 'Vijit' became the first-ever Coast Guard ship to visit Sabang, Indonesia to highlight the proximity between the two countries and the strengthening cooperation in maritime security and safety. Crew of Vijit will hold interaction with officials of Bakamla (Indonesian Coast Guard), Indonesian Armed Forces and the civil administration at Sabang. Fastest in its category with a designed speed of 26 knots at a displacement of 2393 tons, this new generation ship is equipped with the advanced Navigational and Communicational equipment. This visit of the coast guard ship follows from the first-ever-visit of Naval Ship INS Sumitra to Sabang in July 2018.

38) Answer: B)

Eighteen-year-old Diksha Dagar became the second Indian women golfer to win an event on Ladies European Tour after clinching South African Women's Open in Cape Town. Aditi Ashok was the first Indian to win on the Ladies European Tour after clinching Hero Women's Indian Open in Gurugram in 2016. Dagar won silver at the 2017 Summer Deaflympics. She also had a stellar Amateur career during which she represented India at the 2018 Asian Games and won the 2018 Singapore Amateur title. She also won a Pro event on the Indian domestic Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour, before turning pro at the start of this year.

39) Answer: A)

KT Irfan became the first Indian from athletics to qualify for the next year's Olympics while finishing fourth in the 20 km event of the Asian Race Walking Championships in Nomi, Japan. Irfan also holds a national record of 1:20:21 when he finished 10th in the 2012 Olympics. He also qualified for this year's World Championships (September 27-October 6) in Doha, Qatar

40) Answer: C)

Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar passed away. He served as Chief Minister of the state during October 2000 to February 2005; and March 2012 to November 2014. From November 2014 till March 2017, he served as the Union Defence Minister. Mr Parrikar returned to Goa in March 2017 as the State Chief Minister. The popular leader would be remembered for his efforts in infrastructure and education development in the state and bringing the International Film Festival of India to Goa in 2004.

41) Answer: A)

World Sleep Day is an annual event, intended to be a celebration of sleep and a call to action on important issues related to sleep, including medicine, education, social aspects and driving. It is organised by the World Sleep Day Committee of World Sleep Society (founded by WASM and WSF) World Sleep Day is held the Friday before Spring Vernal Equinox of each year. This year it is observed on March 15th. The slogan for the year 2019 is Healthy Sleep, Healthy Aging

42) Answer: b)

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi attended the 50th Raising Day celebrations of Central Industrial Security Forces (CISF), at Indirapuram in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. This day is observed every year on March 10. The CISF was set up in 1969 under an act of the Parliament of India. It works under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs and its headquarter is at New Delhi.

43) Answer: e)

Kane Tanaka, a 116-year-old woman from Japan has been honored by the Guinness World Records as the oldest living person in the world. Kane Tanaka was born on January 2, 1903.

44) Answer: a)

The Marayoor Jaggery, a traditional and homemade product manufactured at Marayoor, a place in Idukki district of Kerala, has bagged Geographical Indication tag. Marayur jaggery is known especially for its organic and traditional production using the sugar cane cultivated in the region. Jaggery is a dark brown sugar balls made from sugarcane and no chemicals are added during the manufacturing process.

45) Answer: b)

Assam, the state where oil was discovered and produced for the first time in the country more than a century ago, will have the first Oil Museum in the country. All major oil and gas PSUs of the country – ONGC, IOCL, HPCL, BPCL and EIL are coming together for this project, which was launched by Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. The oil museum will be named after KD Malaviya, called the father of India's hydrocarbon industry. The museum to come up at a cost of Rs 104 crore.

46) Answer: b)

Secretary of Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities at Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment Shakuntala D Gamlin laid the foundation stone of the 'National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation' at Sherpur village along Bhopal-Sehore highway, Sehore district of Madhya Pradesh. This Institute will be first of its kind in the country. The Centre has approved an outlay of Rs 180 crore for this project for an initial period of three years.

47) Answer: a)

The State Bank of India (SBI) will use the repo rate of RBI as a benchmark to set the savings deposit interest

rates and interest rates for short-term loans from May 01, 2019. With this the State Bank of India will become the first bank in the country to use an external benchmark like repo for interest rates of saving deposits and loans. This has been done for quick transmission of changes in the RBI's policy rates.

48) Answer: d)

A 5-member committee to examine issues related to framing of a proper and structured scheme for providing of insurance cover to the advocates and to suggest modalities for the implementation of such a scheme has been set up by the Union Minister for Law & Justice, Ravi Shankar Prasad under the chairmanship of Secretary Legal Affairs, Dr Alok Srivastava. Other members of the committee will include a senior representative from the Department of Financial Services and representative of the Department of legal affairs. The committee will also have one representative each from Bar Council of India and State Bar Councils.

49) Answer: a)

Acko General Insurance Limited based in Mumbai has won the Golden Peacock Innovative Product/Services Award – 2019 under the Insurance Category for their contextual microinsurance product - "Ola Ride Insurance. Apart from this Azizi Bank of Afghanistan has won the Golden Peacock Business Excellence Award (GPBEA)- 2019 in the Banking Sector. The Golden Peacock Innovative Product Award is designed to encourage systemic innovation in an organization to develop products and services that are aligned with the current market demands.

50) Answer: c)

The Chameli Devi Jain Award for an Outstanding Woman Journalist for 2018 has been given to Priyanka Dubey, who works as a bilingual correspondent with the BBC. The Chameli Devi Jain Award has been awarded to women journalists for the past 37 years. She was chosen for her multi-faceted, investigative and interrogative report.

51) Answer: a)

Smt. Maneka Sanjay Gandhi felicitated the winners of the 'Web Wonder Women' contest, organised by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, in New Delhi. Maneka Gandhi, along with a panel of 10 judges, finalized the names of 30 women who have impacted and influenced society through social media. The women were selected from over 240 nominations received under the categories media, awareness, legal, health, governmental, food, environment, development, business and art.

52) Answer: b)

The Ministry of Tourism has won the First Prize in the category of TV Cinema Spot at the prestigious international Golden City Gate Tourism Awards 2019. The awards were received by Tourism Secretary Yogendra Tripathi at ITB, Berlin. The Golden City Gate Tourism Multi-media Awards are given annually in various categories related to the Tourism and Hospitality sectors.

53) Answer: a)

China sent a new communications satellite into orbit from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in southwest China's Sichuan Province. The "ChinaSat 6C" satellite was launched by a Long March-3B carrier rocket. It will provide high-quality radio and TV transmission services. The satellite was developed by the China Academy of Space Technology, and will be operated by the China Satellite Communications Co, Ltd. The launch marks the 300th mission of the Long March carrier rocket series developed by the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation.

54) Answer: d)

Ashu Khullar currently heads capital markets origination for Citi's Asia-Pac region has been named CEO of Citi India, with effect from April 1. He will replace Prमित Jhaveri, who has had a nine-year stint as Citi India CEO. Jhaveri will take charge as vice-chairman of

banking, capital markets and advisory, Asia Pacific, from April 1

55) Answer: e)

Mohammad Shtayyeh has been named as Palestinian Prime Minister by President of Palestinian Authority Mahmoud Abbas. The announcement comes six weeks after Rami al-Hamdallah tendered his resignation from the post and of his unity government to President Mahmoud Abbas, underscoring the failure of Hamas and Fatah to implement a power-sharing deal.

56) Answer: a)

The book titled 'Gauri- The Urge to Fly' authored by Rhythm Waghlikar is set to release on May 12 on the occasion of the Mother's Day. The book is based on Gauri Sawant, the first transgender mother of India. The cover page of the book was launched on Women's Day.

57) Answer: a)

India and Costa Rica signed two documents during Vice President Venkaiah Naidu's first visit to the Central American nation. The two documents based on waiving visa requirements for Diplomatic and Official passport holders and the signing of the Letter of Intent to collaborate in the field of Biotechnology.

58) Answer: a)

HP India has signed an MoU with Andhra Pradesh Innovation Society (APIS) and Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board (APEDB) to build a Center of Excellence (CoE) for additive manufacturing powered by HP's 3D printing technology. The CoE is part of the state government's vision to accelerate adoption of 3D printing in various industry sectors such as automotive, aerospace, defence, consumer goods, healthcare, apparel and construction. The CoE will give Small and Medium Businesses (SMBs) and Start-ups in Andhra Pradesh the opportunity to learn more about the benefits of additive manufacturing, and how they can

make use of 3D printing to digitally transform their own operations or to grow their business.

59) Answer: b)

India, The World Bank and representatives of 5 state governments of India and implementing agencies signed the loan agreement for additional financing of \$137 million for the Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP). That will help rehabilitate and modernize over 220 selected large dams in the states of Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand. In 2010, the Bank's Board approved \$350 million to finance the Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project to improve the safety and sustainable performance of over 220 selected dams in India.

60) Answer: a)

Women in India earn 19 per cent less than men according to a report prepared by monster.com. The disparity was found in the survey conducted for the year 2018 and it stood just 1 per cent lower than the 20 per cent pay gap in 2017. The survey titled 'Women of India Inc', mentioned that the median gross hourly salary for men was Rs. 242.49 earned Rs. 46.19 more in comparison to women who earned Rs.196.3 in 2018

61) Answer: a)

World TB Day is celebrated every year on 24 March annually to commemorate the date when Dr. Robert Koch announced his discovery of Mycobacterium tuberculosis, the bacillus that causes TB in 1882. This Day is observed to educate people about TB, its impact around the world. The theme for the year 2019 is 'It's time'.

62) Answer: d)

Each year, on 24 March, the International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims is observed. This annual observance pays tribute to the memory of

Monsignor Óscar Arnulfo Romero, who was murdered on 24 March 1980. The purpose of the Day is to pay tribute to those who have devoted their lives to, and lost their lives in, the struggle to promote and protect human rights for all

63) Answer: b)

The Rubber Skill Development Council (RSDC) has launched Project Saamrath, which is aimed at skilling, upskilling and reskilling 10 lakh personnel involved in the rubber sector, by 2020. The training is being provided under the Recognition of Prior Learning Scheme of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana across natural rubber plantations, tyre services and rubber manufacturing. The training is provided for jobs such as Latex Harvest Technician (tapper), Rubber Nursery General Worker, Rubber Processing Technician—Rubber Sheeting and General Worker Rubber Plantation, among others .

64) Answer: d)

Italy become the first member of the Group of Seven (G7) major industrialised nations to join China's 'Belt and Road' infrastructure project (BRI), which is inspired by historic, centuries-old trade routes. G7 nations consist of: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States. BRI is a development strategy adopted by the Chinese government involving infrastructure development and investments in 152 countries and international organizations in Europe, Asia, Middle East, Latin America and Africa.

65) Answer: a)

India's deepest shaft cave Krem Um Ladaw was recently discovered in East Khasi Hills district of Meghalaya. The cave has 105 m deep shaft entrance passage. It was discovered during 28th edition of annual 'Caving in the Abode of the Clouds Expedition' that took place in February 2019. Its discovery comes one year after discovery of world's longest sandstone cave Krem Puri in Mawsynram region of Meghalaya's East Khasi Hills

district. Overall 2019 expedition explored and mapped 12.3 kms of new cave passage.

66) Answer: b)

The country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) has raised Rs. 1,251.30 crore by issuing Basel III-compliant additional tier-I bonds. The proceeds from these bonds will help SBI to boost its additional tier 1 capital ratio to meet systematically important bank (D-SIB) criteria to which SBI is mandated to meet. The bonds with a face value of Rs 10 lakh each bears a coupon rate of 9.45 per cent per annum payable annually with call option after 5 years or any anniversary date thereafter.

67) Answer: a)

According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), India's foreign exchange (forex) reserves surged by \$3.602 billion to \$405.638 billion in week to March 15, 2019. The surge was driven by rise in foreign currency assets, a major component of the overall reserves. Forex reserves had increased by \$258.8 million to \$402.035 billion in the previous week. The reserves had touched a life-time high of \$426.028 billion in the week to April 13, 2018. Since then, it has been on a slide and is now down by over \$20 billion. Gold reserves rose by \$38.9 million to \$23.408 billion.

68) Answer: a)

The directorate general of foreign trade (DGFT) has extended integrated GST (IGST) and compensation cess exemptions for goods procurement under advance authorisation scheme, export oriented unit (EOU) scheme and export promotion capital goods (EPCG) scheme of foreign trade policy 2015-20 to 31 March 2020. This decision is aimed at giving relief to exporters as they do not have to pay IGST at initial point itself. In the GST regime, exporters have to pay the indirect tax and then seek refund, which is cumbersome process.

69) Answer: b)

London Olympics bronze medallist Saina Nehwal was named 'Sportsperson of The Year' at the annual Telangana Sports Journalists Association awards function. Rio Olympics silver medallist PV Sindhu was named 'Outstanding Performer' in women's section while, Pullela Gopichand was presented the 'Coach of The Year' award and the Indian badminton team was the 'Team of The Year' and the Badminton Association of Telangana was awarded the 'Association of the Year'.

70) Answer: e)

Peter Tabichi, a maths and physics teacher at Keriko secondary school in Pwani Village, in a remote part of Kenya's Rift Valley, has won the Varkey Foundation Global Teacher Prize 2019. Peter, donates most of his salary to help poorer students, has been crowned the world's best teacher and awarded a \$1m prize, beating 10,000 nominations from 179 countries. Tabichi, a member of the Franciscan religious order, received his prize at a ceremony in Dubai hosted by actor Hugh Jackman.

71) Answer: C)

The healthcare industry's apex body NATHEALTH appointed Manipal Health Enterprises Chairman Sudarshan Ballal as its president for the year 2019-20. He succeeds Fortis Healthcare's Daljit Singh as the president.

72) Answer: c)

India has moved up two places to rank 76th on a global energy transition index. The index has ranked 115 economies on how well they are able to balance energy security and access with environmental sustainability and affordability. Sweden remains on the top on this annual list compiled by Geneva-based World Economic Forum (WEF) and is followed by Switzerland and Norway in the top three,

73) Answer: a)

The nation capital's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) has now become the world's 12th busiest airport, moving up four places from the 16th spot in 2017. According to the preliminary world airport traffic rankings for 2018 released by the Airports Council International (ACI), it overtook mega-hubs like Frankfurt, Dallas Fort Worth, Guangzhou and Istanbul Ataturk airports. The four airports above the IGI Airport are Amsterdam Schiphol, Paris-Charles de Gaulle, Shanghai Pudong and Hong Kong, managing over 46 lakh passengers more than IGIA. India became the world's third-largest aviation market in terms of passenger throughput, behind the US and China, in 2018.

74) Answer: b)

Italy's new Earth-observation satellite named PRISMA (Precursore Iperspettrale della Missione Applicativa) launched from the Guiana Space Centre by 98 foot (30 meters) tall Vega rocket which was developed by the joint venture of Italian Space Agency and the European Space Agency. PRISMA (an Italian acronym for Hyperspectral Precursor of the Application Mission) is designed to provide information about environmental monitoring, resources management, pollution and crop health. The satellite includes a medium resolution camera that can view across all visual wavelengths, as well as a hyperspectral imager that can capture a wider range of wavelengths between 400 and 2500 nanometers

75) Answer: a)

NITI Aayog has organised one day FinTech Conclave at Dr. Ambedkar International Center, New Delhi. The Conclave was inaugurated by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das. The objective of the conference is to shape India's continued ascendancy in FinTech, build the narrative for future strategy and policy efforts, and to deliberate steps for comprehensive financial inclusion.

76) Answer: b)

Japan has donated 69 million dollars to the United Nations World Food Programme to provide vital aid to 28 countries in the Middle East, Africa, and Asia, with the biggest shares of the money earmarked for Yemen and Iraq. Japan is one of WFP's top donors and has so far contributed \$958 million to UN-WFP since 2014.

77) Answer: d)

State-owned Power Finance Corporation (PFC) has signed a share purchase agreement to acquire all 52.63 per cent shares of the government in Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) for about Rs 14,500 crore. Under this agreement, PFC will acquire 103.94 crore equity shares of Rs 10 of REC from President constituting 52.63% of paid-up share capital. With this PFC is now slated to become a promoter and the holding company of REC. The acquisition will enable increased efficiencies in lending processes and policies across both institutions, and create public value by offering better loan products to the power sector.

78) Answer: a)

Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras has launched data science-based 'Superstats,' to analyse Cricket games. Launched in association with ESPNcricinfo, Superstats is a combination of stats metrics – Luck Index, Forecaster and Smart Stats that uses data science for the first time to give a context to every event in a game and also venture into new territories such as luck and forecasting. Researchers from IIT Madras along with its incubated company Gyan Data acquired ball-by-ball database that has more than ten years of detailed data, and scientific methods, processes and complex algorithms based on machine learning (ML). The work was led by Raghunathan Rengaswamy and Mahesh Panchagnula.

79) Answer: c)

Oman has signed an agreement with the United States that allow American ships and warplanes to take advantage of his ports and airports. The agreement will allow the US forces to take advantage from the facilities

offered at some of the Sultanate's ports and airports during visits of the US military vessels and aircraft, particularly in the port of Duqm. Duqm port is located in southern Oman on the Arabian Sea and around 500 kilometres from the Strait of Hormuz

80) Answer: a)

Former Chief Election Commissioner of India Navin Chawla's book 'Every Vote Counts -The Story of India's Elections' was launched by former Vice President of India, Hamid Ansari in New Delhi. The book has been published by HarperCollins India.

81) Answer: A)

World Forestry Day or International Day of Forests is celebrated every year to raise public awareness about the values, significance and contributions of the forests to balance life cycle on the earth. The theme for the year 2019 is Learn To Love Forests. In 1971, the World Forestry Day was established at the 23rd General Assembly of European Confederation of Agriculture. And it was decided to be celebrated as an annual event celebration on 21st of March by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.

82) Answer: A)

World Down Syndrome Day (WDSD) is observed on 21 March every year. Theme: Leave No One Behind

On this day, people with Down syndrome and those who live and work with them throughout the world organise and participate in activities and events to raise public awareness and create a single global voice for advocating for the rights, inclusion and well being of people with Down syndrome.

83) Answer: A)

World Poetry Day is celebrated on 21 March every year. It is a day to encourage people to read, write, teach, and publish poetry and to recognise the great cultural contribution poetry makes to human society. World Poetry Day was declared by UNESCO in 1999.

84) Answer: B)

Kazakhstan's parliament voted to rename the country's capital Astana as Nursultan in honour of longtime ruler Nursultan Nazarbayev, a day after he resigned as president. Kazakhstan's new interim president Kassym-Jomart Tokayev proposed renaming the capital. The new president will serve till April 2020. Astana replaced Kazakhstan's largest city Almaty as the capital in 1997.

85) Answer: C)

Sociologist and political psychoanalyst Ashis Nandy and co-founder of the postcolonial theory was named recipient of Hans Kilian Award for the year 2019 instituted by the Köhler Foundation. He was chosen for his efforts to adapt western traditions of thought such as psychoanalysis to non-western context. He was awarded prestigious Fukuoka Asian Culture Prize in 2007. He was included as one of world's 100 most important public intellectuals in Foreign Affairs magazine in 2008.

86) Answer: D)

Brazilian physicist and astronomer Marcelo Gleiser was awarded 2019 Templeton Prize worth \$1.4 million for his work on blending science and spirituality. It makes him first Latin American to win this award. He has written best-selling books and appeared on numerous TV and radio shows, discussing science as spiritual quest to understand origins of universe and life on Earth.

87) Answer: D)

Hindi writer Leeladhar Jagudi will be honoured with the Vyas Samman 2018 by the KK Birla Foundation for his collection of poems 'Jitne Log Utne Prem'. Mr. Jagudi's poems represent different stages as he imbibes every turning point of his life and reflects all which are recollected in tranquillity. The Vyas Samman, started in 1991 is given to an 'outstanding literary work' in Hindi authored by an Indian citizen which has been published in the last decade. The award carries an amount of Rs. 4 lakh.

88) Answer: A)

Election Commission has appointed two eminent former Civil Servants Shailendra Handa and Ms. Madhu Mahajan as Special Expenditure Observers for the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections. Shailendra Handa has been deployed in Maharashtra and Madhu Mahajan has been deployed in Tamil Nadu. The Special Observers will supervise and monitor the work being done by the electoral machinery. They will ensure that stringent and effective enforcement action is undertaken based on intelligence inputs and complaints received through C-VIGIL and Voter Helpline 1950 against all persons and entities trying to induce voters by distributing cash and liquor.

89) Answer: C)

Budget carrier SpiceJet has joined global airlines' grouping International Air Transport Association (IATA), becoming the first Indian low-cost carrier to get the membership and fifth member in India. The IATA membership is significant on account of SpiceJet's plans to expand its international footprint. Other Indian members of the IATA include Air India, Jet Airways and Vistara. The membership also allows SpiceJet to explore and grow its collaborations with international member airlines of IATA through interlining and code shares.

90) Answer: C)

WhatsApp and NASSCOM Foundation came together to impart digital literacy training to curb fake news during the general elections. As part of the partnership, WhatsApp and NASSCOM Foundation will train nearly 1,00,000 Indians to spot false information and provide tips and tricks to stay safe on WhatsApp.

91) Answer: B)

The country's largest lender SBI stated that it has signed a pact with the Bank of China to boost business opportunities. Both SBI and BoC will gain direct access to their respective markets of operation. SBI has a branch in Shanghai and BOC is opening its branch in

Mumbai. This MoU will facilitate the clients of both the banks to access banking products and services of each other, which will lead to a mutually beneficial relationship.

92) Answer: B)

Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) has, on behalf of the government, extended three lines of credit (LOC) aggregating \$83.11 million to the government of Congo to finance three solar power projects in the central African country. The loan will be utilised for financing three solar photovoltaic power projects with a total capacity of 35 megawatt in the three provinces — Karawa, Mbandaka and Lusambo. The LOC agreements were exchanged between Ambassador of Congo to India Mossi Nyamale Rosette and Exim Bank Managing Director David Rasquinha during the 14th CII-Exim Conclave 2019 which was held at New Delhi.

93) Answer: B)

Information Technology (IT) major IBM has created a Blockchain-based global payment network that transmits monetary value in the form of digital assets, commonly known as cryptocurrencies or 'stable coins'. The payment network called World Wire uses the Stellar protocol that reduces intermediaries and allows users to accelerate settlement time. World Wire has already enabled payment locations in 72 countries, with 47 currencies and 44 banking endpoints.

94) Answer: B)

The Gallantry Awards and Distinguished Service Decorations were conferred by President Ram Nath Kovind at the Defence Investiture Ceremony, which was held at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi.

95) Answer: D)

Former White House Economist, Alan B. Krueger, who advised two presidents and helped lead economics toward a more scientific approach to research and policymaking, was found dead at his home in Princeton,

New Jersey, United States after committing suicide. He was born on 17th September 1960 in Livingston, New Jersey, United States and was 58 years old at the time of his death

96) Answer: c)

Sri Lankan limited overs captain Lasith Malinga will retire from international cricket after next year's Twenty20 World Cup to be held in Australia. He would also quit one-day internationals after the 2019 World Cup in England and Wales. He made his ODI debut in 2004, becoming the first to clinch two World Cup hat-tricks and the first to take three ODI hat-tricks.

97) Answer: b)

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has turned down IDBI Bank's proposal to change its name following the transfer of a controlling 51% stake to LIC, insurance behemoth, from the government of India. The board of IDBI Bank had, last month, sought the RBI's approval for a change in the name of the lender to either LIC IDBI Bank or LIC Bank following the takeover by Life Insurance Corporation (LIC). However, RBI did not elaborate on the reasons for denial by the regulator for changing the name.

98) Answer: a)

Facebook will organise 'AI for India Summit' on 26 March 2019 in Bengaluru. The summit will focus on discussing inclusive growth and solutions to the most enduring social challenges. The Summit will bring together key representatives from the AI (Artificial Intelligence) community in India such as policymakers, start-ups, and the developer community.

99) Answer: b)

The forest certification scheme 'Certification Standard for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)' developed by the Network for Certification and Conservation of Forest (NCCF) got global recognition by a Geneva based non-profit firm. The decision was made through a postal ballot by the council of Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) which is an international non-profit firm that provides independent third party certification for Sustainable Forest Management.

100) Answer: d)

Karnataka Minister for Municipal Administration and senior Congress Leader, Channabasappa Sathyappa Shivalli aka "Badavara Bandhu" passed away at the age of 57 due to cardiac arrest, in Hubballi. He was born in Yaraguppi village of Karnataka. He was a three-time MLA from Kundagol constituency in Dharwad district.

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