



[www.ranaacademyshimla.com](http://www.ranaacademyshimla.com)  
contact no. 7018596250, 9805332278

COACHING OF VARIOUS CENTRAL &  
STATE LEVEL COMPETITIVE EXAMS

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

## MARCH-2019

( HPAS / ALLIED SERVICES / NAIB  
TEHSILDAR / IBPS-BANK PO, CLERK /  
SSC AND ALL OTHER GOVT EXAMS )

**-JOIN COACHING CLASSES FOR :**

- **UPSC/ HAS/HPAS**
- **Allied and subordinate exams**
- **clerical posts in HP High Court.**
- Morning and evening batches are also available .
- Free demo class.
- Affordable fee.

**RANA ACADEMY , KHALINI, SHIMLA.**

**7018596250, 9805332278.**

**[WWW.RANAACADEMYSHIMLA.COM](http://WWW.RANAACADEMYSHIMLA.COM)**

# INDEX

-INTERNATIONAL ( WORLD)

-NATIONAL NEWS

-ECONOMY

-BANKING

-APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

-AWARDS AND HONOURS

-SPORTS/ GAMES

-OBITUARIES

-IMPORTANT DAYS

-BOOKS AND AUTHORS

-RANKING

-SCIENCE AND TECH --

DEFENCE

-SCHEMES

-COMMITTEES

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### 1. US Officially Closes Jerusalem Consulate

-The United States merges its consulate in Jerusalem, that primarily served consulate to Palestinians into its newly established embassy in the city. Palestinian officials have strongly criticised the move.

Note: last year US president Donald Trump recognized Jerusalem as Israel capital and moved the embassy to there in May 2018. Palestinians view Jerusalem as their capital of future capital state.

2. U.S. And South Korea End Military Exercises 'Foal Eagle 2019' And 'Key Resolve' and instead bifurcate them into smaller exercises. This is being done to ease tensions with North Korea.

3. Al Nagah 2019 : Bilateral joint exercise between India, Oman held at Jabel Al Akhdar Mountains in Oman.

### 4. Kylie Jenner becomes world's youngest self-made billionaire (Forbes list of billionaires)

-she founded a booming cosmetics company three years ago.

5. Venezuela orders German ambassador- Daniel Kriener to leave the country after accusing him for interfering in the internal affairs of the Venezuela.

### 6. NASA astronauts to carry out first all-female spacewalk

-Just in time for International Women's Day, NASA announced that it will be conducting the first-ever, all-female spacewalk.

### 7. Malaysia joins International Criminal Court (ICC)

-ICC is the world's only permanent war crimes court and aims to prosecute the worst abuses when national courts are unable or unwilling. Malaysia becomes the **124th member** of the court since its establishment in 2002.

-ICC is based in the **The Hague, Netherlands**.

-earlier **Burundi** became the first country to quit the court in 2017 and the Philippines has announced its intention to withdraw.

### 8. India, Costa Rica Sign 2 Documents During Venkaiah Naidu's Visit

-The 2 agreements were signed 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.

9. 116-Year-Old Japanese Woman ' Kane Tanaka' Honoured As World's Oldest Person Alive By Guinness World Records. The previous oldest living person was another Japanese woman, Chiyo Miyako, who died in July 2018 at age 117.

### 10. First BRICS Sherpa Meeting Under Presidency Of Brazil Held In Curitiba

-The first BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) Sherpa meeting held in Curitiba, Brazil under the Presidency of Brazil. The Indian delegation was led by Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs T S Tirumurti.

### 11. Cyclone 'IDAI' Hits Mozambique, Malawi, Zimbabwe

Cyclone Idai has affected more than 1.5 million people in the three southern African countries, according to the UN and government officials. Hardest hit is Mozambique's central port city of Beira.

### 12. PM of New Zealand Jacinda Ardern Bans Assault Weapons

-New Zealand has imposed an immediate ban on assault weapons following the Christchurch massacre that claimed the lives of 50 mosque-goers.

### **13. Oman Signs Agreement Allowing United States Military To Use Its Ports**

### **14. World's First Wireless (induction-based )Electric Car Charging Station Introduced By Norway in its capital city Oslo.**

### **15. Trump Sign Proclamation Recognising Israel's Sovereignty Over Golan Heights**

- Israel captured the Golan Heights from Syria in the 1967 war but its sovereignty over the territory is not recognized by the international community. Over the past years terrorist groups in southern Syria continued to make the Golan Heights a potential launching ground for attacks against Israel.

### **16. World's Largest e-waste Recycling Hub Opened At The Dubai Industrial Park 'Enviroserve' company with a total cost of \$5 million.**

### **17. In a 1st, UN Security Council Passes unanimous Resolution To Combat Terrorist Financing**

- UNSC resolution demands all states "ensure that their domestic laws and regulations establish serious criminal offenses" to collect funds or financial resources to terrorist groups or individual criminals. The UN Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.  
-It has 15 Members ( 5 permanent and 10 non permanent) , and each Member has one vote.  
-Vladimir Voronkov is the chief of U.N. counter-terrorism.

### **18. Abu Dhabi Hosted Organization Of Islamic Corporation (OIC) Meeting**

-Abu Dhabi hosted the 46th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organisation of Islamic Co-operation (OIC). It was a two-day gathering dedicated to discussing ways to combat hate speech, extremism and conflict in the region. This is the first time that India participated in the meeting. Sushma Swaraj attended the inaugural session of the Organisation of Islamic Co-operation meeting in Abu Dhabi where she was welcomed as a "guest of honour".

## **NATIONAL NEWS**

**1. New Railway Zone Announced For Andhra Pradesh that is the Southern Coast Railway** and it will be headquartered in **Visakhapatnam**. It will be the 18th zone in the country.

### **2. Sushma Swaraj addresses OIC Foreign Ministers plenary session in Dubai**

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj addressed the plenary session of the foreign ministers' meet of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation states in Abu Dhabi.

### **3. PM Launches 'One Nation One Card'**

-PM Narendra Modi launched the indigenously-developed National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) to enable people to pay for their bus travel, toll taxes, parking charges, retail shopping and even withdraw money across the country.

### **5. Women To Get Permanent Commission In 10 Army Branches**

- Women officers can now get permanent commissions in 10 branches of the Indian Army, the government announced. The Defence Ministry stated that it has taken necessary steps to ensure that women, who were earlier inducted for short service commission (SSC), get the permanent commission in the armed forces ( in branches such as Signals, Engineers, Army Aviation, Army Air Defence, Electronics and Mechanical Engineers, Army Service Corps, Army Ordnance Corps and Intelligence).

5. **'Azaadi Ke Diwane' museum dedicated to the unsung heroes of the country's freedom** struggle, inaugurated at Red Fort. Built by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), the museum is the fifth in a series of recently inaugurated ones — the others being the Subhash Chandra Bose and INA museum, the Yaad-e-Jallian museum, the Museum on 1857 (on the country's first war of Independence) the Drishyakala (a museum on Indian Art) on the sacrifices of India's freedom fighters.

6. **UK CM Trivendra Singh Rawat lays foundation stone for Doon-Mussoorie ropeway project**

-The Rs 300-crore ropeway project is expected to be completed in three years. Poma, a French company which manufactures cable-driven projects, will provide the technical support to the ropeway which will be built on the PPP mode.

7. **Ancient tribal language Gondi to be taught in tribal districts of MP**

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

8. **CCEA approves Rs 2,790 cr interest subvention on loans to sugar mills** for enhancement and augmentation of ethanol production capacity.

9. **Hardeep S Puri launches e-Dharti App**

-Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Puri has launched e-Dharti app where all the three modules- Conversion, Substitution and Mutation related to **property / properties** have been made online. The payment system in Land and Development Office, L&DO has also been completely digitized. The public can now submit their applications online by visiting the L&DO website and are not required to visit this office for submission of them and for follow up of their applications.

10. **Kerala's Marayoor Jaggery Gets Geographical Indication Tag**

- **The Marayoor Jaggery**, the traditional and handmade product from Idukki district of Kerala received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag from the Central Government.

-A geographical indication (GI) is a name or sign used on products which correspond to a specific geographical location or origin (e.g. a town, region, or country).

-Darjeeling tea was given first GI Tag in India (2004-05).

**NOTE :** -for complete list of GI products in India (especially HP), you can download the complete document from the "study material " section in our website. ( IMP FOR EXAMS).

11. **Lok Sabha Elections 2019: Polls to be held in 7 phases, starting April 11 to 19th May 2019.**

-Lok Sabha 2019 elections start from April 11, in seven phases, says Election Commission. Code of Conduct for parties kicks in from 10th March and there are close to 90 crore eligible voters. Date of counting will be on the 23rd of May 2019.

12. **Insolvency And Bankruptcy Board Inks Cooperation Agreement With IFC**

-The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) has signed a Cooperation Agreement with the International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group (WBG).The agreement will enable IFC to assist IBBI to further build the capacity of insolvency professionals, and insolvency professional agencies for the purposes of the Code.

-**M. S. Sahoo is the Chairperson of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).**

13. **Madhya Pradesh Government Increases Reservation Quota of OBCs to 27%**

The Madhya Pradesh government issued an ordinance increasing reservation quota for the Other Backward Classes (OBC) to 27% from the current 14%.

14. **New Visa Agreement Between India, Maldives Comes Into Effect**

-The new policy provides a liberal visa policy for Maldivian citizens seeking medical treatment as well as education and business opportunities in India.

#### **15. Dipa Karmakar Selected As Barbie Role Model**

-Indian gymnast Dipa Karmakar was selected as Barbie role model & was presented with a one-of-a-kind doll by Barbie as the company celebrates its 60th anniversary.

(Dipa Karmakar was the 1st Indian female gymnast in the Olympics).

#### **15. 4th Internet of Things (IoT) India Congress To Be Held In Bengaluru in August 2019**

#### **16. Erode Turmeric Gets GI Tag After An 8-Year Process**

-After an eight-year-long process, **Erode turmeric (of Tamil Nadu)** finally got a **Geographical Indication (GI) tag** from the Geographical Indication Registry. Erode turmeric is a rhizome, both finger and bulb obtained from the Erode local cultivar.

#### **17. United States To Set Up Six Nuclear Power Plants In India**

The 9th round of the India-US Strategic Security Dialogue was held in Washington DC. The two sides committed to strengthen bilateral security and civil nuclear cooperation, including the establishment of 6 U.S. nuclear reactors in India.

#### **18. Arecanut Gets Its First GI Tag For 'Sirsi Supari'**

-The Registrar of Geographical Indications, Government of India, accorded a GI tag, 'Sirsi Supari', to arecanut grown in Sirsi, Siddpaur and Yellapur taluks of Uttara Kannada district in Karnataka.

- The Totagars' Cooperative Sale Society (TSS) Ltd, a Sirsi-based agri cooperative, is the registered proprietor of the GI 'Sirsi Supari'.

**19. India Extends USD 250 million To Nepal for Reconstruction of Infrastructures** in the areas of housing, education, health and cultural heritage that was destroyed during the devastating April 2015 earthquake which saw the death of over 9,000 people.

#### **20. India & Pakistan Agree To Work On Operationalizing Kartapur Corridor**

-The corridor will facilitate Indian pilgrims to visit the holy shrine of Gurdwara Darbar Sahib at Kartarpur in Pakistan. The agreement was reached during the first meeting between the representatives of the two countries held at Attari in Punjab.

#### **21. Climate Vulnerability Index Highest For Assam (0.72) And Mizoram (0.71).**

-Sikkim is the least vulnerable state with the index being 0.42.

-climate vulnerability index is prepared by Indian scientists.

#### **22. Justice P.C. Ghose Named India's First Lokpal**

- Former Supreme Court judge Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose was recommended to be the first Lokpal or anti-corruption ombudsman of India. Justice Ghose, 67, is a member of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) since June 2017. His name was finalised and recommended by the Selection Committee comprising Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi, Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan and eminent jurist Mukul Rohatgi.

**23. 'i-help' Initiative Launched In Assam to promote digital electoral literacy in Assam** has been launched in view of the forthcoming Lok Sabha polls.

**24. Mobile App 'Conquer Exam, Be a Warrior'** for students to reduce the exam pressure, Developed By IIPHG- Indian Institute of Public Health Gandhinagar

**25. Integral Coach Factory of Chennai Became The World's Largest Rail Coach Manufacturer**

**26. CBSE Launches Shiksha Vani App** that will disseminate crucial information to students and parents in a timely manner.

**27. NITI Aayog's FinTech Conclave Held In New Delhi**

**28. Facebook launches tools like "Candidate Connect" and "Share You Voted"** to boost Electoral Process ( upcoming lok Sabha elections) . Both these tools will be made available in 12 local languages.

**29. Adani Becomes 1st Indian Port Operator To Record 200 MMT Cargo Movement**

-Adani Ports embarked its journey in 2001 and has become one of the largest port operators in the world.

**30. Tashigang village (altitude- 4560 m or 15,256 feet) in spiti valley, Himachal Pradesh** Becomes World's Highest Polling Station in the world. Situated about 29 km from the India-China border, the polling station covers two villages, Tashigang and Gette.

**31. GI Certification For 5 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, Bababudangiris Arabica coffee, Chikmagalur Arabica coffee, Araku Valley Arabica coffee, Bababudangiris Arabica coffee.

**-Coffee cultivation is mainly done in the Southern States of India:**

**Karnataka – 54%, Kerala – 19%, Tamil Nadu – 8%**

**-Coffee is also grown in non-traditional areas like Andhra Pradesh and Odisha (17.2%) and North East States (1.8%).**

**32. Google launches 'Bolo' to tutor children to read Hindi, English**

- Tech giant Google has unveiled a new app 'Bolo' that aims to help children in primary school learn to read in Hindi and English. The free app, which is being launched in India first, uses Google's speech recognition and text-to-speech technology. The app features an animated character 'Diya', who encourages children to read stories aloud and helps if the child is unable to pronounce a word. It also lauds the reader when he/she completes the reading.

**33. Aviva Life Insurance launches Special Mentorship Programme 'Wings'**

Wings program is an initiative of the 'SHE' division of Aviva Life Insurance for mentoring all the women employees in Aviva. SHE was started in 2016 by Aviva India's Women Network.

**34. IRCTC Launches Its Own Digital Payment Gateway 'IRCTC iPay'**

**35. 7TH Guinness Book of World Record Created By DEPwD In Bharuch, Gujarat**

DEPwD : Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), at Bharuch, Gujarat.

- 'Modern Artificial Limbs (Legs)' were implanted on 260 Divyang jans within 8 hours in Gujarat. DEPwD has already created 6 World Records in other categories.

**36. CISF Sets Guinness Record For Longest Single Line Cycle Parade at the Yamuna Expressway**, Noida. CISF personnel rode 1,327 bicycles non-stop in a single line, maintaining a uniform distance between the bicycles. The record was earlier held by Hubballi Bicycle Club of India, with 1,235 bicycles in a single chain.

**37. Microsoft Launched Project 'Sangam' To Boost India's Swachh Bharat Mission**

Microsoft has announced that it has partnered with The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) to promote its Project 'Sangam' which is developed to accelerate Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) in India. It is one

of the world's largest Cleanliness Programme. Project Sangam is a cloud-hosted, mobile-first community learning platform.

## ECONOMY NEWS

### **1. SEBI Lifts Foreign Investment Cap On Corporate Bonds**

- Markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) withdrew the 20% limit on investments by Foreign Portfolio Investors in corporate bonds of an entity. The regulator stated that the restriction is being withdrawn in accordance with a circular issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

( In June 2018, Sebi had mandated that no Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) shall have an exposure of more than 20% of its corporate bond portfolio to a single corporate)

### **2. In a 1st, Indian low-cost airlines SpiceJet Joins International Air Transport Association (IATA).**

### **3. According to Moody's, Indian economy is expected to grow at 7.3 percent in the calendar year 2019 and 2020.**

### **4. Bharat Electronics launches SWAGAT- Automatic Fare Collection Gating System**

Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), a defence public sector undertaking, presented SWAGAT – the Automatic Fare Collection Gating System. PM Narendra Modi launched the system as part of the inaugural of Phase-I of the Ahmedabad Metro.

**-SWAGAT is an initiative steered by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) in collaboration with BEL and Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC) with the support of Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC), National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) and State Bank of India (SBI).**

**5. Government announces new Rs 20 coin which will come in 12-edged polygon (dodecagon) shape.** The government is also planning to release new coins of Re 1, Rs 2, Rs 5 and Rs 10. However, the govt has not announced the exact date for the issuance of these new series coins.

### **6. IRDAI and NHA (National Health Authority) form working group to curb fraud in Ayushman Bharat scheme**

-The joint working group, to be chaired by Dinesh Arora, Deputy CEO of NHA, will have 10 members from both the organisations.

### **7. OECD cuts global economic growth forecasts again**

-The Organisation for Economic Co-Operation & Development forecast in its interim outlook report that the world economy would grow **3.3 percent in 2019** and **3.4 percent in 2020**.

## BANKING NEWS ( imp for IBPS Bank PO & clerk EXAMS)

**1. State Bank of India (SBI) and Hitachi Payment Services Pvt Ltd**, has launched their merchant-acquiring joint venture, **SBI Payment Services Pvt Ltd (SBIPSPL)** in Mumbai for establishing a digital payments platform for India and other countries in the region.

### **2. United Bank, HDFC Life sign bancassurance deal**

-United Bank of India has signed a bancassurance deal with private life insurer HDFC Life Insurance Company. Through this partnership, United Bank's customers will be able to take advantage of HDFC Life's expertise in life insurance products, distribution and customer service.

### **3. Korea Exim Bank Extends Rs 4,100 crore Loan for Vizag (Visakhapatnam ) Metro Rail project**



**4. RBI Categorises IDBI Bank as Private Sector Lender following the acquisition of majority stake by Life Insurance Corporation.**

IDBI Bank has been under the prompt corrective action framework of RBI that bans it from corporate lending and branch expansions, salary hikes and other regular activities. **Now total government sector banks are 20 in number.**

-After 1 Apr 2019 merger of 2 more Government Banks Dena and Vijaya Bank in Government-owned bank of Baroda, the number of Government Sector Banks **will be reduced to 18.**

**5. RBI Names SBI, ICICI and HDFC As Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs)** which in other words mean banks that are too big to fail.

-As per the norms, these banks will have to set aside more capital for their continued operation. Inclusion in D-SIB indicates that failure of any of these banks would have a cascading effect on the Indian financial system.

**6. SBI Launches Cardless ATM Withdrawal With YONO Cash**

-The State Bank of India has launched a new service called 'YONO Cash' for its customers using which customers can withdraw money from ATMs without using debit cards. This facility is available over 16,500 of its ATMs through the You Only Need One (YONO), mobile app platform for the first time in the country. The ATMs enabled for this service will be called as YONO Cash Point.

**7. Bandhan Bank Gets RBI Nod To Acquire Gruh Finance**

-Reserve Bank of India provided no objection to Bandhan Bank for the proposed acquisition of Gruh Finance. Gruh Finance Limited is an Ahmedabad headquartered Subsidiary of HDFC Limited.

**8. ICICI Lombard, Mobikwik To Offer Online Fraud Protection Policy**

-ICICI Lombard and Mobikwik announced a strategic partnership to provide cyber-insurance cover. The relationship aims to provide protection against unauthorized and fraudulent transactions online, across bank accounts, debit and credit cards. and mobile wallets.

**9. SBI Signed MoU With Bank of China For Business Opportunities**

-SBI has a branch in Shanghai and BOC is opening its branch in Mumbai. Bank of China (BoC) is the third-largest bank in the world by capital size.

**10. 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 abbreviated as Society For Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications.

**11. Bank of Baroda Set To Develop Digital Agri Platform 'Baroda Kisan'** which will provide solutions for agricultural requirements.

**12. Government To Infuse Rs 5,042 crore Into Bank of Baroda**

-The Finance Ministry has decided to infuse Rs 5,042 crore into state-owned Bank of Baroda (BoB) ahead of the merger of two other public sector lenders Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank with BoB. This merger would be effective from April 1 2019.

**13. India's First Policy To Protect Bank Locker Launched**

-**IFFCO -Tokio General Insurance** has launched 'bank locker protector policy', the first stand-alone bank locker cover offered by any insurance company with a plan to protect the contents of a bank locker such as jewelry, title documents, and other valuables. The policy offers a cover against various risks including fire, earthquake, burglary, holdup or any act of terrorism.

**14. SBI Launched Doorstep Banking Service For Senior Citizens Over 70**

- State Bank of India (SBI) has launched doorstep banking service for senior citizens over 70 years of age and differently-abled customers. Eligible customers can avail this service at a nominal fee of 100 rupees per transaction for financial transactions and 60 rupees for non-financial transactions.
- Doorstep banking services are available to KYC- compliant account holders, with a valid mobile number registered with the bank and residing within 5 kilometers radius from their home branch.

### **15. HDFC Bank Becomes 3rd Indian Firm To Cross Rs6 trillion Market capitalization after Tata Consultancy Services Ltd (TCS) and Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL).**

- RIL is the most valued company in India with a market cap of Rs8.50 trillion, followed by TCS at Rs7.48 trillion.

## **APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS**

### **1. Pranay Kumar Verma Appointed As India's Ambassador To Vietnam**

### **2. AN Jha Replaces Shaktikanta Das As 15th Finance Commission Member**

- Former Finance Secretary Ajay Narayan Jha has joined as a member of the 15th Finance Commission. Jha has been posted in place of Shaktikanta Das who had resigned as a member of the Commission after being appointed the RBI Governor. Jha was retired as a Finance Secretary to the central government.  
(15th Finance Commission Chairman: N K Singh.)

### **3. Bhagwan Lal Sahni Appointed Chairman Of the National Commission For Backward Classes**

- Bhagwan Lal Sahni has been appointed as the chairman of the newly constituted National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC). Kaushalendra Singh Patel, Sudha Yadav and Achary Talloju have been appointed as members of the commission.

( The NCBC was given constitutional status by 102<sup>nd</sup> Constitutional act ( 123<sup>rd</sup> constitutional amendment bill ) , after repealing the National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993.)

- NCBC is placed under article 338B of COI.)

### **4. Ausaf Sayeed appointed new Ambassador of India to Saudi Arabia**

### **5. UNDP appoints Padma Lakshmi as Goodwill Ambassador**

- Indian-American television personality and food expert Padma Lakshmi has been appointed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as its newest Goodwill Ambassador, supporting the agency's fight against inequality and discrimination around the world. UNDP announced Lakshmi's appointment on the eve of International Women's Day.

### **6. Kummanam Rajasekharan Resigns as Mizoram Governor**

- Governor of Assam, Prof. Jagdish Mukhi, has been given temporary charge of the Aizawl Raj Bhavan.

### **7. Subhash Chandra Garg Appointed As Finance Secretary**

- He succeeded Ajay Narayan Jha.

### **8. Soumya Swaminathan Named Chief Scientist at WHO**

- Soumya Swaminathan, a Deputy Director-General of the World Health Organisation has been named Chief Scientist of the WHO.

### **9. Scientist Ajit Kumar Mohanty Appointed Bhabha Atomic Research Centre's (BARC) Chief**

- BARC is the country's premier multi-disciplinary nuclear research facility.
- BARC HQ- Mumbai, Founder: **Homi J. Bhabha**.
- Dr. Homi Jehangir Bhabha established the Atomic Energy Establishment, Trombay (AEET) on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1954. After the sad demise of Bhabha in 1966, AEET was renamed Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC).

**10. Mohammad Shtayyeh Named As Palestinian PM by President of Palestinian Authority Mahmoud Abbas.**

**11. AIBA (Amateur International Boxing Federation ) President Gafur Rahimov Resigned**

**12. Ex-Finance Secretary Hasmukh Adhia appointed non-executive chairman of Bank of Baroda.**

**13. C Lalsawta Sworn In As Mizoram's 1st Lokayukta Chairman**

**14. MR Kumar Appointed LIC Chairman**

**15. Santosh Jha Appointed As The Next Ambassador Of India To The Republic Of Uzbekistan**

**16. Pramod Sawant Sworn In As Goa Chief Minister**

Pramod Sawant (45), former Speaker of Goa legislative Assembly and MLA from Sankhelim in North Goa was sworn-in as 11th Chief Minister of Goa, succeeding Late Sh. Manohar Parrikar.

**17. Gauri Sawant Becomes India's 1st Transgender Election Ambassador**

The Election Commission of India has appointed transgender social activist Gauri Sawant, as one of the 12 election ambassadors from Maharashtra. She is the first transgender election ambassadors.

**18. Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev Resigns After Nearly 30 Years In Power.**

-Kazakhstan Renames Its Capital Astana To Nursultan to honor outgoing leader Nursultan Nazarbayev.

**19. Vice Admiral Karambir Singh will be Next Chief of Naval Staff**

-The present Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Sunil Lanba retires on May 31, 2019

**20. President Ram Nath Kovind Administers Oath Of Office to Justice PC Ghose As Lokpal Chief**

**21. BCCI Ombudsman Justice D.K. Jain to Serve As Ad-Hoc Ethics Officer**

-Supreme Court-appointed BCCI Ombudsman Justice D K Jain (ret'd) will now serve as the Ethics Officer of the Indian cricket board on an ad-hoc basis. According to the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), provisions in its constitution require an Ethics Officer to be appointed to determine and decide issues related to conflict of interest.

**11. Ashu Khullar Appointed as CEO of CITI Bank India**

He will replace Pramit Jhaveri on April 1, 2019.

**12. Axis Bank Names Rakesh Makhija As New Chairman.**

## **AWARDS**

**1. Tata Steel has received the award as one of the 2019 World's Most Ethical Companies. The award has been given by Ethisphere Institute, USA.**

**2. DRDO Chairman Satheesh Reddy Wins Missile Systems Award given by the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) He is the first person to be honoured with this award outside the USA in 40 years.**

**3. Nobel prize in literature to be awarded twice this year**

- Last year's Nobel was withheld for the first time since 1949 after the Swedish Academy, (the institution that selects the winners) was hit with a sexual misconduct scandal that saw the husband of one member imprisoned for rape.

**4. TVS Motor Company bags International Sustainability 'Green Era' Award for Sustainability' in Lisbon, Portugal for second time.**

**5. Nari Shakti Puraskar : International Women's Day (8th of March)**

-The theme for this year's women's day is- '**Think Equal, Build Smart, Innovate for Change**'.  
-President Ram Nath Kovind presented the highest civilian honor for women in India, Nari Shakti Puraskar 2018 in New Delhi. This year, 44 awardees have been selected for these Puraskar.

**6. ACKO General Insurance Awarded Coveted Golden Peacock Award 2019** For Innovative Product  
**"Ola Ride Insurance"**. The award ceremony was held in Dubai.

- The Golden Peacock Awards for Corporate Leadership and Excellence are now regarded as a benchmark of business excellence, both locally and globally. It was Established by the Institute of Directors, India in 1991,

**7. India Bags 1st Prize (in the category of TV Cinema ) At International 'Golden City Gate Tourism Awards 2019' In Berlin.**

**8. President Confers Gallantry And Distinguished Service Awards**

The President and Supreme Commander of the Indian Armed Forces Ram Nath Kovind conferred 3 Kirti Chakras and 15 Shaurya Chakras to Armed Forces Personnel at the Rashtrapati Bhawan. 2 Kirti Chakras and 1 Shaurya Chakra were given posthumously.

- Kirti Chakra Winners:

1. SEPOY VRAHMA PAL SINGH, THE RAJPUT REGIMENT (POSTHUMOUS): ARMY
2. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR NAIN, CONSTABLE, 130 BN, CRPF (POSTHUMOUS): MHA.
3. MAJOR TUSHARGAUBA, THE JAT REGIMENT: ARMY.

**9. Commonwealth Youth Award**

A social entrepreneur from Tamil Nadu, Padmanaban Gopalan founder of No Food Waste, was named the winner of the Commonwealth Youth Award for the Asian region worth 3,000 Pounds at a ceremony at the Commonwealth Secretariat in London. His initiative runs a **geo-mapping platform**, which allows users to drop food at located "hunger spots" and has so far recovered over 650,000 meals across 14 cities and the platform has been used by over 12,000 volunteers.

**10. Kent RO Awarded As The Best Domestic Water Purifier 2019**

-The Water Digest Water Awards are given jointly by the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation and UNESCO.

**11. Mathematician Karen Uhlenbeck becomes 1st Woman To Win Abel Prize**

-she is a professor in University of Texas. The 76-year-old was awarded for the impact of her work on "analysis, geometry and mathematical physics".

- first given in 2003, Abel Prize is Modelled on the Nobel Prize. It is presented by the King of Norway and carries a \$700,000 cash award.

**12. Indian Writer Raghu Karnad Wins Windham-Campbell Prize**

-An Indian journalist, author and chief of The Wire, 'Raghu Karnad' received the prestigious Windham-Campbell prize of USD 165,000 for his debut book, '**Farthest Field: An Indian story of Second World War**', published in the year 2015 in the non-fiction category.

**13. Brazilian physicist and astronomer Marcelo Gleiser Wins Templeton Prize 2019 worth \$1.4 million, for his work blending science and spirituality.**

**14. Hindi Writer Leeladhar Jagudi Awarded Vyas Samman 2018** for his collection of poems “Jitne Log Utne Prem” published in 2013. The award carries an amount of Rs. 4 lakhs and it was started by K K Birla foundation in 1991.

**15. Lalit Kala Akademi Announces 60th National Academy Award Winners**

-The Lalit Kala Akademi (LKA) announced 15 winners of the 60th Annual Academy Awards. All the awardees were honored with a plaque, a shawl and prize money of Rs 1 lakh at the 60th National Exhibition of Art.

- The awardees selected by the two-tier jury are:

1. Chandan Kumar Samal (Odisha),
2. Gouri Vemula (Telangana),
3. Hemant Rao (Madhya Pradesh),
4. Hiren Kumar Chotu Bhai Patel (Gujarat),
5. Jaya Jena (Odisha),
6. Jayesh K.K (Kerala),
7. Jitendra Suresh Sutar (Maharashtra),
8. Douglas Maryan John (Maharashtra),
9. Pratap Chandra Chakraborty (West Bengal),
10. Rashmi Singh (Uttar Pradesh),
11. Sachin Kashinath Chaudhari (Maharashtra),
12. Sunil Kumar Viswakarma (Uttar Pradesh),
13. Tabassum Khan (Bihar),
14. Vasudeo Taranath Kamath (Maharashtra) and
15. Veenita Sadguru Chendvankar (Goa).

**Lalit Kala Akademi established in 1954 is an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Culture. It is headquartered in New Delhi.**

5. President Kovind Honoured With Croatia’s Highest Award -The Grand Order of King Tomislav.

**16. Nobel Prize Recipient Amartya Sen To Be Honored Oxford University's Bodley Award**

-Amartya Sen is an Indian economist and philosopher. He was awarded the prestigious Nobel Prize in 1998 in Economic Sciences for his valued work in welfare economics and social choice theory.

**17. Swiss-based NRI scientist Dr Rajendra Joshi Conferred With 'Pravasi Bhartiya Samman' by the President of India Ram Nath Kovind.**

**18. PM Modi Confers Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prizes For Science & Tech for the years 2016, 2017 and 2018 in New Delhi.** There were 34 prize winners.

- The Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize is the most coveted national recognition bestowed upon young scientists and engineers to honour their research and developmental work in India. It was first instituted in 1957 to honour the eminent scientist Dr. Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar.

**19. President presents Swachh Survekshan-2019 Awards**

-Indore bagged award for the cleanest city for the third straight year in Swachh Survekshan.

-New Delhi Municipal Council area gets cleanest small city award while Uttarakhand’s Gauchar was adjudged Best Ganga Town in the survey. Top-ranked cities received a statue of Mahatma Gandhi as the award for their work towards cleanliness. Swachh Survekshan 2019 covered all Urban Local Bodies in the country, making it the largest such cleanliness survey in the world.

## **SPORTS**

**1. Roger Federer Claims 100th ATP Title Of His Career**

-The 20-time grand slam champion is the second man, after American Jimmy Connors to claim 100 titles.

## **2. Finland Boxing Tournament: India Wins 1 Gold, 4 Silver**

-Kavinder Singh Bisht in the 56kg-category struck gold while Shiva Thapa in the 60kg category and three others claimed silver medals to end a fine Indian campaign at the 38th GeeBee Boxing Tournament in Helsinki, Finland.

## **3. Sailor Upamanyu Dutta Clinches Bronze In Asian Regatta**

-Young Mumbai sailor Upamanyu Dutta bagged the bronze medal in the Laser Standard race for men in the Laser Asian Sailing Championship which concluded in Singapore.

## **4. Special Olympics World Games 2019 in The UAE Makes History**

- Special Olympics World Games 2019 which is being held from March 14 to March 21 in the 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.  
ii. It is being held in West Asia for the first time. 7,500 athletes will take part in 24 Olympic-style sports over seven days.

## **5. Supreme Court Appoints PS Narasimha As Mediator To Resolve Disputes Within BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India)**

BCCI President: C.K. Khanna, Headquarters: Mumbai.

## **6. India To Host U-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.

## **7. South African cricketer, all-rounder JP Duminy To Retire From ODIs After World Cup 2019**

**8. 18-yr-old Diksha 2nd Indian Golfer To Win 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.

## **9. Valtteri Bottas Wins Australian F1 Grand Prix 2019**

-Mercedes' Valtteri Bottas beat his world champion teammate Lewis Hamilton to clinch the season-opening Australian Formula One Grand Prix.

## **10. Bengaluru FC Crowned Indian super league (ISL) Champions For 1st Time after defeating FC Goa, in the final held in Mumbai.**

## **11. Special Olympics Games 2019 Concludes: India Bag 368 Medals**

-India returned with 368 medals (85 gold, 154 Silver, and 129 Bronze) at the Special Olympics World Summer Games, held at Abu Dhabi, UAE.  
- Indian power-lifters bagged the maximum number of medals 20 gold, 33 silver and 43 bronze.  
The next Special Olympic Games are set to take place in Sweden in 2021.

## **12. India Clinch SAFF Women's Championship For 5th Time after defeating host Nepal in the final by 3-1 in Biratnagar, Nepal.**

## **13. Chennai Super Kings' Suresh Raina becomes 1st Cricketer To Score 5,000 Runs in IPL**

-Suresh Raina is also the 1st Indian to score 100 in all 3 formats.

## **14. Seamaster 2019 ITTF Challenge Plus Or Oman Open Table Tennis Held In Muscat**

- G Sathyan won a bronze medal in the tournament. Archana Kamath bags U-21 silver with an excellent run in the Oman Open.

**15. Manu Bhaker & Saurabh Chaudhary Won Gold Medal (10-meter Air Pistol Mixed team event )** At Asian Airgun Championship at Taoyuan in Taipei.

**16. Veselin Matic ( from Serbia) Set To Be India's Basketball Coach**  
Earlier, Veselin Matic, took Iran to an Asian Games bronze medal in 2010.

**17. Deepak Singh Wins Gold At Makran Cup In Boxing in Chabahar, Iran**

**18. West Indies opener Chris Gayle Becomes First Player To Smash 500 Sixes In International Cricket**

## **OBITUARIES**

1. **Andre Previn**, pianist cum Legendary Composer And 4 Time Oscar Winner Passes Away  
-He was a 10-time Grammy Award winner and had won 4 Oscars throughout his lifetime.
2. Nobel Laureate ( year 2000), **Russian physicist- Zhores Alferov**. Passes away.
3. **American Actor Luke Perry** passes away
4. **Goa CM -Manohar Parrikar** passes away. He was an IIT Mumbai graduate in metallurgical engineering and among the first members of BJP in Goa.
5. Veteran Journalist & environmental **V Darryl D'Monte** passes away.
6. Former White House economist and Princeton University professor Economist **Alan Krueger** Passes Away
7. Folk Artiste and Radio Commentator **Anasuya Devi** Passes Away  
She was an eminent folk artist, radio commentator, harmonium player, music composer, and author.
8. **Scott Walker**, one of the most innovative and enduring songwriters of the 20th century Passes Away
9. Malayalam Writer And Poet **Ashita** Passes Away
10. Soviet-era Cosmonaut Valery **Bykovsky** Passes Away
11. Veteran Journalist **Prafulla Rajguru** Passes Away At 82

## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

### **1. World Wildlife Day: March 3**

-Theme- 'Life below water: for people and planet', ( the theme corresponds to goal 14 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which is 'Life below water').

**2. Janaushadhi Diwas - 7th March.** PM addressed five thousand Janaushadhi stores across the country through video-conferencing on the occasion.

### **3. International Women's Day: 08th March**

-International Women's Day 2019 **campaign** theme: #BalanceforBetter.

-The theme for this year's women's day is- '**Think Equal, Build Smart, Innovate for Change**'.

### **4. World Kidney Day 2019: 14th March**

- Theme : "Kidney Health for Everyone Everywhere".

### **5. World Consumer Rights Day: 15th March**

Theme "*Trusted Smart Products*".

### **6. International Day Of Happiness: 20 March**

- Theme : '*Happier Together*'.

### 7. Bihar Diwas: 22nd March

it is celebrated every year on 22 March to commemorate the state's separation from Bengal presidency in 1912.

### 8. International Day of Forests: 21 March

Theme : Forests and Education.

### 9. World Water Day: 22 March

Theme : 'Leaving no one behind,' which is the central promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

### 10. Martyr's Day / Shaheed Diwas: 23rd March

- It was on March 23, 1931, three young freedom fighters- Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev were hanged to death in the Lahore Central Jail (Now in Pakistan).

### 11. World Tuberculosis Day: 24th March

Theme - 'It's time'.

### 12. World Meteorological Day: March 23

- Theme : "The Sun, the Earth and the Weather".

## BOOK

1. 'Every Vote Counts-The Story of India's Elections' : by Navin Chawla (former Chief Election Commissioner).
2. 'Indian Fiscal Federalism' : by Dr. Y. V. Reddy, former Governor of RBI and Chairman of the 14th Finance Commission of India along with Dr. G. R. Reddy, Advisor (Finance) to the Government of Telangana.
3. Arun Jaitley releases book titled 'Mann Ki Baat – A Social Revolution on Radio'  
-The book is a compendium encompassing 50 editions of the 'Mann Ki Baat' programme by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on All India Radio.

## RANKS & REPORTS

### 1. According to the Delta ranking report released by NITI Aayog, Assam's Hailakandi Became The Top Aspirational District among the 112 aspirational districts of the country.

-for this, Hailakandi will be given an allocation of Rs. 10 crore. Earlier it stood at 52<sup>nd</sup> place.

### 2. India Now 2nd Largest Arms Importer In The World; Saudi On Top: SIPRI Report

-India is the second largest importer of weapons in the world, as per the annual report 'Trends in International Arms Transfers-2018' released by the think tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). Saudi Arabia is now the world's largest weapons importer.

-After maintaining its position of world's largest arms importer for about 8 years, India dropped down to be the second largest importer of weapons during 2014-18. India accounted for 9.5% of the global total imports during 2014-18, while Saudi Arabia accounted for 12% of the total imports during the period.

### 3. India Ranks 11th In Gold Holding: WGC Report

-India, which is the world's largest consumer of gold, has the 11th largest gold reserve, with the current holding pegged at 607 tonnes, as per the latest report by the World Gold Council (WGC). The top spot in term of reserves is occupied by the US with gold reserves of 8,133.5 tonnes, followed by Germany with 3,369.7 tonnes.

### 4. India Ranks 16th In Terms Of Highest Number Of Impacted Species In Hotspots

-Malaysia ranks 1st among the countries with the highest number of impacted species (125).



- Southeast Asian tropical forests, including those in India's Western Ghats, Himalaya, and north-east, are among the 'hotspots' of threatened species.

#### 5. UNEP Releases 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the Global Environment Outlook 2019 Report

UNEP Headquarters: Nairobi, Kenya, Head: Joyce Msuya.

#### 6. Vienna Topped The Mercer's Quality Of Living Survey 2019

- The human resource consulting firm, Mercer's annual Quality of Living Survey 2019 has placed Austria's capital city Vienna at the number 1 spot, making it the 10th year in a row.

-Hyderabad and Pune, at a rank of 143, continue to be the most liveable cities in India for expatriates.

**7. Mukesh Ambani Tops Forbes' List of World's Richest Sports Team Owners with a net worth of around \$50 billion** : Ambani purchased the IPL team Mumbai Indians through a RIL subsidiary in 2008 for just over \$100 million. Mumbai Indians lifted the IPL crown in 2013, 2015 and 2017.

#### 8. World Happiness Report Released, India Ranks 140<sup>th</sup> out of 156 nations

India shows a 7 spot decline. For the second consecutive year, **Finland topped the list**. Denmark ranked second followed by Norway while **South Sudan ranked last** in the World Happiness Report.

#### 9. India Ranks 76<sup>th</sup> On WEF (World Economic Forum) Global Energy Transition Index

- Sweden remains on the top and is followed by Switzerland and Norway.

#### 10. PNB Ranks 1st In Implementation Of 'Reforms Agenda'

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

#### 1. ISRO Launches 'Yuva Vigyani Karyakram' a 'Young Scientist Programme' for the School Children to be studying in the 9th standard.

- '**Catch them young**' residential training programme will be of around two weeks duration during summer holidays with a proposal to select 3 students from each State and Union Territory, covering CBSE, ICSE and State syllabus.

#### 2. ISRO & French Space Agency (CNES) Sealed an Agreement On Maritime Security

The agreement aims to set up a joint maritime surveillance system in the country in May.

-**K.Sivan is the Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation.**

**3. . Bengaluru-based Signalchip Unveils India's First Indigenous 4G, LTE Semiconductor Chips and 5G modems. 4 chips were launched by the SIGNALCHIP as part of its series code-named 'Agumbe'.** They also support positioning using India's own satellite navigation system NAVIC.

#### 4. 'Mission Shakti'

i. PM Modi announced that India has entered its name as an elite space power. An Anti-Satellite Weapon (A-SAT) successfully targeted a live satellite on a low earth orbit. The name of this mission was 'Mission Shakti'. After the US, Russia, and China, **India is the fourth country** to acquire this space capability. Anti-satellite is a milestone for the country's security and technological achievement. India is a space superpower now.

**5. ISRO Launches Young Scientist Programme 'YUVIKA'(Yuva Vigyani Karyakram) For Schoolkids in** tune with the government's vision "Jai Vigyan, Jai Anusandhan".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.

## DEFENCE NEWS

**1. 'Mainamati Maitree Exercise 2019' Between Border Security Force And Border Guards** Bangladesh Held In Tripura. The main objective of this exercise was to plan and conduct anti-smuggling and anti-criminal activity related operations with an aim to achieve better joint operational efficiency and border management in the area.

**2. Indo-Bangladesh Joint Military Exercise Sampriti- VIII , 2019 Concludes at Tangail, Bangladesh.**

-Exercise Sampriti was the 8th edition in the Sampriti series, which started in 2009.

**3. Indin Naval Ship Kadmatt arrived at Langkawi, Malaysia to Participate in LIMA-19**

( LIMA - Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition)

**4. Indian Navy Nuclear, Biological, Chemical Training Facility (NBCTF) inaugurated by Admiral Sunil Lanba at INS Shivaji, Lonavala.** The training facility has been named **ABHEDYA**, which means impenetrable in Sanskrit.

**5. US made 4 Chinook Helicopters Inducted In Indian Air Force**

-The Indian Air Force formally inducted the CH 47 F(l)- Chinook heavy-lift helicopters into its inventory at Air Force Station Chandigarh. IAF had signed a contract with M/s Boeing Ltd in September 2015 for 15 Chinook helicopters. The first batch of **four** helicopters has been delivered on schedule and the last batch is to be delivered by March 2020. These helicopters will be deployed in the Northern and Eastern regions of India. ( Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa is the present Chief of the Air Staff of IAF).

**6. Indian-Sri Lankan Joint Military Exercise MITRASHAKTI-VI Begins at Diyatalawa in Sri Lanka.**

**7. India, Australia To Hold Bilateral Exercise AUSINDEX-19 In Vishakhapatnam,** Andhra Pradesh

- The upcoming exercise will focus on anti-submarine warfare and will see Australia's largest defence force deployment in India.

**8. India Signs Deal With Russian Firm To Produce 7.5 Lakh AK-203 Rifles**

-India has signed a deal with a Russian firm to manufacture 7.5 lakh AK-203 rifles. These are the latest derivative of the AK-47 rifles. The AK-203 rifles will be produced at the Indian Ordnance Factory at Amethi's Korwa. The new rifles will replace the indigenous INSAS rifles in the Army, Air Force, and Navy.

**9. Africa-India Field Training Exercise AFINDEX-19 Begins at Aundh Military Station, Pune**

**10. Indo-Sri Lanka Joint Exercise Mitra shakti-VI To Be Held in Sri Lanka**

**11. 1st Indian Army Mountaineering Expedition To Mt Makalu (8485m) Flagged Off**

Makalu is the fifth highest mountain in the world at 8,485 metres. It is located in the Mahalangur Himalayas 19 km southeast of Mount Everest, on the border between Nepal and Tibet, China.

**12. PINAKA Guided Weapons System Successfully Test Fired**

i. Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) successfully test fired the PINAKA guided WEAPON rocket system from Pokhran range in Rajasthan.

( DRDO Established in: 1958, HQ- New Delhi, Chaiman- Dr G. Satheesh Reddy.

**13. 'Vijit' Becomes 1st Indian Coast Guard Ship To Visit Sabang, Indonesia**

-Highlighting the close maritime proximity between India and Indonesia, Indian Coast Guard Ship 'Vijit' became the first-ever **Coast Guard ship** to visit Sabang, Indonesia.

(IS Sumitra was first **Naval Ship** to visit Sabang in July 2018.

## SCHEMES

### 1. 'Jal Amrutha' Scheme Launched By Karnataka Government

-The scheme plans to make people aware of the importance of conserving water and to prompt them to come up with ways to avoid wastage of water. **The Karnataka government has declared 2019 as the Year of Water.**

### 2. Haryana Government launched Mukhyamantri Parivar Samman Nidhi Scheme in Chandigarh.

-It is primarily meant for farmers of the state who cultivate on land with areas up to 5 acres and the families with an income of less than Rs. 15,000 per month. The scheme would provide a sum of Rs. 6,000 yearly and each family has to nominate a member who will be provided with this amount.

### 3. Gram Samridhi Yojana: New Scheme To Help Unorganised Food Processing Sector

-Gram Samridhi Yojana, a Rs 3,000 crore scheme which aims to strengthen the unorganised food processing sector concentrated in rural areas. NITI Aayog has given its approval to the scheme. World Bank will be giving Rs 1,500 crore, Rs 1,000 crore will be borne by the Centre while state governments will put in Rs 500 crore.

### 4. Cabinet Approves 'Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN Yojana'

-The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the 'Pradhan Mantri Jaiv Indhan- Vatavaran Anukool fasal awashesh Nivaran (JI-VAN) Yojana' for providing financial support to the Integrated Bioethanol Projects. The scheme aims to incentivise the Second Generation (2G) Ethanol sector and support the industry by creating a suitable ecosystem for setting up commercial projects and increasing R&D in this area. The PM JI-VAN Yojana will be supported with the total financial outlay of Rs 1969.50 crore for the period 2018-19 to 2023-24.

### 5. MSP For Minor Forest Produces Issued By Ministry Of Tribal Affairs

-Union Minister of Tribal Affairs Jual Oram launched the ambitious scheme of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs named **Van Dhan**. The scheme is for Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Minor Forest Produce (MFP) and Development of Value Chain of MFPs at a National Workshop organized by TRIFED.

**6. 'Notun Disha' (New Direction) Initiated By Tripura Government** for assessing the academic level of students in classes III-VIII and then improving their current level. Training will be provided by NGOs and educational institutions to 800 teachers for 1 month.

## COMMITTEES

**1. RBI Appoints 5 Member Committee under the chairmanship of Nandan Nilekani** to strengthen digital payments as well as to boost financial inclusion through Financial Technology.

### 2. Usha Thorat-led task force to ensure stability of external value of rupee

-The Reserve Bank of India has constituted an eight-member task force on offshore rupee markets, headed by Usha Thorat former Deputy Governor, to look into issues related to the markets and recommend appropriate policy measures to ensure the stability of the external value of the rupee.

### 3. Delhi Government Sets-Up a 17-member High-level Committee To Reform Higher Education

- **The committee will be chaired by DDC vice-chairperson Jasmine Shah. Nalanda 2.0, a non-profit policy think tank** is collaborating with the DDC as the knowledge partner in the initiative.

### 4. Three member Mediation Panel Created By Supreme Court To Settle Ram Mandir-Babri Masjid land dispute case



[www.ranaacademyshimla.com](http://www.ranaacademyshimla.com)  
contact no. 7018596250, 9805332278

**COACHING OF VARIOUS CENTRAL &  
STATE LEVEL COMPETITIVE EXAMS**

-Retired Justice Kalifullah chairing the panel. The other two members are spiritual leader Sri Sri Ravi Shankar and senior advocate Sriram Panchu.

**5. Amitabh Kant (Niti Aayog CEO) To Head National Mission on Transformative Mobility** and Battery Storage, which is being set up to promote clean and sustainable mobility initiatives in the country.

RAMA ACADEMY