Awards

The Indian economist who has been conferred the prestigious Bodley Medal, the highest honour bestowed by the University of Oxford's world-famous Bodleian Libraries

Amartya Sen

The American mathematician who has become the first woman to be awarded the Abel Prize, also known as the Nobel for mathematics

Karen Uhlenbeck

The Indian writer who has been awarded the Windham-Campbell Prize by the Yale University, Connecticut (USA)

Raghu Karnad

The IAF pilot who has been chosen for the first Bhagwan Mahavir Ahimsa Puraskar instituted by the Akhil Bharatiya Digambar Jain Mahasamiti

Varthaman

The BBC journalist who has been chosen for the Chameli Devi Jain Award-2018 for Outstanding Woman Journalist for the year 2018

Ms. Priyanka Dubey

Defence

The air force base at which CH 47 F(I)- Chinook heavy lift helicopters were inducted into the Indian Air Force

Chandigarh

The naval base at which a state of the art "Nuclear, Biological, Chemical Training Facility - ABHEDYA", was commissioned by the Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Sunil Lamba

INS Shivaji, Lonavla

The present Flag Officer Commanding in Chief of Eastern Naval Command who has been chosen to be the next Chief of Naval Staff with effect from 31 May 2019

Vice Admiral Karambir Singh

The joint military exercise between armies of India &Sri Lanka to be conducted from 26 March to 08 April 2019 in Sri Lanka.

Exercise Mitra Shakti-VI

The inaugural Africa-India Field Training Exercise for India and African nations held from 18 March to 27 March 2019 at Aundh Military Station, Pune

AFINDEX-19

The third in the series of bilateral joint exercise between India and Oman scheduled to be held from 12 to 25 March 2019 at Jabel Al Akhdar Mountains in Oman is named

Exercise Al Nagah III

The place in Uttar Pradesh where the facility to manufacture AK-203 rifles was

Ordnance Factory,
inaugurated by the PM Shri Narendra Modi  

Korwa (Amethi)

The 8th edition of India-Bangladesh joint military exercise being conducted at Tangail, Bangladesh from 02 March to 15 March 2019  

Sampriti-2019

The mission in which a missile (A-SAT) launched from APJ Abdul Kalam island shot down a low earth satellite at a height of 300 km was named  

Mission Shakti

**Sports**

The team which has won the 2018-19 edition of Indian Super League defeating FC Goa in the finals  

Bengaluru FC

The cricket playing nation which has won its first test match in its cricket history (against Ireland) in Dehradun  

Afghanistan

The Indian gymnast who has been chosen as the a Barbie Role Model by US based toy maker Mattel Inc.  

Dipa Karmakar

The Indian chess player who has become the 61st person from the country to become a Grandmaster  

P Iniyan

The Swiss tennis player who has become the second person in the world to win 100 ATP titles in his career (after Jimmy Connors)  

Roger Federer

The West Indian cricketer who has become the first in the world to hit more than 500 sixes in international cricket  

Chris Gayle

**Persons**

The former Supreme Court Judge who has been chosen to be India's first Lokpal  

Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghosh

The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet Minister for Information Technology, Panchayati Raj and Rural Development who has been recognised by the World Economic Forum as a Young Global Leader for 2019  

Nara Lokesh

The new Chairperson of the newly constituted National Commission for Backward Classes  

Bhagwan Lal Sahni

**Banking**

The bank on which the Reserve Bank of India has imposed a penalty of Rs. 2 crores for non-compliance of regulatory directions about SWIFT operations  

Punjab National Bank

The public sector bank which has become the first in the country to link savings bank interest rate to RBI repo rate  

State Bank of India
Railways

The manufacturing unit of Indian Railways which has become the world's largest rail coaches maker surpassing the top Chinese manufacturers

Integral Coach Factory, Chennai

Places

The new name of the capital city Astana of Kazakhstan in the honour of outgoing President Nursultan Nazarbayev

Nursultan

The place in Uttar Pradesh at which the foundation stone of National Institute of Unani Medicine was laid by Union Minister of State (IC) for AYUSH Shri Shripad Yesso Naik

Ghaziabad

Miscellaneous

The cloud gaming subscription service launched by multinational technology company Google capable of streaming video games in 4K resolution at 60 frames per second

Google Stadia

The tropical cyclone which hit Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Malawi and Madagascar and caused loss of thousands of lives

Cyclone Idai

The German car manufacturer which has been imposed a penalty of Rs. 500 crore by the National Green Tribunal

Volkswagen

The day in March which has been declared to be observed as Jan Ausadhi Diwas to create awareness about use of generic medicines

07 March

The rank of India in the Internet Inclusive Index released by Economic Intelligence Unit (Top 3 countries are Sweden, Singapore and USA

47th

GI Tags to 5 varieties of Indian coffee

Government of India has recently awarded Geographical Indication (GI) to five varieties of Indian coffee. They are:

1. **Coorg Arabica** coffee is grown specifically in the region of Kodagu district in Karnataka.

2. **Wayanaad Robusta** coffee is grown specifically in the region of Wayanad district of Kerala.

3. **Chikmagalur Arabica** coffee is grown specifically in the region of Chikmagalur district in the Malnad region of Karnataka.

4. **Araku Valley Arabica** coffee can be described as coffee from the hilly tracks of Visakhapatnam district of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha region at an elevation of 900-1100 Mt MSL.
5. **Bababudangiris Arabica** coffee is grown specifically in the birthplace of coffee in India and the region is situated in the central portion of Chikmagalur district.

NOTE: The Monsooned Malabar Robusta Coffee, a unique specialty coffee from India, was given GI certification earlier.

**World Happiness Index 2019**

Released by: UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Country</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>Pakistan</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Norway</td>
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<td>China</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Iceland</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**New 20 Rupee Coin**

Shape: 12 edged polygon

Metal: Copper (65%), Zinc (15%), Nickel (20%) (Outer ring) and Copper (75%), Zinc (20%), Nickel (5%) (Inner ring)

Diameter: 27 mm

Weight: 8.54 gms

**Swachh Survekshan 2019**

Cities covered: **4327**

Overall national ranking


India's cleanest big city: **Amdavad**

India’s cleanest medium city: **Ujjain**

India's cleanest small city: **New Delhi Muncipal Council**

**Passing away of Goa CM Shri Manohar Parriker**

Born: 13 Dec 1955, Death: 17 March 2019

Defence Minister of India from Nov 2014 to March 2017

Alma mater: IIT, Mumbai

Successor to Goa CM's post: Shri Pramod Sawant

GI Tags

The following items were granted Geographical Indication Tags recently

1. Marayoor Jaggery (Idukki, Kerala)
2. Sirsi Supari (Siddpaur, Sirsi and Yellapur taluks of Uttara Kannada, Karnataka)
3. Thirubhuvanam Silk Saree (Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu)

One Nation One Card

Launched by : Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi

Launched at: Ahmedabad

1. The card will allow users to pay for all modes of vehicles across India.
2. The Indigenous Automatic Fare Collection System based on One Nation One Card Model i.e. National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) is the first of its kind in India.
3. It consists of NCMC Card, SWEEKAR (Swachalit Kiraya: Automatic Fare Collection System) and SWAGAT (Swachalit Gate).
4. The Gate & Reader prototype has been made by BEL.

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan Yojana

Launched by : Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi

Launched at: Vastral in Gujarat.

The scheme assures a monthly pension of Rs. 3000 for the enrolled unorganized sector workers during their old age.

Informal sector workers earning less than Rs. 15000 per month to enroll as beneficiaries in the nearby Common Service Centre.

A contribution of equal amount as that of the beneficiary will be made by the Union Government.

The contribution of a subscriber ranges from Rs 55/- to Rs 200/- depending on his entry age which is 18 to 40.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Important Days of March</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Zero Discrimination Day**: 01 March 2019  
Designated by: UNAIDS  
First Observed in: 2014 |
| **World Wildlife Day**: 03 March 2019  
Designated by: United nations General Assembly  
Theme: Life Below Water: For People and Planet  
First Observed in: 2014 |
| **World Hearing Day**: 03 March 2019  
Designated by: W.H.O.  
Theme: Check your Hearing  
First Observed in: 2007 |
| **International Women’s Day**: 08 March 2019  
Designated by: U.N.O.  
Theme: Think Equal, Build Smart, Innovate for Change  
First Observed by UN in: 1975 |
| **World Kidney Day**: 14 March 2019  
Designated by: International Society of Nephrology (ISN) and the International Federation of Kidney Foundations (IFKF)  
Theme: Kidney Health for Everyone, Everywhere  
First Observed in: 2006 |
| **World Consumer Rights Day**: 15 March 2019  
Designated by: Consumers International  
Theme: Trusted Smart Products  
First Observed in: 1983 |
| **International Day of Happiness**: 20 March 2019  
Designated by: UN General Assembly  
First Observed in: 2013 |
| **International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination**: 21 March 2019  
Designated by: UN General Assembly  
Theme: Mitigating and countering rising nationalist populism and extreme supremacist ideologies  
First Observed in: 1966 |
| **International Day of Forests**: 21 March 2019  
Designated by: UN General Assembly  
Theme: Forests and Education – Learn to Love Forests  
First Observed in: 2013 |
| **World Poetry Day**: 21 March 2019  
Designated by: UNESCO  
First Observed in: 2000 |
| **World Down Syndrome Day**: 21 March 2019  
Designated by: UN General Assembly  
Focus: Leave No One Behind  
First Observed in: 2012 |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims</strong></th>
<th>24 March 2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Designated by: UN General Assembly</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Theme: Remember Slavery: The Power of the Arts for Justice</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>First Observed in: 2008</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>International Day of Remembrance of Victims of Slavery and Transatlantic Slave Trade</strong></th>
<th>25 March 2019</th>
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<th><strong>World Theatre Day</strong></th>
<th>27 March 2019</th>
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<tr>
<td>Designated by: International Theatre Institute, France</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>First Observed in: 1961</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Abbreviations in News**

- **SHREYAS**: Scheme for Higher Education Youth in Apprenticeship and Skills
- **QRSAM**: Quick Reach Surface-to-Air Missiles
- **YUVIKA**: YUva VIgyani KAryakram

**Books in News**

- **Every Vote Counts** - Navin Chawla (former Chief Election Commissioner)

Mail your queries, complaints and suggestions to [admin@leadthecompetition.in](mailto:admin@leadthecompetition.in)