

CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2019

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 **Wing Cdr Abhinandan 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 Iniyar**

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

Rank	Country	Rank	Country
1.	Finland	140	India
2.	Denmark	67	Pakistan
3.	Norway	93	China
4.	Iceland	125	Bangladesh
5.	Netherlands	130	Sri Lanka

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

1. Indore; 2. Ambikapur; 3. Mysuru; 4. Ujjain; 5. New Delhi (NDMC)

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

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

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

Passing away of Goa CM Shri Manohar Parriker

Born: 13 Dec 1955, Death: 17 March 2019

Chief Minister of Goa from Oct 2000 to Feb 2005, March 2012 to Nov 2014 and March 2017 to 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: **Vastrapal** 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.

Important Days of March

<p>Zero Discrimination Day: 01 March 2019 Designated by: UNAIDS First Observed in: 2014</p>
<p>World Wildlife Day: 03 March 2019 Designated by: United nations General Assembly Theme: Life Below Water: For People and Planet First Observed in: 2014</p>
<p>World Hearing Day: 03 March 2019 Designated by: W.H.O. Theme: Check your Hearing First Observed in: 2007</p>
<p>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</p>
<p>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</p>
<p>World Consumer Rights Day: 15 March 2019 Designated by: Consumers International Theme: Trusted Smart Products First Observed in: 1983</p>
<p>International Day of Happiness: 20 March 2019 Designated by: UN General Assembly First Observed in: 2013</p>
<p>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</p>
<p>International Day of Forests: 21 March 2019 Designated by: UN General Assembly Theme: Forests and Education – Learn to Love Forests First Observed in: 2013</p>
<p>World Poetry Day: 21 March 2019 Designated by: UNESCO First Observed in: 2000</p>
<p>World Down Syndrome Day: 21 March 2019 Designated by: UN General Assembly Focus: Leave No One Behind First Observed in: 2012</p>

<p>World Water Day: 22 March 2019 Designated by: UN General Assembly Theme: Leaving no one behind First Observed in: 1993</p>
<p>World Tuberculosis Day: 24 March 2019 Designated by: WHO Theme: It's Time First Observed in: 1982</p>
<p>International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims: 24 March 2019 Designated by: UN General Assembly First Observed in: 2011</p>
<p>International Day of Remembrance of Victims of Slavery and Transatlantic Slave Trade: 25 March 2019 Designated by: UN General Assembly Theme: Remember Slavery: The Power of the Arts for Justice First Observed in: 2008</p>
<p>World Theatre Day: 27 March 2019 Designated by: International Theatre Institute, France First Observed in: 1961</p>

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)

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