

Weekly Current G.K.

Sr. No. 2018.3.1

March 2018

1st Week

Note: weekly GK is also available on Panacea app.

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=panaceabharti.com.panaceabhartiapp>



NEW VACANCIES

- RRB Track Maintainer Grade-IV – 62907 posts Apply by: 31.03.18
- RRB Assistant Loco Pilot, Technicians Posts-26502 Apply by: 31.03.18

in Kolkata, West Bengal. The function was focused on the promotion of geotextiles in the northeast region. Geotextiles are absorbent fabrics which, when used in association with soil, have the ability to separate, filter, reinforce, protect or drain.

IMPORTANT DAYS

- **March 03:** National Defense Day
- **March 04:** National Security Day
- **March 08:** International Women's Day; International Literacy Day
- **March 09:** CISF The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) (Raising Day)

NATIONAL EVENTS

- **Conference of Indian Jute Industries'**: The 27th Technological Conference of Indian Jute Industries' Research Association (IJIRA) on Shaping the Future of Jute was held

- **Zero Discrimination Day (ZDD):** The Zero Discrimination Day (ZDD) is observed every year on March 1 to promote the idea that everyone has a right to live with dignity. The day is also meant to highlight how everyone can be part of the transformation and take a stand towards a fair and just society. It recognizes that no one should ever be discriminated against because of their age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, race, ethnicity, language, health (including HIV) status, geographical location, economic status or migrant status, or

for any other reason. This year (2018), the Zero Discrimination Day campaign invites people to ask themselves “What if ...” and to reflect upon their own actions.

- **Civil Accounts Day:** The 42nd Civil Accounts Day (CAD-2018) was celebrated by Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS) on March 1 in New Delhi to mark the 42nd anniversary of the beginning of the ICAS on this day in 1976. The ICAA is one of the Civil Services of India (“Group A”), which functions under the Department of Expenditure in the Union Ministry of Finance. It performs a key role in delivery of financial management services for the Government of India. The organisation provides payment services, supports the tax collection system, performs government wide accounting, financial reporting functions, preparation of budget estimates and carries out Internal Audit in civil ministries of the Union Government.

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

- **India's assistance to Jordan:** India will provide \$5 million dollar assistance to **Jordan** in the form of vaccines and medicines in 2018. Apart from this, India and Jordan have inked 12 agreements in areas including Defence, Health and

Cultural Exchange Programme. The other MoUs include cooperation between Prasar Bharati and Jordan TV Cooperation and Indian Institute of Mass Communication and Jordan Media Institute (JMI). The MoU between Prasar Bharti and Jordan TV provides for cooperation in the fields of exchange and co-production of programs, training of personnel and further coordination. The pacts were inked after delegation-level talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and King of Jordan Abdullah II Bin Al Hussein in New Delhi. The King Abdullah II arrived in New Delhi on February 27 on a three-day visit to India.

- **India has signed (MoU) with foreign partners — Russia & Bangladesh:** For the first time, India has signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with foreign partners — Russia & Bangladesh — for civil nuclear cooperation. The MoU will be helpful for cooperation in construction of Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant in Pabna, Bangladesh. This will be first ever nuclear power plant in Bangladesh. It was signed in Moscow by deputy director general of Rosatom (Russia’s Alex civil nuclear body) Nikolay Spassky, ambassador of Bangladesh in Russia SM Saiful Hoque and Indian ambassador to Russia Pankaj Saran. The Rooppur project is the first

initiative under an Indo-Russian deal to undertake atomic energy projects in third countries. This will also be the first time Indian companies will be able to participate in a nuclear power project abroad. India is not a member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) and hence cannot participate directly in construction of atomic power reactors. The Nuclear Power Cooperation of India Limited (NPCIL) will play a key role in building a nuclear power plant on foreign soil with the proposed supply of equipment and material for the power station being built by Russia in Bangladesh.

PERSONS IN NEWS

- **Prafulla Das (91)**, the renowned litterateur, has passed away at Rajkanika in Kendrapara district of Odisha on March 3, 2018. He was a recipient of the prestigious “**Sarala Award**” for his achievement in the literary field. ‘**Banhimana**’, the biography of freedom fighter Malati Chaudhury, brought him the Sarala Award in 2014. Das had written a number of books on the history of India’s freedom struggle and the role of Odisha.
- **Mahendra Singh Dhoni**, the noted an Indian cricketer, has become a brand ambassador of gaming platform Dream11 on March 5, 2018. Dhoni, who had led the country to a famous triumph in the inaugural

World T20 Championship in 2007, would be the new face of the gaming platform’s multi-channel marketing campaigns and brand engagement activities. Dhoni captained the Indian team in limited-overs formats from 2007 to 2016 and in Test cricket from 2008 to 2014. Currently the gaming platform has a user base of 2 crore sports fans playing “fantasy cricket, football, kabaddi and NBA.

- **Conrad Sangma**, the President of National People’s Party (NPP) & currently a Member of Parliament (MP) from Tura Lok Sabha constituency, has been sworn-in as the 12th Chief Minister of Meghalaya. He is the son of former Lok Sabha Speaker late PA Sangma. NPP won 19 seats in the recently held Assembly polls and cobbled up a coalition government in the state with the support of other regional parties, the BJP and an Independent MLA. P A Sangma was a former Union minister and Lok Sabha speaker. He was also the Meghalaya chief minister from 1988 to 1990.

OBITUARY

- **Arabinda Muduli (56)**, the noted Odia Bhajan singer, musician and lyricist, has passed away in Bhubaneswar, **Odisha** on March 1, 2018. Having rendered over 3,000 songs, Muduli would be remembered for his hit bhajans like Kala Saante Acha Kemante and Jaga Pain Niti

Mali Phula. He was a devotee of lord Jagannath and sang only Bhajans. He was a disciple of legendary bhajan singer Bhikari Bal. A musician, singer and lyricist, Muduli enthralled the audience with devotional songs and had won the hearts of millions of people in Odisha and elsewhere.

PLACES IN NEWS

- **Tamil Nadu:** The Tamil Nadu Government has set up a 24-hour helpline that would provide information on education and offer guidance to students on March 1, 2018. Chief Minister K Palaniswami has formally launched the toll-free number – 14417 through the 24-hour Education Guidance Centre set up at the Secretariat that would offer information relating to school education and offer guidance to students.
- **Odisha:** The Odisha government has launched a programme “Ama Gaon, Ama Vikas (Our Village, our development)” to reach out to the people in rural areas and involve themselves in the developmental activities. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has flagged off mobile video vans for ‘Ama Gaon Ama Vikas’ programme that will move across the State to highlight various welfare schemes at villages in the state. Through these Wi-Fi enabled latest technology video wall vans, people
- can directly send their grievances to the Chief Minister’s Office at the Secretariat in Bhubaneswar. This initiative will help people in solving their grievances instantly.
- **Punjab:** The Punjab Government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with e-Governance Foundation (e-Gov) of Nandan Nilekani regarding the managing of electronic governance of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) throughout Punjab. With this, a total of 67 services would be provided online within a span of one year under 12 modules — that are property tax, water and sewerage management, complaints and grievance, licensing, fire service, verification, birth and death, ULB web portal, mobile application, state and ULB dashboards, payroll and financial accounting.
- **Goa:** The Shigmotsav is the biggest festival for the Hindus in **Goa**, which is celebrated in the month of Phalgun (March) from the 9th moon day to full moon day as per the Hindu calendar. The 5th day is called ‘Rang Panchami’. This day of rejoicing is celebrated with the abundant use of ‘Gulal’ or red powder. This year, in 2018, the 2-week long festival has started from March 3. The Shigmotsav or Shigmo is one of the several cultural festivals of the coastal state and is celebrated through colours, costumes, music,

dance and parades. The Shigmo parades will give one and all a chance to take a glimpse at the life of a Goan which is depicted in elaborate folk performances by local men and women who dance tirelessly in huge processions along with the parade. Folk dances like Ghode Modni and Fugdi will be performed on the streets in massive troupes along the procession, showcasing the traditions of Goa.

AWARDS

- **Best Actress Award:** **Frances McDormand** has won the **best actress award at the 90th Academy Awards 2018** for her performance as a grieving mother in movie “**Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri**”, at the award ceremony held at Hollywood’s Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles on March 5. It is the second time **McDormand** has picked up the best actress statuette, following a 1996 win for her performance in **Fargo**. Beside her, Gary Oldman won the Oscar for the Best actor for portraying the role of former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill in the period drama in movie ‘Darkest Hour’. Allison Janney took home the coveted Best Supporting Actress award for ‘I, Tonya’, while Sam Rockwell won the Oscar for Best Supporting Actor for his role in

Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri.

- **Lifetime achievement award:** Actor-politician **Shatrughan Sinha** has been honoured with a lifetime achievement award for his contribution to the fields of arts and politics at a ceremony in the UK’s Parliament complex on March 2, 2018. The annual ‘**Political and Public Life Awards**’ presented by Britain’s Asian Voice weekly newspaper, recognises individuals who have made a significant impact on public life or made a difference in their local communities. Sinha, who started his career as an actor in late 1960s, has to his credit over 225 Hindi feature films besides several in other Indian languages. A member of the ruling BJP, he represents **Bihar state’s Patna Sahib** constituency in the **Lok Sabha**, the lower house of Parliament.

SPORTS

- **Manu Bhaker:** India’s shooter **Manu Bhaker** from **Haryana** won the gold medal in **10 metre Air Pistol Women** event at the 2018 ISSF World Cup in Guadalajara, Mexico on March 4. She shot 237.5 points to bag top honour at the ongoing event. Meanwhile, in the men’s 10-metre Air Rifle event, Ravi Kumar won a Bronze, which was his first World Cup medal. India has so

far bagged 4 medals – two gold and two bronze at the event. A total of 404 athletes from 50 National Olympic Committees are participating in the in the 12-day competition, which will have 15 medal events including three mixed team events. India has fielded a 33-member squad.

- **Indian Snooker team lifted:** The Indian Snooker team has lifted the first edition of IBSF Snooker Team World Cup title and won the prize money of \$15,000. The Indian duo of Pankaj Advani and Manan Chandra defeated Pakistan (Muhammad Asif, Babar Masih) in the best-of-five final played in Doha on March 2.
- **Navjot Kaur first Indian woman to win a Gold medal:** has scripted history by becoming the **first Indian woman to win** a Gold medal at the Senior Asian Wrestling Championships. She clinched the coveted yellow metal in the 65 kg freestyle category at the tournament held at Bishkek in Kyrgyzstan on March 2, 2018. Navjot defeated Japan's Miya Imai, 9-1 in a one-sided final bout yesterday to give India's its first Gold of the ongoing Championships. Rio Olympics Bronze medallist Sakshi Malik won a bronze in the 62 kg division after getting the better of Kazakhstan's Ayaulym Kassymova, 10-7. **The two medals took India's medals tally to six – 1 Gold, 1 Silver and 4 Bronze.**

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- **Test-fired Anti Tank Guided Missiles:** India has successfully test-fired Anti Tank Guided Missiles (ATGM) Nag in desert conditions against two tank targets at different ranges and timings on Feb 28, 2018. With this, the developmental trials of the missile have been completed and it is now ready for induction. The third-generation 'fire-and-forget' anti-tank missile 'Nag' has been developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Program (IGMDP). It has a operational range of 500m to 4km (Land version) & 7-10km (Air-launched).
- **First Helicopter-taxi Service:** India's first helicopter-taxi service has been successfully launched in **Bengaluru, Karnataka** which drastically reduces travel time for commuters. At present, the Heli taxi service is operating between Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) and Electronic City. The service is expected to reduce the time taken to cover the distance from **2 hours to 15 minutes**. The helicopter will seat up to six people apart from the pilot and **the service will cost Rs 3,500 plus GST**.

MISCELLANEOUS GK

- **Annual Cultural Festival:** The mega annual cultural festival ‘India by the Nile’ will be held in Cairo, Egypt from March 6, 2018 with main focus on classical culture. The 12-day event will host a wide range of events to celebrate Indian culture and its diversity. It is the biggest foreign festival in Egypt which provides audiences an Indian cultural experience and encourages artistic collaborations between India and Egypt will be held in several cities such as Cairo. The festival, which is organised by the Embassy of India in Egypt and the Maulana Azad Centre for Indian Culture in collaboration with entertainment company Teamwork Arts, is a celebration of contemporary and classical music, dance, theatre, visual arts, film, food and literature.
- **Udyam Sakhi Portal:** The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) launched a Udyam Sakhi portal for women entrepreneurs of India on the occasion of 2018 International Women’s Day: The “www.udyamsakhi.org” portal is a network for nurturing social entrepreneurship and creating business models for low cost products and services in order to empower women and make them self-reliant and self-sufficient. The

portal provides assistance through its platform for entrepreneurship learning tools, incubation facility, training programs for fund raising, providing mentors, one-on-one investor meet, provide market survey facility and technical assistance.

- **Mundra Thermal Power Station:** The **Mundra Thermal Power Station** is located at Mundra in Kutch district of **Gujarat**. The power plant is one of the coal-based power plants of Adani Power. The source of water for the power plant is sea water from the Gulf of Kutch. It is the world’s 11th-largest single location coal-based thermal power plant as well as India’s second largest operational power plant.

CURRENT AFFAIRS QUIZ

1. The Nathpa Jhakri Dam (NJD) is built across which river in Himachal Pradesh?
[A] Satluj River [B] Beas River
[C] Ravi River [D] Tons River
2. The All India Radio and National Book Trust (NBT) has signed a MoU to preserve and promote cultural heritage. Where is the headquarters of NBT located?
[A] Delhi [B] Pune
[C] Kolkata [D] Bhopal
3. Which city is hosting the 19th edition of FICCI Frames 2018?
[A] Mumbai [B] Pune
[C] New Delhi [D] Kochi

4. Which Indian chess master has clinched the 2018 Tal Memorial Rapid Chess tournament in Moscow?
[A] Tania Sachdev
[B] Koneru Humpy
[C] Parimarjan Negi
[D] Viswanathan Anand
5. Vinod Kumar Omprakash has clinched bronze in which men's freestyle category at the 2018 Asian Wrestling Championships?
[A] 65kg [B] 70kg
[C] 62kg [D] 60kg
6. Which Indian naval command is hosting the multinational mega event 'Milan 2018' at Port Blair?
[A] Eastern Naval Command
[B] Western Naval Command
[C] Southern Naval Command
[D] Andaman & Nicobar Naval Command
7. Which committee has been constituted by the Union Government to study issues in Fintech space?
[A] Arun Jaitley committee
[B] Ajit Doval committee
[C] Subhash Chandra Garg committee
[D] Manohar Parrikar committee
8. Javed Abidi, the noted disability rights activist has passed away. He belonged to which state?
[A] Uttar Pradesh
[B] Himachal Pradesh
[C] Telangana
[D] Rajasthan
9. Which state government has launched the free sanitary napkin scheme 'Khushi' for girl students across the state?
[A] Punjab [B] Kerala
[C] Karnataka [D] Odisha
10. What is the theme of the 2018 World Wildlife Day (WWD)?
[A] Big cats: predators under threat
[B] Listen to the young voices
[C] Stop wildlife crime
[D] The future of wildlife is in our hands
11. The 29th edition of the world-famous International Yoga Festival (IYF-2018) was held in which Indian state?
[A] Uttar Pradesh
[B] Uttarakhand
[C] Jharkhand
[D] Madhya Pradesh

Answers: 1-11: AAADB/ DCADA/ B