

Weekly Current G.K.

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MARCH 2019

3rd week

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NEW VACANCIES

- 196 vacancies of TGT by Samagra Shiksha, Chandigarh. **Last Date:** 22nd March, 2019.
- 4103 Vacancies of Food Corporation of India. **Last Date:** 30th March, 2019.
- 5134 Recruitment in SSC CHSL **Last Date:** 05.04.19
- 590 Recruitment of Assistant Administrative Officers (AAOS) **Last Date:** 22.03.19

- **Integral Coach Factory of Chennai became the world's largest rail coach manufacturer**

Indian Railways **Integral Coach Factory (ICF)** has surpassed the top Chinese manufacturers after creating a 40% record increase in its production. With this, Indian Railway's oldest and premier coach manufacturing unit becomes the single largest rail coach manufacturer in the world.

IMPORTANT DAYS

- ♣ **March 8 :** International Women's Day
- ♣ **March 15:** World Consumer Day
- ♣ **March 21:** World Forestry Day
- ♣ **March 22:** World Water Day

NATIONAL EVENTS

- **India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (Ind-Indo Corpat) began at Port Blair**
The 33rd edition of the **India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (Ind-Indo Corpat)** was started on March 19, 2019 and will continue till 4th April 2019 at **Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Islands** in order to enhance interoperability and strengthen existing bonds of friendship between India and Indonesia. The closing ceremony will be held at Belawan, Indonesia.

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

- **First ever High-Level Dialogue on Indo-Pacific Cooperation (HLD-IPC) held in Jakarta, Indonesia**
The Government of Indonesia has hosted the first ever **High-Level Dialogue on Indo-Pacific Cooperation (HLD-IPC)** in its capital city Jakarta. The theme of the HLD was **"Towards a Peaceful, Prosperous, and Inclusive Region"**. It was inaugurated by Indonesia's Vice President **Jusuf Kalla**.

PERSONS IN NEWS

- **Pramod Sawant** On 19th March 2019, BJP MLA and Former Speaker of Goa legislative assembly **Pramod Sawant(45)** took **Pramod Sawant** oath as 13th Chief Minister of Goa succeeding Manohar

Parrikar, who died due to Cancer. Governor Mridula Sinha administered the oath of office of Pramod Sawant.

OBITUARY

- **Mohan Narayan Rao Samant** The 1971 India-Pakistan war hero, **Captain Mohan Narayan Rao Samant** of the Indian Navy, passed away at the Bharatiya Arogya Nidhi Hospital in Juhu at the age of 89 years due to cardiac arrest. He was a native of Pune (Maharashtra).
- **Dick Dale** On 16th March 2019 American Rock Guitarist **Dick Dale**, popularly known as the **King of the Surf Guitar** was died at the age of 81 due to ill health.
- On 18th March 2019, Veteran Bengali actor, **Chinmoy Roy** who was known for his portrayal of comic characters, passed away at his salt lake residence following Cardiac arrest at the age of 79.
- Goa Chief Minister **Manohar Parrikar** passed away at the age of **63 years** after fighting a prolonged battle with pancreatic cancer at his residence in **Panaji, Goa**. He is the India's 18th and Goa's second chief minister to die in office.

PLACES IN NEWS

- **Kazakhstan renames its capital Astana as Nursultan after ex-president** On 20th March 2019, **Kazakhstan** has renamed its capital as **Nursultan** from its previous name **Astana** in order to recognize its outgoing leader **Nursultan Nazarbayev (78)**, who has served **nearly 30 years** as president of Kazakhstan.
 - i. The name was changed after **Kassym-Jomart Tokayev** sworn in as president of

Kazakhstan. The new president will serve till **April 2020**.

New Delhi: On 19th March 2019, Union Finance Minister **Arun Jaitley** chaired **34th meeting of the Goods and Services Tax Council in New Delhi**. It discussed the operational details for implementation of the recommendations made by the 33rd meeting of the council.

AWARDS

- **2019 Templeton Prize won by Brazilian astronomer Marcelo Gleiser** On 19th March 2019, Brazilian physicist and astronomer Marcelo Gleiser won the 2019 Templeton Prize, worth \$1.4m (Rupees 9,61,20,500), for combining science and spirituality in his work.
 - **Key Points:**
 - i. He is the first Latin American to win the award, which is given for exceptional contribution for directing life's spiritual dimension.
 - ii. The prize started by late global investor Sir John Templeton in 1972.
 - iii. In the year 2018, it was won by King Abdullah II of Jordan.
- **Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani Tops list of World's Richest Sports Team Owners** Asia's richest man and Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani topped the Forbes World's Richest Sports Team Owners 2019 list with a total net worth of about \$50 billion.
- **Kathak dancer Seema Mehta conferred with Nari Shakti Puraskar by the President:** President **Ram Nath Kovind** awarded the 'Nari Shakti Puraskar' to the renowned **Kathak dancer Seema Mehta** for her contribution towards women empowerment over the

last 15 years, at Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi as part of the Women's Day celebrations.

SPORTS

- **India defeated Nepal, won SAFF Women's championship** On 22nd March 2019, **India** clinched **South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Women's Championship 2019** by **defeating Nepal** for **3-1** in **Biratnagar, Nepal**. It was for the **fifth time** in a row that India won the championship.
- **Mercedes' Valtteri Bottas wins Australian F1 Grand Prix 2019** Mercedes Formula One (F1) driver Valtteri Bottas has clinched his first championship in the Australian Grand Prix held in Melbourne. He was followed by Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes and Red Bull's Max Verstappen.
- **Asian Youth Athletes Championship: India finishes second in medal tally** India finishes second in **Asian Youth Athletes Championship held in Hong Kong** with a gold added to the medal tally on the final day of the championship.

Key Points

- i. India secured second position in the overall medals tally with **26 medals** including **8 gold, 9 silver and 9 bronze** medals.
 - ii. **China topped** the championship with 31 medals including 12 gold, 11 silver and 8 bronze. **Japan ranked third** in the Championship with 20 medals. Japan got 6 gold, 8 silver and 6 bronze medals
- **K T Irfan named as first Indian athlete to be chosen for Tokyo Olympics 2020** 29-year-old Indian athlete from Kerala, **K.T. Irfan** has qualified for the **Tokyo Olympics** as he finished fourth in

the men's 20 kilometer category at the **Asian Race Walking Championships** in Nomi, Japan.

- **Diksha became the 2nd Indian golfer to win Ladies European Tour** On 16th March 2019, 18 year old, Indian woman golfer **Diksha Dagar** became the 2nd Indian winner on **Ladies European Tour** after clinching South African Women's Open in Cape Town.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- **Japanese unmanned spacecraft, Hayabusa2 probes Asteroid Ryugu** **Japanese unmanned spacecraft, Hayabusa2** reached **Asteroid Ryugu** on June, 2018. Since then, the spacecraft landed multiple robotic probes on its rocky terrain of the Asteroid Ryugu.

i. The spacecraft had surveyed 69,000 locations covering almost 90 percent of Asteroid Ryugu by using a **near-infrared spectrometer capable of detecting hydrated minerals**.

ii. According to its study published in U.S. Journal Science, the spacecraft probed and found the small amounts of minerals containing water on the surface of the asteroid. A part of the water might be from asteroids and comets.

- **NASA's Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope spotted "cannonball" pulsar speeding through space** On 19th March 2019, **NASA's Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope** and the National Science Foundation's **Karl G. Jansky Very Large Array (VLA)** discovered pulsar hurtling through space.

Key Points

i. This pulsar is named as PSR **J0002+6216** (J0002 for short). It is located 6,500 light years away in the constellation Cassiopeia. It speeds nearly **2.5 million miles per hour** which is as fast as it could travel the distance between Earth and the Moon in just 6 minutes.

ii. Pulsar is a super dense rapidly spinning neutron stars which are left behind when a massive star explodes.

iii. The study will help to better understand how the explosions are able to kick the neutrons to start in such a high speed.

- **Indian Coast Guard ship ‘Vijit’ goes on its maiden voyage to Indonesia** Indian Coast Guard Ship ‘Vijit’ became the **first-ever** Coast Guard ship to visit **Sabang, Indonesia**, highlighting the close maritime proximity between India and Indonesia and strengthening cooperation in the area of maritime security and safety between New Delhi and Jakarta.
- **3 astronauts successfully reached ISS on Russian Soyuz spacecraft** On 15th March 2019, 3 astronauts, **Nick Hague** and **Christina Koch** from US and **Alexey Ovchinin** from Russia arrived at the **International Space Station (ISS)** on Russian Soyuz spacecraft which was launched from **Kazakhstan’s** Baikonur Cosmodrome on 14th March 2019. **Soyuz spacecraft** carries people and supplies to and from International Space Station and it has become the sole means of transportation after the retirement of **Space Shuttle** in 2011.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

- On 20th March 2019, **‘The Great Disappointment: How Narendra Modi Squandered A Unique Opportunity to Transform the Indian Economy’** book

released by economic commentator and Congress member **Salman Anees Soz**.

CURRENT AFFAIRS QUIZ

1. Where did three day 14th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnerships held, which discusses 2 key themes on digital infrastructure and digital skills?
 - 1) Kolkata
 - 2) Pune
 - 3) New Delhi
 - 4) Bengaluru
 - 5) None of these
2. Name the top three cities, that share the top spot in the world’s most expensive city for first time in the 30 year long history according to Economist Intelligence Unit(EIU) survey.
 - i. Singapore
 - ii. Paris
 - iii. Hong Kong
 - iv. Geneva
 - 1) Option i alone
 - 2) Option i & ii alone
 - 3) Option i,ii & iii
 - 4) All the above mentioned Options
 - 5) None of these
3. Where did 4th Round of Free Trade Agreement (FTA) to enhance the two-way commerce between India and Peru held?
 - 1) Trujillo, Peru
 - 2) Bengaluru, India
 - 3) New Delhi, India
 - 4) Lima, Peru
 - 5) None of these
4. Which country has renamed its capital as Nursultan recently?
 - 1) Uzbekistan
 - 2) Kazakhstan
 - 3) Tajikistan
 - 4) Kyrgyzstan
 - 5) None of these
5. Name the bank, that has signed a loan agreement worth USD 83.11 million to Congo for financing three solar power projects.
 - 1) State Bank of India(SBI)
 - 2) HDFC Bank

- 3) Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank)
 - 4) RBL Bank
 - 5) None of these
6. What is the name of the short term loan given by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to state government in order to bridge temporary liquidity mismatches in the state?
 - 1) Ways and Means Advances
 - 2) Short term loans and Advances
 - 3) Short term repaying loans
 - 4) Grants against Fixed Deposits
 - 5) None of these
 7. Which bank has signed MoU with State Bank of India to boost business opportunities between both the banks?
 - 1) Bank of America
 - 2) Bank of China
 - 3) Bank of Scotland
 - 4) HSBC Bank
 - 5) None of these
 8. According to World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), which country filed the greatest number of Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), patent applications in 2018?
 - 1) Germany
 - 2) Japan
 - 3) China
 - 4) US
 - 5) None of these
 9. What is the new rate slashed by GST Council for construction flats during its 34th GST Council that held in New Delhi?
 - 1) 10%
 - 2) 6%
 - 3) 5%
 - 4) 1%
 - 5) None of the these
 10. Name the first Indian low-cost carrier, which received International Air Transport Association (IATA) membership recently.
 - 1) SpiceJet
 - 2) GoAir
 - 3) Air India
 - 4) IndiGo
 - 5) None of these
 11. Who is chosen for Vyas Samman 2018 for his collection of poems "Jitne Log Utne Prem"?
 - 1) Sunita Jain
 - 2) Mamta Kalia
 - 3) Surendra Verma
 - 4) Leeladhar Jagudi
 - 5) None of these
 12. Karen Uhlenbeck has become the first woman to win Abel Prize. Abel Prize is referred as noble prize of which field?
 - 1) Physics
 - 2) Mathematics
 - 3) Chemistry
 - 4) Poetry
 - 5) None of these

Answers: 33423/ 12431/ 42

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