



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MARCH 24, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- For the first time in Chennai, two pedestrian subways - to get CCTV camera surveillance
- ✓ The subways, one near the US Consulate General office and the other close to Thousand Lights, are each getting a makeover at ₹ 1.2 crore budget
- ✓ Two cameras will be installed at the entry and exit points of the subways
- ✓ The state highways department maintains 13 pedestrian subways in Chennai and CCTV cameras will be expanded to all of them soon

STATES

- Karnataka - has launched the water conservation scheme, Jalamrutha

The image displays promotional materials for the Jalamrutha 2019 Year of Water campaign in Karnataka. On the left, a poster features the text "KNOW WATER" and lists three key objectives: "Spread water literacy", "Launch of statewide awareness and education campaigns", and "Remember, every drop of water counts". It also includes the hashtag #Jalamrutha #2019yearofwater. In the center, a smaller poster titled "WATER FOREVER, FOR EVERYONE" shows a group of people participating in a tree-planting activity. On the right, a large graphic shows a hand holding a water drop, with the text "Jalamrutha 2019 YEAR OF WATER". Logos for the Government of Karnataka and the Department of Rural Development and Panchayats are visible at the top of the posters.

- ✓ The scheme focuses on drought-proofing measures, including protection and rejuvenation of water bodies

- ✓ It will be implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj of Karnataka
- ✓ Under the scheme, scientific approaches will be deployed for water budgeting, water harvesting and water conservation through the use of geospatial data, satellite imagery, topographical and geological data
- ✓ The water conservation strategy under the scheme comprises of four components viz. water literacy, rejuvenation of waterbodies, creation of new waterbodies as well as the development of watersheds and afforestation activities
- ✓ Emphasising on water conservation, the government of Karnataka has already announced 2019 as the 'Year of Water'

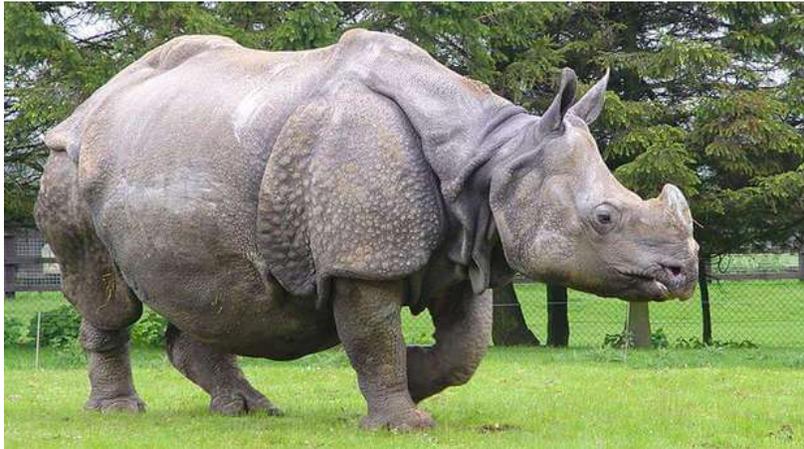
NATIONAL

➤ 'Azaadi ke Diwane' museum - was inaugurated at the Red Fort premises



- ✓ It was dedicated to the unsung heroes of the country's freedom struggle, whose name does not figure in popular culture
- ✓ The museum is built by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and is part of Kranti Mandir Series to inspire the younger generation
- ✓ It is a digitised and interactive museum with a state-of-the-art, informative and educational exhibition set through multi-sensor technology
- ✓ Other Museums part of Kranti Mandi Series
 - ✓ Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Museum
 - ✓ Yaad-e-Jallian Museum
 - ✓ Museum on 1857 - India's first war of Independence, recently inaugurated by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the eve of Republic Day
- **Geological Survey of India (GSI) - has launched 22 permanent global positioning system (GPS) stations across India**
 - ✓ They will help to identify seismically hazardous zones and encourage mapping activities
 - ✓ These 22 stations are part of the 35 stations planned by GSI
 - ✓ Bhuvisamvad is an app launched by the Ministry of Mines to facilitate interaction between geo-scientists and university students

- ✓ Geological Survey of India (GSI) was established in 1851 primarily to find coal deposits for the Railways
- ✓ The main functions of GSI attached to the Ministry of Mines is to create and update of national geoscientific information and mineral resource assessment through various surveys
- **India – signs the ‘New Delhi Declaration on Asian Rhinos 2019’**



- ✓ The declaration calls for the conservation and protection of the species at the Second Asian Rhino Range Countries Meet
- ✓ The meet was organised by the Environment, Forest and Climate Change Ministry in collaboration with IUCN Asian Rhino Specialist Group, WWF- India and Aaranyak
- ✓ India will collaborate with Bhutan, Nepal, Indonesia and Malaysia to increase the population of three species of Asian Rhinos namely Greater one-horned rhinoceros, Javan rhino, and Sumatran rhino
- **Rajnath Singh, Union home minister –inaugurated the ‘BOLD-QIT Surveillance’ along Dhubri district in Assam on the India Bangladesh border**



- ✓ BOLD-QIT stands for Border electronically dominated quick response team interception technique
- ✓ BOLD-QIT, part of the Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS), will help the Border Security Force (BSF) in curbing all types of cross border crimes
- ✓ Dhubri Sector is a critically important region as river Brahmaputra enters into Bangladesh here
- ✓ This region comprises of vast char lands and innumerable river channels
- **PSBloansin59minutes.com** - has emerged as the country's largest online lending platform

CONTACTLESS

BUSINESS LOANS

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Income Tax E Filing password & Date of Incorporation/ Birth OR ITR for latest 3 years in XML format

MSME LOAN UPTO 1
CRORE IN 59 MINUTES

59 minutes.com

- ✓ The portal, which was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2018, has loan sanctions exceeding over Rs 35,000 crore
- ✓ The portal provides credit up to Rs 1 crore to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in just 59 minutes or less than an hour
- **Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)** - created a new Guinness World Record for the longest single moving line bicycle parade at the Yamuna Expressway

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- ✓ The world record was attempted to commemorate the 50 years of the paramilitary force, CISF
- ✓ For creating the World Record the personnel of the central force rode 1,327 bicycles non-stop with a uniform distance between bicycles in a single line, covering 3.2 km distance
- ✓ The CISF broke the earlier record of Hubballi bicycle club of India which had 1,235 bicycles in a single chain
- **India - to observe 'April 2019-March 2020' as Construction-Technology year**



- ✓ This was declared by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi at the Construction Technology India-2019 Expo-cum-conference in New Delhi
- ✓ The declaration of Construction year aims to make the housing sector more dynamic and vibrant
- **Centre for Disability Sports – to come up at Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh**
- ✓ It will be set up at an estimated cost of Rs 170.99 crore
- ✓ The centre would create an improved sports infrastructure to ensure effective participation of persons with disabilities in sports activities
- ✓ It would be registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860
- ✓ A governing body consisting of not exceeding 12 members would be set up for overall supervision of the centre
- ✓ The announcement for setting up of Centre for Disability Sports was made in the Budget of 2014-15
- **Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities - has set a new world record of carrying out Modern Artificial Limbs (Legs) implantation in record 8 hours in Gujarat's Bharuch**
- ✓ This was the seventh world record set by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

INTERNATIONAL

- **Italy - becomes the first member of the Group of Seven nations (G7 nations) to join China's OBOR initiative on March 23**



- ✓ Italy endorsed China's ambitious "Belt and Road" infrastructure plan to help revive the struggling Italian economy
 - ✓ Chinese President Xi Jinping is on a three-day trip to Italy during which Italian firms signed deals with Chinese counterparts worth an initial 2.5 billion Euros (\$2.8 billion)
 - ✓ The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), also known as the One Belt, One Road initiative was incorporated into the ruling Communist Party constitution in 2017
- **Japan - has donated \$69 million to the United Nations World Food Programme**
 - ✓ It provides vital aid to 28 countries in the Middle East, Africa, and Asia, with the biggest contribution being earmarked for Yemen and Iraq
 - ✓ World Food Programme is a leading humanitarian organization delivering food assistance in emergencies saving lives
 - ✓ World Food Programme was established in 1961 by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the United Nations General Assembly
 - ✓ It strives to eradicate hunger and malnutrition and reach the goal of 'Zero hunger' in 2030

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **India - has extended a financial grant of 35.5 million Nepalese rupees for the construction of an educational campus in Nepal under the Development Partnership Programme**

- ✓ The Development Partnership Programme is managed by the Development Administration Partnership division in the Ministry of External Affairs, established in January 2012
- **US – plans to end the Generalized System of Preference (GSP) eligibility criteria for both India and Turkey**
- ✓ India was the largest beneficiary of the GSP programme in 2017 with \$5.7 billion in imports to the US given duty-free status
- ✓ President Trump has accused India of failing to ensure the US “reasonable” access to its markets and indulging in ‘unfair’ trading relationships with high tariffs

COMMITTEES

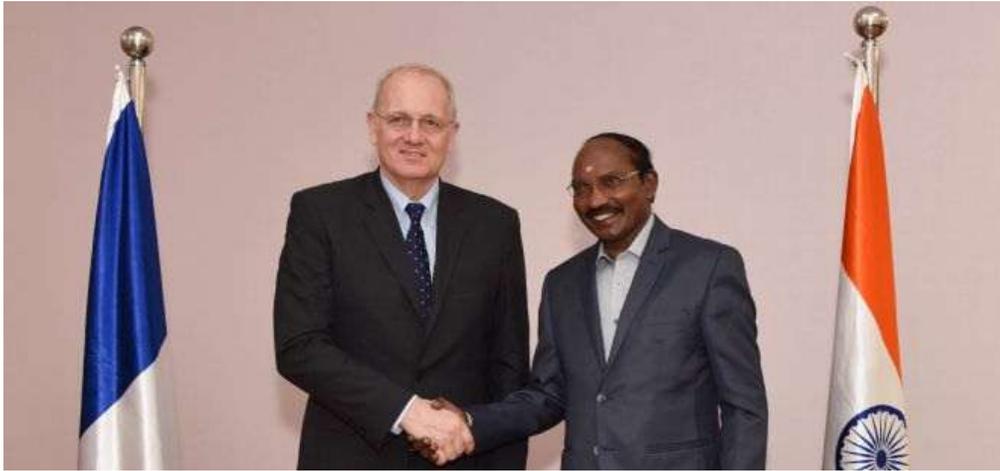
- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) - has constituted a panel under the former deputy governor Usha Thorat - to examine issues related to offshore rupee markets**



- ✓ It will examine the effects of the offshore markets on the rupee exchange rate and market liquidity in the domestic market

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and France Space Agency CNES – have signed agreement to set up a maritime surveillance centre in the country**



- ✓ As per the agreement, they will build a constellation of satellites to identify and track ships in the Indian Ocean
- ✓ CNES will also train Indian Scientists for the 'Gaganyaan' project at the Toulouse Space Centre in France
- ✓ Indian Scientists will also be trained at CADMOS, the centre for development of microgravity applications and space operations, and the MEDES Space Clinic in France
- ✓ India had earlier signed agreement with Russia also for the Gaganyaan project
- **Indian Space Research organisation (ISRO) - has launched the 'Young Scientist Programme' (Yuva Vigyani Karyakram)**



- ✓ It seeks to impart basic knowledge on space technology, space science and applications to the young ones to arouse their interest

- ✓ ISRO will select over 100 students from each state/union territory to participate in the programme and give them practical experience of how satellites are built
- ✓ It is a two-week residential training programme to be held each year during summer holidays for students who are studying in class 9
- ✓ The students from rural areas will be given special weightage in the selection
- ✓ All the expenses of travelling and boarding will be funded entirely by ISRO
- ✓ ISRO will also launch Six incubation centres will be established in various parts of the country – North, South, East, West, Centre and North-East, for Research and Development purposes
- ✓ The first such centre was established in Agartala of Tripura

DEFENCE

- **Union Defence Ministry - has announced that permanent commission will be granted for Women in all the 10 branches of Indian Army**
- ✓ A permanent commission will provide women with a career in the Army till their retirement, whereas the Short Service Commission provides opportunity to serve as a Commissioned Officer for 10/14 years
- ✓ At the end of 10 yrs, 3 options will be provided, either elect for a permanent commission or opt out or have the option of 4 years extension
- ✓ The permanent commission will be set up in branches such as signals, engineers, army aviation, army air defence, electronics and mechanical engineers, army service corps, army ordnance corps and intelligence
- ✓ The Defence Ministry had earlier approved permanent commission for women in all branches of Air Force including fighter pilots
- **‘Red Flag 19’, Military drill exercise- was held in the US from March 3 to 16 at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada**



- ✓ It is an advanced aerial combat training exercise held several times a year by the United States Air Force
 - ✓ The exercise offers realistic air-combat training for military pilots and other flight crew members from the U.S., NATO and other allied countries
 - ✓ The exercise began in the year 1975, following the 'unsatisfactory' performance of US Air force pilots during the Vietnam war
 - ✓ In a typical Red Flag exercise, Blue Forces engage Red Forces in realistic combat situations
- **Mainamati Maitree Exercise 2019 – conducted by Border Security Force (BSF) and Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) in Bangladesh**



- ✓ The exercise was named after Mainamati hill range situated 8 km west of Comilla Township in Bangladesh, which is home to an ancient Buddhist archaeological site in the region
- ✓ The objective of the exercise was to plan and conduct anti-smuggling and anti-criminal activity related operations and conduct joint border management

ECONOMY

- **Global Economic Outlook report of Fitch Ratings**
- ✓ India's economic growth forecast for the next financial year 2019-20, starting from April 1 - was reduced to 6.8% from its previous estimate of 7%
 - ✓ It had predicted Indian GDP growth at 6.8%, followed by 7.1% in 2021-22

APPOINTMENTS

- **Vice Admiral Karambir Singh, chief of Eastern Naval Command - to head the Navy after Admiral Sunil Lanba retires on May 31, 2019**



- ✓ He will now be the Navy chief till November 2021
- ✓ Vice Admiral Singh will be the first helicopter pilot to become the Navy chief
- ✓ Vice Admiral Singh has extensively flown Chetak, Kamov-25 and Kamov-28 antisubmarine warfare helicopters
- ✓ In a career spanning 39 years, he had also commanded missile corvette INS Vijaydurg and guided-missile destroyers INS Rana and INS Delhi
- ✓ He had earlier served as the flag officer commanding Maharashtra and Gujarat Naval Area, director-general of Project Seabird, deputy chief and vice-chief of Naval staff.

AWARDS

- **TVS Motor Company - has bagged the international sustainability award 'Green Era Award for Sustainability' in Lisbon, Portugal.**



- ✓ Tata Motors also won the Quality and Business Excellence Award for the Product quality
- ✓ The Green Era Award for Sustainability was awarded at the Green Economy Forum held at Lisbon

- **Indian Air Force Wing Commander, Abhinandan Varthaman - has been chosen for the first 'Bhagwan Mahavir Ahimsa Puraskar', constituted by the Akhil Bharatiya Digambar Jain Mahasamiti**



- ✓ The award which carries a cash prize of Rs. 2.51 lakh, a memento and a citation will be presented on April 17 the Mahavir Jayanti
- **Odisha State Disaster Management Authority - has bagged the SKOCH Award, 2018 for its remarkable achievements in the field of disaster management**



- ✓ The award was presented at the 56th SKOCH Summit held at New Delhi
- ✓ It had received Order-of-merit in the Gold category for constructing 879 multipurpose cyclone and flood shelters which played a key role in saving human lives during Cyclone Phailin in 2013

- ✓ These awards are the recognition of Odisha becoming a model state in disaster management and risk mitigation since the 1999 Super Cyclone

SPORTS

- In a first of its kind, ESPNcricinfo - has launched "Superstats", counting the luck percentage of teams and players



- ✓ It was developed in association with the researchers from Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M) and Gyan Data (an IIT-M incubated company)
- ✓ Superstats, a new metrics to analyse the game of cricket, comprises of three components - Luck Index, Forecaster, and Smart Stats
- ✓ It takes into account score-cards i.e. ball by ball database of all IPL matches played in India in the last ten years to develop an algorithm based on machine learning system
- ✓ It is based on data science to give a context to every event in a game during this IPL season
- ✓ According to the algorithm, Kolkata Knight Riders with 349 lucky runs stands at the top while Chennai Super Kings follows with 315 lucky runs

