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 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

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 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

47tHGI Tags to 5 varieties of Indian coffee Government of India has recently awarded Geographical Indication (GI) to five varieties of Indian coffee.

They are:

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

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

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

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.

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

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 Muncipal 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

Marayoor Jaggery (Idukki, Kerala)

Sirsi Supari (Siddpaur, Sirsi and Yellapur taluks of Uttara Kannada, Karnataka)

Thirubhuvanam Silk Saree (Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu)

* One Nation One Card

Launched by : Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi

Launched at: Ahmedabad

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.

Important Days of March

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

* World Water Day: 22 March 2019

Designated by: UN General Assembly Theme: Leaving no one behind First Observed in: 1993

World Tuberculosis Day: 24 March 2019 Designated by: WHO Theme: It's Time First Observed in: 1982

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

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 World Theatre Day: 27 March 2019 Designated by: International Theatre Institute, France First Observed in: 1961

* Abbreviations in News

SHREYAS: Scheme for Higher Education Youth in Apprenticeship and Skills

QRSAM: Quick Reach Surface-to-Air Missiles

YUVIKA: YUva VIgyani KAryakram