

March - 05

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Samina Baig, Pakistan's first woman to climb Mount Everest, was today appointed as the goodwill ambassador of the UN Development Programme. She will lead efforts to build national awareness and partnerships around the Global Goals for Sustainable Development.
- ❖ Senior IAS officer Sudhir Tripathy, an IAS officer of 1985 batch, is likely to be appointed as the next Chief Secretary of Jharkhand. He will be succeeding the incumbent Chief Secretary Rajbala Verma. He is presently at the post of Additional Chief Secretary in the state health department.

NATIONAL

Paschim Leher (XPL-18)

- ❖ The Western Naval Command of the Indian Navy has concluded Tri-service maritime exercise 'Paschim Leher' in the Arabian Sea.
- ❖ The objective of the exercise was to build interoperability between Indian Navy, Indian Army, Indian Air Force and Coast Guard.
- ❖ The three-week long exercise tested operational readiness of Indian Navy's Western Command and execution of its operational plans, logistics and administrative plans.
- ❖ INS Vikramaditya, frontline ships of Western Fleet and Eastern Fleet, including newly-inducted Kolkata class ones, submarines, potent missile vessels of 22nd Killer Squadron, patrol vessels and craft of local flotilla and Coast Guard participated in the exercise.

VIKRAMADITYA: SYMBOL OF POWER AT SEA

COMMISSIONED | **Nov 2013**
 DISPLACEMENT | **44,500 tonne**
 MAX SPEED | **30 knots**
 MAX RANGE | **7,000 nautical miles**
 at economical 18 knots speed
 CAPACITY | 24 MiG-29K supersonic fighters & 10 helicopters (anti-submarine Ka-28s, early-warning KM-31s, Dhruv ALH & Chetaks)

CREW » **110 officers, 1,500 sailors**

LENGTH **284 metre**

HEIGHT **60 metre**
 (20-storey tall, with 22 decks)

COST » **\$2.33 billion**
 (for Admiral Gorshkov's refit), plus \$2 billion (for 45 MiG-29Ks)

POWER PLAY

A carrier battle group is the most visible symbol of raw combat power prowling on the high seas	US has 11 Nimitz-class nuclear-powered "super-carriers". Each over 94,000-tonne & capable of carrying 80-90 fighters	China inducted its first 65,000-tonne carrier Liaoning in Sept 2012. Second one under construction, with 2 more in the pipeline	India & Italy have 2 carriers each UK, France, Russia, Spain, Brazil & Thailand have 1 carrier each
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INTERNATIONAL

Mascots for 2020 Olympics and Paralympics

- ❖ Japan has chosen two futuristic fox-like creatures with "supernatural" powers as its mascots for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games.
- ❖ The choice of the mascots comes following a vote where pupils from 16,769 schools were allowed to choose one of three mascot pairings.
- ❖ The winning mascots, which will be named later in the year, were designed by Ryo Taniguchi, a character designer and illustrator.
- ❖ The mascot voting process was part of Tokyo's 2020's national education programme "Yoi Don!" which translates as "Get Set".
- ❖ The Tokyo 2020 Olympics will take place from July 24 to August 9 with the Paralympics running from August 25 to September 6.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

ATGM - Nag

- ❖ India successfully test-fired the DRDO developed Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGM) Nag in desert conditions.
- ❖ The ATGM NAG was tested at Pokhran's field firing range in Jaisalmer district against two tank targets at different ranges and timings.
- ❖ The ATMG Nag missile is one of five missile systems developed indigenously by DRDO under integrated guided missile development programme (IGMDP).
- ❖ The other four missiles developed under this programme include Agni, Akash, Trishul and Prithvi.

Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGM) Nag

- ❖ The Nag missile is third generation anti-tank guided missile which works on “fire and forget” principle.
- ❖ It has been equipped with highly advanced Imaging Infrared Radar (IRR) seeker along with integrated avionics. This technology is possessed by very few nations.
- ❖ Its helicopter launched version is known as Helicopter-Launched NAG (HELINA) that can be fired from Dhruv Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) and HAL Rudra attack helicopter.

STATES

Financial Year 17 - Bihar

- ❖ Bihar clocked a growth rate of 10.3% in 2016-17 as against 7.5% in the corresponding fiscal a year ago, according to the latest Economic Survey tabled in the state Assembly.
- ❖ According to the 12th Economic Survey of Bihar, its growth rate is higher than that of the national average of 7.0 per cent.
- ❖ The state has consistently been revenue surplus, which increased from Rs 5,101 crore in 2012-13 to Rs 10,819 crore in 2016-17.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Laureus Awards 2018

- ❖ Twenty-time tennis grand slam champion Roger Federer has won the **2018 Laureus World Sportsman of the Year** and Comeback of the Year awards.
- ❖ Swiss tennis player Roger Federer holds the record for the most awards with six.



- ❖ Serena Williams took the World Sportswoman of the Year award after winning her 23rd grand slam in 2017.
- ❖ Formula 1 constructors' champions Mercedes picked up the **Team of the Year** accolade, and wheelchair athlete **Marcel Hug** won **Sportsperson of the Year with a Disability**.
- ❖ **Breakthrough of the Year** - Sergio Garcia (golfer)
- ❖ **Laureus Academy Exceptional Achievement award** - Francesco Totti.
- ❖ Brazilian football club Chapecoense were given the Best Sporting Moment of the Year for their response in adversity following a plane crash in 2016 in which they lost the majority of their team.
- ❖ The Laureus World Sports Awards, established in 1999, is an annual award ceremony honouring individuals and teams from the world of sports along with sporting achievements throughout the year.
- ❖ The name "Laureus" is derived from the Greek word for laurel, considered a traditional symbol of victory in athletics.

SPORTS

Youngest captain in international cricket history

- ❖ Afghanistan's leg-spinner Rashid Khan has become the youngest captain in the history of international cricket.
- ❖ Prior to him, Rajin Saleh who led Bangladesh in the 2004 Champions Trophy at the age of 20 years and 297 days was the youngest skipper in men's international cricket.
- ❖ After he was elevated to the number one spot in the ODI bowlers ranking on February 20, Rashid also became the youngest player ever to hold the top spot for any form of ICC men's ranking.
- ❖ He was only 19 years and 152 days when topped the ICC Player Rankings for men, surpassing former Pakistani off-spinner Saqlain 21 years and 13 days record.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World NGO Day – 27 February

- ❖ World NGO Day is an international calendar day, annually observed on the 27th February.
- ❖ The day was officially recognised and declared by the 12-member countries of the IX Baltic Sea NGO Forum of the Council of the Baltic Sea States in 2010 and first time marked by the UN, EU leaders and international organisations in 2014 – hosted by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland.
- ❖ World NGO Day is to inspire people to become more actively involved within NGO sector and encourage a greater symbiosis between NGOs and both the public and private sector.

MISCELLANEOUS

‘SRIJAN’ - MyGov portal

- ❖ Ministry of Railways has launched SRIJAN (Station Rejuvenation through Joint Action), an idea competition for development of 635 railway stations.
- ❖ It was launched on MyGov portal by Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Limited (IRSDC).
- ❖ IRSDC has taken up massive redevelopment of around 600 major Railway stations across the country.
- ❖ In this mega exercise, it will take assistance and involve all stakeholders i.e. railway passengers, urban planners, architects, engineers.

MyGov portal

- ❖ It is a citizen engagement platform launched by Central Govt. in 2014 to promote active participation of citizens in country’s governance and development.
 - ❖ It is hosted and managed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC).
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