

March – 06

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ A new train named as ‘Arunachal Express’ between Naharlagun in Arunachal Pradesh and Anand Vihar Terminal in the national capital was flagged off by Union Ministers Kiren Rijiju and Rajen Gohain for making travelling viable and convenient for the commuters
 - This is the second direct train for Arunachal Pradesh and 14th for North East to connect with the national capital.
- ❖ The Union Minister of State (I/C) of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Dr.Jitendra Singh, launched the social media of “**Namaste Shalom**”, a magazine on India-Israel relations. The magazine is edited by Tarun Vijay, former MP.

NATIONAL

Global Digital Health Partnership Summit

- ❖ Shri J.P.Nadda, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare attended the Global Digital Health Partnership Summit held at Canberra, Australia.
- ❖ The Union Health Minister spoke on the topic: Making Digital Health Services a Priority in Healthcare Reform.
- ❖ Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has the great potential towards improvement of delivery of healthcare services.
- ❖ India is committed to reforms in health service delivery using ICT under Digital India Program of Government of India.

INTERNATIONAL

Russia – Olympics

- ❖ Russia's Olympic membership has been restored by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) following its suspension from Pyeongchang Winter Olympics 2018.

- ❖ The IOC in December banned Russia from competing in Pyeongchang, for its state-sponsored doping programme during the Winter Olympics it hosted in Sochi in 2014.
- ❖ Despite the ban, 168 Russians competed as neutrals in South Korea under Olympic Committee Flag.
- ❖ The Olympic Athletes from Russia (OAR) team was the third largest and won 17 medals, including two golds.
- ❖ Russia is also banned from the 2018 Winter Paralympics in March but, again, some athletes will compete as neutrals.

STATES

Khushi Scheme - Odisha

- ❖ The Odisha government has launched a scheme 'Khushi' to provide free sanitary pads to 17 lakh girl students across the state.
- ❖ The scheme will be implemented by the health and family welfare department of the state for girl students from Class 6 to 12 in all the govt. and govt-aided schools in the state.
- ❖ Earlier, the state government implemented various schemes exclusively for the empowerment of women.
 - ✓ Mission Shakti-for economic empowerment.
 - ✓ MAMATA Scheme- a maternity benefit scheme.

Ama Gaon, Ama Vikas programme

- ❖ Odisha Government has launched 'Ama Gaon, Ama Vikas' (Our Village, our development) programme to reach out to people in rural areas and involve themselves in developmental activities.
- ❖ Under this programme, people can directly send their grievances to Chief Minister's Office (CMO) at Secretariat in Bhubaneswar through Wi-Fi enabled latest technology video wall vans.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Political and Public Life Awards

- ❖ 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.
- ❖ The annual 'Political and Public Life Awards' was presented by Britain's Asian Voice weekly newspaper in its 12th year.
- ❖ It recognises individuals who have made a significant impact on public life or made a difference in their local communities.
- ❖ Among the other winners of the year included Pakistani-origin UK Cabinet minister Sajid Javid, who was named Cabinet Minister of the Year.
- ❖ India's Colors TV bagged the award for Television Channel of the Year and Jet Airways was judged Airline of the Year.
- ❖ An entrepreneur who has introduced the concept of Bengali cuisine supper clubs called 'Little Kolkata to the UK', Prabir Chattopadhyay, was named New Business Entrant of the Year.

90th Academy Awards (Oscars 2018)

- ❖ The 90th Annual Academy Awards (also known as Oscar Awards) were held at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles, the USA.
- ❖ The live-performance auditorium, formerly known as the Kodak Theatre, has hosted every Academy Awards since 2002.
- ❖ Jimmy Kimmel hosted the ceremony for the second year in a row. He has become the first host since Billy Crystal to do so.

Details of the awardees

- ❖ Best Picture – The Shape of Water
- ❖ Best Director - Guillermo del Toro, The Shape of Water
- ❖ Best Actress - Frances McDormand, Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri
- ❖ Best Actor - Gary Oldman, Darkest Hour
- ❖ Best Supporting Actress - Allison Janney (I, Tonya)
- ❖ Best Supporting Actor - Sam Rockwell, Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri

- ❖ Best Original Screenplay - Get Out
- ❖ Best Adapted Screenplay - Call Me by Your Name
- ❖ Best Animated Feature Film – Coco - Lee Unkrich and Darla K. Anderson
- ❖ Best Foreign Language Film - A Fantastic Woman (Chile Movie)
- ❖ Best Original Score - The Shape of Water - Alexandre Desplat
- ❖ Best Original Song - Remember Me - Coco
- ❖ Best Documentary Feature – Icarus - – Bryan Fogel and Dan Cogan
- ❖ Best Documentary Short - Heaven Is A Traffic Jam on the 405 – Frank Stiefel
- ❖ Best Live Action Short - The Silent Child - Chris Overton and Rachel Shenton
- ❖ Best Animation Short - Dear Basketball - – Glen Keane and Kobe Bryant
- ❖ Best Sound Editing – Dunkirk – Richard King and Alex Gibson
- ❖ Best Sound Mixing – Dunkirk – Mark Weingarten, Gregg Landaker and Gary A. Rizzo
- ❖ Best Production Design - The Shape of Water
- ❖ Best Cinematography - Blade Runner 2049 – Roger Deakins
- ❖ Best Makeup and Hair - Darkest Hour - – Kazuhiro Tsuji, David Malinowski and Lucy Sibbick
- ❖ Best Costume Design - Phantom Thread - Mark Bridges
- ❖ Best Film Editing – Dunkirk
- ❖ Best Visual Effects - Blade Runner – John Nelson, Gerd Nefzer, Paul Lambert and Richard R. Hoover

SPORTS

ISSF World Cup

- ❖ Indian shooter Shahzar Rizvi clinched the gold medal with a world record score in a memorable maiden ISSF (International Shooting Sport Federation) World Cup appearance, while Jitu Rai and Mehuli Ghosh bagged a bronze each in Guadalajara, Mexico.



- ❖ The Meerut-based Rizvi beat reigning Olympic champion Christian Reitz of Germany to win the top prize.

IMPORTANT DAYS

National Safety Day – March 4

- ❖ National Safety Day is celebrated on the 4th March every year in India by the National Safety Council of India to commemorate the establishment of this event and to enhance the safety awareness among people.
- ❖ This is the 47th observance of the day.
- ❖ To commemorate the Foundation Day of the Council on 4th March first National Safety Day (NSD) Campaign was launched in 1972.
- ❖ National Safety Council of India is a self-governing body (non-profit and nongovernmental organization for public service) which was established on 4th of March in 1966 under the Societies Act in Mumbai, having over 8000 members.
- ❖ Apart from this, to create awareness about safety, NSC will also celebrate National Safety Week from 4th of March to the 10th of March in 2018.
