TNPSC BITS

- President Ram Nath Kovind unveiled a statue of Mahatma Gandhi at the Dakshina Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha in Chennai on February 21, 2019.

- Bihar government has issued notification to provide 10 percent quota for weaker sections in general category in jobs and educational institutions.

- Marathi Language Day, also referred to as 'Marathi Bhasha Din' and 'Marathi Bhasha Diwas', is celebrated every year on 27 February to commemorating the birth anniversary of eminent Marathi Poet Vishnu Vaman Shirwadkar.

- National Aids Research Institute (NARI) has decided to drop its focus on research into the Acquired Immuno-deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) and to undergo a name change in the coming months.

- Prime Minister inaugurated a Virtual Experiential Museum (VEM) at Man Mahal, a centrally-protected observatory under the Archaeological Survey of India in Varanasi.

- Shisht Bharat campaign, launched by an NGO, aims to strengthen the moral character of Indian citizens by sensitizing them about values of morality, civic sense, politeness, decorum and dignity. It is an effort of the Dr. Angeli Qwatra Safety Trainings Initiative.

- Indian Prime Minister launched the India-Korea Start-up Hub in Seoul during his visit to South Korea.

- National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) conducted a two-day national workshop on heat wave risk reduction at Nagpur.

- Asian Hockey Federation has honoured Indian skipper Manpreet Singh with the 2018 Player of the Year award.
    - Women team's striker Lalremsiami has bagged the Rising Player of The Year prize.

- The Union Minister of Railways, Piyush Goyal launched the Rail Drishti dashboard.
    - It will encompass all the digitisation efforts in the Indian Railways and aims to promote transparency and accountability.

- The World Sustainable Energy Days (WSED) are one of Europe's largest annual conferences in this field. The 2019 conference will take place from 27 February - 1 March 2019 in Wels, Austria.

TAMILNADU

Free Laptop Scheme

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister on 27th February launched the free laptop scheme for students for the academic year 2018-19.

- ❖ During this academic year, about 15.18 lakh students will be given free laptops.

- ❖ The government took a policy decision to give away the laptop to students of Class XI from this year onwards to benefit 5.12 lakh students in government and government-aided schools.

- ❖ From this year onwards students studying in class XI of government and government-aided schools along with class XII students, students in first year of government and government-aided polytechnics, and Class XI and XII students in government and government-aided differently abled schools would obtain this benefit.

NATIONAL

Promulgation of Ordinance

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the Promulgation of Ordinance for the following proposals.

- ❖ Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Second Ordinance, 2019.
    - o It enables the Board of Governors appointed in supersession of the Medical Council of India (MCI) to continue to exercise the powers of MCI for a period of two years or till the Council is reconstituted.

- ❖ Companies (Second Amendment) Ordinance 2019.
    - o It will empower the Central government to allow certain companies to have a different financial year instead of as determined by the Tribunal.

- ❖ Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Ordinance, 2019.
    - o It aims at preventing unregulated deposit schemes or arrangements at their inception and makes soliciting, inviting or accepting deposits pursuant to an unregulated deposited scheme as a punishable offence.

Digital India Awards 2018

❖ Digital India Awards have been instituted under the ambit of the National Portal of India by National Informatics Centre, MeitY (Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology).

❖ It is aimed to promote exemplary initiatives in e-governance using the medium of World Wide Web.

❖ Minister of Electronics & IT, Law & Justice Ravi Shankar Prasad conferred "Digital India Awards 2018" in an exclusive ceremony.

❖ The Winners are given below

Category	Platinum	Gold	Silver
Web Ratna – MINISTRY / DEPT	Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises	Department of Financial Services	Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports
Exemplary Online Service	Government e-Marketplace	Central Board of Secondary Education	Goods and Services Tax
Best Mobile App	eCourts Services	ePathshala	• T App Folio • Mobile Meeseva App - Andhra Pradesh
Emerging Technology	Rajkot Eyeway Project	Blockchain Implementation in Land Records, Andhra Pradesh	Crop Area Estimation and Loss Assessment for the State of Gujarat
Open Data Champion	Marketing Research and Information Network (AGMARKNET)	• Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare • Ministry of Drinking water and Sanitation	• Surat Municipal Corporation • Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion
Web Ratna – STATE / UT	Tripura	Himachal Pradesh	Kerala
Web Ratna – District	Kurukshetra	• Vellore • Mahbubnagar	• Koraput • East Champaran
Outstanding Digital initiative by Local body	Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation	Municipal Corporation, Gurugram	Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai
Jury Choice			
• MCA21 Application (Ministry of Corporate Affairs) • UMANG - Mobile App			
Special Mention			
• E-District Project (Meghalaya) • Andhra Pradesh Real Estate Regulatory Authority			
• Arunachal Pradesh in Web Ratna – State / UT (North East) • South Tripura District Web Ratna – District (North East)			

Khelo India Mobile App

❖ Prime Minister launched the Khelo India Mobile App at the Youth Parliament Festival held in New Delhi.

❖ This App was developed by the Sports Authority of India.

KHELO INDIA APP LAUNCHED
BY PRIME MINISTER
SHRI NARENDRA MODI
— AT VIGYAN BHAWAN, DELHI —

❖ It helps to create awareness about sports and fitness, especially among youngsters.

❖ It has three features which will help identify potential champions among children.

   o First section is a beginner's guide which gives the user information about the basic rules and regulations of 18 sports disciplines.

   o Second section includes data of sporting facilities across the country.

   o Third section has eight tests which can be taken to ascertain not just a young athlete's level of fitness.
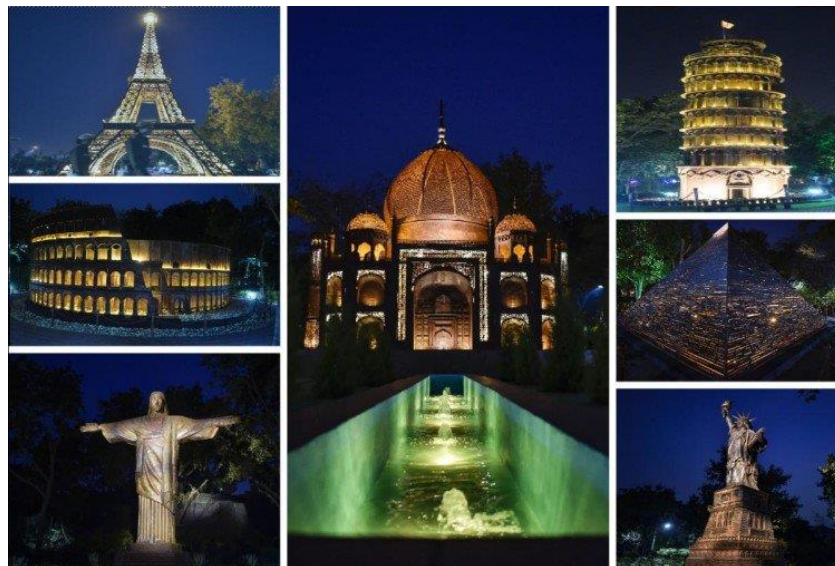
INTERNATIONAL

Referendum on New Constitution

❖ In Cuba, voters took part in a referendum on a new constitution that expands recognition of private property.

❖ The referendum contained only two options: yes or no to the new constitution.

❖ More than eight million were registered to voters.

❖ This new constitution, replacing the 1976 version, recognises a limited role for the free market and private investment, but only under the control of the Communist Party.

❖ It enshrines socialism as the country's only ideology.

❖ Cuba's banned opposition party, which normally calls for abstention at elections or spoiling ballot sheets, this time campaigned for a no vote.

STATES

"Waste to Wonder" Park

❖ The Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the "Waste to Wonder" Park under the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC).

❖ The park has replicas of seven World Wonders.

❖ All these sculptures have been made using industrial waste and other kinds of waste. This justifies the name 'Waste to Wonder'.

❖ The South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) governed the construction of this park. This park is powered by solar and wind energy.

PRANAM Commission

❖ Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal had launched the PRANAM Commission.

❖ This panel was set up to look after the issues concerning a Bill, Protection of parents of state government employees.

❖ PRANAM stands for Parents Responsibility and Norms for Accountability and Monitoring.

❖ PRANAM Bill was approved by the Assam cabinet last year.

❖ This bill makes it mandatory for state government employees to look after their parents and unmarried differently abled siblings who do not have their own sources of income.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Polar Bear Day - February 27

❖ International Polar Bear Day is observed on February 27th every year.
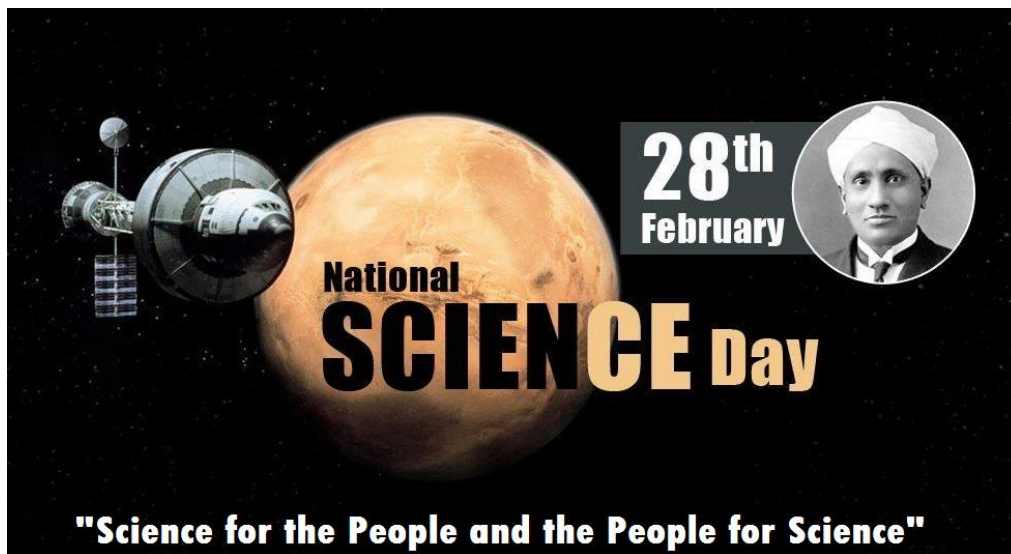
❖ This day has been recognized at least since 2011.

❖ It was founded by Polar Bears International which sponsors educational challenges annually.

❖ This day was designed to raise awareness of the declining number of Polar Bears Worldwide.

National Science Day - February 28

❖ The National Science Day is celebrated on February 28 every year to remember the Nobel laureate Sir C V Raman's contribution to the field of science.

❖ Famous Indian scientist CV Raman discovered the Raman Effect on this day in 1928.

- ❖ National Science Day was marked for the first time on February 28, 1987.
- ❖ This year's theme for the National Science Day is: Science for people and people for science.
- ❖ Last year's theme was "Science and Technology for a sustainable future."

Rare Disease Day - February 28

- ❖ 28 February 2019 will be the twelfth International Rare Disease Day coordinated by EURORDIS (European Organisation for Rare Diseases).

- ❖ Rare Disease Day is held on the last day of February every year to raise awareness of rare diseases.

❖ The theme for Rare Disease Day 2019 is 'Bridging health and social care'.

❖ This day was first launched by EURORDIS and its Council of National Alliances in 2008 and the first Rare Disease Day was celebrated in 2008 on 29 February.

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