



March – 04

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Over 100 women were awarded in various fields of health, government and self-employment by the Non-Governmental Organization Ooruni.
- ❖ The Prime Minister declared 'April 2019-March 2020' as Construction-Technology year on March 02.
- ❖ Indian Air Force Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman will be the first recipient of the 'Bhagwan Mahavir Ahimsa Puraskar' instituted by the Akhil Bharatiya Digambar Jain Mahasamiti.
- ❖ National Health Authority (NHA) has signed MoU with Uber, a ride-hailing app to provide free healthcare services to Uber drivers under Ayushman Bharat.
- ❖ The Central government banned Jamaat-e-Islami of Jammu and Kashmir for five years under group under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act on the grounds of "in close touch" with militant outfits.
- ❖ The President has given his assent to an ordinance that allows voluntary use of Aadhaar as ID proof for obtaining mobile SIM cards and opening bank accounts.
- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved for setting up of a Centre for Disability Sports at Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh, which is to be registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.
 - It will work under the name of Centre for Disability Sports, Gwalior.

TAMIL NADU

Natyanjali fete world record

- ❖ Over 7,000 Bharatanatyam dancers set a Guinness Book of World record for the maximum number of people performing the classical dance form at the Natyanjali fete.
- ❖ It was held in Sabanayagar Temple, also known as Natarajar Temple in Chidambaram.
- ❖ This record-creating dance was performed in unison by 7,190 dancers from various age groups.
- ❖ This event broke the record set by 4,525 dancers in Chennai in 2017.



NATIONAL

IAF Wing Commander Returns India

- ❖ Indian Air Force (IAF) pilot Abhinandan Varthaman returned to India on 01 March from Pakistan.
- ❖ He was shot down while flying a MiG-21 fighter in a dogfight with Pakistani aircraft and captured.
- ❖ Pakistani PM Imran Khan announced in his parliament speech that IAF pilot will be released as “a gesture of peace”.

Geneva Conventions

- ❖ Geneva Conventions talks about the standards of international law for humanitarian treatment in war.
- ❖ Geneva Conventions comprise 4 conventions, and 3 additional protocols.
- ❖ This Convention was adopted in 1949 in the backdrop of World War II.
- ❖ First convention requires that all wounded and infirm soldiers as well as medical personnel and priests in the field are treated humanely without discrimination on the basis of race, colour, gender, religion or faith.
- ❖ It prohibits acts such as torture, mutilation, outrages upon personal dignity, and execution without judgment.
- ❖ The conventions have been ratified by 196 countries.

Anthem on ‘plastic-free India’

- ❖ An anthem of “Plastic Waste-Free India” was launched by Union Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences and Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Harsh Vardhan.
- ❖ It has been composed and produced by a non-profit organisation, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Smriti Manch (PDUSM).
- ❖ It is a part of an initiative which aims to turn India into a plastic-free nation by 2022.
- ❖ It has been launched in 7 languages – Hindi, Marathi, Gujarati, Tamil, Telegu, Malayalam and Kannada.

INTERNATIONAL

46th session of OIC

- ❖ 46th session of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Council of Foreign Ministers Meet held at Abu Dhabi.
- ❖ It is for the first time that India has been invited to a meeting of the OIC.
- ❖ Previously India was invited to attend the OIC meeting in 1969 but Pakistan prevailed upon and got the invite withdrawn.

AT 1ST MEET, YAHYA THREATENED PULLOUT

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ India was offered membership status of OIC in 1969, when it was founded. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, then minister for indl development, led the Indian delegation to the Rabat conference ➤ There, a Moroccan minister asked him to either withdraw "voluntarily" or "feign illness" and not attend the meet ➤ Alternatively, it was suggested India attend as an "observer" — a downgrade from the membership status ➤ The reason: Pak president Yahya Khan had locked 	<p>himself up in his room and threatened to boycott the summit if the Indian delegation was present. Jordan, Turkey and Iran also supported Pakistan</p>  <p>Yahya Khan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The reason for Khan's tantrum: riots in Ahmedabad ➤ The Indian delegation was not informed about any of the official meetings/sessions, which were held in secret
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- ❖ Qatar proposed 'Observer' status for India at the OIC Foreign Ministers' meet in 2002
- ❖ This Session adopted the Abu Dhabi Declaration.
- ❖ This is the 2nd time that the Kashmir issue has not been mentioned in the final document after 2016 Tashkent Declaration.

Organisation of Islamic Cooperation

- ❖ Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) is the 2nd largest inter-governmental organization after the UN.
- ❖ It had a membership of 57 states spread over four continents.
- ❖ It was established upon a decision of the Rabat summit, Morocco on September 25, 1969.

- ❖ It laid down the blueprint called the 'Ten-Year Program of Action' on December 2005 in Makkah summit.
- ❖ The new programme OIC-2025 focuses on 18 priority areas with 107 goals.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Crew Dragon Capsule

- ❖ SpaceX launched Falcon 9 with an unmanned crew capsule from Florida's Kennedy Space Centre at the USA.



- ❖ The Uncrewed Dragon spacecraft has successfully been docked with the International Space Station.

International Space Station

- ❖ International Space Station (ISS) is an habitable artificial satellite in low Earth orbit.
- ❖ Its first component was launched into orbit in 1998, and the ISS is now the largest human-made body in low Earth orbit.
- ❖ It is a joint project between 5 space agencies: Roscosmos (Russia), NASA (US), JAXA (Japan), ESA (Europe), and CSA (Canada).

STATES

4th seismometer

- ❖ The National Centre of Seismology (NCS) and India Meteorological Department (IMD) said another seismometer would be installed in Palghar district, Maharashtra.
- ❖ The fourth seismometer will be installed along the road that connects Haldipada and Udhawa in Palghar district.

Vehicles to curb manual scavenge

- ❖ The Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal flagged off a fleet of 200 sewer cleaning machines.
- ❖ The machines have been provided to skilled manual scavengers making them 'sanitation-entrepreneurs'.



- ❖ With this, Delhi becomes the first State in the country to roll-out such machines to help put an end to the practice of manual cleaning of sewers.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Kalam Innovation in Governance Award 2019

- ❖ Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu presented Kalam Innovation in Governance Award 2019 at the 3rd edition of Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Summit on Innovation and Governance, in New Delhi.
- ❖ Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) received this award for,



- Providing a modern transit network with amenities on a par with global standards.
- Adopting energy saving technologies, green initiatives in Phase I.
- ❖ First and pioneering edition of the summit was conducted on 15th October 2016.



IMPORTANT DAYS

World Civil Defense Day- March 1

- ❖ World Civil Defence Day is celebrated every year on March 1 globally.



- ❖ It was created by a decision of the International Civil Defence Organisation's (ICDO) General Assembly in 1990.



- ❖ Theme of the World Civil Defence Day 2019 is "Children's safety, our responsibility".

Zero Discrimination Day- March 1

- ❖ Zero Discrimination Day is celebrated every year on March 1 globally.
- ❖ It aims to celebrate individuality, inclusion and human rights while promoting tolerance, compassion and peace.



- ❖ It was first celebrated by the United Nations' HIV/AIDS Program (UNAIDS) in December of 2013.
- ❖ UN and other global organizations officially celebrated the day on March 1st, 2014.
