



March – 09

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Prime Minister dedicated Indian Oil Corp's LNG import terminal to the nation at Ennore in Tamil Nadu. This is the first LNG terminal on the east coast in South India.
- ❖ All 19 underground Chennai Metro stations in the city will have 'free-to-use' landline facilities for passengers in the concourse area.
- ❖ 16-year-old P. Iniyan, from the Erode district, has become the 61st Grandmaster of India during the Noisiel Open 2019, held in Paris.
- ❖ Biju Patnaik International Airport in Bhubaneswar has won the prestigious Airport Service Quality (ASQ) award for being the best airport in size and region for the year 2018.
- ❖ National Women Livelihood Meet 2019, held at Deendayal Hastkala Sankul in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh on the occasion of International Women's Day 2019.
- ❖ Soumya Swaminathan has been moved from the position of WHO's Deputy Director-General to Chief Scientist.
- ❖ Findings of the study published in the journal eLife stated that 'mass measles vaccination campaign of India' helped to save the lives of tens of thousands of children between 2010 and 2013.
- ❖ Indian-American television personality Padma Lakshmi has been appointed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as its newest Goodwill Ambassador.
- ❖ Rajasthan government has amended the Lokayukta Act to reduce the Lokayukta's tenure from eight years to five years.

TAMIL NADU

Kalai Semmal Awards

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Government announced the kalai semmal awardees for the period of 2013-18, which is presented by Arts and Culture department.
- ❖ The awards are presented annually to a popular painting of traditional, modern art classes and sculptural experts to commemorate the achievements in their respective fields.
- ❖ Winners are,



Year	Winner	Category
2013-14	Nandan	Modern
	Ganapathy Stabathi	Traditional
2014-15	Gobinath	Modern
	Ramajayam	Traditional
2015-16	Ananthanarayanan Nagarajan	Modern
	tamilaraci	Traditional
2016-17	C.Douglas	Modern
	kirttivarman	Traditional
2017-18	Jeya kumar	Modern
	Gopalan Stabathi	Traditional

NATIONAL

Three-member panel for mediation

- ❖ Supreme Court decided to refer the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid case to a three-member court-appointed panel for mediation.
- ❖ The panel consist of,
 - Retired Supreme Court Justice FM Kallifulla - head of the panel
 - Spiritual guru Shri Shri Ravi Shankar and
 - Senior advocate Sriram Panchu.
- ❖ All three persons are from Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ This mediation would start in a week in Faizabad district of Uttar Pradesh of which the disputed area is a part with the process conducted in-camera.
- ❖ The mediation process is expected to be concluded by 15 May.

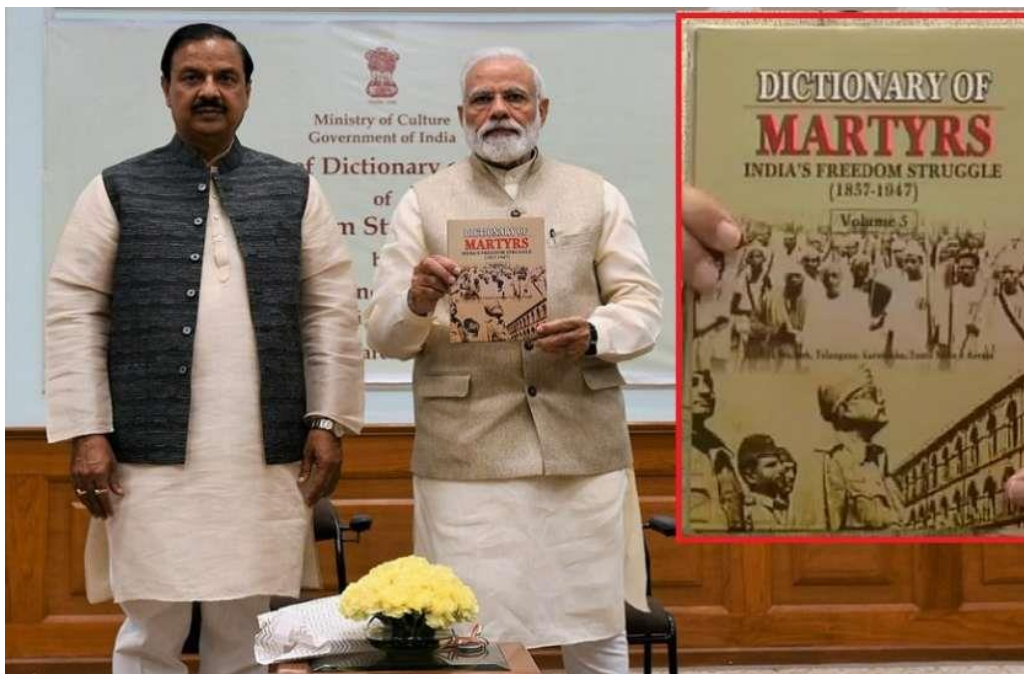
Flood Management and Border Areas Programme (FMBAP)

- ❖ Union Cabinet has approved the Flood Management and Border Areas Programme (FMBAP).
- ❖ It aimed to Flood Management Works in the entire country and River Management Activities and works related to Border Areas for the period 2017-18 to 2019-20.

- ❖ This Scheme will be implemented throughout the country for effective flood management, erosion control and anti-sea erosion.
- ❖ Funding pattern for general category States will continue to be 50% (Centre): 50% (State) and for projects of North Eastern States, Sikkim, J&K, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, the funding pattern will continue to be 70: 30.
- ❖ River Management activities and works related to Border Areas (RMBA) projects will continue to be funded as 100% central assistance.

Dictionary of Martyrs

- ❖ Prime Minister released the Dictionary of Martyrs of India's Freedom Struggle (1857-1947) at New Delhi.
- ❖ This five-volume (zone wise) dictionary contains account of the martyrs from India's First War of Independence in 1857, to India's Independence in 1947.
- ❖ This is the first ever attempt by the Government to compile the names of martyrs on this scale.
- ❖ This project for compilation of "Dictionary of Martyrs" of India's Freedom Struggle was commissioned by the Ministry of Culture.
- ❖ It was released to commemorate the 150th anniversary of uprising of 1857.





ECONOMY

New Rs.20 Coin

- ❖ Finance Ministry announced a new coin for Rs. 20 which will be shaped like a 27 mm "dodecagon", a 12-sided polygon.
- ❖ It was nearly 10 years ago, in March 2009, that the Reserve Bank of India had issued the first 10-rupee coin.
- ❖ Also, Prime Minister released the new series of "visually impaired friendly circulation" coins (Re 1, Rs 2, Rs 5, Rs 10 and Rs 20).



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Akula-1 class attack submarine

- ❖ India signed contract for the lease of an Akula-1 class nuclear-powered attack submarine from Russia for a period of 10 years.
- ❖ Under the pact, Russia will have to deliver the Akula-1 class submarine, to be known as Chakra III, to the Indian Navy by 2025.
- ❖ It will be the third Russian nuclear attack submarine to be leased to the Indian Navy.



- ❖ First Russian nuclear-powered submarine christened INS Chakra was taken in 1988 under a 3-year lease.
- ❖ Second INS Chakra was taken on lease in 2012 for a period of 10 years.

Israeli mission to the moon

- ❖ An Israeli spacecraft on its maiden mission to the moon has sent its first selfie back to Earth.
- ❖ The image shows a part of the Beresheet spacecraft with Earth in the background.
- ❖ NGO SpaceIL and state-owned Israel Aerospace Industries launched the unmanned Beresheet (Hebrew for Genesis) from Cape Canaveral in Florida.
- ❖ So far, only Russia, the United States and China have made the 384,000-kilometre journey and landed on the moon.



e-Dharti App

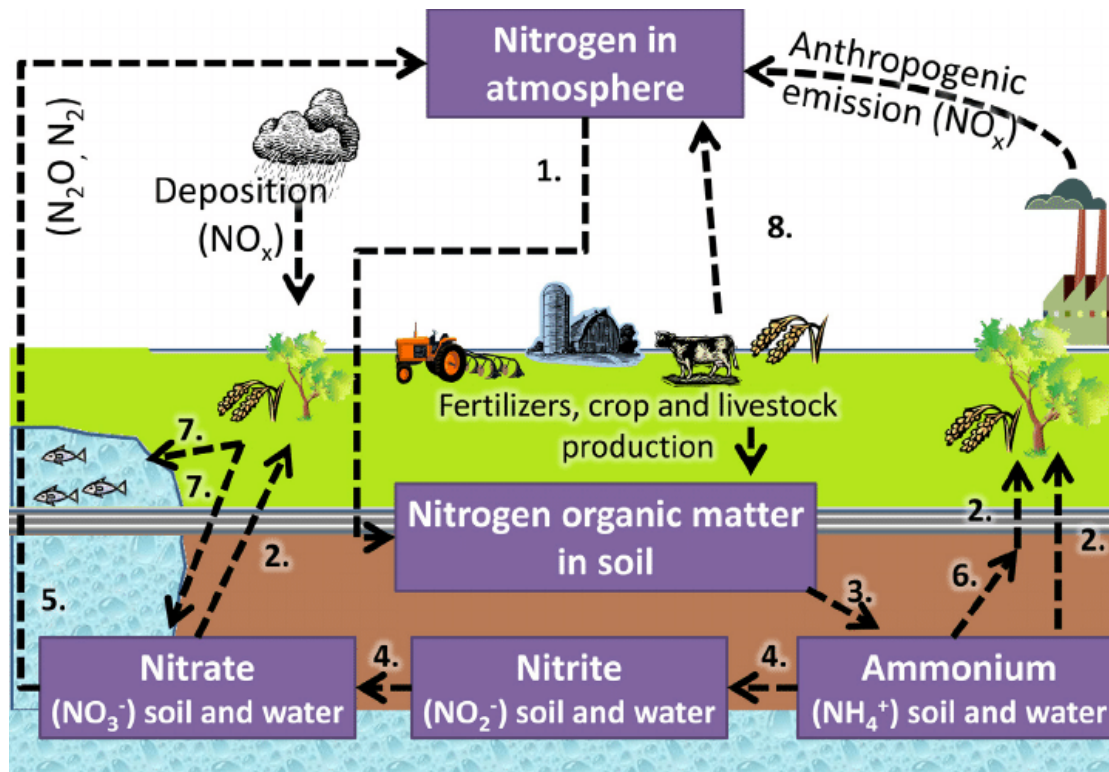
- ❖ The Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Puri launched e-Dharti app.
- ❖ Using this app all the three modules - Conversion, Substitution and Mutation related to properties have been made online.
- ❖ Payment system in Land and Development Office, L&DO has also been completely digitized.

- ❖ He also launched e-Dharti GeoPortal, through which the lessee of the property will be able to see the basic details of property along with map showing its location.

ENVIRONMENT

Nitrogen pollution

- ❖ Annual Frontiers Report 2019 was published by the United Nations (UN) which has included a chapter on nitrogen pollution.
- ❖ This report was released by the United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA) in Nairobi.
- ❖ It highlights that growing demand on the livestock, agriculture, transport, industry and energy sector has led to a sharp growth of the levels of reactive nitrogen ammonia, nitrate, nitric oxide (NO), nitrous oxide (N₂O) in our ecosystems.
- ❖ According to the World Health Organization, nitrate-contaminated drinking water can cause reduced blood function, cancer and endemic goitres.



STATES

Mukhyamantri Anchal Amrit Yojana

- ❖ Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat launched the Mukhyamantri Anchal Amrit Yojana in Dehradun.
- ❖ Under this scheme 2.5 lakh children at 20,000 Anganwadi kendras in the state will be given 100 ml milk twice a week for free.
- ❖ As per recent data, more than 18,000 children suffer from malnutrition in Uttarakhand.

GI tag for Idukki's Marayoor Jaggery

- ❖ Traditional and handmade product from Idukki district of Kerala, Marayoor Jaggery received the Geographical Indication tag from the Central Government.
- ❖ It is not produced in modern factories or using modern equipment. It is prepared in sheds located on the sugarcane farm.