

March – 15

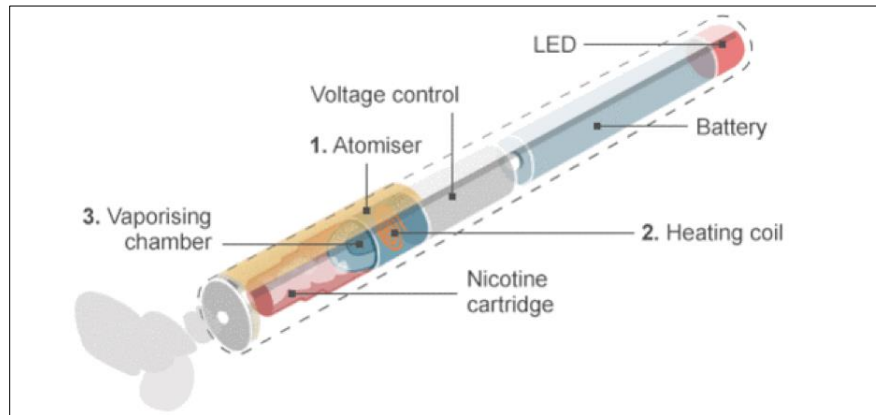
TNPSC BITS

- ❖ 100th birth anniversary of DK Pattammal, a doyen of Carnatic Music will be celebrated on March 19, 2019.
 - She was the first woman to perform Ragam, Talam and Pallavi in concerts.
- ❖ Vastradaan Campaign - Free clothes donation campaign conducted by a member of the erstwhile royal family of Udaipur has received over 3 lakh items of clothing and created a Guinness world record for the largest collection of clothes for donation.
- ❖ Tibetan activists observed 60th anniversary of their National Uprising Day.
 - This day on which thousands of Tibetans took to the streets of Lhasa rising up against the Communist China's occupation of their homeland.
- ❖ Supreme Court has ruled that IPS officers even with a minimum residual tenure of 6 Months are also eligible for the post of DGP (Director General of Police). Earlier minimum 2 years residual tenure was compulsory.
- ❖ Wildlife officials spotted 31 blackbuck and 87 spotted deer during the annual wildlife estimation at Guindy National Park and Raj Bhavan reserved forest in Chennai.
- ❖ 12th March 2019 marks the 89th anniversary of the Dandi Satyagraha or Salt Satyagraha, an act of nonviolent civil disobedience in colonial India led by Mahatma Gandhi.
- ❖ Corporation Bank celebrated its 114th Foundation Day on 12th March at various centres of the bank across the nation. It is the day in 1906 when it started functioning in Udupi of Karnataka under the leadership of Khan Bahadur Haji Abdullah Haji Kasim Saheb Bahadur.
- ❖ Famous Novelist and Film Director Ved Rahi will be awarded with prestigious Kusumagraj Rashtriya Sahitya Puruskar.
 - Kusumagraj award is named after Marathi Poet and playwright, late V V Shirwadkar who was popularly known as Kusumagraj.

NATIONAL

Ban on e-cigarettes

- ❖ The Central Drug Regulator has directed all drug controllers in states and union territories to not allow the manufacture, sale, import and advertisement of ENDS, including e-cigarettes and flavoured hookah, in their jurisdictions.



- ❖ 12 states across the country have banned Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) or e-cigarettes following an advisory from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare issued in 2018.

ENDS

- ❖ Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems, as the name suggests, are battery-operated, handheld devices that are alternatives to traditional smoking of cigarettes.
- ❖ They provide nicotine via the respiratory route, without the associated ill-effects of tobacco.
- ❖ E-cigarettes, e-hookahs, e-cigars, vaporizers etc are some of the ENDS, and they are emerging as popular alternatives to smoking cigarettes.

ENVIRONMENT

New species of frog

- ❖ A new species of frog known as 'Starry Dwarf Frog' has been discovered in Western Ghats mountain range.
- ❖ It has been named 'Astrobatrachus kurichiyana' and is found in Kurichiyarmala, Kerala.
- ❖ It measures about one inch long and wears a star-like coat of spots on its back.

- ❖ This is an oddball frog and it has no close sister species for maybe tens of millions of years.



STATES

GI tag for 'Sirsi Supari'

- ❖ For the first time in the arecanut sector, 'Sirsi Supari' grown in Uttara Kannada, Karnataka has received the Geographic Indication (GI) tag.



- ❖ It is cultivated in Yellapura, Siddapura and Sirsi taluks.
- ❖ This particular arecanut “is medium in size, somewhat flat and rounded in shape, somewhat ash coloured, and has a hard seed.”
- ❖ This particular variety has a unique taste due to differences in chemical composition.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Gallantry Awards 2019

- ❖ President Ram Nath Kovind conferred three Kirti Chakras and fifteen Shaurya Chakras to the Armed Forces Personnel at a solemn ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhawan.
- ❖ Two Kirti Chakras and one Shaurya Chakra were given posthumously.
- ❖ President also conferred fifteen Param Vishisht Seva Medals, one Uttam Yudh Seva Medals and twenty-five Ati Vishisht Seva Medals to senior officers of the Armed Forces for distinguished service.
- ❖ One of the Param Vishisht Seva Medal was conferred on Army Chief General Bipin Rawat.
- ❖ Major Tushar Gauba of 20 Jat regiment was conferred with the Kirti Chakra.



SEN sustainability award

- ❖ Skill development institute Sona Yukti was honoured with the Social Enterprise Network (SEN) sustainability award for education by Young Presidents Organisation at its annual event held in Cape Town, South Africa.
- ❖ It is the only Indian organisation to be selected as part of the SEN awards for 2018.

- ❖ This award was given to Sona Yukti for helping over 55,000 economically disadvantaged individuals, mostly women, by training them to achieve highly skilled jobs in marginalised communities.
- ❖ It is present in rural areas of Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.

SPORTS

GeeBee Boxing Tournament

- ❖ 38th GeeBee Boxing Tournament was held at Helsinki, Finland.
- ❖ India conclude the match with one gold, 4 silver and 3 bronze medals.

MEDAL TALLY	
KAVINDER SINGH	GOLD
MOHAMMED HUSAMUDDIN	SILVER
GOVIND KUMAR SAHANI	
SHIVA THAPA,	
DINESH DAGAR	
SACHIN SIWACH,	BRONZE
SUMIT SANGWAN	
NAVEEN KUMAR	

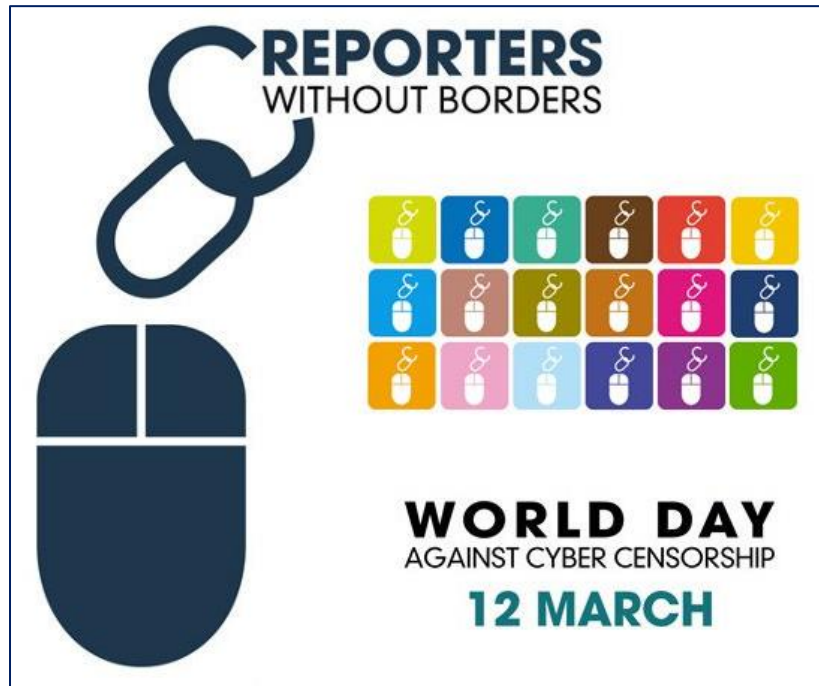
- ❖ The lone gold medal for India was won by Kavinder Singh Bisht fighting against fellow Indian Mohammed Husamuddin.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Day Against Cyber Censorship – March 12

- ❖ World Day Against Cyber Censorship is an online event held each year on March 12 to rally support for a single, unrestricted Internet that is accessible to all.
- ❖ It draws attention to the ways that governments around the world are deterring and censoring free speech online.

- ❖ The day was first observed on 12 March 2008 at the request of Reporters Without Borders and Amnesty International.



No smoking day - March 13

- ❖ No Smoking Day is an annual health awareness day in the United Kingdom which is intended to help smokers who want to quit smoking.

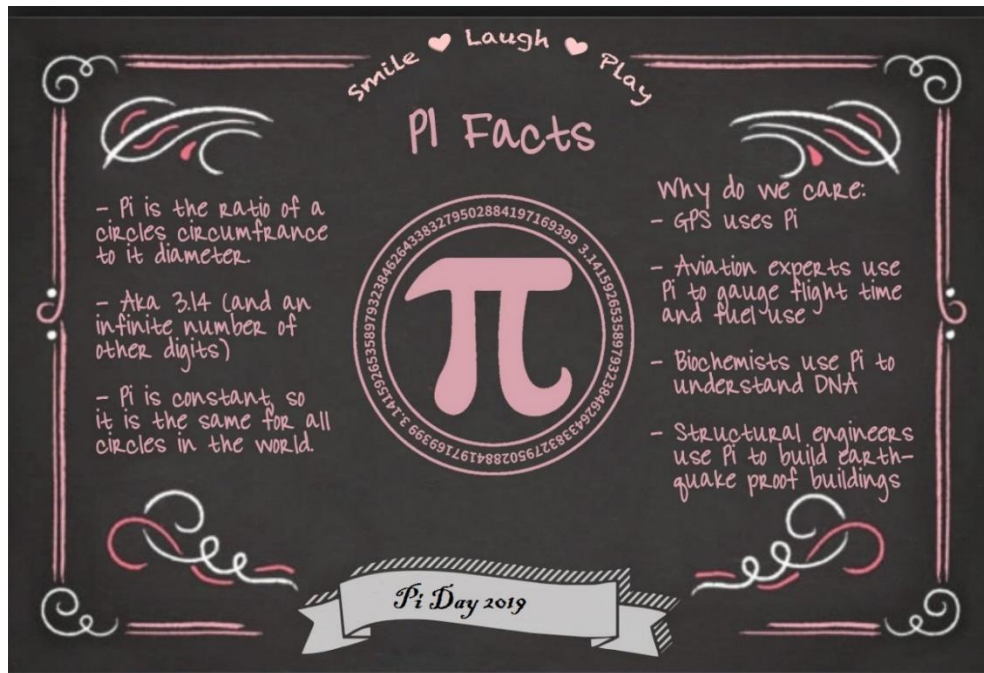




- ❖ The first No Smoking Day was on Ash Wednesday in 1984 and it now takes place on the second Wednesday in March.
- ❖ This year No Smoking Day 2019 is celebrated on 13 March.
- ❖ Main target of the day is to spread and educate people about the impacts of tobacco through cigarette and various other modes.

Pi Day - March 14

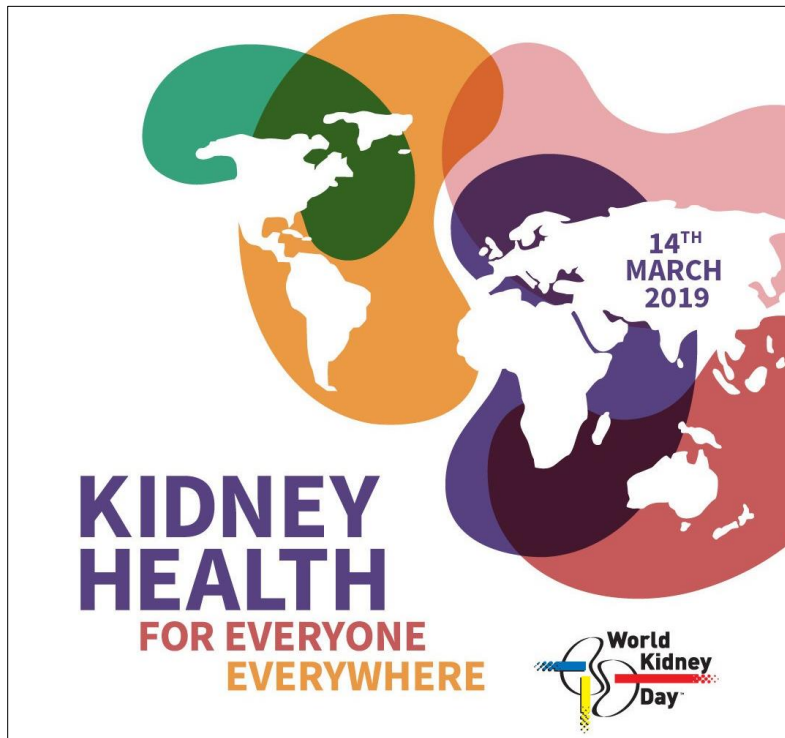
- ❖ Pi Day is celebrated on March 14th around the world, which is approximately 3.14159.



- ❖ Pi (Greek letter “π”) is the symbol used in mathematics to represent a constant the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter.
- ❖ U.S. House of Representatives passed a non-binding resolution on March 12, 2009 and recognizing March 14, 2009 as National Pi Day.
- ❖ The entire month of March 2014 (3/14) was observed by some as Pi Month.
- ❖ In the year 2015, March 14 was celebrated as "Super Pi Day".
- ❖ Pi Approximation Day is observed on July 22 (22/7), since then fraction 22/7 is a common approximation of π.
- ❖ Two Pi Day, also known as Tau Day, is lightly observed on June 28.

World Kidney Day - March 14

- ❖ World Kidney Day (WKD) is an annual global awareness and education event, held on the second Thursday in March every year.
- ❖ March 14 of this year was observed as World Kidney Day.
- ❖ The day is meant to raise awareness about the importance of taking care of kidneys.



- ❖ This Year campaign focuses on the burden of kidney disease, disparities and access to healthcare with the theme: Kidney Health for Everyone Everywhere.
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