

MONTHLY

FACTLY

EXCLUSIVE CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR

PRELIMS

APRIL 2019

ForumIAS

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POLITICAL AND NATIONAL ISSUES**Questions/Notes****1. Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA) released:**

News: The President of India released Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA) and presented ARIIA awards to the top two institutions.

Facts:

- First ARIIA Awards 2019 were given to:
 - IIT Madras topped the Government funded Institutions Category
 - Vellore Institute of Technology, Tamil Nadu, topped the Private Institutions Category.

Other facts:

- It was introduced by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD).
- It aims to systematically rank education institutions and universities primarily on innovation related indicators.
- There are 5 parameters to rank an institute on the ARIIA list. The institutions will be rank-ordered based on scores out of 100.
- 5 parameters include:
 - Budget expenses to support and revenue generated through Innovation and entrepreneurship development
 - Access to advance centres and facilities
 - Entrepreneurial support system, idea to entrepreneurship,
 - Development of innovation ecosystems supported through teaching & learning
 - Best innovative solutions developed in-house for improving governance of institution.

2. AFSPA in Arunachal Pradesh:

News: The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) was partially removed from three of nine districts of Arunachal Pradesh.

Facts:

- It will now remain in force only in those areas of Arunachal Pradesh which border Myanmar.
- This was done through a Home Ministry notification.

Other facts:

- Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA), is an Act of the Parliament of India that grants special powers to the Indian Armed Forces in "disturbed areas".

Questions/Notes

- AFSPA enacted by Parliament in 1958 and was applied to the entire State of Assam and the Union Territory of Manipur. Later, extended to Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland.
- Section (3) of the AFSPA Act empowers the governor of the State or Union territory to issue an official notification on The Gazette of India, following which the centre has the authority to send in armed forces for civilian aid.
- State governments can suggest whether the Act is required to be enforced or not. But under Section (3) of the Act, their opinion can be overruled by the governor or the centre as happened in Tripura.
- According to The Disturbed Areas (Special Courts) Act, 1976 once declared 'disturbed', the area has to maintain status quo for a minimum of 3 months.
- Section 4 of the AFSPA empowers an authorised officer in a disturbed area with certain powers:
 - open fire at any individual if the individual violates laws which prohibit (a) the assembly of five or more persons and or (b) carrying of weapons.
 - To arrest without a warrant
 - To seize and search without warrant any premises in order to make an arrest or recovery of hostages, arms and ammunition
 - Prosecution of an authorised officer requires prior permission of the Central government.
- J.S. Verma Committee (2012) and the Justice Jeevan Reddy Committee (2005) have found the law arbitrary and have recommended the repeal of AFSPA.

3. Post of Deputy CAG:

News: The government has decided to create an additional post of Deputy Comptroller and Auditor General.

Facts:

- The Deputy Comptroller & Auditor General shall oversee the coordination among State audits, audit of telecommunication and to coordinate the various Information Systems (IS) initiatives within the Indian Audit & Accounts Department (IA&AD).
- There are currently 5 Deputy CAGs.
- Their scope of work includes governments accounts, central revenue audit, defence and railways, commercial and reports of central, communications and information systems.

Questions/Notes

Other facts:

- The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India is an authority, established by Article 148 of the Constitution of India. It is a constitutional body.
- CAG audits all receipts and expenditure of the Government of India and the state governments, including those of bodies and authorities substantially financed by the government.

4. Indo-Pacific Wing:

News: The Ministry of External Affairs has set up an Indo-Pacific division in the foreign office.

Facts:

- The Indo-Pacific division intends to give a coherent architecture to the Indo-Pacific policy articulated by PM Narendra Modi at the Shangri-La Dialogue 2018.
- The Indo-Pacific Wing is currently headed by the Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs.
- The Indo-Pacific Wing integrates the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), ASEAN region and the Quad.

Other facts:

- The IISS Asia Security Summit, the Shangri-La Dialogue (SLD) is an inter-governmental security forum held annually by an independent think tank, the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) which is attended by defense ministers, permanent heads of ministries and military chiefs of 28 Asia-Pacific states.
- The forum gets its name from the Shangri-La Hotel in Singapore where it has been held since 2002.

5. Dentist to be allowed as General Physicians:

News: Niti Ayog has agreed to the proposal of Dental Council of India, to allow dentists to practice as general physicians after a bridge course.

Facts:

- The Dental Council of India had sent a similar proposal to the Medical Council of India last year. However, the proposal was rejected by Indian Medical Association (IMA).
- The provisions approved:
 - A bridge course of 3 years post Bachelor of Dental Science (BDS).
 - Candidates will be selected through a common entrance exam or through cumulative marks secured in the BDS course, or a combination of both

Questions/Notes

- The syllabus curriculum, scheme of examination, method of evaluation, degrees and registration all these criteria will be the same as recommended for an MBBS.

Other facts:

- The Indian Medical Association is a national voluntary organisation of Doctors of Modern Scientific System of Medicine in India, which looks after the interest of doctors as well as the well-being of the community at large.
- The National Medical Commission Bill 2017 proposes to replace IMA with a National Medical Commission.

6. Display of Information on 7 Antibiotics:

News: Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has asked manufacturers of 7 common antibiotics to ensure that information related to symptoms and side effects of the medicine are made available to the general public.

Facts:

- The step was taken in the backdrop of alerts from the Pharmacovigilance Programme of India (PvPI).
- CDSCO has asked drug manufacturers, to mention information about adverse reaction of the medicine in leaflets inserted into drug packets or on promotional literature.
- Manufacturers of antibiotics Cefotaxime, Ofloxacin and Cefixime; Tranexamic Acid (used to control bleeding) antipsychotic drug Quetiapine; anti-rheumatoid drug Sulfasalazine and the anti-epileptic medicine Sodium Valproate are instructed to warn patients of the “new” side effects.

Other facts:

- Pharmacovigilance Program of India (PvPI) was launched in 2010 with a broad objective to safeguard the health of Indian people by ensuring that the benefit of the use of medicine outweighs the risks associated with its use.
- The Central Drugs Standard Control Organization is the national regulatory body for Indian pharmaceuticals and medical devices.

7. Ban on Manufacture and sale of e-Cigarettes:

News: The Ministry of Commerce and Industries has urged the Health Ministry to frame a law for banning the manufacture and sale of e-cigarettes in the country.

Facts:

- The Ministry of Commerce and Industries has stated that without banning domestic sale and manufacturing of Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS), the ban on imports will be a violation of the global norms.

Other facts:	Questions/Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electronic cigarettes or e-cigarettes are devices that do not burn or use tobacco leaves but instead vaporise a solution, which a user then inhales. • The main constituents of the solution, in addition to nicotine, are propylene glycol. • The key difference between traditional cigarettes and e-cigarettes is that e-cigarettes don't contain tobacco. • However, traditional cigarettes contain a list of chemicals that are proven harmful and carcinogenic, and e-cigarettes have some of these same chemicals. <p>8. MERA India:</p> <p>News: The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) launched 'MERA (Malaria Elimination Research Alliance) India'.</p> <p>Facts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'MERA India' - a conglomeration of partners working on malaria control - in order to prioritise, plan and scale up research to eliminate the disease from India by 2030. • It was launched on the occasion of World Malaria Day 2019 (Observed on 25 April). • It will complement international efforts on eliminating malaria and contribute to the broader global agenda by working on a national scale. <p>Other facts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Vector Borne Diseases Control Program (NVBDCP) of India developed a comprehensive framework to achieve "Malaria free India by 2030" 	

INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

Questions/Notes

1. International Convention on World Homeopathy Day:

News: A two-day convention was organised on 9-10th April 2019 by the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH) at the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi.

Facts:

- The World Homoeopathy Day is observed to commemorate the birth anniversary of the founder of Homoeopathy, Dr. Christian Fredrich Samuel Hahnemann.
- The aim of the convention was to recognise exemplary work in Homoeopathy.
- Homeopathy is a medical system based on the belief that the body can cure itself.

Other facts:

- CCRH is an autonomous research organisation, Ministry of AYUSH.
- AYUSH is the acronym for Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy, the traditional or alternate medicine of India.

2. International Mine Awareness Day and Assistance in Mine Action 2019:

News: International Mine Awareness Day and Assistance in Mine Action 2019 was observed by UNGA on April 4.

Facts:

- The theme of the day: 'United Nations Promotes SDGs – Safe Ground – Safe Home'.
- Its is committed to eradicate the horrendous damage caused by landmines and assist those who have been harmed by their use.

Other facts:

- The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on 8 December 2005 declared that 4 April of each year shall be observed as the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action.
- The United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) has catered to the needs of affected people and addressed the threat of explosive hazards faced by civilians, peacekeepers and humanitarians.

3. UN Medal of Honour:

News: 150 Indian peacekeepers serving with the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) were honoured with the UN Medal.

Questions/Notes

Facts:

- UNMISS is committed to help build durable peace in South Sudan and deter violence against civilians thereby providing them a safe and secure environment.

Other facts:

- India is one of the top troop-contributing nations to UN Peacekeeping Missions.
- Currently, India is the second largest contributor of peacekeepers to UNMISS, after Rwanda.
- Blue helmets: The UN Peacekeepers are often referred to as Blue Helmets because of their blue Berets with the UN Insignia.
- White Helmets: The White Helmets, officially known as Syria Civil Defence, is a volunteer organisation that operates in parts of rebel-controlled Syria and in Turkey.

4. Indonesia released Ramayan themed stamp:

News: Indonesia has released a special commemorative stamp with Ramayana as the theme to mark the 70th anniversary of the establishment of its diplomatic ties with India.

Facts:

- The stamp featured a scene from the Ramayana in which Jatayu valiantly fought to save Sita.
- The stamp was designed by renowned Indonesian sculptor Padmashri Bapak Nyoman Nuarta.
- It will be on display at the Philately Museum in Jakarta.

5. Peacekeeping Mission in Haiti:

News: United Nations Security Council (UNSC) voted unanimously for the resolution to completely end its peacekeeping operations in Haiti on October 15, 2019.

Facts:

- U.N. Peacekeeping Mission in Haiti is known as MINUSTAH, a French acronym which stands for "The United Nations is not leaving."
- MINUSTAH began operations in Haiti in 2004.
- The goals of MINUSTAH included restoring security and rebuilding the shattered political institutions.
- The Mission was viewed as an affront to national sovereignty and was blamed for sexual exploitation and for the introduction of deadly cholera bacteria to the country.

Questions/Notes

- U.N. military peacekeepers had already left the country on Oct. 2017, but a stabilization group stayed behind to train national police, help the government strengthen judicial and legal institutions and monitor human rights. The resolution aims to bring them back.
- The resolution also aims to establish a political mission to support government efforts to promote order and development in Latin America's poorest country.

6. India Evacuates Peacekeeping forces from Libya:

News: India has evacuated its entire contingent of peacekeeping forces comprising of 15 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel from Tripoli, Libya.

Facts:

- The Libyan crisis worsened as Field Marshal Khalifa Hifter led Libyan National Army (LNA) attempted to capture Tripoli which is the seat of Government of National Accord (GNA).
- The United Nations called for a two-hour truce to allow evacuations of civilians and the wounded.

Other facts:

- Libyan crisis: Libyan crisis began since the 2011 uprising which overthrew and killed long-ruling dictator Muammar Gaddafi.
- Libya has no single government currently.
- Eastern Libya is governed by the rival group, whereas the west libya is governed by the UN backed internationally recognised government, Government of National Accord (GNA).
- Libyan National Army (LNA) is backing the Tobruk-based parliament which governs the East of Libya.

7. UNSC Resolution on Terror Financing:

News: UNSC adopted Resolution 2462 initiated by France, on Terror Financing.

Facts:

- The resolution intended to update existing resolutions and adapt them to new forms of financing of terrorism and new challenges to tackling terrorism.
- It made the following observations:
 - Terrorists may abuse legitimate businesses and non-profit organisations for their activities, and make use of emerging payment methods, such as prepaid cards and mobile payments or virtual assets.

Questions/Notes

- Terrorists have been using information and communications technologies, in particular the internet, to facilitate terrorist acts, as well as inciting, recruiting, funding, or planning terrorist acts.
- It calls upon all countries to:
 - Enhance the traceability and transparency of financial transactions.
 - Assessing and addressing potential risks associated with virtual assets and the risks of new financial instruments, including but not limited to crowd-funding platforms.

Other facts:

- Adopted in 2001 in response to the September 11 terrorist attacks in the US, Resolution 1373 was the first comprehensive resolution imposing obligations on all states to respond to the global threat of terrorism.
- Resolution 2462 affirms the Resolution 1373.

8. World Immunization Week 2019:

News: World Immunization Week 2019 was observed from 24-30 April.

Facts:

- The theme of the week was “Protected Together: Vaccines Work”.
- The week aimed to celebrate Vaccine Heroes from around the world i.e., parents, community members, health workers and innovators.

Other facts:

- The World Immunization Week was first observed in 2012.
- The motto of the World Immunization Week is to promote the use of vaccines to protect people of all ages against vaccine-preventive diseases.

9. US refusal to extend Sanction Waiver for India:

News: U.S.A administration has refused to extend the sanctions waiver for India to import crude from Iran.

Facts:

- Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has taken necessary steps to end imports from Iran.
- The shortfall is proposed to be met through Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, UAE and Mexico.

Other facts:

- Countering America’s Adversaries through Sanctions Act (CAATSA) provides for secondary sanctions on those countries engaging with three

Questions/Notes

countries (Russia, North Korea and Iran) as they intend to apply pressure on the other countries to cease their trade relations with the three.

- These sanctions on Iran target oil sales, energy and shipping industry of Iran which will damage the base of Iranian economy.

10. Second Belt and Road Forum:

News: Chinese President hosted some 5,000 delegates from across the globe at the Belt and Road forum in Beijing.

Facts:

- The Chinese President emphasized on following Zero Tolerance for corruption at all stages of the project.
- The forum encouraged developed countries to invest and cooperate in open, green and clean “connectivity projects” in the developing countries.

Other Facts:

- It is the Chinese President’s signature infrastructure project, which began in 2013 to rebuild ancient trading routes across Eurasia.
- It began in 2013 to rebuild ancient trading routes across Eurasia.
- The inaugural summit took place in 2017.

11. International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace:

News: The first official International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace was celebrated and the General Assembly convened a one-day high-level plenary meeting to commemorate the day.

Facts:

- 24 April of every year is celebrated as the International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace ever since it was approved in 2008.
- The resolution for the International Day is a reaffirmation of the UN Charter and its principles of resolving disputes among countries through peaceful means.
- The day is aimed at promoting multiculturalism and the goals of the UN charter as well as the SDG goals 2030.

12. Arms Trade Treaty:

News: The US President announced that the US will not abide by and not ratify the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).

Facts:

- ATT establishes common standards for international trade of conventional weapons so as to reduce illegal arms trade.

Questions/Notes

- It entered into force 2014 with the aim of regulating international trade in conventional arms (from small arms to battle tanks, combat aircraft and warships).
- It originally had 130 signatory countries but currently only 101 have ratified and joined it.
- The international gun control under this treaty contradicts America's second amendment which gives its citizens the right to bear arms.
- India is not a signatory to the treaty.
- China announced that it supports the ATT's goals and is considering joining it.

Other facts:

- India was among the 23 nations that abstained from voting on the treaty resolution.
- Five of the top 10 arms exporters – France, Germany, Italy, Spain and the UK have already ratified the ATT.

13. Qatar to abolish “Kafala” (Exit Visa system):

News: The International Labour Organization (ILO) announced that Qatar is set to completely abolish its controversial Exit visa system/Kafala system for all foreign workers by the end of 2019.

Facts:

- Kafala system is a Sponsorship system which regulates status of migrant workers.
- It ties the migrant workers' visas with employers leads to requiring prior consent of their employer before changing jobs or leaving, which further leads to exploitation.
- Qatar has introduced a series of labour reforms since its selection as the 2022 World Cup host.
- It was in the backdrop of the Amnesty International (human rights group) report, which accused Qatar of widespread labour abuse.
- In September 2018, Qatar approved legislation to scrap the “kafala”, or sponsorship for around 5%, later by the end of 2018 it was scrapped for the majority of the workers.
- Qatar also introduced a monthly minimum wage of 750 riyals (USD 206) and agreed to work closely with the ILO, which has opened an office in the capital city.

Other facts:

- Nitaqat is a system program in Saudi Arabia which aims at Saudization, by increasing the employment of Saudi nationals in the private sector.

Questions/Notes

- The International Labour Organization is a United Nations agency whose mandate is to advance social justice and promote decent work by setting international labour standards.
- ILO was established under the League of Nations in 1919, later was brought under 1919.
- Its headquarters are in Geneva, Switzerland.
- The ILO in 2017 released the report titled 'Global Estimates of Modern Slavery: Forced Labour and Forced Marriage 2017' along with Australia-based Walk Free Foundation (WFF).
 - According to the report modern slavery is thriving in both the developed as well as the developing world. For example, Migrant Workers in Italy's Orange Plantations and Qatar's Construction Sector.
 - The organization emphasized on forced labour and forced marriages as the modern forms of slavery.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

Questions/Notes

1. 'Utkarsh Bangla' and 'Sabooj Sathi Online 2.0' :

News: The schemes of the West Bengal government 'Utkarsh Bangla' and 'Sabooj Sathi Online 2.0- Wheels of change' won the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) awards of UN.

Facts:

- Utkarsh Bangla, aimed at providing vocational training to school dropouts, won the first award under the Capacity Building category.
- Sabooj Sathi, a scheme for distribution of bicycles to the students of class IX to XII studying in Govt. run and Govt. aided schools, was ranked in the top five as a champion project under ICT application: E-Government category.

2. FAME II Scheme:

News: The Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee of the National Mission for Transformative Mobility decided to incorporate localisation conditions to avail benefits under the FAME-II Scheme.

Facts:

- The steering committee has mandated that only companies that meet the 50% localisation threshold will be eligible for the incentives under the FAME scheme.
- The decision aims to boost electric mobility as well as the 'Make in India' initiative.

Other facts:

- FAME-India Scheme aims to promote manufacturing of electric and hybrid vehicle technology and to ensure sustainable growth of the same.
- Department of Heavy Industry is implementing FAME-India Scheme-Phase-I [Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles in India] from 1st April 2015.
- National Mission for Transformative Mobility was formed following a cabinet decision to promote clean and sustainable mobility initiatives in the country.
- It is led by NITI Aayog Chief Executive Officer.
- It consists of secretary of nine stakeholder ministries and director general of the Bureau of Indian Standards as its members.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS**Questions/Notes****1. Index of Eight Core Industries:**

News: There was a growth of 2.1 per cent in the output of the core industries in February 2019.

Facts:

- There are 8 core industries in India namely: coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity.
- The core industrial production forms 40% of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

Other facts:

- The Index of Industrial Production is an index for India which details out the growth of various sectors in an economy such as mineral mining, electricity and manufacturing.

2. RBI sets limit on Ways and Means Advances:

News: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in consultation with the government of India has set the limits for Ways and Means Advances (WMA) for the first half of the financial year 2019-20.

Facts:

- Ways and Means Advances is a temporary loan facility provided by the RBI to the centre and state governments.
- The WMA scheme was introduced in 1997 to meet any temporary mismatches in the receipts and payments of the government.
- The WMA needs to be vacated after 90 days. The interest rate for WMA is currently charged at the repo rate.
- The limits for WMA are decided by the RBI in consultation with the government.
- There is an overdraft facility but not more than a 10 days' delay is allowed.
- The interest rate on overdrafts would be 2 per cent more than the repo rate.

3. Bolivian Lithium Reserves:

News: India and Bolivia have signed an agreement for the development and industrial use of lithium.

Facts:**Benefits:**

- It is a prime component used to power electric vehicles and cell phones.
- It will boost lithium battery/cell production plants in India.

Questions/Notes

- It will turn out to be the backbone for the recently launched FAME India policy (Faster Adoption and Manufacture of (Hybrid and) Electric Vehicles) and will in turn give push to India's ambition to have at least 30% of its vehicles run on electric batteries by 2030.
- It will reduce India's dependence on China, Taiwan and Japan for imports, especially of batteries required for portable electronics.

Other facts:

- Bolivia is known to have one-fourth of the world's lithium reserves.

4. Reports, Seminars and Indices:

Report/ seminars	Research institute/ Organization	India's Rank and other Observations
1. Face the Disasters 2019	Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society (SEEDS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aimed at bringing about a conversation on building a sustainable future, which is beyond response to disasters. • According to the report, India will face extreme weather events in 2019.
2. World Economic Outlook 2019	International Monetary Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The global growth will be 3.3% in 2019, down from 3.6% in 2018 and 4% in 201. • India's economy will grow 7.1% in 2019-20 and is expected to accelerate to 7.3% growth this fiscal and to 7.5% in 2021-22.
3. National Seminar on "Greenery and Landscaping"	Organised by the Central Public Works Department (CPWD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The seminar focused on the green urban areas.
4. State of Global Air 2019	Boston based Health Effects Institute	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall long-term exposure to outdoor and indoor air pollution contributed to nearly five million deaths. • Out of these, three million deaths were directly attributed to PM 2.5, half of which were from India and China. • Air pollution is the third highest cause of death among all health risks,

Questions/Notes

		ranking just above smoking in India.
5. Mind the Gap-State of Employment in India	Oxfam India	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of quality jobs and increasing wage disparity are key reasons for inequality in the Indian labour market.
6. State of World Population 2019	United Nations Population Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India's population grew at an average annual rate of 1.2 per cent between 2010 and 2019 to 1.36 billion, more than double the annual growth rate of China. India's total fertility rate per woman is 2.3 in 2019. India also recorded an improvement in life expectancy at birth (69 years in 2019).
7. Mueller Report	Released by the United States Department of Justice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The report looked into alleged Russian interference in the 2016 US Presidential elections.
8. World Press Freedom Index 2019	Released by an international NGO, Reporters without Borders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Norway is ranked first in the 2019 Index for the third year running. India is at 140th Rank out of 180 countries.
9. World Resources Institute (WRI) report 2018-19	U.S based institute	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World lost 12 million hectares (30 million acres) of tropical tree cover in 2018. It is the fourth largest annual decline since global satellite data become available in 2001.

5. Asian Tea Alliance:

News: Asian Tea Alliance of five tea-growing and consuming countries was launched in Guizhou in China.

Facts:

- The members of the alliance are:
 - Indian Tea Association
 - China Tea Marketing Association

Questions/Notes

- Indonesian Tea Marketing Association
- Sri Lanka Tea Board
- Japan Tea Association
- The objective of the alliance is to enhance tea trade, cultural exchanges, technology exchanges, global promotion of tea and to create a sustainable agenda for the future of Asian tea.

6. Startup Ecosystem Ranking Report:

News: Startup Ecosystem Ranking Report by Startup Blink has ranked 100 countries based on their startup environment.

Facts:

- The US, UK, Canada, Israel, and Australia have been ranked as the top 5.
- India was ranked 17th. (India ranked 37th in the previous ranking).
- China was ranked 27th.
- San Francisco Bay, New York, London, Los Angeles, and Boston topped the ranking among the cities.
- In the ranking of cities, Bengaluru stood at 11, New Delhi at 18 and Mumbai at 29.

7. RBI stakes in NHB and NABARD:

News: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has sold its entire stake in the National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) and National Housing Bank.

Facts:

- The decision to divest its entire stake was taken based on the recommendations of the Narasimham Committee II.
- Thus, at present, the government holds a 100 per cent stake in both NHB and NABARD
- This was done to prevent conflict of interest as RBI is the owner as well as regulator of this sector.

Other facts:

- The National Housing Policy of 1988 envisaged setting up of NHB as the apex level institution for promoting the housing sector.
- The NABARD was established in 1982 by transferring the agricultural credit functions of RBI and refinance functions of the then Agricultural Refinance and Development Corporation.

8. FSS Voice Commerce:

News: IT service management company Financial Software Services (FSS) has launched real time voice banking platform called FSS voice commerce.

Facts:	Questions/Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It uses machine-learning language processing techniques for analysis and synthesis of language and speech to deliver personalized service experiences. • It offers customized, meaningful, contextual, and personalized banking interactions to customers. • It uses Alexa or Google Assistant to deliver conversation led services. • It will ensure safe and secure financial transactions and avoid fraud. • FSS Voice Commerce supports an extensive set of 200 transactions, enabling seamless 24/7 secure access to a broad range of financial banking services. <p>9. World Intellectual Property Day:</p> <p>News: WIPO celebrates World Intellectual Property Day on April 26th of every year to learn about the role that Intellectual Property (IP) rights play in encouraging innovation and creativity.</p> <p>Facts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WIPO started celebrating World Intellectual Property Day in 2000, to raise awareness of how patents, copyright, trademarks and designs impact on daily life. • The theme of World Intellectual Property Day 2019 is “Reach for Gold: IP and Sports”. • This day explores how innovation, creativity and intellectual property (IP) rights that encourage and protect them support the development and worldwide enjoyment of sports. <p>Other facts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 26 April was chosen as the date for World Intellectual Property Day because it was on this date that the Convention Establishing the World Intellectual Property Organization entered into force in 1970. • Intellectual Property is a category of property that includes intangible creations of the human intellect. • IP includes patents, copyright, industrial design rights, trademarks, plant variety rights, trade dress, geographical indications, and in some jurisdictions trade secrets as well. 	

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS**Questions/Notes****1. World Health Day:**

News: World Health Day 2019 was observed on 7th April, with the theme “Universal Health Coverage”.

Facts:

- The theme Universal Health Coverage reminds world leaders that everyone should be able to access the health care they need, when and where they need it.

Other facts:

- The World Health Day was first celebrated on April 7, 1948 to commemorate the establishment of WHO.
- The headquarters of WHO is in Geneva, Switzerland.

2. Global Report on Food Crisis 2019:

News: FAO in collaboration with the World Food Programme and EU released the Global Report on Food Crisis 2019.

Facts:

- Approximately 113 million people in 53 countries experienced high levels of food insecurity last year.
- Observations:
 - Conflict and climate-related disasters are the primary reason for food insecurity in addition to economic turbulence.
 - Nearly two-thirds of those facing acute hunger come from just eight countries: Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Nigeria, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria and Yemen.
 - In those countries which were on the verge of experiencing a famine, it was noted that more than 80% of the people were dependant on agriculture for their livelihood.
 - Countries hosting refugees like Bangladesh and even war torn Syria have been under strain.

Other facts:

- The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.
- The headquarters of FAO is situated in Rome, Italy.

3. WHO guidelines on the Use of Digital Health Technology:

News: WHO released new recommendations on ways through which countries can use digital health technology to improve people's health.

Facts:

- The key aim of this guideline is to present recommendations based on a critical evaluation of the evidence on emerging digital health interventions that are contributing to health system improvements, based on an assessment of the benefits, harms, acceptability, feasibility, resource use and equity considerations.
- These guidelines urge readers to recognize that digital health interventions are not a substitute for functioning health systems.

Recommendations of WHO:

- Birth and Death Notification via Mobile devices: The notifications provide individual-level data to the health system and/or a civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) system.
- Stock Notification and Commodity management via mobile devices: This will help set up and manage supply chain management systems.
- Client to Provider Tele-medicine: It will complement delivery of health services.
- Provider to Provider Tele-medicine: Protocol to ensure patient's consent, data protection and storage, and verifying provider licensing and credentials.
- Targeted Client communication via mobile devices: To give medical advice including issues of sensitive content while ensuring data privacy.
- Health worker decision support via mobile devices
- Digital tracking of clients health status and services
- Digital Tracking combined with decision support and targeted client communication
- Digital provision of training and educational content to health workers via mobile devices/ mobile learning (mLearning) to complement, rather than replace, traditional methods of delivering continued health education and post-certification training.

4. Malawi Tests Malaria Vaccine:

News: Malawi will be undertaking large scale pilot tests for the world's most advanced experimental malaria vaccine.

Facts:

- The vaccine is called RTS'S, the trade name being Mosquirix.
- It will be administered to children under two years.
- It will also be introduced in Ghana and Kenya.

Questions/Notes

Questions/Notes

- It has been developed by British pharmaceutical giant GlaxoSmithKline in partnership with the PATH Malaria Vaccine Initiative.
- The potential vaccine does not give full protection against the mosquito-borne disease.
- It is a recombinant protein-based malaria vaccine.
- It is the world's first and only malaria vaccine.

Other facts:

- Malaria is a vector borne disease, spread through the bite of infected female Anopheles mosquitoes.
- PATH's Malaria Vaccine Initiative (MVI) is a program of PATH, an international nonprofit organization that drives transformative innovation to save lives and improve health, especially among women and children.
- It advises and partners with public institutions, businesses, grassroots groups, and investors to tackle the world's toughest global health problems—which includes malaria, a notoriously complex parasite.

5. Medicine Labels in Regional Language:

News: Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB) has issued an advisory to incorporate regional languages for medicine labels.

Facts:

- The government has taken the step to ensure that those seeking drugs under government schemes have access to all the requisite information about them.
- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, in order to curb fake, sub-standard and expired drugs, has ordered to mention the drug names and expiry date in Hindi/regional language along with English.
- The government constituted a “sub-committee” under the chairmanship of Dr R.N. Tandon to examine the matter and give its recommendations.
- Initially, the proposal will be implemented for Iron tablets and polio drops as they are the medicines most commonly administered to children at government health centres.

Other facts:

- Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB) is the highest statutory decision-making body on technical matters related to drugs in the country.

6. The World Day for Safety and Health at Work:

News: The International Labour Organization (ILO) observed the World Day for Safety and Health at Work on 28 April 2019.

Facts:	Questions/Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is annually observed since 2003 as an international awareness-raising campaign to focus international attention on emerging trends in the field of occupational safety and health. It is an integral part of Global Strategy on Occupational Safety and Health of ILO. The World Day for Safety and Health at Work 2019 edition is Inspired by ILO's centenary (1919-2019), and attempts to review the 100 years of work at improving occupational health. 	
<p>Other facts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ILO is the only tripartite U.N. agency, established in 1919 as an agency of the League of Nations. It is headquartered in Geneva Switzerland. India is a founding member of the ILO. 	
<p>7. WHO guidelines on Children's Screen time:</p>	
<p>News: The World Health Organization has issued its first-ever guidance on the screen time of children.</p>	
<p>Facts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidelines issued by WHO include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children aged 2- 5 years should not spend more than one hour watching screens every day. Zero or no screen time for those under 2 years of age The guidelines were developed as part of broader guidance on physical activity, sedentary behavior and sleep for children under 5. The new WHO guidelines are consistent with advice from other organizations including the American Academy of Pediatrics, which recommends children younger than 18 months also avoid screens. 	

SECURITY AND DEFENCE**Questions/Notes****1. Military Exercises:**

Exercise	Related Facts
a. Varuna Naval Exercise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India and France joint naval exercise. It was held off the Goa coast.
b. Bold Kurukshetra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint Military Exercise of India and Singapore. Was held at Babina Cantonment of Jhansi. Aimed at developing military technology, enhance the maritime security and bolster the nations' fight against terrorism.
c. Exercise SEA VIGIL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first coastal defence Exercise. It was conducted by the Navy and Coast Guard.
d. IN-VPN BILAT Exercise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was the second edition of maritime engagement between India and Vietnam. It was held off Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam .

2. National Maritime Day 2019:

News: 56th National Maritime Day was celebrated on 5th April 2019.

Facts:

- The theme of the National Maritime Day 2019 is "Indian Ocean-An Ocean of opportunity".
- The first National Maritime Day was celebrated in the year 1954.
- The Central Committee of the National Maritime, last year, instituted the highest award to recognize and persons for their sustained and outstanding contribution. The award is an annual feature and is known as the 'Varuna Award'.

Other Facts:

- On 5th April 1919, SS Loyalty, the first ship of The Scindia Steam Navigation Company Ltd travelled from Mumbai to the United Kingdom (London).

Questions/Notes

3. Virtual Reality Centre:

News: Navy chief Admiral Sunil Lanba inaugurated state-of-the-art Virtual Reality Centre (VRC) in New Delhi.

Facts:

- The Virtual Reality Centre seeks to provide impetus to "self-reliance and greater fillip" to warship construction under the 'Make in India' initiative of the Indian government.
- The VRC is housed at the Directorate of Naval Design.

Other facts:

- Directorate of Naval Design (Submarine Design Group) is a premier organisation for the design of submarines and submersibles.
- The Directorate of Naval Design (Surface Ship Group) began in the 1960s and has made major contributions towards indigenous warship design capabilities of the Indian Navy by improving self-reliance for warship design and construction.

4. Nirbhay:

News: India's first indigenously designed and developed long-range subsonic cruise missile 'Nirbhay' was tested from Chandipur, Odisha.

Facts:

- Nirbhay missile has blended missile and aeronautical technologies.
- The missile has a two-stage missile powered by solid rocket motor booster developed by Advanced Systems Laboratory (ASL).
- Nirbhay Missile has an operational range of 1000 km and can carry warheads of up to 300 kg including nuclear warheads.
- It can be launched from various platforms.
- It has the capability to loiter and cruise at 0.7 Mach, at altitudes as low as 100mts. (terrain hugging missile).
- It is difficult to be detected by the enemy's radars.

Other facts:

- Subsonic ammunition is ammunition designed to operate at speeds below the speed of sound.
- Cruise Missile is a low flying guided missile controlled by an on-board computer. For example: Brahmos Missile

5. International Fleet Review:

News: IN Ships Kolkata and Shakti participated in the International Fleet Review at Qingdao, China as part of the 70TH Anniversary celebrations of PLA (Navy).

Questions/Notes

Facts:

- International Fleet Review (IFR) is a parade of naval ships, aircraft and submarines, and is organised by nations to promote goodwill, strengthen cooperation and showcase their organisational capabilities.
- This is the third time India has participated in the event after 2009 and 2014.

Other facts:

- India conducted the second IFR off the coast of Visakhapatnam in Feb 2016.
- The IN Ships had called at Port Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam for a good will visit prior entering Qingdao.
- The ships visited Port Busan, South Korea and Singapore on their return journey to India as part of Eastern Fleet Overseas Deployment.

6. Guided Missile Destroyer INS Imphal:

News: Admiral Sunil Lanba launched the third ship named INS Imphal, a guided missile destroyer, under the Project 15B at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, Mumbai.

Facts:

- Project 15B ships feature cutting edge advanced technology and are comparable to the best ships of similar class anywhere in the world.
- These ships have been designed indigenously by the Indian Navy's Directorate of Naval Design, New Delhi.
- These ships will be propelled by four gas turbines to achieve speed in excess of 30 knots.

Other features:

- improved survivability,
- sea keeping and manoeuvrability
- enhanced stealth features due to the shaping of hull and use of radar transparent deck fittings
- equipped to carry and operate two multiple role helicopters

Other facts:

- Project 15Bravo (Project 15B) is aimed at adding state-of-the-art warships to the naval fleet.
- INS Visakhapatnam was the first Project 15B ship and second ship was INS Mormugao.

7. Vessel C-441:	Questions/Notes
<p>News: Indian Coast Guard commissioned an interceptor vessel C-441, at a ceremony held at the Vizhinjam harbour.</p> <p>Facts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICGS C-441 is the seventh interceptor vessel amongst the series designed and built indigenously by L & T Ltd., Surat. • It has a maximum speed of 45 knots (83 km/hr). • It is equipped with twin diesel engines and water jet propulsion. • The ship is fitted with state-of-the art communication, navigational equipment and with light, medium and heavy automatic machine gun onboard. • Indian Coast Guard Ship C-441 is capable to undertake multifarious activities like: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Close coast surveillance ○ Interdiction, search and rescue and rendering assistance to boats and crafts in distress at sea ○ Enhance the search and rescue capacity of Kerala seas 	

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**Questions/Notes****1. World Autism Awareness Day 2019:**

News: On 2nd April every year we observe the World Autism Awareness Day to spread information about Autism Spectrum Disorder and help the global ASD population lead a healthy social life.

Facts:

- 'Assistive Technologies. Active Participation' is the theme for WAAD 2019.
- Autism is a neurodevelopmental disorder of variable severity which causes disruption in communication and social interaction.
- This year, the UN Department of Global Communications and Department of Economic and Social Affairs observed World Autism Awareness Day 2019 at UN Headquarters.

Other facts:

- It was first celebrated and announced by the UNGA in 2008.
- World Autism Awareness Day is one of the seven health-based UN days.
- Other health based UN days are:
 - World Water Day- 22nd March
 - World No-Tobacco Day- 31st May
 - International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking- 26th June
 - World Mental Health Day- 10th October
 - World Diabetes Day- 14th November
 - World Aids Day-1st December

2. IMD confirms El-Nino Conditions:

News: India Meteorological Department (IMD) has declared that weak El Nino conditions are prevalent in the equatorial Pacific Ocean.

Facts:

- El Niño is the warm phase of the El Niño–Southern Oscillation.
- It is associated with a band of warm ocean water that develops in the central and east-central equatorial Pacific, due to displacement of the cold Humboldt current.
- El-Nino is a December month phenomenon in the Southern Hemisphere and is thus named El-Nino (which means the Newborn Christ).
- In India the effects of El-Nino is observed in the summer months of April-October which coincides with the Indian monsoon season.
- It occurs usually after a gap of 2-5 years. The last El Niño episode was in 2015, which was a year of extensive drought across India.

Questions/Notes

- IMD said “these conditions are likely to persist in the early part of the summer season and likely to weaken thereafter.”

Other facts:

- La Nina is the "opposite" of El Niño, (meaning "the girl" in American Spanish). It is the colder counterpart of El Niño, as part of the broader El Niño–Southern Oscillation climate pattern.
- The India Meteorological Department, Ministry of Earth Sciences, is the principal agency responsible for meteorological observations, weather forecasting and seismology.

3. EMISAT:

News: The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully launched an Electronic Surveillance Satellite ‘Emisat’ from Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.

Facts:

- EMISAT is an Indian reconnaissance satellite.
- The satellite is under the control of ISRO’s Telemetry Tracking and Command Network at Bengaluru.
- EMISAT is a satellite built around ISRO’s Mini Satellite-2 bus weighing about 436 kg.
- The satellite was successfully placed in its intended sun-synchronous polar orbit of 748 km height by PSLV-C45 on April 01, 2019.
- The satellite is intended for electromagnetic spectrum measurement.
- Space-based electronic intelligence or ELINT from the 436-kg spacecraft will strengthen the situational awareness of the Armed Forces, as it will provide location and information of hostile radars placed at the borders along with the conventional land or aircraft-based ELINT.

4. Nepal’s first ever satellite takes off:

News: Nepal’s first satellite NepaliSat-1 was launched into space.

Facts:

- NepaliSat-1 will start rotating around the Earth’s orbit with a 5MP camera to collect information about the country’s topography and a magnetometer Earth’s magnetic field.
- It is a low orbit satellite which will be in the 400-km distance from the Earth’s surface.
- It will be stationed at the International Space Station for a month and then it will be sent to orbit the earth.
- The satellite was developed by two Nepalis Abhas Maskey and Hariram Shrestha at Japan’s Kyushu Institute of Technology.

Questions/Notes

- The satellite bears Nepal flag, logo of Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) and the names of the scientists involved in developing the satellite.
- The images and data will be sent by satellite to the ground station at NAST.
- It was launched under the BIRDS Project of the Japanese Kyushu Institute of Technology.

Other facts:

- The BIRDS Project was launched in association with the United Nations to help nations launch their first satellite.

5. Raavana 1:

News: Sri Lanka's first satellite Raavana-1 was launched into space from NASA's Flight Facility on Virginia east coast.

Facts:

- Raavana 1 satellite was designed and built at the Kyushu Institute of Technology in Japan by two Sri Lankan research engineers.
- Raavana-1 was launched under the BIRDS Project of the Japanese Kyushu Institute of Technology.
- Raavana-1 is designed to accomplish five missions, including satellite's camera mission to capture images of Sri Lanka and its neighbouring countries.
- Its Lora Demonstration Mission is to validate the module to be used to data download next satellites.
- The Attitude Determination and Control Mission of 'Ravaana 1' will involve the team trying to reduce the angular velocity of the satellite using magnetic torquers.

Other facts:

- The BIRDS Project has been launched in association with the United Nations to help nations launch their first satellite.

6. Liquid Methane on Titan:

News: NASA's Cassini spacecraft discovered that Saturn's largest moon Titan has small liquid lakes filled with methane.

Facts:

- Titan has landforms akin to Mesas towering above the nearby landscape, topped with liquid lakes more than 300 feet deep comprised mainly of methane.

Questions/Notes

- Scientists suspect the lakes were formed when surrounding bedrock chemically dissolved and collapsed, a process which occurs with a certain type of lakes on Earth.
- “Phantom lakes” are those that appear to be wide but shallow ponds during winter time and those which appear to be evaporated or drained into the surface by springtime which usually takes 7 years on Titan.
- Titan and Earth are the solar system’s two places with standing bodies of liquid on the surface.
- Titan has lakes, rivers and seas of hydrocarbons. These bodies are filled with compounds of hydrogen and carbon which are the main components of petroleum and natural gas.

Other facts:

- Titan, a moon of Saturn is the solar system’s second largest moon after Jupiter’s Ganymede. It is bigger than the planet Mercury.
- Saturn has around 62 moons with confirmed orbits. Some of them are Mimas, Tethys, Rhea, Pan, Enceladus etc.

7. World Haemophilia Day 2019:

News: April 17 is observed as World Haemophilia Day.

Facts:

- Haemophilia is a medical condition in which the ability of blood to clot is severely reduced.
- The disease is inherited and is attributed to the X chromosome.
- Haemophilia is more common among men.
- The World Haemophilia Day 2019 is aimed at reaching out and identifying new members with the bleeding disorder. It is observed to commemorate the birthday of Frank Schnabel who established the World Federation of Haemophilia in 1963.

8. First Earth size Exoplanet:

News: The Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) Mission of NASA has discovered its first Earth-size in the constellation Reticulum.

Facts:

- The planet is called HD 21749c.
- It orbits around a star named HD 21749.
- HD 21749, a K-type star with about 70% of the Sun’s mass and located 53 light-years away.

Questions/Notes

Other facts:

- The Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) is a space telescope for NASA's Explorers program, designed to search for exoplanets using the transit method.
- The TESS focuses on a large patch of sky and at closer stars.

9. Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART):

News: NASA has announced that SpaceX will fly its Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) planetary-defence mission.

Facts:

- Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) is a planned space probe that will demonstrate the kinetic effects of crashing an impactor spacecraft into an asteroid moon for planetary defense purposes.
- The mission is intended to test whether a spacecraft impact could successfully deflect an asteroid on a collision course with Earth.
- The kinetic impact technique works by changing the speed of a threatening asteroid by a small fraction of its total velocity.
- The spacecraft will slam into "Didymoon," the 165 meters' satellite of the near-Earth asteroid Didymos.

10. Beresheet Mission:

News: Israel's first Mission to the moon, also the world's first privately funded Mission Beresheet, crash landed on the moon.

Facts:

- NGO SpaceIL and state-owned Israel Aerospace Industries launched it from Cape Canaveral Air Force base in Florida on 22 February on a used SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket.
- The spacecraft failed to touch down safely, however it was the first attempted moon landing for Israel and the first for a privately funded organization from anywhere in the world.
- It carried a retroreflector instrument (science instrument provided by NASA), to make precise measurements of the distance between Earth and the moon, a time capsule of digital records and an instrument to study the moon's magnetic field.

11. Cygnus Cargo Spacecraft:

News: Antares Rocket took off from NASA's Wallops Flight Facility on Virginia's Eastern Shore carrying the Cygnus Cargo Spacecraft to the International Space Station.

Questions/Notes

Facts:

- Cygnus Cargo Spacecraft carried supplies and scientific experiments to the station.
- Few of the instruments will be used to examine astronaut's health in microgravity, including ageing-like changes in many astronauts on the space station, changes to their arteries, and examine the effects of spaceflight on the function of antibody production and immune memory.

12. 1st Molecule of the Universe:

News: NASA Scientists have detected the most ancient type of Molecule-Helium hydride, in our universe for the first time ever.

Facts:

- Helium hydride ion (HeH^+) was the first molecule that was formed, almost 14 billion years ago.
- Falling temperatures in the young universe allowed recombination of the light elements produced in the Big Bang as a result, ionised hydrogen and neutral helium atoms reacted to form Helium hydride (HeH^+).
- The researchers used the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA's) SOFIA, the world's largest airborne observatory, to detect Helium Hydride.
- The molecule was detected in NGC 7027, a planetary nebula about 3,000 light-years away from Earth.

Other facts:

- The Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA) is an 80/20 joint project of NASA and the German Aerospace Center to construct and maintain an airborne observatory.

13. Indigenous Genetic Mapping Effort:

News: An indigenous genetic mapping effort has been undertaken by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

Facts:

- The project aims to educate a generation of students on the usefulness of genomics by sequencing their genomes.
- The project is a sub project of a much larger government-led programme Genome India Initiative, to sequence at least 10,000 Indian genomes.
- Under the Project, nearly 1,000 rural youth from the length and breadth of India will have their genomes sequenced by the CSIR.
- The project would involve the Hyderabad-based Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB).
- The samples would be representative of the country's population diversity.

Questions/Notes

- Every participant would be given a report and would be informed whether they carry gene variants that make them less responsive to certain classes of medicines.

Other facts:

- The Genome India initiative is based on the Next Generation Sequencing platform – the latest and best in sequencing technologies to sequence the genome of thousands of Indians, so that there is adequate representation of India's diversity.
- Genome refers to an organism's complete set of DNA, including all of its genes.
- The human genome was first sequenced in 2003 under the Human Genome Project by the company Celera Genomics.

14. Marsquake:

News: The National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA's) InSight lander spacecraft has suspected a "mars quake" on the Red Planet.

Facts:

- Once confirmed, it would become the first seismic activity ever detected on Mars.
- InSight heard the marsquake with the help of a French-built instrument that contains three extremely sensitive seismometers nestled inside a dome to protect them from the wind.
- A marsquake is similar to an earthquake. It is seismic shaking of the surface or interior of Mars, caused as a result of a sudden release of energy.
 - Seismic activity of any kind is not always dependent on plate tectonics, for example, on the moon, the quake is caused due to temperature shifts and gravitational stresses.

Other facts:

- NASA's InSight which stands for Interior Exploration using Seismic Investigations, Geodesy and Heat Transport, is a Mars lander.
- NASA's InSight is the first outer space robotic explorer to study in-depth the "inner space" of Mars: its crust, mantle, and core.
- It will assist in the study of the origin of the other terrestrial planets- Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars.

ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGY

Questions/Notes

1. Nugen Mobility Summit 2019:

News: The International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT) in collaboration with SAE-NIS, is organized NuGen Mobility Summit, 2019, at Manesar, Haryana.

Facts:

- The objective of the Summit is to share new ideas, learnings, global experiences, innovations and future technology trends for faster adoption, assimilation and development of advanced automotive technologies for a smarter and greener future.
- Track demonstrations, drive-touch-feel activity and lab demonstrations on upcoming vehicle technologies (connected mobility, autonomous vehicles, electric mobility, alternate fuels), intelligent transportation systems, hydrogen fuel cell, hydrogen IC engine, vehicle dynamics, advanced materials and light weighting, and recycling were the unique features of this event.

Other facts:

- The International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT), Manesar, is a leading world class automotive testing, certification and R&D service provider under the aegis of NATRiP (National Automotive Testing and R&D Infrastructure Project), Government of India.

2. Global Cooling Coalition:

News: The first-ever global coalition on clean and efficient cooling was launched at the First Global Conference on Synergies between the 2030 Agenda and Paris Agreement in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Facts:

- The Global Cool Coalition is a unified front that links action across the Kigali Amendment, Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals.
- Its objective is to inspire ambition, identify solutions and mobilise action to accelerate progress towards clean and efficient cooling.
- The Cool Coalition offers a three-in-one opportunity to cut global warming, improve the lives of hundreds of millions of people and make huge financial savings.
- It includes government officials from Chile, Rwanda, Denmark as well as leaders from civil society, research and academia.
- It is supported by the UN, and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition, the Kigali Cooling Efficiency Program and Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL).

Questions/Notes

3. Humpback Mahseer:

News: IUCN has listed Hump-backed Mahseer as Critically Endangered in the Red List of Threatened Species.

Facts:

- Its inclusion in the IUCN Red List for threatened Species was possible only after it got its scientific name i.e., *Tor remadevii* last June.
- The Hump-backed Mahseer is a species of freshwater and is referred to as the tiger of the water.
- The Hump-backed Mahseer is found only in the Cauvery river basin including Pambar, Kabini and Bhavani rivers.
- There are about 16 species of mahseer in India for example the Golden Mahseer in Narmada River.
- Shoal, an international organisation working to conserve freshwater species has initiated 'Project Mahseer' in collaboration with other stakeholders.

4. National Workshop on Loss and Damage in India:

News: National Consultation on Loss and Damage was organised in New Delhi.

Facts:

- It was organised by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to deliberate and brainstorm on emerging perspectives on approaches to assess, minimise and address climate-related loss and damage.'

Other facts:

- Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage is the main vehicle under the UNFCCC process to avert, minimize and address loss and damage associated with climate change impacts, including extreme weather events and slow onset events.
- The Loss and Damage mechanism has the following functions:
 - Enhancing knowledge and understanding of comprehensive risk management
 - To strengthen coordination and dialogue among the concerned stakeholders to enable them to address the loss and damage associated with the adverse climate change
 - To enhance financial, technological and capacity building to enable action.

5. Earth Day:

News: Earth day 2019 was celebrated on the 22nd April.

Questions/Notes

Facts:

- The theme of Earth Day 2019 is Protect our Species to protect threatened and endangered species.
- Earth Day is the manifestation of the growing environmental consciousness among people in 1970.
- Earth Day 2020 will be the 50th anniversary of celebrating Earth Day.

6. Earth Hour:

News: Earth Hour 2019 was observed on March 30.

Facts:

- The Theme of Earth Hour 2019 is #Connect2Earth.

Other facts:

- Earth Hour is held annually by encouraging individuals, communities, and businesses to turn off non-essential electric lights for one hour, from 8:30pm to 9:30 pm as a symbol to call for global action on climate change.
- Earth Hour began as a symbolic lights out event in Sydney in 2007.
- Earth Hour is organized by the World Wide Fund for Nature.

7. Oil Eating Bacteria:

News: Scientists from China, Russia and England have discovered a bacteria that consume Hydrocarbons.

Facts:

- The oil eating bacteria was discovered in the western Pacific Ocean's Mariana Trench.
- They eat compounds found in oil and then use it for fuel.
- They can play a significant role in treating oil spills.

Other facts:

- Hydrocarbons (oil and natural gas) are organic compounds that are made of hydrogen and carbon atoms.
- The Mariana Trench or Marianas Trench is located in the western Pacific Ocean approximately 200 kilometres east of the Mariana Island.
- It is the deepest natural trench in the world.
- It is a crescent-shaped trough in the Earth's crust averaging about 2,550 km long and 69 km wide.

8. Bamboo Rice:

News: Bamboo rice has appeared in Odisha, after four decades.

Facts:

- Bamboo rice grows out of a dying bamboo shoot.
- Bamboo rice looks like paddy rice and tastes more like wheat.
- Bamboo rice is not commonly available as it takes many years for a bamboo tree to flower.
- Bamboo rice is believed to contain a low glycaemic index compared to other varieties and it is good for diabetics.
- It's rich in protein and does not contain fats.
- Bamboo rice is also believed to be containing medicinal values.
- However, the bamboo rice crop will be accompanied by an increase in the rat population in the forest.

9. Namami Gange:

News: Namami Gange has received the distinction of “Public Water Agency of the Year” by Global Water Intelligence at the Global Water Summit in London.

Facts:

- An integrated mission for Ganga rejuvenation, the Namami Gange programme provides for a comprehensive multi-sector intervention with multi-stakeholder involvement and adopts a basin-based approach.

Other facts:

- Namami Gange Programme', is an Integrated Conservation Mission to accomplish the twin objectives of effective abatement of pollution, conservation and rejuvenation of National River Ganga.
- Global Water Summit is the annual business conference for the water industry worldwide.
- The summit provides a platform for connecting the public and private sector and for accelerating change and innovation within the sector.

10. River Periyar:

News: The River Periyar in Kerala is witnessing decolourisation.

Facts:

- The Kerala Pollution Control Board (PCB) has attributed the change in colour to the poor quality of water as a result of eutrophication.
- Discharge of effluents from industrial units was mainly responsible for the change in color of the river which was black in some places.

Other facts:

- River Periyar flows in the state of Kerala.
- It originates in the Western Ghats and flows north for a short distance to Periyar Lake. Periyar Lake.

Questions/Notes

Questions/Notes

- The famous Mullaperiyar Dam and Idukki dam are constructed across the river.
- Eutrophication, or hypertrophication, is when a body of water becomes overly enriched with minerals and nutrients which induce excessive growth of plants and algae.
- This process may result in oxygen depletion of the water body, thus increasing the Biological Oxygen Demand.

11. Cyclone Fani:

News: Cyclone Fani hit the Indian coast.

Facts:

- Cyclone Fani originated in South East Bay of Bengal is likely to intensify from a severe cyclonic storm into a 'very severe cyclonic storm' as it approaches the coast of Tamil Nadu.
- A very severe cyclonic storm means Fani will get 'category three' storm status on the five-step Saffir-Simpson scale.

Other facts:

- Cyclones are caused by atmospheric disturbances around a low-pressure area and is usually accompanied by violent storms and severe weather conditions.
- Cyclone Pabuk originated over the Gulf of Thailand, in 2019.
- Tropical cyclones that are intense are known by different terms in different geographical locations:
 - Hurricanes over the Atlantic Ocean
 - Typhoons over the Pacific Ocean
 - Willy-willy in Australia
- In the Indian Ocean Tropical cyclones are named by the 8 most affected countries namely India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Oman, Myanmar, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Thailand.
- Eight names are given by these 8 countries and arranged alphabetically in a series.
- Cyclone Fani was named by Bangladesh. The next cyclone will be named Vayu, a name contributed by India.
- The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale:
 - It classifies hurricanes or Western Hemisphere tropical cyclones that exceed intensities of tropical depression and tropical storms into five categories or 1 to 5 rating based on intensity of their sustained winds.
 - Cyclones reaching Category 3 and higher are considered alarming because of their potential for significant loss of life and damage.

Questions/Notes

12. 5th Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) Media Summit on Climate Action and Disaster Preparedness:

News: 5th Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) Media Summit on Climate Action and Disaster Preparedness was held in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Facts:

- Theme of the summit was “Media Solutions for a Sustainable Future: Saving Lives, Building Resilient Communities”.
- Kathmandu Media Action Plan for Media Integration in Climate Action and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) was adopted at the summit.
 - It recommends comprehensive investment in broadcaster networks to make them resilient to hazards, and capacity building of the journalists.
 - A comprehensive session on the Sendai Disaster Risk Reduction Framework was held with the objective of fully utilizing media’s potential of accelerating climate action and disaster preparedness.
- It was a platform for all the stakeholders including political leaders, UN agencies representatives, NGOs, Experts of climate change and disaster management, scientists and media persons.

Other facts:

- ABU is a non-profit, non-governmental, non-political, professional association of broadcasting organisations, which assists development of broadcasting in the region.
- It was established in 1964, and has Secretariat in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- It is a member of the World Broadcasters’ Union.

13. National Clean Air Programme:

News: The National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), which was formally unveiled recently to provide the States and the Centre with a framework to combat air pollution.

Facts:

- The scheme is launched under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- It aims to cut the concentration of coarse (particulate matter of diameter 10 micrometer or less, or PM10) and fine particles (particulate matter of diameter 2.5 micrometer or less, or PM2.5) by at least 20% in the next five years, with 2017 as the base year for comparison.
- The 102 non-attainment cities chosen under the scheme, based on the reports by the WHO and the air quality data from 2011 to 2015, are mostly tier two cities.

- The programme proposes state-level plans of e-mobility in the two-wheeler sector, rapid augmentation of charging infrastructure, stringent implementation of BS-VI norms, boosting public transportation system, and adoption of third-party audits for polluting industries.

Other facts:

- Non-attainment cities are those which have been consistently showing poorer air quality than the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

Questions/Notes

MISCELLANEOUS

Questions/Notes

1. New Year in different Parts of India:

News: The April month is full of New Year celebrations in different parts of India according to the hindu calender.

Facts:

Important New Year festivals across India:

New Year	Region/State
Ugadi	Telugu New Year Celebrated in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
Gudi Padwa	Maharashtrian and Konkani New year
Baisakhi	Punjabi New Year
Puthandu	Tamil New Year
Bohag Bihu	Assamese New Year
Pohela Boishakh	Bengali New Year
Bestu Varas	Gujarati New Year
Vishu	Malayalam New Year
Losoong	Sikkimese New Year
Navreh	Kashmiri New Year
Pana Sankranti	Odia New Year

2. Battle of Kangla Tongbi :

News: The Platinum Jubilee of the Battle of Kangla Tongbi War was commemorated on 07 April 2019 by Army Ordnance Corps at Kangla Tongbi War Memorial near Imphal.

Facts:

- The Battle of Kanglatongbi also known as Battle of Lion Box is considered to be one of the fiercest battles of World War II.
- The battle was fought between the Axis (Japanese) Force and Allied Force on the 6/7 April 1944.
- The Kangla Tongbi War Memorial is a mute testimony to this battle and the unflinching devotion of the soldiers.

Questions/Notes

3. Maharshi Badrayan Vyas Samman Award:

News: Vice President Venkaiah Naidu conferred Maharshi Badrayan Vyas Samman Awards at New Delhi.

Facts:

- The award was introduced in 2002 by the Ministry of Human Resource and Development.
- Maharshi Badrayan Vyas Samman is conferred on persons in recognition of their substantial contribution in the field of Sanskrit, Persian, Arabic, Pali, Prakrit, Classical Odia, Classical Kannada, Classical Telugu and Classical Malayalam.
- It is awarded to young people in the age group of 30-45 years.
- The Presidential award carries a certificate of honour, a memento and a one-time cash prize of Rs.1 lakh.

Other facts:

- He was an Indian philosopher who has written the basic text of the Vedanta system, the Vedāntasūtra (Brahmasūtra). He is thus considered the founder of the Vedānta system of philosophy.

4. Battle of Kohima:

News: Nagaland observed the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Kohima.

Facts:

- The theme of the commemoration Day was 'Remembrance, Reconciliation and Rebirth'.
- The battle of Kohima was fought during World War II 1944.
- The battle is often referred to as the "Stalingrad of the East".
- It was fought in 3 stages between the Japanese and the British Empire in India.
- The battle was a turning point as it halted the Japanese march of imperialism.

5. PM Receives UAE's Highest Civilian Award:

News: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be honoured with the Zayed Medal, the UAE's highest civil honour.

Facts:

- The medal, awarded to kings, presidents and heads of states, was conferred upon Indian PM for boosting relations between the Emirates and India.
- Previously, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Chinese President Xi Jinping have also been conferred with the honour.

Questions/Notes

6. Maitri Bridge:

News: Maitri Bridge over Indus in Leh is now open for public.

Facts:

- Maitri Bridge has been dedicated to the people of India to commemorate the 20th year of Kargil Vijay Divas.
- The bridge was constructed by the combat engineers of 'Sahas aur Yogyata' regiment of 'Fire and Fury Corps' of the Indian Army.
- It is the longest suspension bridge of 260-foot built over the Indus River at Choglamsar village.
- It has been named 'Maitri Bridge', symbolising the excellent civil-military relations existing in the region.

7. GI Tag for Kandhamal Haldi:

News: Kandhamal Haldi a variety of turmeric, indigenous to southern Odisha was given Geographical indication (GI) tag.

Facts:

- Kandhamal Haldi has more oleo resin and volatile oil contents compared to other turmeric varieties.
- Kandhamal Haldi gives strong aroma and has a high medicinal values and healing properties.
- The recognition coincided with the state's Foundation Day (Utkal Divas).

Other facts:

- Odisha had lost its battle to neighbouring West Bengal in obtaining GI tag for Rasogolla earlier.
- Other GI Tags of Odisha include: Kotpad's handloom fabric, Ikat saree saree, Berhampur Patto, Pipili appliqué, Pattachitra and Konark stonework.
- Geographical Indication defines the goods as originating in the territory of a country or a region or locality in that territory, providing a unique feature to product.
- The GI tag in India is governed by the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection Act), 1999 and is administered by the Controller General of Patents, Designs and TradeMarks.
- The office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs and TradeMarks is in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

8. Odisha Divas 2019:

News: The state of Odisha celebrates Odisha Divas or Utkal Divas every year on April 1st to commemorate the state formation day.

Facts:**Odisha timeline:**

1912	Bihar and Orissa had been separated from Bengal to form the Bihar and Orissa Province.
1936	Bihar and Orissa Province was itself split to form Bihar Province and Orissa Province.
Post-independence	The area of Orissa was almost doubled and the population was increased.
2011	The name of the state was changed from Orissa to Odisha, and the name of its language from Oriya to Odia. This was done by the 98th Constitutional Amendment Act.

Other facts:

- The state has one of the four Chardhams- Shri Jagannath Puri where Lord Vishnu is the presiding deity.
- The other three dhams are at Dwarka(Vishnu), Rameshwaram (Shiva) and Badrikashinath (Vishnu).
- The Jagannath temple is built during the reign of the eastern Ganga dynasty.

9. Centenary of the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre:

News: April 13, 2019 marks the centenary of the Jallianwalabagh Massacre.

Facts:

- The Jallianwala Bagh massacre, also known as the Amritsar massacre, took place on 13 April 1919.
- The massacre a 'shameful scar' on British Indian history, where General Dyer opened fire on the non-combatant, innocent crowd which had gathered in Amritsar for the festival of Baisakhi.

Other facts:

- Jallianwala Bagh is a public garden in Amritsar, and houses a memorial of national importance, established in 1951 by the Government of India, to commemorate the massacre of peaceful celebrators.
- Baishakhi also known as Vaishakhi, or Vasakhi is a historical and religious festival in Hinduism and Sikhism.
- Baishakhi is usually celebrated on 13 or 14 April every year as a harvest festival and to commemorate the formation of Khalsa panth of warriors under Guru Gobind Singh in 1699.

Questions/Notes

Questions/Notes

10. Ambedkar Jayanti:

News: Ambedkar Jayanti or Bhim Jayanti is an annual festival observed on 14 April to commemorate the memory of B. R. Ambedkar.

Facts:

- Since 2015, April 14th, the Birth Anniversary of Dr Ambedkar, has been observed as an official public holiday throughout India.
- The period from 14 April 1990 — 14 April 1991 was observed as "Year of Social Justice" in the memory of Babasaheb.
- Even the United Nations celebrated Ambedkar Jayanti in 2016, 2017 and 2018.

Other facts:

- B.R Ambedkar was born in Maharashtra in the Mahar Community.
- He was bestowed with Bharat Ratna award posthumously in 1990.
- The last book written by him was "The Buddha and His Dhamma".
- He established the Independent Labour Party in 1936.

11. Mahavir Jayanti:

News: The Jayanti celebrated on 17th April marks the birth anniversary of the 24th Tirthankara of the Jains.

Facts:

- Mahaveer Janma Kalyanak, is one of the most important religious festivals for Jains.
- Mahavir Jayanti is a festival marked with prayers and fasting.
- It is especially popular in the eastern state of Bihar, where Mahavira was born near the modern town of Patna.

Other facts:

- The other important tirthankaras are:
 - Rishabhdev/ Adinath (1st tirthankara)
 - Neminath (22nd tirthankara)
 - Parsvanath (23rd tirthankara)
- The Panch Kalyanak of Jain community, which mark the 5 auspicious events in the life of Tirthankara are:
 - Garbh Kalyanak
 - Janma Kalyanak
 - Deeksha Kalyanak
 - Kevalyagyan Kalyanak
 - Nirvana Kalyanak
- Jains are one of the 6 religious minorities of India. The other five are Buddhists, Parsis, Sikhs, Christians and Muslims.

Questions/Notes

12. Good Friday and Easter:

News: Good Friday and Easter are the two most important festivals of the Christian community across the world.

Facts:

- Good Friday is to commemorate the crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ.
- Good Friday is also referred to as Black Friday, Great Friday, Easter Friday or Holy Friday.
- Good Friday is followed by Easter Sunday, the day on which Jesus was resurrected from death.

Other facts:

- Christians are one of the 6 religious minority communities in India.
- Others are Muslims, Jains, Sikhs, Parsis and Buddhists.

13. World Heritage Day:

News: April 18 2019 was observed as the World Heritage Day.

Facts:

- The theme for the World Heritage Day was 'Rural Landscapes'.
- World Heritage Day offers an opportunity to raise the public's awareness about the diversity of cultural heritage and the efforts that are required to conserve it.
- The theme of the World Heritage Day related to the theme of the 2019 International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) Scientific Symposium on Rural heritage to be held at Marrakesh, Morocco.

Other facts:

- UNESCO defines a World Heritage Site as a "natural or man-made area or a structure that is of international importance, and space which requires special protection.

14. Street Child Cricket World Cup:

News: Cricketer Mithali Raj has been named as a goodwill ambassador of the Indian team for the Street Child Cricket World Cup.

Facts:

- The first ever Cricket World Cup for street children will take place ahead of the 2019 ICC Cricket World Cup in England and Wales.
- The Street Child Cricket World Cup aims to unite street children from around the world to play in their own international cricket tournament.
- It is aimed at raising awareness and tackling the widespread stigma and negative treatment they face.

Questions/Notes

15. Saraswati Samman:

News: Telugu poet K Siva Reddy has been selected for the prestigious Saraswati Samman, 2018.

Facts:

- He has been awarded for his work Pakkaki Ottigilite which is a collection of poetry.
- Pakkaki Ottigilite was published in 2016, is an anthology of 104 poems in blank verse. It captures the responses of the poet over the years to social change, the evolution of his own self and his dynamic relationship with the world.

Other facts:

- Saraswati Samman Award was instituted by the KK Birla Foundation in the year 1991.
- It is given annually for an outstanding literary work written in any official Indian language and published during the preceding 10 years.
- It carries a cash purse of Rs 15 lakh, apart from a citation and a plaque.

16. Rawanda Genocide 1994:

News: International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Rwanda Genocide was observed on 7th April on 7th April in memory of the victims of the genocide in Rwanda.

Facts:

- The genocide against the Tutsi community directed by members of the Hutu majority government.

17. Mt. Agung Erupts:

News: The active volcano of Indonesia Mount Agung has erupted.

Facts:

- Mount Agung is an active volcano in Bali of Indonesia.
- Mount Agung, a stratovolcano is the highest point on Bali.
- The most important temple on Bali, Pura Besakih, is located high on the slopes of Mount Agung.

Other facts:

- Mount Bromo and Mount Merapi are also active volcanoes on the Indonesian archipelago.

18. World Book Day:

News: UNESCO observed 23rd of April as World Book Day.

Facts:	Questions/Notes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The city of Sharjah has been selected as the World Book Capital for the year 2019, and will be preceded by Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in the year 2020. • Also known as the World Book and Copyright Day, it aims to promote the joy of books and the art of reading. • The theme is centred around round celebrating literature and reading with a particular focus on enhancing and protecting indigenous languages. • The theme is in line with the International Year of Indigenous Languages celebrated by the UN. 	
<p>19. Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize 2019:</p>	
<p>News: Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize 2019 was awarded to author Rana Dasgupta for his 2010 novel “Solo”.</p>	
<p>Facts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The novel ‘Solo’ is a tale of estrangement and the ultimate failure of material existence. • The Literary Prize is the second edition of this series. • The award focuses on literature that brings about revival of poetry and books and change lives. It is an annual cultural event whose purpose is to reconcile international and Indian writers and artists, to bridge cultural differences, promote peace and education. • Indian Poets, novelists and Playwrights writing in officially recognized languages or dialects of the Indian subcontinent, including English are eligible for the award. • An amount of \$10,000, a Tagore statue and a certificate for contribution to literature will be given to the awardee. 	
<p>Other facts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first prize of Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize for the year 2018 was awarded to “One Hundred Poems of Kabir” by Kabir, translated from Hindi into English by Rabindranath Tagore. • Kabir was posthumously awarded for his outstanding collection of poetry proving that “a poet never dies; neither does his poetry”. 	

APRIL POINTLY:

Questions/Notes

1. **'Café Scientifique':** Hume Centre for Ecology and Wildlife Biology in Kerala are gearing up to launch 'Café Scientifique' to promote science among the public in an interesting way.
2. **Tip Line:** Whatsapp launches Tip Line App to check on and combat fake news in the backdrop of 2019 Lok Sabha elections.
3. **Mujibnagar day:** On this occasion Bangladesh pays tribute to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.
4. **ROC:** The world's largest aircraft ROC, developed by aerospace venture Stratolaunch has successfully completed its first flight test.
5. **My Circle App:** My Circle App was launched by Bharti Airtel in collaboration with FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO), aims to help women in case they face any problem or a panic situation.
6. **Project Kannamma:** Project Kannamma is an initiative of the Rotary Club of Madras North to provide sanitary napkins to the students.
7. **Homo Luzonesis:** Researchers in the Philippines have discovered a species of ancient human Homo Luzonensis found in a cave on the island of Luzon in the Philippines.
8. **Wisden Award:** Wisden's oldest individual award in cricket. The Wisden has named Virat Kohli as the Leading Cricketer of the Year for 2018.
9. **Chain Melted state:** Scientists from the University of Edinburgh in Scotland using powerful computer simulations have discovered the existence of the state known as the chain melted state.
10. **Veer Parivar App:** On the occasion of the 54th Valour Day (Shaurya Diwas) of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), President Ram Nath Kovind launched 'Veer Parivar App' a mobile application for families of CRPF personnel killed in the line of duty. The app will provide assistance to the families of the martyred CRPF personnel with regard to issuance of ex gratia, pension benefits etc.
11. **M3 EVMS:** M3 EVMS are the third generation EVMS. The M3 EVMS can keep data of 384 candidates. M3 EVMS also has added features like Tamper Detection and Self Diagnostics.

Questions/Notes

12. Ugadi Pachchadi a ugadi dish made of neem flowers, jaggery, raw mango, chillies, tamarind and salt, which signifies the true essence of life and its journey. It is a symbolic indication of the diversity of experiences that constitute human life, the mixed bag of emotions that we all experience on a day to day basis.

13. Santosh Trophy: The Santosh Trophy is a football knock-out competition contested by the regional state associations and government institutions under the All India Football Federation.

14. World English Day: 23 April is observed as English Language Day every year to commemorate both the birth and death anniversary of William Shakespeare.

15. Arjuna Award: The Arjuna Awards (instituted in 1961) are given by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India to recognize outstanding achievement in sports.

16. Nur Sultan: Kazakhstan has changed the name of the capital city to Nur-Sultan in honour of former president Nursultan Nazerbayev.