

CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2020

Awards

The Indian-origin American author who has been chosen to be awarded the PEN/Hemingway Award 2020 for her first novel A Prayer for Travelers – **Ruchika Tomar**

Persons

The renowned Indian painter, sculptor, muralist and writer, (Padma Vibhushan awardee and brother of former PM IK Gujral) who passed away on 26 March 2020 – **Satish Gujral**

The former Indian footballer, Padmashree and Arjuna awardee, who passed away on 20 March 2020 – **PK Banerjee**

The high level technical committee of 21 Public Health Experts constituted by Govt of India for preventing and controlling COVID-19 in the country is headed by – **Dr V K Paul**

The former Chief Justice of India who has been nominated to the Rajya Sabha by the Indian President Shri Ram Nath Kovind – **Shri Ranjan Gogoi**

The former chief financial officer and deputy managing director of State Bank of India who has been appointed the MD and CEO of Yes Bank – **Prashant Kumar**

The team which has won the 2019-20 Ranji Trophy title defeating Bengal in the finals at Rajkot – **Saurashtra**

The former Secretary General of the United Nations Organisation who passed away on 04 March 2020 – **Javier Perez de Cuellar**

The new Finance Secretary of India replacing Shri Rajiv Kumar – **Ajay Bhushan Pandey**

The new Prime Minister of Malaysia appointed after the resignation of Mr. Mahathir Mohammed – **Muhyiddin Yassin**

Places

The venue of Wings-2020 the biennial civil aviation and aerospace event organised by Ministry of Civil Aviation, Airports Authority of India and FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry) – **Begumpet, Hyderabad**

The European country which has become the first in the world to make public transport free in order to reduce traffic jams – **Luxembourg**

Sports

The team which has won the third Indian Super League (ISL) trophy defeating Chennaiyin FC in the finals at the Fatorda Stadium in Goa – **ATK FC**

The snooker player who has won the National Snooker Championship (Women's) defeating Vidya Pillai in the finals – **Amees Kamani**

The well-known snooker player who has won the National Snooker Championship defeating Ishpreet Singh in the finals in Ahmedabad – **Pankaj Advani**

The place at which the first ever Khelo India Winter Games were inaugurated by Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports – **Gulmarg, J&K**

The former Indian cricketer who has been appointed the Chairman of National Selection Panel of BCCI replacing MSK Prasad – **Sunil Joshi**

Miscellaneous

The special train to be launched by SIDBI for new entrepreneurs on June 5 starting from Lucknow and covering 7000 km & 11 cities in 15 days is named – **Swalamban Express**

The new explosive detection device developed by High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL) Pune and Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, and unveiled at the National Workshop on Explosive Detection (NWED-2020) in Pune is named – **RaIDer-X**

TIMES OF INDIA SPORTS AWARDS 2019

Sportsperson of the Year 2019: **P V Sindhu** (Badminton)

Para-athlete of the Year: **Manasi Joshi and Pramod Bhagat** (Badminton)

Team of the Year: **Men's Hockey Team**

Coach of the Year: **Jaspal Rana** (Shooting)

Mentor of the Year: **Pullela Gopichand** (Badminton)

Icon of the Century: **Balbir Singh** (Hockey)

Lifetime Achievement: **Baichung Bhutia** (Football)

Change Agent of the Year: **Odisha**

Women Transforming India Awards 2019

#	Name	Remarks
1.	Dr. Priyanka Mokshmar	Co-founder of Vaayu Home Appliances. Vaayu provides

		economically affordable and environmentally feasible alternatives to traditional AC units across India - selling their products from Madhya Pradesh to Maharashtra and Delhi
2.	Ms. Ramya Venkataraman	Her Centre for Teacher Accreditation (CENTA) has created a certification framework that allows for teachers' skills and competency to be assessed as well as improved.
3.	Ms. Shilpi Kapoor	started BarrierBreak, a company focused on the accessibility of technology for those with disabilities. The company uses digital access as a way to bridge some of the challenges differently-abled people face daily.
4.	Ms. Rinka Banerjee	Her Thinking Forks is a consulting organisation, with expertise in the food and nutrition industry which has allowed them to create products to combat acute malnutrition; a program aligned with the Indian Government's public health efforts.
5.	Ms. Nidhi Pant	She combats the issue around waste and farmer living standards, through her Science for Society team's innovative idea of selling dehydrated vegetable snacks.
6.	Ms. Anupriya Balikai	Her Spookfish Innovations has created a standard for products and ensure quality control for food packaging via inspection machines that are retrofitted and integrated into existing manufacturing lines.
7.	Ms. Kalpana Sankar	She has a double doctorate in Nuclear Physics and Gender Issues and through her organization Hand in Hand is empowering the most marginalised and impoverished women in India through capacity building and training.
8.	Ms. Khushboo Jain	She created ImpactGuru which is a crowdfunding platform that empowers individuals, NGOs and social enterprises, by helping them raise funds for healthcare, social, and personal needs, from family, friends as well as strangers.
9.	Ms. Sneha Sundaram	Her company Kutuki focuses on bridging the learning gap that exists in Indian pre-schools through their mobile application.
10.	Ms. Jayanti Pradhan	She is an agro-processor and farmer from Odisha who has been educating women in her community and equipping them with the tools and knowledge of mushroom farming to enable them to become financially independent.
11.	Ms. Jugnu Jain	She is the founder and CSO, of Sapien Biosciences which is addressing this need for tissue-banks in India by successfully using medical waste to create medical innovations.
12.	Ms. Pratyusha Pareddy	She founded her startup, NemoCare, in 2017. Her company aims to combat infant mortality and promote neonatal care.
13.	Ms. Poonam Bir Kasturi	She started the Daily Dump which is building products and services for decentralised waste management in homes, community offices and public spaces.
14.	Ms. Ruchi Jain	She founded Taru Naturals which focuses on sustainable agriculture, striving to empower a network of small-scale farmers by leveraging upon India's ancient wisdom and sustainable agricultural practices.

15.	Ms. Sujata Sahu	Her 17000 ft Foundation is a social enterprise focused on providing education and exposure to the communities in the most rural and isolated regions of Ladakh.
16.	Ms. Dr Praveen Nair	She is a Founder Trustee of Salaam Baalak Trust that has successfully worked in rehabilitating over 81,000 destitute and homeless children. Ms. Nair received the Special Jury Award.

Important Days of March

<p>Zero Discrimination Day: 01 March 2020 Designated by: UNAIDS First Observed in: 2014</p>
<p>World Wildlife Day: 03 March 2020 Designated by: United nations General Assembly Theme: Sustaining all life on Earth First Observed in: 2014</p>
<p>World Hearing Day: 03 March 2020 Designated by: W.H.O. Theme: Hearing for Life - Don't let hearing loss limit you First Observed in: 2007</p>
<p>International Women's Day: 08 March 2020 Designated by: U.N.O. Theme: I am Generation Equality: Realizing Women's Rights First Observed by UN in: 1975</p>
<p>World Kidney Day: 14 March 2020 Designated by: International Society of Nephrology (ISN) and the International Federation of Kidney Foundations (IFKF) Theme: Kidney Health for Everyone, Everywhere - from Prevention to Detection and Equitable Access to Care First Observed in: 2006</p>
<p>World Consumer Rights Day: 15 March 2020 Designated by: Consumers International Theme: The Sustainable Consumer First Observed in: 1983</p>
<p>International Day of Happiness: 20 March 2020 Designated by: UN General Assembly First Observed in: 2013</p>
<p>International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination: 21 March 2020 Designated by: UN General Assembly First Observed in: 1966</p>
<p>International Day of Forests: 21 March 2020 Designated by: UN General Assembly Theme: Forests and Biodiversity First Observed in: 2013</p>

<p>World Poetry Day: 21 March 2020 Designated by: UNESCO First Observed in: 2000</p>
<p>World Down Syndrome Day: 21 March 2020 Designated by: UN General Assembly Focus: We Decide First Observed in: 2012</p>
<p>World Water Day: 22 March 2020 Designated by: UN General Assembly Theme: Water and Climate Change First Observed in: 1993</p>
<p>World Tuberculosis Day: 24 March 2020 Designated by: WHO Theme: It's Time First Observed in: 1982</p>
<p>International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims: 24 March 2020 Designated by: UN General Assembly First Observed in: 2011</p>
<p>International Day of Remembrance of Victims of Slavery and Transatlantic Slave Trade: 25 March 2020 Designated by: UN General Assembly Theme: Confronting Slavery's Legacy of Racism Together First Observed in: 2008</p>
<p>World Theatre Day: 27 March 2020 Designated by: International Theatre Institute, France First Observed in: 1961</p>

World Happiness Index 2020

Rank	Country	Rank	Country
1.	Finland	66	Pakistan
2.	Denmark	92	Nepal
3.	Switzerland	94	China
4.	Iceland	107	Bangladesh
5.	Norway	144	India

New GST Rates

The following changes in the GST rates wef 01 April 2020 have been notified by The Goods and Services Tax Council

- GST increased on mobile phones to 18 per cent from 12 per cent.
- GST decreased on maintenance, repair and overhaul services for aircraft to 5 per cent from 12 per cent.

- GST on handmade and machine-made matchsticks has been rationalized to 12 per cent.

Nari Shakti Puraskar 2019

#	Name	State
1.	Padala Bhudevi	Andhra Pradesh
2.	Bina Devi	Bihar
3.	Arifa Jan	Jammu & Kashmir
4.	Chami Murmu	Jharkhand
5.	Nilza Wangmo	Ladakh
6.	Rashmi Urdhwardeshe	Maharashtra
7.	Mann Kaur	Punjab
8.	Kalavati Devi	Uttar Pradesh
9.	Tashi and Nungshi Malik	Uttarakhand
10.	Kaushiki Chakroborty	West Bengal
11.	Avani Chaturvedi, Bhawanna Kanth, Mohana Singh Jitarwal	Indian Air Force
12.	Bhageerathi Amma and Karthyayini Amma	Kerala

Abel Prize 2020

1. Hillel Furstenberg (Israel-American) and
2. Gregory Margulis (Russian-American)

New Chief Ministers

Madhya Pradesh: Shri Shivraj Singh Chauhan (4th time)

2020 ICC Women's T20 World Cup

From 21 February to 08 March 2020

Hosts: Australia

Winners: **Australia** (record 5th title)

Runners-up: **India**

Participants: Australia, England, India, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka, West Indies, Bangladesh and Thailand

Player of the series: **Beth Mooney** (Australia)

Most Runs: **Beth Mooney** (Australia)

Most Wickets: **Megan Schutt** (Australia)

Player of the final match: **Alyssa Healy**

Final played at: Melbourne

Captain of the Indian team: Harmanpreet Kaur

Abbreviations in News

PM CARES - Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations

Mail your queries and suggestions to admin@leadthecompetition.in

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