

CURRENT AFFAIRS

MARCH 2018



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PREFACE

Hi Readers

Basis your continuous demand for a Monthly PDF of most-trusted Current Affairs, the No.1 preparation platform OnlineTyari with 60 lakhs+ app downloads has come up the Current Affairs March 2018 PDF.

As we know Current Affairs, including related General Knowledge (GK), form a crucial component of any competitive exams including SSC, Banking, IAS|PCS and others. Now-a-days with increasing stagnancy in selecting questions from Static GK, the paper setters are harping on current affairs to increase the difficulty quotient of any paper. The lack of preparation for current affairs by the aspirants and candidates often is a main cause of their failure.

The Current Affairs March 2018 PDF covers the most important and exam-focused current affairs. The PDF has been designed basis the concept of complete Study Cycle, viz., Study ----> Revise ----> Test and thus has three parts: (i) Detailed Section-wise Current Affairs in bullet points; (ii) One Liners; and (iii) Current Affairs Questions with Explanation.

Our experts have tried to put in their best efforts to make sure that the content provided remains in the mind of the candidate for a longer period of time and is perceived with its true meaning.

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NATIONAL

HARYANA'S MEWAT IS INDIA'S MOST BACKWARD DISTRICT

- The NITI Aayog on March 28, 2018 released a baseline ranking for the 101 most backward districts of India that have signed up for the 'Transformation of Aspirational Districts' programme.
- Haryana's Mewat is the lowest-ranked among these backwards districts, while Andhra Pradesh's Vizianagaram is the best-performing district of the 101.
- In terms of most backward districts in states; Jharkhand has 19 districts in the list, while Bihar has 13, Chhattisgarh has 10, UP and MP has 8 each.



Transformation of Aspirational Districts Programme

The Transformation of Aspirational Districts programme is loosely based on the erstwhile Planning Commission's Integrated Action Plan (IAP), which looked at the physical and financial performance of 88 tribal and backward districts.

INDIA'S 1ST INSECT MUSEUM OPENED IN TAMIL NADU

- The museum set up with an outlay of Rs 5 crore was unveiled by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K Palaniswamy at the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU).
- The museum, established at a 6,691 sqft area, is fully dedicated to insects and claimed to be the first of its in the country.
- The uniqueness of the museum is visible in the lobby, which depicts the theme, "BUGS ARE KINGS".



INTERNATIONAL

INDIA, PAKISTAN TURN TO CODE OF 1992 TO PUT A LID ON ENVOYS' HARASSMENT

- India and Pakistan are reiterating the Code of Conduct (CoC) of 1992 to ensure diplomatic staffs are not subject to rough treatment.

What is 1992 CoC?

The CoC signed in August 1992 lays down that dignity and personal inviolability of diplomatic/ consular personnel shall be guaranteed by the Receiving State.

It also states that intrusive and aggressive surveillance and actions such as verbal and physical harassment and unauthorised entry into residences shall not be resorted to.

MALAYSIA PROPOSES 10 YEARS JAIL FOR FAKE NEWS

- The Malaysian government has proposed a "fake news" law which would carry a maximum 10-year jail term, including for articles published abroad, sparking fears of a crackdown on dissent as elections loom.
- The bill, which described fake news as a "global concern", includes a maximum 10 years in jail or fine of up to 500,000 ringgit (\$130,000) for anyone guilty of creating or disseminating what authorities deem to be fake news.
- It said anyone, including foreigners, who breaks the law outside the country by publishing fake news can face punishment in Malaysia, as long as what is published concerns Malaysia or a Malaysian citizen.

WORLD'S LARGEST CRUISE SHIP SETS SAIL

- The world's biggest cruise-liner, Symphony of the Seas, has left the shipyard of Saint-Nazaire in France to embark on its maiden voyage in the Mediterranean.
- The ship, which weighs 228,000 tonnes, is 362 metres long just 20 metres shy of the length of the Empire State Building.
- It is marginally bigger than its sister ship, the Harmony of the Seas, which STX France delivered to Royal Caribbean in 2016.

ECONOMY & BANKING

CENTRE MOPS UP OVER RS 1 LAKH CRORE FROM PSU DISINVESTMENT

- The Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) has raised 1,00,056 crore rupees through disinvestment of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) in the current fiscal 2017-18.
- This figure is more than the Budget 2017-18 target and higher than 46,250 crore rupees collected in previous fiscal 2016-17.
- In the Budget 2017-18, the Centre had set a revised target of one lakh crore rupees from PSU disinvestment, which was higher than the budget estimate of 72,500 crore rupees.

CENTRE TO DIVEST 76% STAKE IN AIR INDIA

- The Centre will retain 24 percent stake in Air India and its subsidiary Air India Express.
- It also proposes divesting 50 per cent of its stake in Air India Sats Airport Services.
- It has appointed Ernst & Young (E&Y) as advisor.
- The divestment will be done through open, competitive bidding.
- By the end of 2016-17, the airline had a debt of nearly 49,000 crore and by the end of 2017-18, its debt is expected to go up by another Rs. 3,500 crore.



CABINET APPROVES EXPORT OF ALL EDIBLE OILS IN BULK

- Indian government has lifted the restrictions on export of edible oils except mustard oil.
- Mustard oil will continue to be exported only in consumer packs upto 5 Kgs and with a minimum export price of US \$ 900 per tonne.
- Removing of restrictions on export of all edible oils is likely to provide additional marketing avenues for edible oils and oilseeds and will benefit the farmers by way of better realisation for oilseeds.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

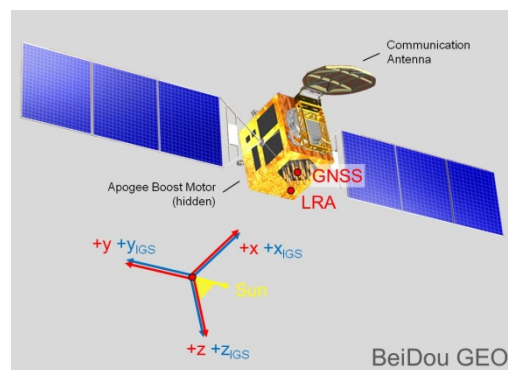
NASA TO SEND FIRST MISSION TO STUDY 'HEART' OF MARS

- NASA is planning to send the first ever mission dedicated to exploring the deep interiors of Mars on May 5, 2018.
- NASA will send InSight which is a stationery lander. InSight stands for Interior Exploration using Seismic Investigations, Geodesy and Heat Transport.
- It will be the first mission ever dedicated to Mars' deep interior, and the first NASA mission since the Apollo moon landings to place a seismometer on the soil of another planet.



CHINA LAUNCHES 2 SATELLITES TO BOOST ITS NAVIGATION SYSTEM

- China on March 30, 2018 launched two satellites with a single rocket to strengthen its BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS), which will serve countries along the ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) by the end of 2018.
- BRI is an ambitious Chinese project which seeks to build road, maritime and rail from Asia to Europe and Africa in a revival of the Chinese Silk Road.



BEIDOU NAVIGATION SYSTEM

BeiDou is seen as a rival of American Global Positioning System (GPS). China launched the first satellite for the BDS in 2000 and by around 2020, when the BDS goes global, it is expected to have more than 30 satellites.

SPORTS

INDIA FINISHES SECOND IN ISSF JUNIOR WORLD CUP

- ISSF junior World Cup concluded in Sydney, Australia with China topping the medal tally with 25 medals, including 8 Gold Medals.
- India occupied the second place with 22 medals, including 9 Gold. The highlight of the event was rise of sixteen-year old girl Manu Bhaker from Haryana.

SEBASTIAN VETTEL WINS AUSTRALIAN GP THRILLER

- Four-time world champion Sebastian Vettel won a thrilling duel with world champion Lewis Hamilton to steal the season-opening Australian Formula One Grand Prix in Melbourne.
- It was Vettel's 48th win in his 200th grand prix and follows his earlier wins in Melbourne in 2011 for Red Bull and last year for Ferrari.



INDIA U-16 FOOTBALL TEAM LIFTS JOCKEY CUP

- India Under-16 team has won the Jockey Cup International Youth Invitational Football Tournament title. In the final in Hong Kong, they defeated the hosts by 4-2.
- This was India's third consecutive victory in as many days. They had earlier defeated Chinese Taipei, 4-nil and Singapore by 3-1.
- The tournament was an U-17 event where India fielded their U-16 national team. They have already qualified for the AFC U-16 Finals from where the top four teams will make it to the FIFA U-17 World Cup.



PUNJAB WINS 8TH MEN'S NATIONAL HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIPS

- Punjab lifted the 8th Hockey India Senior Men National Championship 2018 by defeating Petroleum Sports Promotion Board (PSPB) in the final match.

STATES

FIRST MEGA FOOD PARK IN RAJASTHAN

- Rajasthan's first mega food park was inaugurated on March 29, 2018 by Food Processing Industries Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal.
- It is situated at Roopangarh village in Ajmer district of Rajasthan.
- This is the 13th Mega Food Park operationalized in the country. The 12th Mega Food Park was inaugurated on March 1 in Satara district of Maharashtra.
- Mega Food Parks Scheme (MFPS) was launched in 2008 whereby, the Government provides Financial Assistance up to Rs. 50 Crore to set up modern infrastructure facilities for food processing called Mega Food Parks (42 in No).
- The key objectives of the MFPS are to reduce wastage of perishables; raise processing of food items from 6% to 20% and raise India's share in Food Processing Industry from 1.5% to 3%.

UP ASSEMBLY PASSES STRINGENT CRIME CONTROL BILL

- The Uttar Pradesh Assembly on March 28, 2018 passed a stringent bill to curb organised crime and deal strictly with those trying to foment terror.

KEY FEATURES

- Proposed legislation designed on the lines of Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA).
- It also seeks to act sternly against those using explosives or firearms or any other violent means, or damaging life and property, or for involvement in anti-national or any destructive activities.
- It provides death sentence or life imprisonment with a penalty of up to Rs 2.5 million in cases, where the criminal act results in death.
- In other cases of organised crime, the offence would be punishable with imprisonment for a term not less than 7 years and may extend to life imprisonment with a fine of Rs 1.5 million.
- The Uttar Pradesh Control of Organised Crime (UPCOCA) Bill, 2017 had to be re-introduced in the assembly as it could not be passed in the Legislative Council.

PERSON IN NEWS

GOOGLE DOODLE CELEBRATES BIRTHDAY OF INDIA'S FIRST FEMALE DOCTOR, ANANDI GOPAL JOSHI

- Google is celebrating the 153rd birth anniversary of Anandi Gopal Joshi, who was born on March 31, 1865 in Maharashtra
- The Google Doodle has been designed by Bengaluru-based artist Kashmira Sarode.
- She completed her doctor's degree in 1886 from the Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania (now known as Drexel University College of Medicine). There is also a crater on Venus named after her.



VIJAY RAGHAVAN APPOINTED PRINCIPAL SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR TO GOVERNMENT

- K Vijay Raghavan is one of the most distinguished biologists of the country.
- He will succeed 81-year-old nuclear physicist R Chidambaram, who was appointed to the post in 2001.
- The Principal Scientific Advisor (PSA) is a post created by the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government in 1999.
- PSA is the topmost advisor to the government on all matters related to scientific policy.



INDU BHUSHAN APPOINTED CEO OF AYUSHMAN BHARAT MISSION

- Indu Bhushan has been appointed to the post for a period of two years.
- Currently, he is the DG of East Asia Department, Asian Development Bank (ADB).
- Ayushman Bharat is an ambitious National Health Protection Mission (ABNHPM) that seeks to provide a health cover of Rs 5 lakh per family per year.



CURRENT AFFAIRS QUESTIONS

1. Which country is developing BeiDou Navigation Satellite System similar to American Global Positioning System?
 - a) China
 - b) Russia
 - c) Japan
 - d) European Union
2. Which among the following has been ranked as most backward district of India under the study conducted by NITI Aayog?
 - a) Vizianagaram
 - b) Mewat
 - c) Araria
 - d) Chamaparan
3. Naitwar Mori Hydro Electric Project is being built over Tons river in Uttarakhand. Tons river is a tributary of which river?
 - a) Yamuna
 - b) Ganga
 - c) Mahanadi
 - d) Chenab
4. NASA is planning to send a stationery lander on the Mars to study the deep interiors of Mars. What is the name of the stationery lander?
 - a) InSight
 - b) Juno
 - c) Scorpion
 - d) Sticker
5. According to a study, antibiotics usage has surged in Low and Middle Income countries. Which country has witnessed the highest usage of antibiotics in the period 2000-15?
 - a) China
 - b) Pakistan
 - c) India
 - d) Bangladesh
6. 9th Indo-Japan strategic dialogue was held in which city?
 - a) Tokyo
 - b) Mumbai
 - c) Kyoto
 - d) Delhi
7. What percentage of government stake in Air India will be divested?
 - a) 26%
 - b) 60%
 - c) 76%
 - d) 100%
8. What is the disinvestment target set by the government for the year 2017-18?
 - a) Rs. 1 Trillion
 - b) Rs. 5 trillion
 - c) Rs.12 billion
 - d) Rs. 100 Million
9. Which edible oil among the following has not been included in the list of restriction free export?
 - a) Mustard
 - b) Sunflower
 - c) Peas
 - d) Coconut
10. To address which form pollution, India has signed an MoU with South Asian Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP)?
 - a) Air Pollution
 - b) Plastic Waste
 - c) Oil and Chemical Pollution

EXPLANATIONS

1. (a)

Explanation: China on March 30, 2018 launched two satellites with a single rocket to strengthen its BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS), which will serve countries along the ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) by the end of 2018.

2. (b)

Explanation: The NITI Aayog on March 28, 2018 released a baseline ranking for the 101 most backward districts of India that have signed up for the 'Transformation of Aspirational Districts' programme.

3. (a)

Explanation: 60 MW Naitwar Mori Hydro Electric Project (NMHEP) was inaugurated at Uttarkashi in Uttarakhand by Power and New & Renewable Energy Minister R K Singh. NMHEP is located on the Tons River, which is a tributary of Yamuna River.

4. (a)

Explanation: NASA is planning to send the first-ever mission dedicated to exploring the deep interiors of Mars on May 5, 2018. NASA will send InSight which is a stationery lander. InSight stands for Interior Exploration using Seismic Investigations, Geodesy and Heat Transport.

5. (c)

Explanation: According to a study conducted by Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS); India saw the highest increase of 103 percent in antibiotic consumption followed by China and Pakistan.

6. (a)

Explanation: The Dialogue was co-chaired by External Affairs Minister of India Sushma Swaraj and Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono. Both countries agreed to step up cooperation in their "Special Strategic and Global Partnership" and exchanged yen loan agreements for \$1.4 billion.

7. (c)

ONE LINERS EXPRESS

NATIONAL

- The foundation stone of 60 MW Naitwar Mori Hydro Electric Project (NMHEP) was laid in this state – **Uttarkashi**
- This district of Haryana is the lowest-ranked district in the 101 most backward districts under NITI Aayog's 'Transformation of Aspirational Districts' programme – **Mewat**
- This district of Andhra Pradesh is the best-ranked district in the 101 most backward districts under 'Transformation of Aspirational Districts' programme – **Vizianagaram**
- The Payment of Gratuity (Amendment) Act, 2018 came into force on – **March 29, 2018**
- This research centre is leading the process to make Indian Brain Template – **National Brain Research Centre (NBRC), Manesar**
- This much amount was mopped up by the Centre through disinvestment of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) in the FY 2017-18 – **Rs 100,056 crore**
- This agricultural university saw the opening of India's first insect museum – **Tamil Nadu Agricultural University**
- This much stake will be divested by the Centre in Air India – **76%**
- This private consultancy and analytics firm has been appointed advisor for the divestment of Air India – **Ernst & Young (E&Y)**
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will release Rs 350 coin to mark birth anniversary of the 10th Sikh Guru – **Guru Gobind Singh**
- This state's high court has directed to set up Fast Track Courts in the state to try cases related to women and child – **Assam**
- According to National Annual Rural Sanitation Survey (NARSS), the percent of people having access to toilets are – **93%**
- Union Cabinet approved schemes worth Rs 4500 crore for development projects in this region – **North-East region**
- This agency will be the Competent National Authority for implementation of "Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan" under the MoU signed between India and South Asian Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP) – **Indian Coast Guard**

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