

# GENERAL AWARENESS

## Loksabha Elections

On 10<sup>th</sup> March 2019, the Election commission of India announced that the General Elections 2019 will be held from 11<sup>th</sup> April to 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2019.

The 17<sup>th</sup> Loksabha elections will be held in 7 Phases. The counting will be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> of May 2019.

Legislative Assembly elections for the states of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha and Sikkim also will be held simultaneously.

However, the Jammu Kashmir state elections will not be conducted due to security conditions.

## PM-SYM

On 5<sup>th</sup> March 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM-SYM) Yojana at Vastral in Gujarat.

The scheme will assure a monthly pension of Rs.3000 for the enrolled unorganized sector workers after 60 years of age. It benefits 42 crore strong unorganized sector workers in the country, if they contribute 55 rupees to 200 rupees monthly.

PM appealed to the informal sector workers earning less than Rs.15000 per month to enroll as beneficiaries in the nearby Common Service Centre.

## Pritzker Prize

Japanese architect Arata Isozaki has received this year's Pritzker Prize, widely considered to be the profession's highest honour. He will be awarded the prize of \$100,000 in May 2019 at a ceremony at the Chateau de Versailles in France.

Isozaki said he was inspired by the red sandstone buildings of India.

Among Isozaki's works are the Palau Sant Jordi in Barcelona for the 1992 Olympics, the Shenzhen Cultural Centre in China and the Allianz Tower in Milan. His buildings are also found all over Japan.

## CBDT chairman

IRS officer Pramod Chandra Mody took over as the new chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), the policy making body of the Income Tax Department on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

The earlier chairman of CBDT Sushil Chandra was appointed as Election Commissioner recently

## Nari Shakti awards

President Ram Nath Kovind presented the Nari Shakti awards, the highest civilian honour for women in India, in New Delhi on the occasion of International Women's Day.

41 individuals and 3 institutions were given the award.

The awardees include acid attack victim and social activist Pragya Prasun, Rani Mistri Sunita Devi, first woman marine pilot of India Reshma Nilofer Naha, woman commando trainer Dr Seema Rao, spiritual and motivational speaker Brahma Kumari Shivani and wildlife conservationist Sonia Jabbar.

The Nari Shakti Puraskar, the highest civilian honour for women, has also been awarded to a One Stop Centre (OSC), Lucknow, Qasab-Kutch Craftswomen Producer and Social Welfare and Nutritious Meal Programme Department of Tamil Nadu.

## Rs. 20 coin

On 7<sup>th</sup> March 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi released the new series of visually impaired friendly circulation coins of Rs.1, Rs.2, Rs.5, Rs.10 and Rs.20 as part of the new series.

The newly included coin of Rs.20 will be a 12 sided coin with no serrations. The rest of the denominations would be of round shape.

### Sampriti 2019

Sampriti 2019, the eight edition of India Bangladesh joint military exercise began recently at Tangail, Bangladesh

The Sampriti 2019 will see contingents from both sides, exhibiting their tactical and technical skills in countering the insurgency and counter-terrorism

It also exhibits how to aid civil authorities for disaster management in the UN Peacekeeping scenarios involving a combined deployment at a battalion level.

### Swachh Survekshan Awards

Indore has been awarded the cleanest city in the country in the Swachh Survekshan 2019 awards, Ambikapur in Chattisgarh got the second place and Mysore in Karnataka got third spot.

Bhopal has been declared as the cleanest capital. Ahmedabad bagged the cleanest big city having the population above 10 Lakh. Every year, cities and towns across India are awarded with the title of 'Swachh Cities' on the basis of their cleanliness and sanitation drive as a part of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan that was launched in 2014.

### MODEL QUESTIONS

1. Theme of International Women day 2019 is...?
  - 1) Time is Now: Rural and urban activists transforming women's lives'
  - 2) Women in the Changing World of Work: Planet 50-50 by 2030"
  - 3) "Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step It Up for Gender Equality"
  - 4) "Empowering Women, Empowering Humanity: Picture it!"
  - 5) 'Think equal, build smart, innovate for change'
2. Union Government decided to celebrate which day as 'Jan Aushadhi Diwas' across India, for creating awareness and providing impetus on the use of generic medicines?
  - 1) 7<sup>th</sup> March
  - 2) 8<sup>th</sup> March
  - 3) 9<sup>th</sup> March
  - 4) 10<sup>th</sup> March
  - 5) 11<sup>th</sup> March
3. Which city bagged the award for being the cleanest city in the population category of 3 lakh to 10 lakh under the category of cleanest Medium City?
  - 1) Vijayawada
  - 2) Raipur
  - 3) Ujjain
  - 4) Zira
  - 5) Tangla
4. There are 90 crore people registered as voters, of which ....in the age of 18 and 19.
  - 1) 2.5 crore voters
  - 2) 3.5 crore voters
  - 3) 4.5 crore voters
  - 4) 5.5 crore voters
  - 5) 1.5 crore voters
5. Which International Monetary Organisation provides \$ 26 million loan to provide additional financing for improving drainage infrastructure in Dibrugarh town of Assam?
  - 1) World Bank
  - 2) AIIB
  - 3) Asian Development Bank
  - 4) NDB
  - 5) AFD

ANSWERS: 1-5; 2-1; 3-3; 4-5; 5-3.

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