

GENERAL AWARENESS

A-SAT

On 27th March 2019, DRDO successfully conducted an Anti-Satellite (A-SAT) missile test 'Mission Shakti' from the Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha.

A DRDO-developed Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) Interceptor Missile successfully engaged an Indian orbiting target satellite in Low Earth Orbit (LEO) in a 'Hit to Kill' mode.

This test has demonstrated the Nation's capability to defend its assets in outer space.

India is now the fourth nation to have successfully tested the Anti-Satellite (ASAT) missile after the US, Russia and China.

Global Energy Transition Index

India rank 76th on global energy transition index. This annual list, compiled by World Economic Forum ranked 115 economies on how well they are able to balance energy security and access with environmental sustainability and affordability.

The report that said India is amongst the countries with high pollution levels and has a relatively high CO₂ intensity in its energy system.

Sweden remains on the top on this annual list and is followed by Switzerland and Norway in the top three.

Abhedya

Indian Navy's Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Training Facility (NBCTF) inaugurated at INS Shivaji in Lonavala on 24th March 2019 by the Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Sunil Lanba.

The NBCTF, christened "Abhedya", impenetrable in Sanskrit, will help train personnel of naval ships fitted with nuclear, biological and chemical detection and protection systems.

INS Shivaji is celebrating its platinum jubilee year in 2019 - 20.

Turing Award

Three researchers won the 2018 Turing Award, known as the 'Nobel Prize of computing', 'for conceptual and engineering breakthroughs in Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Yoshua Bengio, Geoffrey Hinton and Yann LeCun were named the recipients of the award on 26th March 2019 by the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM).

Bengio is a professor at the University of Montreal in Canada, Hinton is vice president and engineering fellow, Google and professor emeritus at the University of Toronto and LeCun is a professor at New York University and vice president and chief AI scientist at Facebook.

Azlan Shah Cup

On 30th March 2019, India lost to South Korea in the final of Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey tournament at Ipoh in Malaysia. South Korea lifted the title, defeating India in a shootout 4-2.

Fintech Conclave

Financial Technology (Fintech) Conclave was organized by NITI Aayog at New Delhi.

Participating in this conclave, the RBI Governor Shaktikanth Das said that nation must move for universal financial inclusion and total retail payment has grown nine folds in last 5 years.

RBI appointed 5-member committee under the chairmanship of Nandan Nilekani to further deepen digital payments and enhance financial inclusion through Fintech.

World's highest polling station

At 15,256 feet, Tashigang in Himachal Pradesh became world's highest polling station. It falls in Buddhist-dominated Lahaul-Spiti, one of the 17 assembly segments that form the Mandi Lok Sabha seat.

Yuvika

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched a special programme for School Children called "Young Scientist Programme" "YUva VIgyani KAryakram" (YUVIKA) from this year.

The Program is primarily aimed at imparting basic knowledge on Space Technology, Space Science and Space Applications to the younger ones with the intent of arousing their interest in the emerging areas of Space activities.

Bodley award

Nobel Prize-winning economist Amartya Sen has been honoured with the prestigious Bodley Medal, the highest honour bestowed by the University of Oxford's world-famous Bodleian Libraries for his contribution in literature, culture, science, and communication.

AFINDEX-19

The inaugural edition of the Africa-India Field Training Exercise-2019 (AFINDEX-19) concluded on 27th March 2019 after a validation exercise and an impressive closing ceremony at Foreign Training Node, Aundh Military Station, Pune.

General Bipin Rawat, Chief of the Army Staff witnessed the closing ceremony along with other dignitaries included senior military officers of the Indian Army and representatives of 17 African nations.

MODEL QUESTIONS

- Ibrahima Kassory Fofana, the Prime Minister of Guinea visited India recently. The capital of Guinea is...?
1) Lusaka 2) Harare 3) Kinshasa 4) Conakry
5) Bloemfontein
- Tuberculosis Day observed on 24th March every year. The theme of this year is
1) Universal Health Coverage: everyone, everywhere
2) I am I will
3) Advance Cures and Transform Care
4) Check Your Hearing!
5) It's time
- Indian Green Building Council awarded Gold rating to which Railway Station for taking Green Measures?
1) New Delhi 2) Mumbai 3) Mysore 4) Vijayawada
5) Kochi
- The Grand Order of the King of Tomislav, the highest civilian Award of which nation conferred on President of India Ramnath Kovind on 26th March 2019?
1) Bolivia 2) Chile 3) Argentina 4) Spain
5) Croatia

5. Exercise AL NAGAH is the joint military training exercise between India and ...?
- 1) Bangladesh 2) Sri Lanaka 3) Philippines 4) Indonesia
- 5) Oman
6. Chairperson of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal is...?
- 1) Justice Ranjan Gagoi 2) Justice T. Radhakrishnan
- 3) Justice Sudhansu Mukhopadhaya 4) Justice Raghvendra Chouhan
- 5) Justice Praveen Kumar

Key: 1-4; 2-5; 3-4; 4-5; 5-5; 6-3.

Writer: Amara Veeraswamy