

**National Current Affairs March 2019****Number of deaths on account of accidents comes down by 81%**

- Railway Ministry said that the number of deaths on account of accidents has come down by 81 percent in the last five years. The Ministry said the major priority for the Railways has been safety and security of its passenger.

**Government extends ban on SIMI**

- The government has extended ban on the Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI), which was involved in a series of terror acts in the country, for five years. The Home Ministry termed the SIMI as an unlawful association.

**Indian Air Force pilot Abhinandan Varthaman returns home**

- Indian Air Force Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman arrived in New Delhi last night after he was handed over to Indian authorities by Pakistan at Attari-Wagah border.

**Foundation stone of a tertiary cancer centre**

- Goa Health Minister Vishwajit Rane laid the foundation stone of a tertiary cancer centre in Panaji. He also laid the foundation stone for a day care centre for mentally ill persons and launched an awareness program on Swawlambhan scheme, which aims to make women self-reliant.

**Union Minister inaugurates several oil, gas projects**

- Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated and laid foundation of several oil and gas projects in Tripura in Agartala. Tripura is ranked number one in production of natural gas in the country as the state produces 4.96 mmscmd gas per day which is highest in the country.

**10-day Entrepreneurship Development Programme concludes in Kargil**

- 10-day Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) for budding entrepreneurs under Jammu and Kashmir Rural Employment Generation Programme (JKREGP) concluded at the Language Center in Kargil.

**PM launches Integrated Command, Control Centres**

- The Prime Minister launched the Integrated Command and Control Centers under the Mission at Gangtok and Namchi in Sikkim, Pasighat and Itanagar in Arunachal Pradesh and Agartala in Tripura through video conferencing in New Delhi.

**11 more State DD Channels on Satellite footprint**

- PrasarBharati has brought 11 more state DD channels, including five channels of North-Eastern States, on the Satellite footprint of India through DD Free Dish which will push the outreach and accessibility of Doordarshan. It is for the first time that Chhattisgarh, Goa, Haryana, Himachal

Pradesh, Jharkhand, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Uttarakhand have got their own DD Channel on a Satellite Network through DD Free Dish.

#### **Committee to examine insurance cover to advocates**

- The government has set up a committee to examine the issues related to framing of a proper, structured scheme for providing insurance cover to advocates and suggest modalities for its implementation. Law and Justice Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad has set up the five-member panel under the chairmanship of Secretary Legal Affairs.
- The committee will recommend a comprehensive insurance scheme for the welfare of advocates all over the country to address concerns relating to untimely death and medical insurance.

#### **Foundation stone for Doon-Mussoorie ropeway project**

- Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat has laid the foundation stone for the 300-crore rupees Dehradun-Mussoorie ropeway project.

#### **Nagaland launches 1st round polio immunization**

- Nagaland launched the first round of immunisation as part of the nationwide Pulse Polio programme. One-and-a-half lakh children of less than five years will be given polio drops to sustain polio eradication.

#### **Lok Sabha polls to be held in 7 phases**

- Lok Sabha elections will be held in seven phases from April 11 to May 19.
- The Assembly elections in Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh will also be held simultaneously.

#### **Exclusion from NRC draft will not affect voting rights**

- The Election Commission of India, ECI, told the Supreme Court that exclusion of names of persons from draft NRC in Assam will not affect their voting rights in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls provided their names feature in the electoral rolls.

#### **Supreme Court revokes life ban on Sreesanth in spot-fixing case**

- The Supreme Court revoked the life ban on former Indian cricketer S. Sreesanth in a case of spot-fixing and asked the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to re-examine its quantum of punishment.

#### **The Lokpal and Lokayukta Act**

- The Lokpal and Lokayukta Act, which envisages appointment of a Lokpal at the Centre and Lokayuktas in states to look into cases of corruption against certain categories of public servants, was passed in 2013.

#### **107 th Foundation Day Celebration**

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- Bihar is celebrating its 107th foundation day today. It was on this day in 1912, Bihar was carved out of Bengal presidency.

### **Government to not send representative to Pakistan National Day event**

- India said it has decided not to send any government representative to Pakistan National Day event at the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi which is taking place.

### **Holi being celebrated across the country**

- The festival of colours – Holi is being celebrated across the country. The festival signifies the victory of good over evil and the arrival of spring. GI Certification for five varieties of Indian coffee
- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India has recently awarded Geographical Indication (GI) to five varieties of Indian coffee. They are:
- Coorg Arabica coffee, Wayanaad Robusta coffee, Chikmagalur Arabica coffee, Araku Valley Arabica coffee and Bababudangiris Arabica coffee
- Centre bans Yasin Malik-led JKLF under anti-terror law
- The Centre has banned the separatist leader Yasin Malik – led Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) under anti-terror law. It has been done in accordance with policy of zero tolerance against terrorism and the government has acted strongly against the terrorists.

### **President leaves on three-nation visit**

- President Ram Nath Kovind has left on a three-nation visit to Croatia, Bolivia and Chile.

### **ECI appoints Special Expenditure Observers for 6 States**

- Election Commission has appointed Special Expenditure Observers for six States in view of the forthcoming elections. These states are Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Nagaland and Telangana.
- The poll body appointed former member of CBDT, Gopal Mukherjee as special expenditure observer for Andhra Pradesh and Telangana while former Director General I-T (Investigation), D D Goel has been deployed in Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland.
- Shailendra Handa who was earlier appointed as special expenditure observer for Maharashtra has been given additional charge of Gujarat while Madhu Mahajan will supervise Karnataka in addition to Tamil Nadu.

### **ECI appoints Special Central Police Observers for States**

- Election Commission of India has appointed former Director General of Border Security Force K K Sharma as a Special Central Police Observer for Lok Sabha polls in West Bengal and Jharkhand.
- Former IPS officer Mrinal Kanti Das as Special Central Police Observer for Tripura and Mizoram.

**Coffee Board Activates Blockchain Based Marketplace in India**

- Commerce Secretary, Dr. Anup Wadhawan, launched blockchain based coffee e-market place through video conferencing in New Delhi. India is the only country in the world where entire coffee is grown under shade, handpicked and sun dried.

**Punjab & Haryana High Court bars mentioning of caste in FIRs**

- Punjab and Haryana High Court has barred the mentioning of caste in the FIRs. The court directed its judicial officers and the governments of Punjab, Haryana and the Union Territory of Chandigarh, not mention the caste of the accused, victims or witnesses in any of the proceedings before it.

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