



# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

MARCH - 19



For Bank Exams, UPSC, TNPSC, SSC



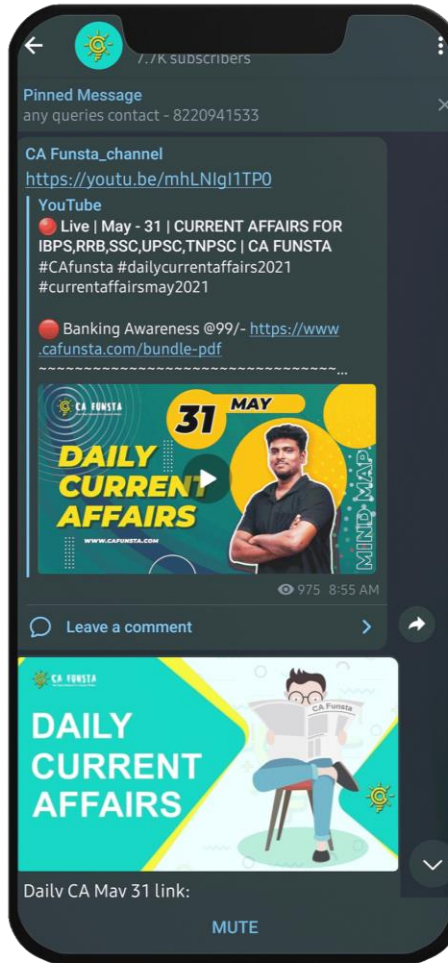
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# Important Days



## International Day of Happiness 2022:

- The International Day of Happiness takes place each year on March 20.
- The International Day of Happiness is a UN-sponsored annual event that promotes happiness as a universal human right and also emphasises how important happiness is to humanity.
- The non-profit Action for Happiness is organising the campaign, which aims to reduce global inequality, end poverty, and protect the planet for future generations.



# Important Days



## History:

- Ndaba Mandela and Chelsea Clinton launched the first commemoration in March 2013 at a conference in New York City.
- And on March 20, 2013, the first International Day of Happiness was observed.
- Years of campaigning by UN adviser Jayme Illien, who introduced the notion at the first-ever UN conference on Happiness on July 12, 2012, sparked the movement.
- Pharrell Williams, a singer-songwriter, was a big part of the 2013 celebration, which included the first-ever 24-hour global live streaming video of his global hit song 'Happy'.



# Important Days



## Theme:

- The theme for this year's conference is 'Build Back Happier,' and it will focus on the global recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic.



# Important Days



## World Sleep Day 2022:

- World Sleep Day is observed on the Friday before the March equinox every year to highlight the importance of quality sleep.
- This year, it falls on March 18.
- Good sleep is a prerequisite for holistic health because it helps regulate all the functions in the body.
- It brings us close to an equilibrium before we start another day in a world obsessed with productivity, which requires strength.
- However, the ongoing collective lifestyle shit is making sleep a luxury.



# Important Days



## Theme:

- 'Quality Sleep, Sound Mind, Happy World' is the theme for World Sleep Day this year to raise awareness about the impact of sleep on the mind and body.





## Horse racing-Blackmore first woman jockey to win Cheltenham Gold Cup:

- Rachael Blackmore became the first female jockey to win the Cheltenham Gold Cup with a storming finish on 3-1 favourite A Plus Tard to continue her incredible run of success.
- Jumping the last fence level with last year's winner Minella Indo, A Plus Tard galloped away to win by 15 lengths in front of a roaring crowd enjoying the Spring sunshine.
- She won the Champion Hurdle for the second year in succession on unbeaten mare Honeysuckle and now has the Gold Cup to add to her overflowing resume.





# OBITUARY



## Bangladesh's ex-interim president Shahabuddin Ahmed passes away:

- Bangladesh's former president and chief justice Shahabuddin Ahmed passed away at the age of 92.
- Ex-military dictator Ershad, bowing to pressure from opposition political parties amid an uprising, handed over power to the then Chief Justice Ahmed after nine years of rule under an extra-ordinary constitutional arrangement in 1990.
- He became the head of the government as acting president of Bangladesh.





## Finland crowned world's happiest nation for fifth year:

- The World Happiness Report, now in its 10th year, is based on people's own assessment of their happiness, as well as economic and social data.
- This index presents a stark reminder of the material and immaterial damage that war does to its many victims.
- It assigns a happiness score on a scale of zero to 10, based on an average of data over a three-year period.
- The report's measurement of subjective well-being continues to rely on three main well-being indicators: life evaluations, positive emotions, and negative emotions (described in the report as positive and negative affect). Happiness rankings are based on life evaluations as the more stable measure of the



## Finland crowned world's happiest nation for fifth year:

- India ranked 136th in the World Happiness Report, while Finland has been named the world's happiest country for the fifth consecutive year., in an annual UN-sponsored index that ranked Afghanistan as the unhappiest, closely followed by Lebanon.
- Afghanistan, already bottom of the table last year, saw its humanitarian crisis deepen since the Taliban returned to power last August following the pull-out of US-led troops.
- The United States placed to 16th position, one ahead of Britain in the happiest countries list.
- France climbed to 20th rank.



# RANKING



## Top Five Happiest Countries:

Rank	Country
1	Finland
2	Denmark
3	Iceland
4	Switzerland
5	Netherlands
136	India

**Total Countries: 146**



# RANKING



## Least Five Happiest Countries:

Rank	Country
146	Afghanistan
145	Lebanon
144	Zimbabwe
143	Rwanda
142	Botswana





## ★ SBI to set up Innovation, Incubation and Acceleration Centre:

- State Bank of India (SBI) plans to set up an Innovation, Incubation and Acceleration Centre (IIAC) at Hyderabad in a bid to build in-house capability to bolster its current performance and drive higher top-line growth through innovation.
- It is important to isolate transformational projects from near-term priorities and pressures of operational compulsions.
- Innovation projects/initiatives need a different operating model, risk appetite and competency that the bank needs to invest and develop over a period of time.



## Some of the objectives of IIAC:

- To better understand and explore how emerging innovations, market shifts or technologies could impact the bank's status quo; pursue large-scale initiatives that, once scaled, will redefine the existing business or create a new business unit or division for the bank and transferring innovation from prototype to project/product that can be monetised by the bank.
- The IIAC should help the bank develop a set of technologies, knowledge, and skills to develop new products and services, think and work like fin-techs and remain ahead of the curve.



## Some of the objectives of IIAC:

- The centre should orchestrate fin-tech/other external partnerships through focused scouting and outreach, defining a standardised and smooth on-boarding process, and setting up a necessary “lab” infrastructure for experimentation.
- IIAC should act as a central body to govern and drive fin-tech partnerships and implement change across the bank.





## PU V C releases book:

- Pondicherry University Vice Chancellor Prof. Gurmeet Singh released a book of discourse on the poetry of legendary poet Haldhar Nag.
- The book is an outcome of the National seminar on folk literature in the perspective of Haldhar Nag's poetry held last year in the University.
- The book carried the message of present Union Minister for Education Dharmendra Pradhan who praised the poet as an extraordinary poet.
- His poetry represented the values of great Indian tradition and forms the part of treasure of folk-literature.
- The book containing 28 seminal papers, Vice Chancellor lauded the efforts in bringing out the proceedings of the seminar.



# BOOKS AND AUTHORS



## PU V C releases book:

- This book paves way for comparative studies in various languages as the poetry written in Sambalpuri-Kosli by Haldhar Nag is now available in Hindi and English.
- Head of the Department of Hindi Dr. C. Jaya Sankar Babu and Dinesh Kumar Mali, a famous literary translator who edited this volume.
- Pondicherry University is also planning to organize an International Seminar on Ramayana based poetry of Haldhar Nag in the month of April, 2022.





# APPOINTMENTS



## ★ BCCI Secretary Jay Shah's term as President of Asian Cricket Council extended by 1 year:

- BCCI's Honorary Secretary Jay Shah's term as President of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) was unanimously extended by a year at its Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Colombo
- Jay Shah had taken over the reins of the ACC last year in January 2021 from Bangladesh Cricket Board's President Nazmul Hassan making him the youngest administrator to be re-appointed as the ACC President.
- Jay Shah's extension as the ACC President for one year was proposed by Sri Lanka Cricket President Shammi Silva and the nomination was backed unanimously by all the members of the ACC.



# APPOINTMENTS



## ★ Yogi Adityanath to take oath as Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister:

- Yogi Adityanath will be sworn in for his second term as the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister.
- The BJP has won 255 seats out of 403 in Uttar Pradesh, while its allies Apna Dal (S) and Nirbal Indian Shoshit Hamara Aam Dal (Nishad party) bagged 12 and six seats, respectively.





## Karnataka Bank gets ASSOCHAM award:

- Karnataka Bank bagged an ASSOCHAM award at the 8th 'MSMEs Excellence Awards Ceremony and Summit' in New Delhi.
- It had received the 'Best MSME Bank of the year - Winner' award among the private banks.
- Quoting Mahabaleshwara MS, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Karnataka Bank, the statement Karnataka Bank has been focusing on MSME sector with various digital products.
- The bank had ensured expeditious disposal of MSME credit proposals duly adhering to all quality standards.



# AWARDS



## **Karnataka Bank gets ASSOCHAM award:**

- It is actively participating in various public and private initiatives to promote the cause of MSME.
- Gopalakrishna Samaga B, Deputy General Manager (Credit Marketing Department), received the award on behalf of the bank in the presence of Narayan T Rane, Union MSME Minister.



## IIT Madras launches high-tech research centre to map human brains:

- With the aim to map human brains at the cellular level, the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras launched a state-of-the-art research centre.
- It was inaugurated by Prof K Vijay Raghavan, Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India.
- 10 IIT professors, 30 researchers, renowned professors of the world and 25 global researchers have associated with the Institute for the research.
- IIT Madras is to training hundreds of undergraduate and postgraduate students in neuroscience and computing and machine learning techniques on cutting-edge brain data at this centre.





## IIT Madras launches high-tech research centre to map human brains:

- Through this project, the centre has developed a high-throughput histology pipeline that processes whole human brains into high-resolution digital images.





## China develops laser weapon that could destroy satellites in space:

- Researchers in China have developed a microwave machine "Relativistic Klystron Amplifier (RKA)", that could jam or destroy satellites in space.
- The device can generate a wave burst measuring 5-megawatts in the Ka-band, a portion of the electromagnetic spectrum increasingly used for both civil and military purposes.
- To shoot targets out of the sky from the ground, the RKA can be mounted onto satellites, which could then be used to attack enemy assets in space by burning out their sensitive electronics.



## China develops laser weapon that could destroy satellites in space:

- Directed Energy Weapons (DEW) are systems that use concentrated electromagnetic energy rather than kinetic energy to damage or destroy enemy equipment and/or personnel in a physical conflict.
- Although China denies the RKA is a Directed Energy Weapon (DEW), if the system were built at scale, it could send beams strong enough to rip through metallic materials moving at speed.





## 3-day Shekhawati festival starts in Rajasthan:

- The three-day Shekhawati festival showcases the rich cultural heritage of Rajasthan.
- The festival is being organised by the Rajasthan Tourism Department and it gives a close glimpse of the art and crafts and rural sports activities.
- The Shekhawati region has an ancient opulence and breath-taking landscapes.
- The festival will let visitors explore the cultural heritage of Rajasthan, its food, art and crafts, the beautiful folk art, Kavi Sammelan and serenading evenings.
- Well known folk artists like Bhungar Khan and Sarwar Khan, representing the Manganiyar community, will be participating in the festival.





## Assam firm launches tea named after Ukraine President Zelenskyy:

- A tea startup in Assam has launched a new tea named after Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to honour him for his courage.
- Assam tea is famous for its robust flavour and strong aroma in the world.
- Ranjit Baruah, the owner of Guwahati's Aromica Tea specialises in luxury teas, has the new tea 'Zelenskyy'.





## TN to launch State Agriculture Development Scheme:

- Fulfilling the farmers need and increase their income with various components, the Tamil Nadu Government will introduce a new Scheme namely State Agricultural Development Scheme, this year with a total allocation of Rs.71 crore.
- This will be implemented by Agriculture Minister MRK Panneerselvam named “Kalaighnarin All Village Integrated Agriculture Development Programme”,.
- This scheme includes key features like promotion of Organic Farming for which the State Government has initiated establishment of Nammazhvar Organic Farming Research Institute for encouraging the farmers who are interested in Organic farming.



## TN to launch State Agriculture Development Scheme:

- During 2022-23, a sum of Rs.4 crore has been allocated for production of Organic produces in foodgrains, vegetables, fruits for development of immunity to lead a healthier life.
- Financial assistance at the rate of Rs.1 Lakh per group will be extended to 100 farmers and Farmer producer who are interested in production and sale of organic inputs like Vermicompost, Jeevamirtham etc.
- Under Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana, farmers who are interested in Organic farming will be integrated to form 150 clusters covering an area of 7,500 acres at an outlay of Rs.5 crore under Union and State Government funds.





## TN to launch State Agriculture Development Scheme:

- Farmers will suffer when their hard earned produce gets drenched in rain, to safeguard the harvested produce from natural disasters and also for utilizing as drying yard, Tarpaulins will be provided to 60,000 farmers at subsidized cost at an outlay of Rs.5 crore.
- The Nel Jeyaraman Traditional Paddy Varieties Conservation Mission is being implemented in order to preserve and restore the traditional paddy varieties in Tamil Nadu.
- During 2022-23, the Traditional Paddy varieties will be cultivated in 200 acres in the State Seed Farms and distributed at subsidy to 20,000 farmers at an outlay of Rs.75 Lakh.



## TN to launch State Agriculture Development Scheme:

- A special Package will be provided to encourage the farmers to take up alternative crops such as Millets, Pulses and Oilseeds in Kar, Kuruvai, Sornavari season in an extent of 66,000 acres at an outlay of Rs ten crore.





## **Nagaland Legislative Assembly becomes first in country to have operationalised National e-Vidhan Application programme:**

- Nagaland Legislative Assembly (NLA) has become the first in the country to have operationalised the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) programme, was stated by NLA Speaker, Sharingan Longkumer during the first day of the the13th NLA Budget session.
- E-Book installed in the NLA is the medium through which the member will be using NeVA application in the Assembly in pursuit of the paperless Assembly.
- The E-Book remains inside the Assembly and is not meant to be removed from its placement position.
- A similar system outside the framework of NeVA has been in operation in the State of Himachal Pradesh and similar efforts have been made by other State Assemblies.



## **Nagaland Legislative Assembly becomes first in country to have operationalised National e-Vidhan Application programme:**

- It will be scaling up to the full advantage of the e-Vidhan system in the Assembly's functioning, achieving one of its targets of bringing about a Paperless Assembly.
- The NeVa is a project which is funded by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Government of India with 10 percent State share.
- Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs also extended its gratitude to the State Assembly of Nagaland for being the first in the country to operationalize it.





## West Bengal celebrates Dol Utsav, welcomes spring season:

- The people of Bengal celebrated the festival of colours, predominantly known as Dol Utsav in the state through cultural programs, marking the onset of spring season.
- In Eastern India, the festival of spring is celebrated as Dol Jatra, Dol Purnima, Dol Utsav and Basanta Utsav.
- Filled with colours and music, the Holi festival sees much fervour in Bengal and Shantiniketan where people begin the day singing and dancing.
- The festival of colours is celebrated across India with much zeal.



## West Bengal celebrates Dol Utsav, welcomes spring season:

- People throw “gulaal” or powder colour on each other and sing and dance to mark the festival.
- On this day people celebrate the victory of good over evil.
- Everyone dresses up in bright colours of yellow on this day to welcome spring.





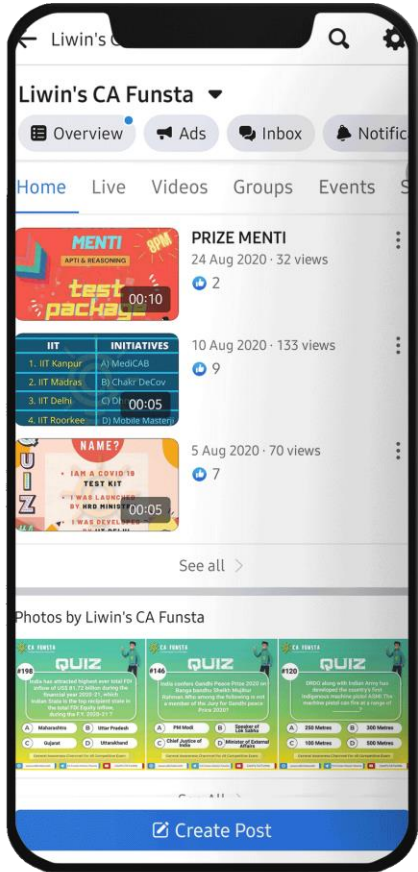
## Pondy LG inaugurates Tech Summit:

- Puducherry Lt. Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan inaugurated the Tech Summit-2022 organized by the IT Associations of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.
- She stated that the technological development ensured massive development in sectors like health and education and helped development in several other sectors.
- People in every nook and corner of the country are availing technology.





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