

1-3 March 2019 Current Affairs



1) Indian Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj attended the inaugural session of which Islamic organisation on 1 March 2019 which was boycotted by Pakistan? - **Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)**

(External affairs minister Sushma Swaraj attended the inaugural session of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) meeting in Abu Dhabi, on 1 March 2019, where she was invited as a guest of honour. It was for the first time that India has been invited to a meeting of the OIC, which is an influential grouping of 57 Islamic countries. India was invited to attend the OIC meeting in 1969 but Pakistan prevailed upon and got the invite withdrawn. This time Pakistan boycotted the meet as a protest against India being invited and conferred the title of guest of honour)



2) The much-anticipated second summit meet between US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un was held on 27-28 February 2019 at which place? – Hanoi, Vietnam

(Vietnam's Hanoi has hosted the second summit between US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. The two leaders held a landmark summit in Singapore during 2018, the first between a sitting US president and a North Korean leader. The meeting however ended abruptly on 28 February 2019 without reaching any landmark agreement. According to the US President Trump the North Korean leader wanted all economic and military sanctions on his country lifted immediately which was impossible at this stage)

3) Which three banks were placed out of the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) prompt and corrective action (PCA) framework, as was disclosed on 26 February 2019? - Allahabad Bank, Corporation Bank and Dhanalaxmi Bank

(Three more banks — Allahabad Bank and Corporation Bank, from the public sector, and

Dhanlaxmi Bank from the private sector have been placed out of the RBI's prompt and corrective action (PCA) framework. Earlier, such restrictions were taken off Bank of India, Oriental Bank of Commerce and Bank of Maharashtra. However, there are another six banks that are still under PCA framework. According to norms, PCA framework gets triggered when a bank breaches one of the three risk thresholds. Crossing 6% net NPA is one of them)

4) Which former bureaucrat was appointed the non-executive Chairman of public sector bank - Bank of Baroda on 1 March 2019? – Hasmukh Adhia

(Former Finance Secretary Hasmukh Adhia was appointed as non-executive Chairman of Bank of Baroda (BoB) by the Union Govt. on 1 March 2019. BoB is set to become the third largest lender of the country after amalgamation with Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank effective 1 April 2019)



5) The RBI constituted the task force on offshore rupee market on 28 February 2019. Who is heading this committee? - Usha Thorat

(Former RBI deputy-governor Usha Thorat is heading the RBI committee on offshore rupee market that was constituted on 28 February 2019. The committee will primarily examine why the offshore markets have been created and how to address concerns arising out of it)

4-9 March 2019 Current Affairs



1) In a significant move, the Supreme Court on 8 March 2019 sent the Ayodhya dispute for mediation and appointed 3-member panel of mediators. Who is the Chairman of this panel? - **Justice F.M.I. Kalifulla**

(Former Supreme Court judge Justice F.M.I. Kalifulla is heading the 3-member panel constituted by the Supreme Court to undertake the process of mediation

to resolve the Ayodhya dispute. Spiritual leader Sri Sri Ravi Shankar and senior advocate Sriram Panchu are the two other members of this panel. The mediation will take place in Faizabad and 8 week time has been given for this mediation)

candidate in the Thiruvananthapuram Lok Sabha constituency)



2) Indian Railways' Rajdhani Express completed how many years of service during March 2019? – 50 years

6) Jerry Merryman, who passed during February 2019, was associated with development of which product? – Handheld calculator

(India's first Rajdhani Express – the Kolkata-New Delhi Rajdhani Express embarked on its maiden journey on 3 March 1969 from Howrah, making it the country's first fully air-conditioned. Thus this train series completed 50 years of service on 3 March 2019. Rajdhani was the first train in the country whose fares included charges for meals served)

(Jerry Merryman, one of the inventors of the hand-held electronic calculator during 1960s, passed away on 27 February 2019. He was one of the three men credited with inventing the hand-held calculator while working at Dallas-based Texas Instruments. The team was led by Jack Kilby while the other member was James Van Tassel)



3) President Ramnath Kovind on 3 March 2019 gave his accent to the Aadhaar Ordinance that allows numerous privileges to Aadhaar users. Why this ordinance was required? – Because the Rajya Sabha could not consider the amendments in the Aadhaar Act 2016 during the budget session

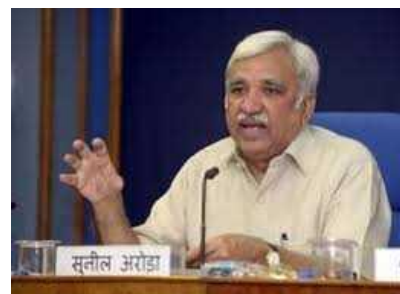
7) Who was appointed as the new Finance Secretary by the Union Govt. on 8 March 2019? – Subhash Chandra Garg

(As the Rajya Sabha could not consider the amendments in the Aadhaar Act 2016 during the budget session, President Ram Nath Kovind approved an ordinance to allow voluntary use of the biometric ID as KYC proof for obtaining mobile SIM cards and opening bank accounts. The ordinance allows children to cancel their Aadhaar number on attaining the age of eighteen years)

(Economic Affairs Secretary Subhash Chandra Garg, a 1983 batch IAS officer of Rajasthan cadre, was on 8 March 2019 nominated as the next Finance Secretary. He replaces Ajay Narayan Jha who superannuated on 28 February 2019)

10-11 March 2019 Current Affairs

4) Which Indian official was appointed Chief Scientist at WHO during March 2019? – Dr. Soumya Swaminathan



(Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, a Deputy Director-General of the World Health Organisation has been named Chief Scientist of the World Health Organisation (WHO). She is the daughter of noted Indian agricultural scientist Dr. M.S. Swaminathan)

1) Election Commission of India (ECI) announced the schedule for 2019 Lok Sabha Elections on 10 March 2019. As per announcement made by the Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora, these elections will be held in 7 phases. Which are the four states which will have voting in all 7 phases? – Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal

5) What is the name of the Mizoram Governor who resigned from his post on 8 March 2019? – Kummanam Rajasekharan

(Mizoram Governor Kummanam Rajasekharan has stepped down from his post. His resignation fuelled speculations that he would be fielded as the BJP's

(Uttar Pradesh has 80 Lok Sabha constituencies, while Bihar and West Bengal have 40 and 42 constituencies each. The election dates are 11 April, 18 April, 23 April, 29 April, 6 May, 12 May and 19 May 2019. The results will be declared on 23 May 2019)

.....

2) Which four states will have simultaneous Assembly elections with the 2019 Lok Sabha Elections? - Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh

(The Assembly Elections in Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh will be held simultaneously with the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. However, Assembly Elections for Jammu & Kashmir will not be held simultaneously due to prevailing conditions)

.....

3) Which European government resigned on 8 March 2019 due to failure of a healthcare reform initiated by it? - Finland

(Finland's Prime Minister Juha Sipila tendered the resignation of his government on 8 March 2019 after a reform of the healthcare system failed. According to the disclosures, the government failed to push through plans to overhaul health services and social care in the face of an aging population. The government resigned just weeks before a general election in the Scandinavian country)

.....



4) During March 2019 which metro train service was commenced in which two Indian cities? - Ahmedabad and Nagpur

(While Ahmedabad Metro service in Gujarat was inaugurated on 4 March 2019, the Nagpur Metro service in Maharashtra was commenced on 7 March 2019. The metro train service is now available in 11 Indian cities. The other cities are Kolkata, Delhi NCR, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Jaipur, Chennai, Kochi, Lucknow and Hyderabad)

.....



5) All 157 people aboard an Ethiopian Airlines flight that crashed just 6 minutes after taking-off from capital Addis Ababa on 10 March 2019. This plane was destined for which city? - Nairobi, Kenya

(The plane (Flight No. ET302), a brand new Boeing MAX 8, en route to Nairobi, Kenya took off from Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa's Bole International Airport. This is the same plane as the Indonesian Lion Air jet that crashed soon after takeoff from Jakarta in November 2018 killing all 189 people on-board. 4 Indians travelling on the Ethiopian plane was among the dead)

.....



6) India's largest automobile company Maruti Suzuki stopped production of which iconic off-roader vehicle, as was announced by the company during March 2019? - Gypsy

(Maruti Suzuki has officially stopped the production of Gypsy, one of India's longtime favourite off-roader. Introduced first in the country in 1985, it enjoyed an amazing 33-year run. The production has been stopped amidst plummeting demand, rising production costs and its inability to meet crash test norms)

.....

12 March 2019 Current Affairs



1) Which country overtook India to emerge as the world's largest arms importer during 2014-18, as was disclosed in the latest report published by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) on 10 March 2019? - Saudi Arabia

(India was the world's second largest arms importer from 2014-18, ceding the long-held tag as largest)

importer to Saudi Arabia. During this duration Saudi Arabia accounted for 12% of the total imports. India accounted for 9.5% of the global total. India's imports declined mainly due to Make in India initiative of Indian Govt. and also delays in weapons delivery. Pakistan stood at the 11th position accounting for 2.7% of all global imports.

.....



2) "Metro Man" E. Sreedharan was appointed the Principal Advisor for Mass Rapid Transit Corporations (MRTCs) of which state on 11 March 2019?

– **E. Sreedharan**

(The Jammu & Kashmir Governor administration on 11 March 2019 appointed "Metro Man" E Sreedharan as principal advisor for two Mass Rapid Transit Corporations (MRTCs) in the state. The two MRTCs namely, the Jammu Mass Rapid Transit Corporation and Srinagar Mass Rapid Transit Corporation, were recently approved by the J&K government)

.....



3) World Wide Web (www) completed how many years on 12 March 2019? – **30 years**

(On 12 March 1989, 33-years-old, Sir Tim Berners-Lee, working at Europe's CERN lab had submitted the proposal titled 'Information Management: A Proposal' to his boss which we today know as the birth of the World Wide Web (www). Hence www officially came into existence on this day. The main purpose of this info management tool was to help CERN associates share information amongst multiple computers. www was made public in April 1993.

.....



4) Who won the men's and women's singles title of All England Open Badminton Championships 2019 that concluded on 10 March 2019?

– **Kento Momota** and **Chen Yufei**

(Kento Momota (Japan) won the men's singles title of All England Open Badminton Championships 2019 as he defeated Viktor Axelsen (Denmark) in the final by 21-11, 15-21, 21-15. This was the first major title for Momota. On the other hand China's Chen Yufei won the women's singles title by defeating Tai Tzu-ying of Chinese Taipei by 21-17, 21-17)

.....

13-14 March 2019 Current Affairs



1) A massive Harappan burial site was discovered by archaeologists at which place in Gujarat recently? – **Lakhpat, Kutch**

(Kutch University and Kerala University performed the excavation in a joint effort near Khatia village of Lakhpat taluka in Kutch district. They discovered a massive burial site that has over 250 graves and 26 of them have already been excavated. This place is around 360 kilometers from Dholavira, a renowned Harappan site. The burial site is rectangular in shape and estimated to be 4600-5200 years old. It is worth mentioning that all the burial sites found in Gujarat till-date are either circular or semi-circular.)

.....

2) During March 2019 which public sector undertaking (PSU) for the first time ever failed to pay the salaries to its employees? – **BSNL**

(Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has failed to pay the February 2019 salaries to around 1.76 lakh employees on-time due to its financial crisis. This is the first time the company has defaulted in payment of its monthly salaries. However, BSNL has confirmed that the salaries are being released very soon. The company usually pays its employees on the last working day of the month or the first working day of the next)

.....

3) Which entity on 13 March 2019 became the third Indian company to cross Rs. 6 lakh crore market-capitalization? – **HDFC Bank**

(HDFC Bank crossed the Rs. 6 lakh crore market capitalization mark for the first time on 13 March 2019. It thus became the third Indian company to achieve the milestone. Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) is the most valued Indian company with a market value of Rs. 8.50 lakh crore, followed by TCS at Rs. 7.50 lakh crore)



4) Indian aviation regulator DGCA late on 12 March 2019 took decision to ground all Boeing 737 MAX 8 aircraft in view of growing concern about safety of these planes. Which is the only Indian airline currently operating these planes? – **SpiceJet**

(SpiceJet is the only Indian airline that operates 12 Boeing 737 MAX 8 aircraft. While Jet Airways has five of these planes, they are grounded because of the airline's financial issues. The decision to ground these planes was taken after European aviation regulator EASA, the U.K, France, Germany, Australia and Singapore joined a growing number of countries that have barred the aircraft from their airspace following crash of an Ethiopian Airlines plane on 10 March 2019 killing all 157 persons onboard)

15 March 2019 Current Affairs



1) Which noted Indian businessman gave away 34% of his shares in his company valued at about \$7.5 billion to charitable causes on 13 March 2019? – **Azim Premji**

(India's second-richest man Azim Premji on 13 March 2019 gave away 34% of his shares in Wipro Ltd to charitable causes. The value of these shares stood at about \$7.5 billion. Now the total value of funds committed by the billionaire to Azim Premji Foundation's philanthropic activities is Rs. 1.45 trillion (\$21 billion). Premji is widely known for his frugal ways as he avoids costly cars and ostentatious displays of wealth)

2) China once again placed a hold and blocked the attempt to list Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) chief Masood

Azhar as global terrorist by the Security Council on 13 March 2019. China has now blocked this resolution how many times? – 4 times

(China has shielded Masood Azhar for the fourth time after it blocked action on the JeM chief by putting a technical hold on 13 March 2019. A proposal to declare him an international terrorist following the Pulwama terror attack was moved by France, the UK and the US in the UN Security Council on 27 February 2019)



3) Which Indian airline company was given approval to fly international routes on 13 March 2019? – Vistara (Vistara, one of the three full-service carriers in India, can now fly to international destinations. Vistara had sought government clearance in June 2018 when it met the requirement of owning a fleet of more than 20 jets, needed to fly internationally. Vistara is a joint-venture between Tata Group and Singapore Airlines)



4) Which country on 13 March 2019 released a unique coin featuring black hole to honour late physicist Sir Stephen Hawking? – United Kingdom

(The Royal Mint of the United Kingdom has honoured Stephen Hawking's legacy in the form of a special new commemorative 50 pence coin with black hole engraved on it that was released on 13 March 2018. The coin displays the formula $(S = kc^3 A / 4\pi, \bullet G)$ describing a black hole's entropy.



5) Who was appointed the new Chairman of the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) on 13 March 2019? – M.R. Kumar

(M.R. Kumar, the Zonal Manager (in-charge) of North Zone LIC, was on 13 March 2019 appointed the next Chairman of LIC. He will hold the post of the LIC

16 March 2019 Current Affairs



1) Which public-sector bank has been categorized as a private sector bank by the RBI following majority stake acquisition by the LIC? – [IDBI Bank](#)

(IDBI Bank has been categorised as a private sector bank following acquisition of majority stake by Life Insurance Corporation (LIC). This was announced by the Reserve Bank of India on 14 March 2019. LIC completed the process of picking up a controlling 51% stake in the nearly crippled IDBI Bank on 21 January 2019. Union Government's holdings now stand at 46.6%. The bank had been under the prompt corrective action framework of RBI that bans it from corporate lending and branch expansions, salary hikes and other regular activities. IDBI Bank came into existence as a banking entity during September 2004)



2) What is the name of the Australian gunman who shot dead at least 49 people in two mosques in Christchurch (New Zealand) in one of the deadliest attacks in country's history on 15 March 2019? - [Brenton Tarrant](#) (Brenton Tarrant is the name of the heavily armed Australian white rightist shooter who carried out mass killings at two mosques - Al-Noor Mosque and Linwood Islamic Centre in New Zealand's Christchurch city on 15 March 2019. Apart from live-streaming the act, he also posted a manifesto online explaining why he committed the attack. 49 people were killed and 20 injured in these attacks, which is the deadliest attack in decades. Bangladeshi cricketers, on official tour for cricket series, scrapped through the tragedy by a few minutes. The Christchurch Test between Bangladesh and hosts New Zealand was cancelled)



3) Which Indian executive was elevated to the post of Chief Operating Officer (COO) of global FMCG behemoth Unilever Plc. as announced on 15 March 2019? - [Nitin Paranjpe](#)

(Unilever, the world's second-largest consumer goods company, announced on 15 March 2019 that it was promoting Nitin Paranjpe, President, foods & refreshment, to the position of Chief Operating Officer (COO), making the 56-year-old only the second Indian after Harish Manwani to be elevated to this role. The company also elevated Sanjiv Mehta, Chairman and Managing Director of Indian subsidiary Hindustan Unilever (HUL), as the company's South Asia president. Both the changes will be effective from 1 May 2019)

4) India will host which prestigious FIFA tournament in 2020 after it was awarded the rights to host it on 15 March 2019? - [FIFA Under-17 Women's World Cup](#)

(India have been awarded the rights to host the FIFA Under-17 Women's World Cup in 2020. By virtue of being the host country, India will take part in the tournament for the first time in its history. It is worth mentioning that in 2017, India had hosted and played in its first-ever FIFA tournament in the form of Under-17 Men's World Cup)

17-22 March 2019 Current Affairs



1) Who was appointed India's first Lokpal (the anti-corruption ombudsman) by the Union Government on 19 March 2019? - [Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose](#)

(Former Supreme Court judge Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose was on 19 March 2019 appointed as the country's first Lokpal. 66-year old Justice Ghose retired as Supreme Court judge in May 2017. He is a

member of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) since 29 June 2017. 4 judicial members and 4 non-judicial members of the Office of Lokpal were also appointed)



2) Goa Chief Minister and former Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar who passed away on 17 March 2019 has been Chief Minister of Goa for how many terms? – **Four**

(Manohar Parrikar led Goa as its Chief Minister for four terms. His first term was from 2000 to 2002, second term 2002 to 2005, third term from 2012 to 2014 and his fourth and last term from 14 March 2017 to 17 March 2019 (till his death). He was the 10th Chief Minister of the state. He acted as the Union Defence Minister from 9 November 2014 to 13 March 2017. Parrikar, a mechanical engineer from IIT Bombay, was the first IIT alumnus to serve as MLA of an Indian state. He was 63)



3) Who took over as the new Chief Minister of Goa on 18 March 2019? – **Dr. Pramod Sawant**

(Dr. Pramod Sawant, a BJP MLA from Sanquelim constituency and the Speaker of the Goa Legislative Assembly, took oath as the new Chief Minister of Goa in the early hours of 18 March 2019. He took over just a few hours after final rites of his predecessor and former Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar)

4) What is the name of the intense tropical cyclone that affected African countries like Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi and killing more than 600 persons during March 2019? – **Idai**

(Idai is the name given to the intense tropical cyclone that left over 600 persons killed and hundreds other missing in Africa during March 2019. This cyclone made landfall in Mozambique on 15 March 2019. It brought strong winds and caused severe flooding in Madagascar, Mozambique, Malawi, and Zimbabwe)



5) What is the name of the new political party that was launched by former topper IAS officer Shah Faesal during March 2019? – **Jammu and Kashmir People's Movement**

(Former IAS officer Shah Faesal launched his new political party 'Jammu and Kashmir People's Movement' (JKPM) in Srinagar on 17 March 2019. He was 2010 IAS batch topper and he resigned from the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) in January this year to protest unabated killings in Kashmir and marginalisation of Indian Muslims)

6) Afghanistan created history by achieving its first-ever Test victory on 18 March 2019. This historic victory came against which country? – **Ireland**

(Afghanistan achieved its first-ever Test match victory, beating Ireland by seven wickets at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Dehradun on 18 March 2019. This historic win came in its second Test only after getting ICC recognition in 2017. Rahmat Shah's twin half-centuries and Rashid Khan's maiden 5-wicket haul helped Afghanistan create history.

7) Which team won its maiden Indian Super League (ISL) title for 2019 on 17 March 2019? - **Bengaluru FC**

(Bengaluru FC defeated FC Goa 1-0 in the final at Mumbai on 17 March 2019 to clinch maiden Indian Super League (ISL) title. ISL is India's premier football league title that was started in 2013-14. This was the fifth edition of ISL and featured 10 teams)

23-28 March 2019 Current Affairs



1) On 27 March 2019 India became the fourth country after the US, Russia and China to develop an anti-satellite (A-SAT) weapon as it successfully targeted a

live satellite on low earth orbit. What is the name given to this historic mission? – **Mission Shakti**

(Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 27 March 2019 announced that India had successfully targeted a live satellite on low earth orbit and registered itself as a space power. The mission carried out by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) was named “Mission Shakti”. The mission involved launch of the A-SAT from Dr. A.P.J Abdul Kalam Island launch complex off the coast of Odisha that blew up a live satellite within three minutes)

.....

2) Which leading corporate group is entering India’s airport business through an international consortium by acquiring stake in GMR Airports Ltd? – **Tata Group**

(A consortium of Tata Group, a unit of Singapore’s sovereign wealth fund GIC and SSG Capital Management is investing ₹ 18,000 crore (\$1.2 billion) to buy a stake in GMR Airports Ltd, which runs India’s biggest airport, Delhi International Airport Ltd. After the purchase, Tata will hold 20% in the airport unit, while GIC will get 15% and SSG will own 10%)

.....

3) Which state-owned entity acquired Centre’s 52.63% paid-up share capital in Rural Electrification Corporation (REC), as was announced on 22 March 2019? - **Power Finance Corporation**

(State-owned Power Finance Corporation (PFC) on 22 March 2019 announced the acquisition of the Centre’s 52.63% paid-up share capital in Rural Electrification Corporation (REC). The cost of this acquisition stands at Rs. 14,500 crore. PFC is the power sector’s leading financier with exposure in power generation, transmission and clean energy projects while REC is a financing agency mostly for the government’s key energy schemes.

.....



4) Shares of which iconic jeans manufacturing company were traded on the US stock market after a gap of 34 years on 21 March 2019? - **Levi Strauss**

(The descendants of Levi Strauss' founder were worth \$5.6 billion following the US jeans maker's first day of trading after 34 years on 21 March 2019. Levi Strauss, who died childless in 1902, left most of his \$6 million estate to his four nephews and other relatives.

.....

5) Which Jammu & Kashmir-based organisation was banned by the Union Government on 22 March 2019 under the provisions of the anti-terror law? - **Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF)**

- The Union Government on 22 March 2019 banned Yasin Malik-led Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) under the anti-terror law. This ban is in accordance with the government's zero-tolerance policy against terrorism. According to the government, JKLF spearheaded the separatist ideology in the valley and it's been at the forefront of separatist activities and violence since 1988.

.....