



# Sukritam

19  
March  
2023

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## History of March 19

- ◆ **1944** : Azad Hind Fauj hoisted the national flag in North East India.
- ◆ **1953** : The Academy Awards were televised for the first time.
- ◆ **1965** : Indonesia nationalized all foreign oil companies.
- ◆ **1972** : Friendship Agreement was signed between India and Bangladesh.
- ◆ **1978** : Renowned freedom fighter and former Lok Sabha Speaker M.A. Iyengar passed away.

## Current Affairs Related to 19 March

- ◆ Reserve Bank of India granted the status of Infrastructure Finance Company to Renewable Energy Development Agency of India. IREDA was earlier classified as an investment and credit company. Now IREDA will be able to take more risk in renewable energy financing. The status will also help in accessing a wider investor base for raising funds. With IFC status, IREDA will contribute more towards achieving the government target of 500 GW of non-fossil fuel installed capacity by 2030.
- ◆ Mohit Joshi has been appointed as the MD and CEO of Tech Mahindra. Joshi has been appointed for a period of 5 years from December 20, 2023 to December 19, 2028. The term of current CEO CP Gurnani ends on December 19. Shri Joshi has been appointed as the MD & CEO and Key Managerial Personnel of the Company under the Companies Act 2013.
- ◆ The Chief Minister of Puducherry presented a budget of Rs 11600 crore for 2023-2024. Out of Rs 11600 crore, Puducherry's own resources are 6154.54 crore, 620 crore is in the form of centrally sponsored schemes and general central assistance including calamity fund is 3117.77 crore. Rs 1,707.69 crore will be raised through open market borrowings and loans from central financial institutions. The state government has announced a scheme for millet cultivation.
- ◆ The Science and Engineering Research Board of India and The Swedish Foundation for International Cooperation in Research and Higher Education, Stockholm, Sweden, have signed a Memorandum of Cooperation. A Memorandum of Cooperation was signed to strengthen cooperation and promote research networking between research institutions of both the countries. The objective of this MOC is to enhance mobility financing opportunities in both the countries.
- ◆ The National Horticulture Board introduced a simplified process for filling and sanctioning applications under subsidy schemes. The new process will reduce the time from 6 to 8 months to less than 100 days.
- ◆ The Union Minister inaugurated the Khelo India Dus Ka Dum tournament in New Delhi. The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is organizing the Khelo India Dus Ka Dum tournament from March 10 to 31. Around 15000 women athletes from 50 countries are participating in the tournament. There will be 10 games in this tournament.
- ◆ Signature Bank, a New York-based commercial bank, has been closed. It has become the second US bank to be shut down by regulators in the US. The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation has been appointed as a receiver. This means that the FDIC will liquidate Signature Bank's assets to pay back depositors and others. Signature Bridge Bank is a full service bank that will be regulated by the FDIC.
- ◆ Surekha Yadav has become the first woman locomotive pilot in Asia to operate the newly introduced semi-high-speed Vande Bharat Express train. He piloted the Vande Bharat Express from Solapur to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus in Maharashtra. She became India's first woman train driver in 1988.
- ◆ India won the Golden and Silver Star awards at the International Golden City Gate Tourism Awards 2023 held at ITB Berlin 2023. The award winning promotional films/television commercials were part of the Ministry of Tourism's post COVID promotional global campaign. The Ministry of Tourism has prepared a new Incredible India brand film to welcome foreign tourists to India post the pandemic.
- ◆ Despite a decline in total imports by India, India remained the largest arms importer between 2018-2022 with an 11% share in total global arms imports. India's arms imports declined by 11% between 2013-2017 and 2018-2022, according to Swedish think tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.





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## National & International Current Affairs

**1. According to Railway and Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnav, when will the first bullet train in India start service?**

- (A) August 2023                      (B) March 2024  
(C) July 2025                        (D) August 2026

**(D)** According to Railways and Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnav, the first bullet train in India will start service in August 2026. The project will give a boost to the economy as many of the project's suppliers have started getting export orders. The government intends to start operating the first bullet train in August 2026. In 2027, the target is to run the bullet train on a large section.



**2. Which state has recently become the first state in India to launch an insurance scheme for silk growers?**

- (A) Chhattisgarh                      (B) Uttarakhand  
(C) Kerala                              (D) Andhra Pradesh

**(B)** State Agriculture Minister Ganesh Joshi said that Uttarakhand has launched the country's first silkworm insurance program to protect its silk growers. In the first phase of the pilot project in Uttarakhand, 200 silk growers in five blocks of four districts Dehradun, Haridwar, Udham Singh Nagar, and Nainital received insurance.



**3. Which country has recently qualified for the World Cricket Test Championship?**

- (A) India                                  (B) Australia  
(C) Sri Lanka                              (D) New Zealand

**(A)** India has confirmed its place in the final of the Test Championship of the World Cup. India will now face Australia after New Zealand beat Sri Lanka by two wickets in Christ Church. The International Cricket Control said that India and Australia will play the final of the World Cup Test Championship at The Oval from June 7 to 11.



**4. CCI approves Reliance's acquisition of Metro's local business worth Rs.**

- (A) Rs.590 crores                      (B) Rs.1576 crores  
(C) Rs 2850 crores                      (D) Rs 3855 crores

**(C)** The Competition Commission of India said it has approved Reliance Industries Ltd's acquisition of German retailer Metro AG's Indian business for Rs 2,850 crore. The deal, announced nearly three months ago, will help Reliance strengthen its wholesale format and cement its position as the biggest player in India's fast-growing retail industry with stores for electronics, groceries and fashion.



**5. Recently which state government has approved 10% horizontal reservation for those agitating for the formation of the state in state government jobs?**

- (A) Uttarakhand                      (B) Jharkhand  
(C) Odisha                              (D) Karnataka

**(A)** In Uttarakhand, the government has given its approval to give 10 percent reservation in state government jobs to those agitating for the formation of the state. This decision has been taken in the cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami at Bharadisaan. The agitators of the state were not getting the benefit of reservation in government jobs for the last twelve years.





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6. Recently, additional financial assistance of more than how many crore rupees has been approved under the National Disaster Response Fund?

- (A) Rs 520 crore (B) Rs 980 crore  
(C) Rs 1816 crore (D) Rs 2205 crore

(C) Recently, additional financial assistance of more than Rs 1816 crore has been approved under the National Disaster Response Fund. The Center has approved assistance to five states affected by floods, landslides and cloudbursts in 2022: Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Meghalaya and Nagaland.



7. Where did the first International Conference on Common Buddhist Heritage begin recently?

- (A) New Delhi (B) Maharashtra  
(C) Andhra Pradesh (D) Karnataka

(A) The first International Conference on Common Buddhist Heritage began in New Delhi. In this, India's ancient historical relations with the countries of Shanghai Cooperation Organization will be discussed. The two-day conference aims to explore the commonalities between Buddhist art, culture and archaeological heritage among the countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. The event was organized by the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of External Affairs and the International Buddhist Confederation.



8. Recently researchers of which institute discovered a new antibacterial molecule IITR00693?

- (A) IIT Madras (B) IIT Mumbai  
(C) IIT Roorkee (D) IIT Bengaluru

(C) Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee have discovered a new antibacterial small molecule. The antibacterial molecule IITR00693 not only kills the most stubborn bacteria but also prevents the emergence of resistance. The antibacterial molecule has shown antibacterial activity against a wide range of gram positive and gram negative bacteria.



9. Recently Siddharth Mohanty has been appointed as the interim chairman of LIC for how many months?

- (A) 2 months (B) 3 months  
(C) 4 months (D) 5 months

(B) Recently Siddharth Mohanty was appointed as the interim chairman of LIC for 3 months. He was currently serving as the MD & CEO of LIC Housing Finance. He succeeds M R Kumar, who completed his term as the Speaker.



10. Recently CBI extradited how many fugitives in a year under Operation Trishul?

- (A) 13 (B) 22  
(C) 27 (D) 33

(D) The Central Bureau of Investigation has extradited 33 fugitives involved in various criminal activities in the last one year. Presently extradition requests of some criminals are being processed and CBI is working to bring these criminals to India. The CBI has deported Mohammad Hanif Makkat, allegedly involved in a kidnapping-murder case, from Saudi Arabia under Operation Trishul.

