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Current Affairs:- March 21 – March 30, 2019

- Indian Railway's oldest coach manufacturing unit 'Integral Coach Factory' of Chennai has become the world's largest Rail coach manufacturer.
 - Bihar Diwas or Bihar Day was celebrated on 22nd March to commemorate the state's separation from Bengal presidency in 1912.
 - Kazakhstan has renamed its capital Astana to Nursultan to honor outgoing leader Nursultan Nazarbayev. Mr. Nazarbayev served nearly 30 years as president of the nation. The change was announced after Kassym-Jomart Tokayev was sworn in as president.
 - The World Happiness Report was released by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network for the United Nations on March 20, the International Day of Happiness. India is ranked 140th out of 156 nations. For the second consecutive year, Finland topped the list, while South Sudan ranked last in the World Happiness Report.
 - The country's largest lender State Bank of India has signed a pact with the Bank of China to boost business opportunities. Note: SBI Chairperson: Rajnish Kumar, Headquarters: Mumbai, Founded: 1 July 1955.
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- Brazilian physicist and astronomer Marcelo Gleiser has been awarded the 2019 Templeton Prize, worth \$1.4 million, for his work blending science and spirituality.
 - Hindi writer Leeladhar Jagudi was honoured with Vyas Samman 2018 for his collection of poems “Jitne Log Utne Prem” published in 2013.
 - The International Day of Forests is held annually on 21 March. The theme for 2019 is Forests and Education.
 - International World Water Day is held annually on 22 March. The theme for World Water Day 2019 is ‘*Leaving no one behind,*’ which is the central promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
 - India returned with 368 medals (85 gold, 154 Silver, and 129 Bronze) at the Special Olympics World Summer Games, held at Abu Dhabi, UAE. The next Special Olympic Games are set to take place in Sweden in 2021.
 - The nation observed Shaheed Diwas or Martyr's Day on 23rd March. It was on March 23, 1931, three young freedom fighters Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev were hanged to death in the Lahore Central Jail (Now in Pakistan).
 - The Government of India has appointed Vice Admiral Karambir Singh as next Chief of the Naval Staff with effect from May 31, 2019. The present Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Sunil Lanba retires on the same day.
 - Tata Coffee announced the appointment of Chacko Purackal Thomas as the managing director and chief executive officer.
 - President Ram Nath Kovind administered the oath of office to Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose as the country's first Lokpal, the anti-corruption ombudsman.
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- World Meteorological Day is observed annually on March 23 to commemorate the establishment of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in 1950. The theme for 2019 was “The Sun, the Earth and the Weather”.
 - Each year, World Tuberculosis (TB) Day is commemorated on March 24. The theme of World TB Day 2019 - ‘It’s time’. The date marks the day in 1882 when Dr Robert Koch announced that he had discovered the bacterium that causes TB, which opened the way towards diagnosing and curing this disease.
 - India has lifted South Asian Football Federation SAFF Women's Championship 5th time in a row. India defeated host Nepal in the final in Biratnagar, Nepal.
 - Oman has signed an agreement with the United States of America that allow American ships and warplanes to take advantage of its ports and airports. Note: Oman Capital: Muscat, Currency: Omani rial, PM and Sultan: Qaboos bin Said al Said.
 - In accordance with the preliminary world airport traffic rankings for 2018 released by Airports Council International (ACI), Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) of New Delhi has reached 12th spot in terms of the busiest airport.
 - India has moved up 2 places to rank 76th on a global energy transition index. Sweden remains on the top.
 - Jet Airways Founders Naresh Goyal and wife Anita Goyal have stepped down from the board of the cash-strapped airline. With this, Naresh Goyal ceases to be Chairman. Another director Kevin Knight has also resigned.
 - The Amateur International Boxing Federation (AIBA) President Gafur Rahimov announced his resignation claiming that political based discussions were harming the organizations progress.
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- Winners of the 64th Filmfare Awards were announced at Jio Garden, BKC, Mumbai. Alia Bhatt won Best Actress for playing the role of a spy while Raazi also fetched Meghna Gulzar the Best Director Filmfare Award. Raazi also grabbed the Best Film trophy.
 - Former Vice-President Hamid Ansari launched the book titled '*Every Vote Counts-The Story of India's Elections*'. The author of this book is former Chief Election Commissioner Navin Chawla.
 - The Indian Navy's state of the art Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Training Facility (NBCTF) was inaugurated by Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Sunil Lanba at INS Shivaji, Lonavala. The training facility has been named ABHEDYA, which means impenetrable in Sanskrit. Note: Vice Admiral Karambir Singh has been appointed as the next Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS).
 - The joint training exercise MITRASHAKTI – VI between Indian and Sri Lanka Army kick-started at Diyatalawa in Sri Lanka. MITRASHAKTI is one of the largest bilateral army-to-army exercises conducted in the region.
 - Oslo, the capital city of Norway will become the world's first city to install wireless, induction-based charging stations for its fleet of electric taxis with an aim to have a zero-emission cab system by the year 2023. Norway wants all new cars to be zero emission by 2025 whereas other nations, like Britain and France, have similar goals for 2040. Note: Norway capital: Oslo, Currency: Norwegian krone.
 - US President Donald Trump has signed a proclamation recognising Israel's sovereignty over the Golan Heights. Israel captured the Golan Heights from Syria in the 1967 war but its sovereignty over the territory is not recognized by the international community. Note: Israel Capital: Jerusalem, Currency: Israeli new shekel, Israeli Prime Minister: Benjamin Netanyahu.
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- Chennai Super Kings' Suresh Raina has become the first ever cricketer to reach 5,000 runs in Indian Premier League.
 - A consortium of two Indian oil companies, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, and Indian Oil Corporation Limited has been awarded the exploration rights for Abu Dhabi's Onshore Block 1.
 - Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed 5-member committee under the chairmanship of Nandan Nilekani to strengthen digital payments as well as to boost financial inclusion through Financial Technology. This announcement was made by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das.
 - PM Modi announced that India has entered its name as an elite space power. An Anti-Satellite Weapon (A-SAT) successfully targeted a live satellite on a low earth orbit. The name of this mission was 'Mission Shakti'. After the US, Russia, and China, India is the fourth country to acquire this space capability.
 - President Ram Nath Kovind has been awarded the Grand Order of King Tomislav with Sash and Grand Star by the President of Croatia Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic. This is the highest award of the Republic of Croatia.
 - The Reserve Bank of India has slapped a penalty of Rs.2 crore on Punjab National Bank for non-compliance of regulatory directions with regard to SWIFT operations. SWIFT is a global messaging software used for sharing information on inter-bank transactions by financial entities. Note: SWIFT is the acronym for Society For Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications.
 - Apple Inc & Goldman Sachs Group Inc jointly launched the Apple Card credit card for iPhones. Note: Apple Inc. CEO- Tim Cook; Headquarters- California, USA.
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- In Shooting, Manu Bhaker and Saurabh Chaudhary have won a Gold medal in the 10-meter Air Pistol Mixed team event at the 12th Asian Airgun Championship at Taoyuan in Taipei.
 - Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has launched a special programme for schoolchildren called Young Scientist Programme or Yuva Vigyani Karyakram (YUVIKA), in tune with the government's vision "Jai Vigyan, Jai Anusandhan". The program is primarily aimed at imparting basic knowledge on space technology, space science and space applications to the younger ones. Note: ISRO Director: K. Sivan, Headquarters: Bengaluru, Established in: 1969.
 - Social Media giant, Facebook has launched two new India-specific tools viz. "Candidate Connect" and "Share You Voted" to boost civic engagement on its platform during the Lok Sabha elections 2019 that commenced in April.
 - Bank of Baroda has signed an MoU with agriculture services companies to develop an agriculture digital platform, Baroda Kisan, which will provide solutions for agricultural requirements. Note: P. S. Jayakumar is the MD and CEO of Bank of Baroda. Its headquarters in Vadodara, Gujarat.
 - Supreme Court-appointed BCCI Ombudsman Justice D K Jain (retd) will now serve as the Ethics Officer of the Indian cricket board on an ad-hoc basis. Note: Justice D K Jain (retd) has been appointed as the first Ombudsman of the BCCI recently.
 - Singapore's Changi Airport has been crowned the world's best aviation hub for the seventh time in a row, while New Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport featured at number 59, according to the Skytrax World Airport Awards. New Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport is India's Best Airport.
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- Tashigang, a Himachal Pradesh village at an altitude of 15,256 feet has now become the highest polling station in the world.
 - 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: (1) Coorg Arabica coffee; (2) Bababudangiris Arabica coffee; (3) Chikmagalur Arabica coffee; (4) Araku Valley Arabica coffee, and (5) Bababudangiris Arabica coffee.
 - Nobel Prize-winning economist Amartya Sen will be awarded the prestigious Bodley Medal, the highest honor granted by the University of Oxford's world-famous Bodleian Libraries.
 - 'Indian Fiscal Federalism', a book written by Dr. Y. V. Reddy, former Governor of RBI and Chairman of the 14th Finance Commission of India along with Dr. G. R. Reddy, Advisor (Finance) to the Government of Telangana was launched.
 - The third edition of the biennial, bilateral exercise AUSINDEX 19 between India and Australia to be held in Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. Note: Exercise Malabar is a naval exercise between U.S.A, Japan & India.
 - Swiss-based NRI scientist Dr Rajendra Joshi has been conferred with the Pravasi Bhartiya Samman Award by the President of India Ram Nath Kovind.
 - State-owned Power Finance Corporation (PFC) has completed the acquisition of majority stake in REC Ltd by transferring Rs.14,500 crore to the government. This acquisition and merger will make PFC second-largest government-owned financial player in the country based on the current market capital after State Bank of India (SBI).
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- The Finance Ministry has decided to keep the interest rate unchanged on small savings schemes for the three-month period beginning April 1. The unchanged interest rate means the NSC (5 years) and the PPF (15 years) will fetch 8% interest, while money deposited in KVP will double in little over nine years. At the same time, if one is parking money in a fixed deposit with a maturity of five years with the State Bank of India, he/ she will get 6.85%. Senior citizens will get half a percent more: 7.35%.