

GK DIGEST – 2nd Week of MARCH 2018

Mar 12th - 18th

International Affairs

Angela Merkel Elected To 4th Term As German Chancellor

- Germany's Parliament elected Angela Merkel for her fourth term as chancellor, putting an end to nearly six months of political drift in Europe's biggest economy.
- Lawmakers voted 364-315 to re-elect Merkel, Germany's leader since 2005, who ran unopposed.
- The coalition of Merkel's conservative Christian Democratic Union, its Bavaria-only sister party, the Christian Social Union and the centre-left Social Democrats has 399 of the 709 seats in parliament.

Oklahoma To Become first US State To Use Nitrogen Gas For Executions

- Oklahoma plans to start using nitrogen gas for executions, in what would be the first such method of capital punishment in the United States.
- The state is turning to nitrogen after it and other states became unable to acquire drugs required for lethal injections because of opposition from manufacturers to their products being used for capital punishment.
- Nitrogen is an odorless and tasteless gas that makes up about 78% of the air humans breathe but causes death when inhaled without any oxygen.
- Oklahoma has not carried out an execution since 2015.

Larry Kudlow Becomes Trump's New Economic Adviser

- President Donald Trump named Larry Kudlow as the next head of the White House National Economic Council.
- He replaced Gary Cohn.

- Mr Kundlow is the conservative media analyst who served as his informal economic adviser during the 2016 campaign.

WHO Member-Countries Commit To End TB By 2030

- Member-countries of the World Health Organisation (WHO) South-East Asia Region, including India, committed to intensifying efforts to eradicate tuberculosis by 2030.
- The summit sets the stage for the September 2018 United Nations high-level meeting on TB, wherein the issue will be discussed at the Heads of State level.
- The UN meeting is likely to endorse a set of goals to put the world on course to ending TB.

National Affairs

India Wins Best Exhibitor Award At ITB- Berlin

- India won the "Best Exhibitor Award " at ITB – Berlin on its last day. 'ITB- Berlin World Tourist

Meet' was convened at Berlin, Germany from 7th March to 10th March 2018.

- India was represented by the Minister of State (Independent charge) for Tourism Mr. K. J. Alphons along with a couple of Tourism Ministry officials.
- More than 100 countries participated in the ITB-Berlin meet with their respective Tourism Ministers.
- India's Incredible India (Ministry of Tourism) presented a short film named "Yogi of the Racetrack " in the meet. The short film got 3.2 million hits in 60 hours.

Suresh Prabhu Gets Additional Charge Of Civil Aviation Ministry

- Commerce and Industries minister Suresh Prabhu was given additional charge of the Civil Aviation Ministry, a day after the resignation of TDP's Ashok Gajapathi Raju was accepted by President Ram Nath Kovind. The President, as advised by the Prime Minister, has directed that Suresh Prabhu, Cabinet Minister, shall be assigned the

charge of the Ministry of Civil Aviation, in addition to his existing portfolio.

GST Council Approves Rollout Of E-Way Bill From April

- For intra-State movement, the e-way bill will be rolled out in a phased manner beginning April 15 and will cover all the States by June 1.
- Businesses will continue to file summary sales return GSTR-3B until June as the GST (Goods and Services Tax) Council has extended the present system of return-filing by three months.
- Electronic way or e-way bill for movement of goods between States would be implemented from April 1.
- However, for intra-State movement, the e-way bill would be rolled out in a phased manner beginning April 15 and would cover all the States by June 1.

Rajasthan Passes Bill To Award Death Penalty For Those Who Rape Girls Under 12 Years Of Age

- Rajasthan assembly passed an amendment bill awarding death penalty for convicts involved in the rape of girls below 12 years of age.
- State Home Minister Gulab Chand Kataria introduced 'The Criminal Laws (Rajasthan Amendment) Bill, 2018' in the assembly, which was passed in the House by a voice vote following a debate.
- The new amendment added sections 376-AA and 376-DD to the Indian Penal Code, 1860.
- The amendment says that a person who is convicted of raping/gang-raping a girl up to twelve years of age will be given a death sentence or rigorous imprisonment, which shall not be less than fourteen years and 20 years, respectively.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi to inaugurate Delhi End TB Summit and to launch Tuberculosis Free India Campaign

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Delhi End TB Summit in New Delhi. The summit is being co-hosted by the Health Ministry, WHO South East Asia Regional Office and Stop TB Partnership. He will also launch Tuberculosis Free India Campaign.
- The campaign will take the activities of National Strategic Plan (NSP) for TB elimination forward in a mission mode.
- The NSP is backed by a funding of over 12,000 crore rupees over the next three years to ensure that every TB patient has access to quality diagnosis, treatment, and support.
- The new NSP adopts a multi-pronged approach which aims to Detect all TB patients, with an emphasis on reaching TB patients seeking care from private providers and undiagnosed TB in high-risk populations.

President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurates World Hindi Secretariat in Port Louis, Mauritius

- President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated World Hindi Secretariat building in Port Louis, Mauritius.
- He also launched secretariat's logo, an Early Digital Learning Programme as well unveiled foundation stones of a social housing project and large ENT hospital being built with Indian assistance.
- He visited Mauritius as part o the first leg of his two-nation state visit (Mauritius and Madagascar).
- The Secretariat is fully financed by Government of India and provided a grant of Rs. 33 crore.

Karnataka's Belgaum Is Now Home To India's Tallest Flag

- India's tallest national flag was unfurled in Belagavi (also known as Belgaum) in Karnataka.
- The event was attended by leaders, schoolchildren, and leaders of Hindu, Muslim,

Christian and Sikh institutions at the Kote Kere front.

- Where size is concerned, this flag in Belgaum beats the one at the India–Pakistan border at Attari in Punjab.
- Belagavi District Minister Ramesh Jarkiholi unfurled the 9,600 sq ft wide flag on a 110–meter–tall flagpole.

BHEL Secures Order Worth Rs 736 Crore From NPCIL

- The public sector Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) secured significant orders worth 736 crores after competitive bidding, for supplying Steam Generators for the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL).
- The generators will be manufactured at the Tiruchirappalli plant of BHEL and will be installed at the Pressurized Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR), Gorakhpur, Haryana.

Home Minister Rajnath Singh Inaugurates Asia-Pacific Regional Conference Of IACP

- Home Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the two-day Asia-Pacific Regional Conference of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) in New Delhi.
- The theme of the conference is "Challenges to Policing in 2020 - How is Cyber Space shaping our approach to Cybercrime and Terrorism, how do we perform within it and take advantage of it".

Sports

Australia Beat England 2-1 To Lift 27th Sultan Azlan Shah Cup

- World champions Australia lifted the coveted Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey title.

- In the final at Ipoh, Malaysia, they beat defending champions England by a narrow 2-1 margin. Australia won the prestigious tournament for the 10th time.
- Earlier, in the classification match for the 3rd place, Argentina finished third after beating Malaysia 3-2. The hosts ended at the 4th spot.

Deepa Malik Becomes Asian Rank 1 In Javelin F-53 Category

- Indian para-athlete Deepa Malik won a gold medal in the F-53/54 category javelin event at the World Para Athletics Grand Prix in Dubai.
- With this, she became the Asian rank one in the F-53 category.
- With the win, Deepa has also qualified for the 2018 Asian Para Games in Indonesia scheduled to be held in October 2018.

Nepal Cricket Team Gains ODI Status

- After Afghanistan's rapid rise to prominence in limited-overs cricket, Nepal took a massive step forward after achieving One-day International status, after their victory over Papua New Guinea.
- Nepal defeated the Pacific nation by six wickets in a playoff game in the ICC World Cup Qualifier being held in Zimbabwe, achieving the distinction for the first time.

Young Shooter Devanshi Rana to participate in Jr World cup at Australia

- The emerging shooter Devanshi Rana will show her talent in the junior shooting World Cup. Jaspal Rana is the Chief Coach of the Indian Shooting Team, while Subhash Rana will play the role of Technical Officer in the championship.
- The Indian team has been announced for the Junior Shooting World Cup in Australia from March 20 to 29.

- For the first time this year Devanshi Rana, a resident of Dehradun, has been given a place in the Indian team for two tournaments.

PV Sindhu swiftly makes her way in the semi final of All England Championship

- There are very few badminton matches that exhaust you as a spectator.
- Badminton is an event which keeps the person glued to their seats.
- When it comes to PV Sindhu you ought to be glued to your seats. Olympic silver medallist shuttler PV Sindhu produced a top-notch performance to spin out an exciting three-game victory over 2016 champion Nozomi Okuhara of Japan to progress to her maiden semi-final at the All England Championship.
- Sindhu come out triumphant and it was particularly pleasing to see how the 22-year-old successfully countered Okuhara's strengths with a more proactive approach despite chasing the

match for most of the one hour and 24 minutes duration.

- It was the third straight three-game affair for Sindhu in the tournament.
- With this win, Sindhu, TOISA 2018 Badminton Player of the Year, also leveled the head-to-head tally 5-5 against the World No. 6.
- The Indian dominated the net next and then sent one to the back line to grab two match points and then sealed the contest with another precise on-the-line return, much to the delight of the Indian fans.

Important Quiz Questions - Weekly

1) Which bank signed International Solar Alliance Pact To Promote Solar Energy ?

- a) Asian Development Bank
- b) Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait
- c) Bank of America
- d) Barclays Bank

2) Which country won 27th Sultan Azlan Shah Cup recently ?

- a) South Korea
- b) India
- c) Australia
- d) New Zealand

3) Which country Won Best Exhibitor Award At ITB-Berlin?

- a) India
- b) Pakistan
- c) Sri Lanka
- d) Indonesia

4) Which union minister got additional Charge Of Civil Aviation Ministry ?

- a) Shri Arun Jaitley
- b) Shri Rajesh Sharma
- c) Shri Prakash Javadekar
- d) Shri Suresh Prabhu

5) Which place First Ever Multinational Naval Exercise At Sea Begins recently?

- a) Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- b) Lakshadweep Islands
- c) Maldives
- d) North Sentinel island

6) Which state Passes Bill To Award Death Penalty For Those Who Rape Girls Under 12 Years Of Age?

- a) Rajasthan
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Madhya Pradesh
- d) Himachal Pradesh

7) Which country Ink 14 Pacts with India Major Boost To Defence, Nuclear Energy Cooperation?

- a) Pakistan
- b) Indonesia
- c) Russia
- d) France

8) From Which month GST Council Approves Rollout Of E-Way Bill recently?

- a) April
- b) May
- c) March
- d) June

9) How many Pacts did India and France to Major Boost To Defence, Nuclear Energy Cooperation?

- a) 15
- b) 18
- c) 14

d)20

10) Which energy did Asian Development Bank, International Solar Alliance Sign pact recently ?

- a) Solar Energy
- b) Heat Energy
- c) Electricity Energy
- d) Kinetic Energy

11) Which company Launches First Debit Card In Mexico E-Commerce Push ?

- a) Flipkart
- b) Snapdeal
- c) Amazon
- d) Myntra

12) Who Becomes Asian Rank 1 In Javelin F-53 Category?

- a) Deepa Malik
- b) Annu Rani
- c) Gurmeet Kaur
- d) Srividhya Rai

13) Which place First Ever Multinational Naval Exercise At Sea Begins recently?

- a) Lakshadweep Islands

- b) Maldives
- c) North Sentinel island
- d) Andaman and Nicobar Islands

14) Which country Ink 14 Pacts with India Major Boost To Defence, Nuclear Energy Cooperation?

- a) Pakistan
- b) Indonesia
- c) Russia
- d) France

15) Which bill was introduced In Lok Sabha recently ?

- a) Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill And Chit Funds Amendment Bill
- b) The Consumer Protection Bill, 2018
- c) The Goods and Services Tax (Compensation to States) Amendment Bill, 2017
- d) The National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second (Amendment) Bill, 2017

Answers:

1) C 2) B 3) A 4) D 5) A 6) A 7) D 8) A 9) C 10) A
11) C 12) A 13) D 14) D 15) A

USEFUL LINKS

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Free Current Affairs Quiz - December 2017	Free IBPS Clerk Exam Test
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