

11th MARCH to 17th MARCH 2017 CURRENT AFFAIRS CONTENT

INTERNATIONAL

1. Pakistan set to conduct its first census in 19 years

Pakistan is set to conduct its first national census in 19 years with the assistance of over 200,000 troops.

- Army spokesman Major General Asif Ghafoor and Minister of State for Information Marriyum Aurangzeb addressed a joint conference about preparation for the sixth census, which will be conducted in two phases and will be completed on May 25.

2. Bangladesh declares March 25 as 'Genocide Day'

Bangladesh's unanimously adopted a resolution declaring March 25 as Genocide Day, in remembrance of the atrocities carried out by the Pakistani Army in the night of March 25, 1971.

3. Vienna is the world's nicest city to live in, Baghdad the worst

Vienna, Austria's grand capital on the Danube river, has topped consulting firm Mercer's list of cities offering the highest quality of life for the eighth year in a row, while Baghdad is again considered the worst place to live.

- Global centres London, Paris, Tokyo and New York City did not even make the top 30.
- Singapore was the highest ranked Asian city, at 25 while 29th-placed San Francisco was the United States' highest entry. Top of the list in Africa was South Africa's Durban at 87.

4. 2017 Commonwealth day: 13 March

Commonwealth Day is the annual celebration of the Commonwealth of Nations held on the second Monday in March.

- This year's theme is "A Peace-building Commonwealth".

Headquarters: London

Head: Queen Elizabeth II

Secretary-General: Patricia Scotland

Founded: 1949

Members: 52

5. World Consumer Rights Day: 15 March

In order to get consumer issues noticed across the world, each year World Consumer Rights Day is observed on 15 March.

- World Consumer Rights Day (WCRD) is an opportunity to promote the basic rights of all consumers,
- The theme for World Consumer Rights Day 2017 is 'Building a Digital World Consumers can Trust'.

6. Tata Steel, Wipro in world's most ethical companies' list

Two Indian companies, Tata Steel and Wipro, have been named in the list of world's most ethical companies by American think tank Ethisphere Institute.

- Ford Motor Company has been named World's Most Ethical Company for the eighth straight year.

7. Best Asian universities: Indian Institute of Science, IIT Bombay among top 50

Times Higher Education (THE), which released its Asia University Rankings 2017 on March 15, listed 33 Indian universities in the top 300.

- Eight established and 17 new entrants made it to the top 100 with Bengaluru's Indian Institute of Science (IISc) at 27.
- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay was ranked 42 and Chennai-based private institute Veltech University was a joint 43 in the top 50.
- In the rankings topped by Singapore's National University, followed by China's Peking University, IISc stayed put at position 27 for the second year in a row.

8. India joins WHO call to end TB by 2030 in South East Asian

India among other countries in the South East Asian Region, which bear half of the global tuberculosis burden, signed a 'call for action' and pledged to scale up measures to end the disease by 2030.

- India reports 2.8 million new TB cases annually and nearly half a million deaths due to the disease.
- Bangladesh, DPR Korea, India, Indonesia, Myanmar and Thailand -- are among the 30 high TB burden nations globally.
- World Health Organization
- Aim: The World Health Organization (WHO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that is concerned with international public health.

Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland

Members: 194

Director General: Margaret Chan (Brazil)

Founded: 7 April 1948

Parent Organization: United Nations Economic and Social Council

NATIONAL

9. 'International Vision Zero Conference' on Occupational, Safety and Health

The international conference on the VISION ZERO and its relevance to Occupational Safety and Health (OSH), is being organized from 15th to 17th, March 2017 at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi by Directorate General Factory Advice and Labour Institutes (DGFASLI), Government of India, Ministry of Labour and Employment and German Social Accident Insurance (DGUV), Germany in association with International Social Security Association (ISSA).

➤ The conference aims to focus on the Occupational Safety and Health issues and challenges in the Manufacturing, Construction and Mining sector.

10. 2017 National Safety Week: March 4-10, 2017

46th National Safety Week Campaign was commenced from 4th March 2017 to 10th March 2017 to renewing the commitment of employees and general public to work safely throughout the year.

➤ 2017 theme is "Keep Each Other Safe".

11. Kiren Rijiju launches mobile app "MySSB"

An in-house developed mobile application "MySSB" was launched by Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Shri Kiren Rijiju.

12. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurates India's largest municipal waste to power plant

Union Urban Development Minister M Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated India's largest state of the art municipal waste to power plant in New Delhi.

13. Exhibition "Revolutionary Patriots (1905-1947)" Inaugurated

On the occasion of 127th Foundation Day of National Archives of India (NAI), an exhibition entitled "Revolutionary Patriots (1905-1947)" was inaugurated in New Delhi.

14. Assembly Election results in Five states

The Election Commission (EC) finished vote counting for assembly election results in five states, including Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Goa and Manipur.

Uttar Pradesh

• **Total Seats: 403** **Bharatiya Janata Party: 312** **Samajwadi Party: 47**

Uttarakhand

• **Total Seats: 70** **Bharatiya Janata Party: 57** **Congress: 11**

Punjab

• **Total Seats: 117** **Congress: 77** **Aam Aadmi Party: 20**

Goa

• **Total Seats: 40** **Congress: 17** **Bharatiya Janata Party: 13**

Manipur

• **Total Seats: 60** **Congress: 28** **Bharatiya Janata Party: 21**

15. NTPC installs India's largest Floating Solar PV Plant in Kerala

NTPC started power generation from India's largest floating solar power plant at Kayamkulam in Kerala.

16. President Appoints New Chief Justices in MP, Patna, Kerala, Chattisgrah, Jharkhand HCs

➤ Chhattisgarh High Court: Justice Thottathil Bhaskaran Nair Radhakrishnan

➤ Kerala High Court: Justice Navaniti Prasad Singh

➤ Madhya Pradesh High Court: Justice Hemant Gupta

➤ Patna High Court: Justice Rajendra Menon

➤ Jharkhand High Court: Justice Pradip Kumar Mohanty

17. Central Railway introduces rail ambulance

The Central Railway introduced a fully air-conditioned rail ambulance at Lonavala

➤ The train, painted in red and white, will be stationed at Kalyan and essentially help railway employees and their families on the Central Railway.

➤ The ambulance will have four coaches called "operation theatre-cum-recovery vans".

18. Hyderabad best Indian city in living standards: Mercer

Hyderabad for the third year in a row has emerged as the best city in terms of living standards among Indian cities.

➤ Both Hyderabad and Pune ranked higher for quality of living than the country's traditional business centres Mumbai and New Delhi, which have been ranked at 154 and 161, respectively, by the report.

➤ However, Hyderabad fell by five places to 144 in this year's rankings from 139th rank last year due to decreased power supply and water availability.

➤ Austrian capital Vienna topped the Mercer's list while Baghdad was at the lowermost place.

19. Telangana launches Rs 605-crore 'KCR Kit' scheme for pregnant women

Focussing on women welfare and new born, Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao has come out with an innovative scheme – KCR Kit.

➤ The scheme is designed to address complications during the time of pregnancy and aimed at reducing infant mortality rate and encourage institutional deliveries.

➤ The government proposes to earmark Rs 605 crore for the scheme.

20. Krishi Unnati Mela begins

Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh has inaugurated a three-day Krishi Unnati Mela for providing information on new farm schemes and technologies that will help farmers double their incomes by 2022.

- Singh also gave away Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Rashtriya Krishi Vigyan Protsahan Puraskar to recognise contribution of Krishi Vigyan Kendras.
- It is being held at Pusa in the national capital and organised by Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI).
- More than 350 stalls will display latest advancement in agri-research and technology development among farmers and end users.

21. Launch of Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES)

Commerce and Industry Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman launched the Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES).

- The objective of the proposed scheme is to enhance export competitiveness by bridging gaps in export infrastructure, creating focused export infrastructure, first mile and last mile connectivity for export-oriented projects and addressing quality and certification measures.

22. Centre Establishes Banana Research Centre In Bihar

To cater to the needs of the local farmers, the Central Government has established the Banana Research Centre in Gorole, Vaishali in Bihar.

23. Karnataka CM announces 'Namma Canteen'

Karnataka chief minister Siddaramaiah has announced 100 crore for “Namma Canteen” (our canteen).

- “We will give breakfast at Rs 5, lunch and dinner at Rs 10 at one centre in each of the 192 wards in Bengaluru,” he said.

24. Boost to Education: Cabinet approves setting up of 50 New KVs

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the proposal for opening of 50 new Kendriya Vidyalayas (KVs) under Civil / Defence Sector in the country keeping in view the high demand for these schools for their quality of education and excellent results.

- The total project cost is Rs.1160 crore.

25. 2018 FISITA World Automotive Congress to be held in Chennai

SAE INDIA, a non-profit engineering and scientific society dedicated to the advancement of mobility community, will organise FISITA World Automotive Congress for the first time in India.

- The four-day international conference will be organised by SAEINDIA and London-headquartered FISITA with the support of SAE International.

TRADE / BANKING

26. NBFC cash loan against gold restricted to Rs. 20,000

The Reserve Bank of India has sharply brought down the threshold above which non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) can disburse loans against gold only by cheque.

- The central bank said with immediate effect such loans amounting to Rs. 25,000 and above can be disbursed only by cheque as against the earlier threshold of Rs. 1 lakh and above.

27. SBI, German Development Bank KfW sign USD 274 million agreement

State Bank of India has signed an agreement with German Development Bank KfW for a USD 274 million (Rs 1,800 crore)-loan facility to finance affordable housing segment in the country.

- With its focus on housing loans for economically weaker sections (EWS) and lower income group (LIG) households.

28. Yes Bank bullish on smart cities, signs up 3 projects

Mid-sized private sector lender Yes Bank is looking at smart cities initiative as a lucrative business opportunity and has signed up three projects to offer payments-related solutions, a senior official said.

- “We have tied up with Udaipur, Nashik and Puducherry for introducing various solutions for the smart city initiative,” its digital banking head Ritesh Pai told PTI.

29. Limits on cash withdrawal from savings bank account removed

All restrictions on cash withdrawal from savings bank account have been removed from today as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had announced about it last month.

- Last month, the RBI had issued a notification saying that the withdrawal limit of cash from savings bank accounts will be relaxed to Rs. 50,000 from February 20 and there would be no restrictions from March 13.

30. Karnataka Bank signs MoU with Bajaj Allianz

City-based Karnataka Bank has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company for General Insurance business.

- With the agreement, the bank would be able to provide vast choice of non-life insurance products to its customers across all its 747 branches.

31. ICICI Bank, SBI, Standard Chartered top bank frauds list: RBI

ICICI Bank topped the list of banks that witnessed most number of frauds during April-December period of 2016 with state-owned SBI taking the second spot, RBI data said.

32. Upcoming Rewa solar plant to receive loan from World Bank

The World Bank has agreed to provide loan to develop internal transmission arrangements of the upcoming Rewa Ultra Mega Solar (RUMS) project in Madhya Pradesh.

- It will provide 25 per cent of the loan amount under its Clean Technology Fund (CTF), where the money will be provided at an interest rate of only 0.25 per cent.
 - **Headquarters: Washington D.C.**
 - **Members: 189**
 - **President: Jim Yong Kim (South Korean-American)**
 - **Founded: July 1944**
 - **Parent Organization: World Bank Group**
- 33. Central Bank of India gets Official language policy award**
Central Bank of India has been awarded first prize in the implementation of Official Language Policy in the western region for the year 2015-2016.
- Central Bank of India**
- **Headquarters: Mumbai**
 - **Founded: 21 December 1911**
 - **Chairman: Rajeev Rishi**
 - **Tagline: Central to You Since 1911**
- 34. RCom-Aircel merger gets SEBI nod**
Reliance Communications Ltd. has received approval from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), BSE Ltd (BSE) and National Stock Exchange of India Ltd (NSE) for the proposed Scheme of Arrangement for demerger of the wireless division of the company into Aircel Ltd and Dishnet Wireless Ltd.
- 35. State Bank of India signs MoU with CREDAI**
State Bank of India and real estate developers' body CREDAI have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to jointly conduct various initiatives towards development of the realty sector.
- 36. SBI to trim Paris operation into representative office**
State Bank of India is planning to convert its branch operation in Paris into a representative office.
- Chairperson Arundhati Bhattacharya said Europe is very costly for operations given the fact that capital is so scarce and costly now.
- 37. Bandhan Bank, Avenues India tie up**
Bandhan Bank, has signed an agreement with Avenues India Pvt Ltd, a payment solution provider, to provide merchants with seamless access to point-of-sales (POS) and payment gateway products.
- 38. HDFC Bank to offer loans online against shares in 3 minutes**
- HDFC Bank, country's second largest private lender, has launched a Digital Loan against Securities (LAS) product to avail an instant overdraft facility in just 3 minutes.
 - In a tie-up with National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL), HDFC bank claims to be the "first Bank in India to do so.

APPOINTMENTS

- 39. Donald Tusk re-elected as European Council president**
The European Council has re-elected Donald Tusk as its president for a second term of two and a half years, from 1 June 2017 to 30 November 2019.
- Donald Tusk was also re-appointed as President of the Euro Summit for the same period.
- 40. Shiv Sena's Vishwanath Mahadeshwar is new Mumbai mayor**
- Mahadeshwar has been elected as the 76th mayor of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation, India's richest civic body.
- 41. WWC2017: Sachin Tendulkar announced official ambassador by ICC**
Master Blaster Sachin Tendulkar has been announced as the official ambassador of Women's Cricket World Cup 2017 by ICC on the occasion of International Women's Day.
- 42. Narendra Kumar takes over as Chairman Central Water Commission**
Shri Narendra Kumar, an officer of Central Water Engineering Service (1979 batch) has assumed the charge of Chairman, Central Water Commission (CWC).
- 43. India appoints Manjeev Singh Puri as next envoy to Nepal**
Manjeev Singh Puri has been appointed the new Indian envoy to Nepal.
- Puri, presently the Ambassador of India to Belgium, is expected to take up his assignment shortly.
 - Puri will succeed Ranjit Rae, whose term came to an end last month.
- 44. BP Kanungo appointed RBI Deputy Governor**
BP Kanungo was appointed Deputy Governor in Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for three years.
- He has been appointed in place of R Gandhi.
- 45. OnePlus ropes in Amitabh Bachchan as its new brand ambassador**
Chinese smartphone maker OnePlus has roped in Bollywood veteran Amitabh Bachchan as its new brand ambassador for India.
- For OnePlus, the latest flagship OnePlus 3T is rated as the best smartphone based on consumer ratings on Amazon India, said the company.

46. Arun Jaitley gets charge of defence ministry after Manohar Parrikar resigns

Finance minister Arun Jaitley was given the additional charge of the defence ministry after Manohar Parrikar resigned to take on the new role of Goa chief minister.

47. Biren Singh will be new Chief Minister of Manipur

Biren Singh of the BJP is all set to be the new Chief Minister of Manipur.

48. Manohar Parrikar to be sworn in Goa Chief Minister today

Bharatiya Janata Party leader Manohar Parrikar, who has resigned as Defence Minister, will be sworn in as Chief Minister of Goa at Raj Bhavan on March 15.

49. HSBC appoints Mark Tucker as new chairman

HSBC has appointed Mark Tucker, the chief executive of Asian insurer AIA, as group chairman.

50. KPMG appoints Bill Thomas as Global Chairman

William B Thomas has been elected Chairman of KPMG International.

- He will succeed John B Veihmeyer, who is completing his term as Chairman and retiring from the firm at the end of September 2017.

51. Mallikarjun Kharge set to be PAC chairman

The Congress leadership has nominated party floor leader in LoK Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge for the post of Chairman of Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of Parliament.

- He will succeed his party colleague K V Thomas who is completing three terms in the post.

52. Amarinder Singh takes oath as Punjab CM

Amarinder Singh took oath as Chief Minister of Punjab on March 16, a ceremony attended by former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Rahul Gandhi.

53. N Biren Singh sworn in as Manipur CM

Nongthombam Biren Singh took oath as the chief minister of Manipur at the Raj Bhawan in Imphal.

54. Trivendra Singh Rawat to be next Uttarakhand CM

BJP leader Trivendra Singh Rawat will be the next Chief Minister of Uttarakhand.

55. New Chairman of National Commission for Safai Karamcharis assumed Office

The newly appointed Chairman of National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Shri Manhar Valji Bhai Zala along with two members Smt. Manju Diler and Shri Dalip Kallu Hathibed assumed his office.

56. Shanghvi on RBI local board

The Centre has appointed Dilip S Shanghvi as Member on the Western Area Local Board of RBI, for a period of four years with effect from March 11.

AWARDS

57. Bhagwat conferred honorary degree of Doctor of Science

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat was conferred honorary degree of Doctor of Science (DSc) by the city-based Maharashtra Animal and Fishery Sciences University.

- He was conferred the degree for his contribution in the field of veterinary sciences and social work.

58. Zee Cine Awards 2017 winners

Best Film: Pink

Best Actor Female: Alia Bhatt – Uda Punjab

Best Actor Male: Amitabh Bachchan – Pink

Best Debutante Female: Ritika Singh – Saala Khadoos

Best Debutante Male: Jim Sarbh – Neerja

Best Director: Ram Madhvani – Neerja

Best Supporting Actor Female: Shabana Azmi – Neerja

Best Supporting Male: Rishi Kapoor – Kapoor and Sons

Best Actor in a Negative Role: Jim Sarbh – Neerja

Best Actor in a Comic Role: Rishi Kapoor – Kapoor and Sons

Viewer's Choice Best Film: Dangal

Viewer's Choice Best Actor: Salman Khan (Sultan)

Viewer's Choice Best Actor Female: Anushka Sharma

59. Thai model wins transgender beauty pageant

Thailand's own Jiratchaya Sirimongkolnawin was declared winner at the Miss International Queen event in Pattaya City.

60. Indian-American teenager wins top science prize

Indian-American teenager, Indrani Das, won the top, \$250,000 prize in the prestigious Regeneron Science Talent Search competition for her research on treating brain injuries and diseases.

- Another Indian-American, Arjun Ramani, took the third place, which carries a prize of \$150,000, for his project on networks using mathematical field of graph theory and computer programming.

SPORTS

61. Santosh Trophy started in Goa

Goa will face Meghalaya in the opener of a Group A league match of the 71st Santosh Trophy at the SAG Athletics Stadium in Goa.

- Santosh Trophy is a major Football tournament in India.
- The Santosh Trophy has returned to Goa after 21 years

62. All England Badminton Championship

Here is the list of the winners of All England Badminton Championship 2017:

- Men's Single: Malaysia's Lee Chong Wei
- Women's Single: China's Tai Tzu-ying
- Men's Double: Indonesia's Marcus Gideon and Kevin Sukamuljo
- Women's Double: South Korea's Chang Ye Na and Lee So Hee
- Mixed Double: China's Lu Kai and Huang Yaqiong

63. Commonwealth Games: Durban, South Africa will not host Games in 2022

The 2022 Commonwealth Games will no longer be held in Durban, South Africa.

- David Grevemberg, chief executive of the Commonwealth Games Federation, said the city did not meet the criteria set by his organisation, and the search for a new host city had already begun.

64. SSP Chawrasia defends Indian Open title

SSP Chawrasia clinched his fourth European Tour title when he won the Indian Open for the second successive year with a seven-shot victory over Malaysia's Gavin Green.

- Chawrasia has become the first Indian to defend a European Tour title.

65. Shashank Manohar resigns as ICC chairman

Former BCCI chief Shashank Manohar has resigned from his post as ICC chairman because of personal reasons after only eight months in office.

- International Cricket Council

Headquarters: Dubai, UAE

Founded: 15 June 1909

President: Zaheer Abbas (Pakistan)

CEO: Dave Richardson (South Africa)

Members: 105

Motto: Great Sport, Great Spirit

DEATHS

66. Chemistry Nobel winner George Olah dies at 89

George A. Olah, whose work won a Nobel Prize in chemistry and paved the way for more effective oil refining and ways of producing less polluting forms of gasoline, has died at age 89.

BOOKS

67. Michael Clarke launches his autobiography 'My Story'

Former Australian captain Michael Clarke has launched his autobiography titled "My Story" at Kolkata.

***** ALL THE BEST *****