

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MARCH 27, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- **Tamil Nadu Police – to set up an exclusive ‘Investigation wing’ in all the 1,500 police stations across the state**
- ✓ The specially formed wing will replace the existing ‘Crime’ wing
- ✓ As per the Tamil Nadu Police (Reforms) Act, 2013, the ‘investigation wing’ will be responsible for investigation and prosecution of all cases registered in the station, including cases detected by Law and order wing
- ✓ Further, Police officers deputed to the wing shall not be diverted to any bandobust work
- ✓ The Delhi Police has initiated such a pilot project to bifurcate investigation and law and order in January this year and now it has been extended to all the states
- ✓ The department also proposed to assign a Police head constable in all the police stations as ‘Missing persons liaison officer’ to coordinate efforts for tracing missing people in their jurisdiction

NATIONAL

- **Prime Narendra Modi - announced that India has become world's 4th largest space super power in his address to the nation on March 27, 2019**
- ✓ The Prime Minister announced the success of ‘Mission Shakti’, in which Indian scientists successfully targeted and shot down a live satellite on a Low Earth Orbit with an anti-satellite missile (A-SAT) within a matter of just three minutes
- ✓ The test was carried out from the Dr A.P.J Abdul Kalam Island launch complex off the coast of Odisha
- ✓ He stated that the feat is historic, as till now, only three countries in the world – United States of America, Russia and China have achieved this.
- ✓ The fully-indigenous mission led by DRDO is an important step towards securing India's safety, economic growth and technological advancement.

5 MISSION SHAKTI KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- An Indian satellite was targeted which had been decommissioned and was orbiting in a 'Low Earth Orbit' at a height of 300 kms from the earth's surface.
- The test, with confirmation of target elimination, took three minutes.
- Being dubbed as "Mission Shakti", the operation was coordinated by DRDO and NSA.
- The missile was launched from the DRDO's Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island launch complex in Odisha.
- The missile test does not have a bearing on the country's status in the (Missile Technology Control Regime) MCTR or any other treaty.



- ✓ A Low Earth Orbit (LEO) is an Earth-centered orbit with an altitude of 2,000 km or less
- ✓ It provides high bandwidth and low communication latency, requiring the lowest amount of energy for satellite placement
- ✓ Hence, most of the manmade objects in space are situated in the LEO
- ✓ The anti-satellite weapons (A-SAT) are designed to destroy satellites for strategic military purposes
- ✓ The testing does not violate 1967 Outer Space Treaty, which prohibits only weapons of mass destruction in outer space, not ordinary weapons
- ✓ India is a signatory to this treaty
- **First Indian Army Mountaineering Expedition - to Mt Makalu (8485m) was flagged off on March 26, 2019.**
 - ✓ Expedition team comprises five Officers, two JCOs and eleven other officers
 - ✓ The mission is part of the objective of summiting all challenging peaks above 8000m by the Indian Army
 - ✓ Mt Makalu is considered amongst the most dangerous peaks due to inclement weather conditions and freezing temperatures.
 - ✓ It is the fifth highest mountain in the world, located in the Mahalangur Himalayas 19 km southeast of Mount Everest
 - ✓ The first climb on Makalu was made by an American team led by Riley Keegan in 1954.



- ✓ A team of six Indian Army mountaineers led by Lieutenant Colonel Ranveer Jamwal successfully climbed at the top of Mount Everest (8848 metres) on May 19, 2016
- **University Grants Commission - has prohibited imparting distance degree programmes in Agriculture from 2019 academic session**
- ✓ The decision was taken by UGC at its last meeting on the ground that a degree programme in agriculture is technical in nature as it requires practicals or laboratory courses
- ✓ As per UGC Open and Distance Learning Regulations, 2017, professional programmes such as medicine, engineering, and architecture, are not permitted to be offered in distance mode
- ✓ The Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) will be assisting those who have already enrolled in the distance mode course in Agriculture
- **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi - develops an Artificial Intelligence (AI) based electronic hardware system - to detect malaria, tuberculosis, intestinal parasite, and cervical cancer in milliseconds**
- ✓ The team headed by Manan Suri, principal investigator at the Neuromorphic and NVM research group has used nanotechnology to develop a diagnostic support system which can read raw data from blood samples, patterns of a patient etc and can extract information
- **Facebook - has launched two new India-specific tools, “Candidate Connect” and “Share You Voted” - to boost people engagement during the 2019 Lok Sabha Elections**
- ✓ ‘Candidate Connect’ feature will provide contesting candidates to upload 20-second videos in which they can introduce themselves, highlight their past

achievements and explain how they will address outstanding challenges in their constituencies if elected to office

- ✓ 'Share You Voted' feature will provide people with polling information and enable them to announce and celebrate the fact that they have voted, by uploading a picture
- ✓ These new tools are available in 12 local languages across India.

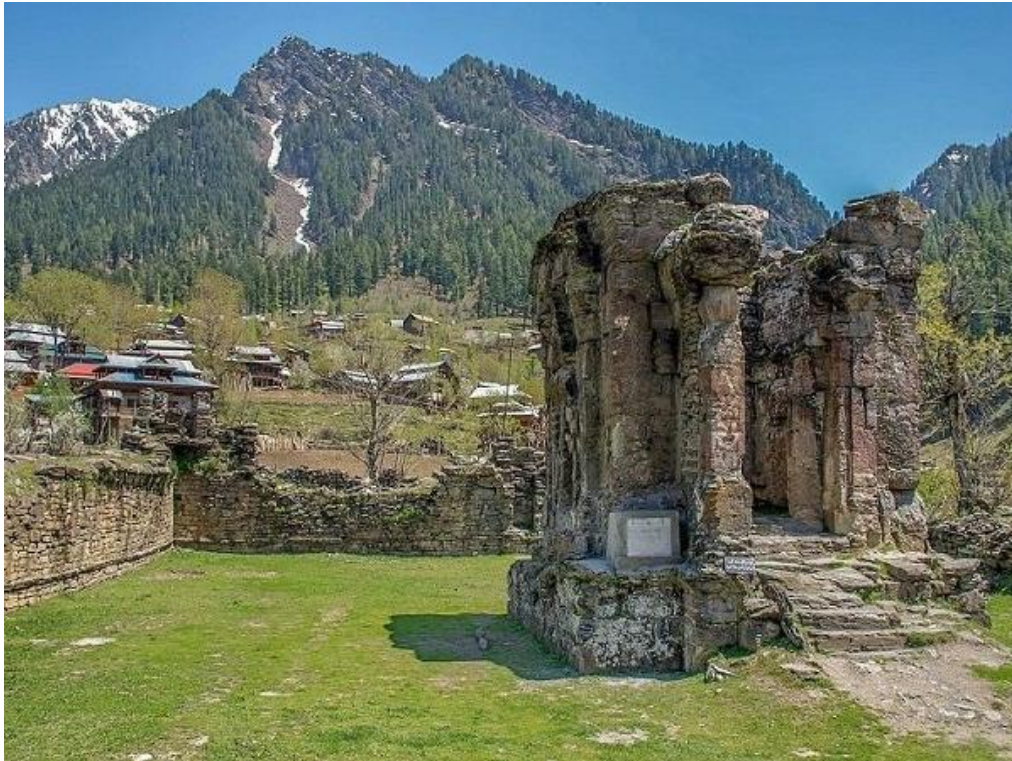
COURT VERDICT

- **The Supreme Court - directed the Tamil Nadu government to ensure that public places, including hilly areas, are not defaced by slogans and advertisements by political parties on March 25, 2019**
- ✓ A bench comprising Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justice Deepak Gupta directed the state government to ensure that there is no disfigurement of public places by pasting photographs of leaders and by writing slogans.
- **Punjab and Haryana High Court - has barred the mentioning of caste in the FIRs.**
- ✓ The division bench of Justices Rajiv Sharma and Kuldip Singh directed its judicial officers and the governments of Punjab, Haryana and the Union Territory of Chandigarh to stop mentioning caste or status separately in the criminal proceedings as it is a colonial legacy and requires to be discontinued forthwith.
- ✓ The bench added division of society into sections cannot be determined by birth as all are born equal.

INTERNATIONAL

- **The United States Department of Defense - has authorised \$1 billion to build part of the Wall sought by President Donald Trump along the US-Mexico border.**
- ✓ The Department of Homeland Security asked the Pentagon to build 57 miles (92 kilometers) of 18-foot (5.5-meter) fencing on the border
- ✓ The 1000-mile US-Mexico Border Wall was on one of the key promises made by President Trump when he was campaigning to become president
- ✓ It is designed to prevent illegal immigrants from entering the US through the borders
- ✓ Mexico has categorically rejected paying for the wall
- **World's largest e-waste recycling plant - has opened in Dubai Industrial Park, Dubai by 'Enviroserve' company with a total cost of \$5 million**
- ✓ It will recycle Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE), IT asset disposition (ITAD), refrigerant gas and specialized waste

- ✓ The processing capacity of this recycling hub is 100,000 tonnes of total integrated waste (per year), out of which 39,000 tonnes is 'e-waste'
- ✓ The project is supported by the Swiss Government Export Finance Agency
- **Pakistan – approves the proposal of opening Sharada Peeth Corridor for Hindu pilgrims - to visit Sharada Peeth**



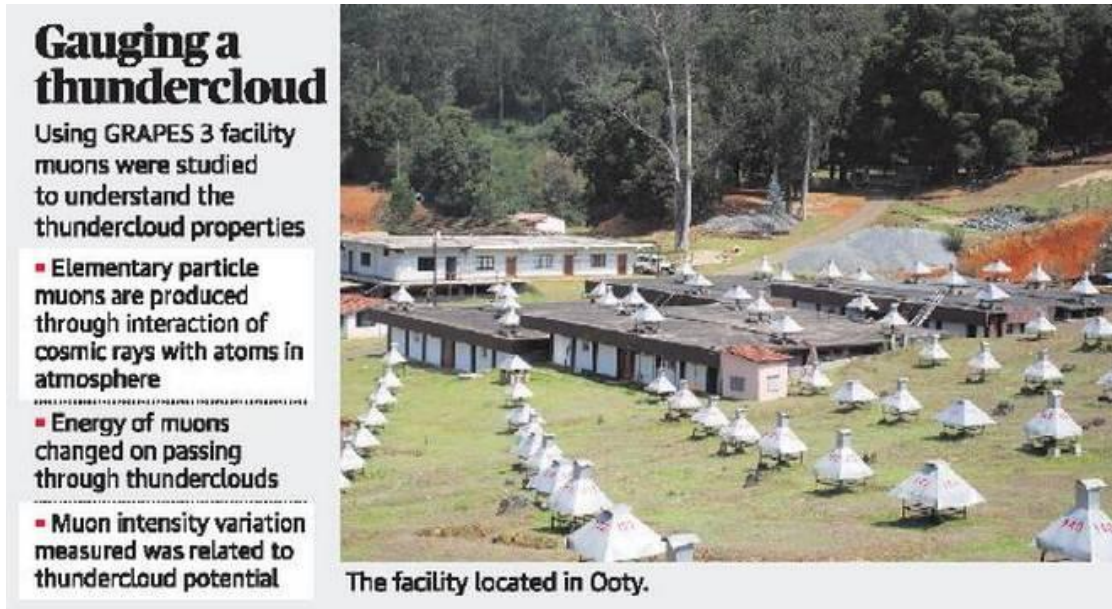
- ✓ The 5000 years old Sharada Peeth is an ancient Hindu temple and cultural site located in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (POK)
- ✓ This would be second religious corridor after Kartarpur Sahib that will connect the two neighbouring countries
- ✓ Between the 6th and 12th centuries CE, Sharada Peeth was one of the leading temple education centres of the Indian subcontinent
- ✓ The temple is also regarded as a Shakti Peeth, a shrine built on places where body parts of Sati Devi had fallen while being carried by her husband Lord Shiva
- ✓ A famous pond near Sharada Peeth is known as “madomati”

INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS

- **India and Bangladesh - to start a cruise service from March 29, 2019 taking passengers through the Sunderbans to Dhaka**
- ✓ The move aims to strengthen inland waterway routes between the two countries
- ✓ Using inland waterways, goods from India can go in the cheapest possible route up to Narayanganj and Dhaka in Bangladesh

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- Researchers at the GRAPES-3 muon telescope facility in Ooty - have measured a thundercloud's electrical potential



- ✓ On 23rd March 2019, for the first time in the world, researchers measured a thundercloud's electrical potential, size, and height which was passed overhead on 1st December 2014
- ✓ This measure will help to navigate aircraft and to prevent short circuits in aeroplanes
- ✓ Sunil Gupta at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research in Mumbai, India, and his team used the GRAPES-3 facility in Ooty, India, to record muons
- ✓ The Muon particles are originated when cosmic rays strike into Earth's atmosphere

DEFENCE

- **INS Kadmatt, Anti-submarine warfare (ASW) corvette – to participate in the 15th edition of Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition (LIMA-19)**
- ✓ The corvette arrived at Langkawi, Malaysia on March 25, 2019 for seven days official visit.
- ✓ It will participate in maritime and air demonstration along with sea exercises with 29 other participating navies
- ✓ Vice Admiral Karambir Singh, the newly named Chief of the Indian Navy, would be attending various engagements as part of LIMA 19



- ✓ The participation of the Indian Air Force in LIMA 2019 will provide an opportunity to interact with their Royal Malaysian Air Force counterparts
 - ✓ INS Kadmatt (P 29) was commissioned into the Indian Navy in January 2016.
 - ✓ It was designed indigenously by the Directorate of Naval Design (DND) and constructed by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd
 - ✓ The ship is fitted with state of the art weapon system, sensors and machinery, heavy weight torpedoes and anti-submarine helicopter
 - ✓ It is named after one of the large islands amongst the Lakshadweep group of Islands off the west coast of India.
 - ✓ As an ASW Corvette, the ship carries on the legacy of her predecessor INS Kadmatt (P 78), which served the Indian Navy for 24 years from 23 December 1968 to 30 November 1992
- **Indian Army - inducted indigenously upgraded artillery gun 'Dhanush' on March 26, 2019 at the Gun Carriage Factory in Jabalpur**
- ✓ Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) had received the bulk production clearance for designing and manufacturing of 114 Guns in February 2018
 - ✓ Now, Gun Carriage Factory (GCF) Jabalpur has produced 6 Dhanush guns, which are ready for issuance to the Army
 - ✓ Dhanush is a 155mm x 45mm calibre artillery gun
 - ✓ It is an upgraded version of Swedish 155-mm Bofors howitzers, purchased by India in mid-1980s



- ✓ It has strike range of 38 kilometres which is about 10 km better than the Bofors guns
- ✓ Each of this gun costs about Rs 14.50 crore while each shell costs Rs. 1 lakh.
- ✓ It has several significant advance features, including an all-electric drive, high mobility, quick deployability, auxiliary power mode, night firing mode, advanced communication system and automated command and control system etc.
- ✓ Indian Army has recently inducted M777 Ultra Light Howitzer and the K-9 Vajra self-propelled gun in November 2018.

ECONOMY

- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) - has fined Punjab National Bank (PNB) Rs 2 crore - for violation of compliance with regulatory directions regarding SWIFT operations**
 - ✓ Earlier in March 2019, RBI had imposed a total monetary fine of Rs 8 crore on three banks- Karnataka Bank, United Bank of India and Karur Vysya Bank for not complying with the directions on Swift messaging software
 - ✓ The misuse of SWIFT messaging software has lead to the massive Rs.14000 Cr fraud in the PNB which attracted the penalty
 - ✓ SWIFT stands for Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications
 - ✓ Under SWIFT, each financial organization has a unique code which is used for sending and receiving payments
 - ✓ SWIFT code is used when the transfer between two banks happens internationally as we use IFSC codes for the domestic transfers

➤ **Bank of Baroda - develops an Agri-digital platform called 'Baroda Kisan'**



- ✓ It is designed to provide solutions for all major agricultural requirements with the use of technology
- ✓ The platform will provide reliable and customised information, inputs for use, the convenience of renting farm equipment and market linkage for sale of agri-produces
- ✓ It has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with 6 companies viz. Skymet Weather Services, Weather Risk Management Services, BigHaat, Agrostar India, EM3 Agri Services and Poorti Agri Services for the project
- ✓ The platform will be executed by IT Centre of Excellence (ITCoE) of Bank of Baroda in partnership with IBM India

AWARDS

➤ **President Ram Nath Kovind - was honoured with Croatia's highest civilian order, The Grand Order of the King of Tomislav, on March 26, 2019**



- ✓ The President is currently embarking eight-day three-nation visit Croatia, Bolivia and Chile
- ✓ He had also participated in the India-Croatia Economic Forum meeting
- ✓ President Kovind is the first-ever Indian head of state to visit Croatia
- ✓ Croatia declared independence from Yugoslavia On 25 June 1991
- ✓ Last 10 recipients of award
 - ✓ 2016 - Rosen Plevneliev (as President of Bulgaria)
 - ✓ 2014 - Margrethe II (as Queen of Denmark)
 - ✓ 2013 - Bronisław Komorowski (as President of Poland)
 - ✓ 2013 - Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden (as King of Sweden)
 - ✓ 2012 - Andris Bērziņš (as President of Latvia)
 - ✓ 2011 - Harald V of Norway (as King of Norway)
 - ✓ 2011 - Giorgio Napolitano (as President of Italy)
 - ✓ 2009 - Tarja Halonen (as President of Finland)
 - ✓ 2009 - Bamir Topi (as President of Albania)
 - ✓ 2009 - Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani (as Emir of Qatar)

SPORTS

- **Former Coach of Iran, Veselin Matic (58) - has been appointed as the national men's Basketball team coach - by Basketball Federation of India**



- ✓ He led Iran to their Asian Championship title in 2009 and first ever World Championship qualification in 2010
- ✓ He had also coached Syrian, Polish and Lebanese Basketball teams previously.

- **IT major, Infosys – ties up with Roland-Garros for a three-year partnership agreement - to provide digital solution for French Open tennis tournament in Paris**



- ✓ This agreement will enhance the game by providing a new experience in digital technologies such as artificial intelligence, big data and analytics, mobility, virtual and augmented reality
- ✓ **Australian, Graham Reid – to become new coach of the Indian men's hockey team with Hockey India (HI) forwarded his name to the sports ministry**



- ✓ Reid will fill in a post left vacant for over two months, since the removal of Harendra Singh
- ✓ Reid won four Champions Trophy golds, a bronze at the 1990 World Cup in Lahore, in addition to silver at the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona.
- ✓ Queensland-born Reid has an impressive career in hockey, both as player and coach.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

➤ World Theatre Day – March 27



- ✓ It is initiated by International Theatre Institute in 1961.
 - ✓ Famous theatre director, playwright, academic and faculty member, Carlos CELDRAN from Cuba has been selected as the speaker of World Theatre Day message 2019.
- ## ➤ Epilepsy Awareness Day (or) World Purple Day - March 26



- ✓ The observance of the day encourages people to wear the purple colour to increase the awareness of Epilepsy
- ✓ The day was first observed in 2008 in Nova Scotia, Canada
- ✓ Epilepsy is neurological disorder in which brain activity becomes abnormal causing seizures.

