



CURRENT AFFAIRS

FEBRUARY

2019

**2019 – International Year of Indigenous Languages and International Year of the Periodic
Table of Chemical Elements**

Defence

The place in Maharashtra where the Indian Army conducted its annual artillery fire power exercise Topchi – **Deolali**

The five-day multinational maritime exercise conducted at Karachi, Pakistan with participation of 46 countries and slogan "Together for Peace" – **Aman-19**

The multinational training exercise held from 27 Jan to 06 Feb 19 in the Western Indian Ocean with participation from USA, India, Netherlands and several East African countries was named – **CUTLASS EXPRESS – 19**

Persons

The former Chairman of Railway Board who has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director of Air India – **Shri Ashwani Lohani**

The new Chairman of CBDT appointed to replace Shri Sushil Chandra who has taken over as Election Commissioner – **Shri Pramod Kumar Mody**

The American economist who has been nominated by the US President to be the next World Bank President – **David Malpass**

The new Director of Central Bureau of Investigation, replacing Shri Alok Verma for a period of two years – **Shri Rishi Kumar Shukla**

Places

The place in Haryana where setting up All India Institute of Medical Sciences was approved by the Union Cabinet – **Manethi (Rewari Dist)**

The places in Madhya Pradesh and Assam where National Institute of Design were inaugurated through video conferencing in New Delhi – **Bhopal and Jorhat**

The venue of first ever Drone Olympics, a competition for UAVs (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles) held from 18 to 21 February 2019 – **Bengaluru**

The emirate of UAE which has declared Hindi to be its third official language in its courts to make the justice delivery simple – **Abu Dhabi**

The venue of Swachhta Shakti Convention 2019 of 16,000 women Swachhata Champions from across the country – **Kurukshetra**

The place in Haryana where the state-of-art National Cancer Institute was inaugurated by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi – **Jhajjar**

The European nation which has signed an accord to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation becoming its 30th member – **Macedonia**

The place in West Bengal where Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of Circuit Bench of Calcutta High Court having jurisdiction over four districts namely Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Jalpaiguri and Cooch Behar – **Jalpaiguri**

Themes

The theme of National Science Day 2019 observed on 28 February 2019 – **Science for the People and People for Science**

The tagline for the air show Aero India-2019 (12th edition) held at AF Station Yelahanka, Bengaluru – **The Runway to a Billion Opportunities**

The theme of 12th edition of Aero India International Seminar organised by DRDO from 18 to 19 Feb 2019 – **Emerging Frontiers in Aerospace Technologies**

The theme of World Sustainable Development Summit 2019 from 11 to 13 Feb 2019 – **Attaining the 2030 Agenda; Delivering on our Promise**

The theme of National Productivity Week observed from 12 to 18 February 2019 organised by National Productivity Council – **Circular Economy for Productivity and Sustainability**

Railways

The headquarters of the newly formed railway zone, South Coastal Railway (SCoR) – **Visakhapatnam**

The railway manufacturing unit which has launched the first electric locomotive converted from a diesel engine – **DLW, Varanasi**

Sports

The team which has scored the highest ever total in T20 internationals by scoring 278 against Ireland in Dehradun (surpassing Australia's 263 against Sri Lanka in 2016) – **Afghanistan**

The Sri Lankan cricketer who was banned from cricket for 2 years by the ICC – **Sanath Jayasuriya**

The Indian hockey player who was named the Asian Hockey Federation's Player of the Year 2018 – **Manpreet Singh**

The team which has won the Irani Cup 2018-19 season – **Vidarbha**

The West Indian cricketer who has announced his retirement from one-day internationals after the Cricket World Cup 2019 – **Chris Gayle**

The former badminton player of India who was awarded the Sportstar Lifetime Achievement Award – **Prakash Padukone**

The animal which has been chosen to be the mascot of National Games 2022 to be held in Meghalaya – **Clouded Leopard**

The French tennis player who has won the 2019 Chennai Open Challenger Singles title defeating Andrew Harris of Australia – **Corentin Moutet**

The Indian cricketer who has become the highest run scorer in T20 internationals surpassing New Zealand's Martin Gupthill – **Rohit Sharma**

The team which has won the Ranji Trophy 2018-19 defeating Saurashtra in the finals in Nagpur – **Vidarbha**

The team which has won the Pro-Wrestling League season 4 title defeating Punjab Royals in the finals – **Haryana Hammers**

The Indian cricketer who has become the first woman in the world to play 200 one-day internationals when she played against New Zealand in Hamilton – **Mithali Raj**

States

The state which has approved Sanskrit as the second official language after Hindi – **Himachal Pradesh**

The state which has declared the Indus Water Dolphin to be its State Aquatic Animal – **Punjab**

The State which has launched the Annadata Sukhibhava Scheme under which farmers having land less than 5 acres will receive Rs. 9,000 in addition to Rs. 6,000 announced by the Central Govt – **Andhra Pradesh**

Miscellaneous

The Indian bank which has joined hands with World Bank and UN Women to launch new social impact bonds exclusively for women, called Women's Livelihood Bonds (WLBs) – **SIDBI**

India's first humanoid robot developed by Asimov Robotics inaugurated by the Kerala CM for induction into its police force is named – **KP-BOT**

The new MSP (Minimum Support Price) of sugar hiked from Rs. 29 for the year 2019 – 20 – **Rs. 31**

The public sector undertaking which was declared winner under Miniratna Category by Ministry of MSME for exemplary work amongst CPSEs for promotion of SC/ST entrepreneurs – **NFDC**

The denomination in which a special postal stamp was released on Kumbh Mela by the Indian Postal Department – **Rs. 5**

The theme state and partner country of the Surajkund Crafts Mela held at Faridabad in Haryana from 01 to 17 Feb 2019 – **Maharashtra and Thailand**

Important Days of February World Wetlands Day: 02 February 2019

Designated by: Ramsar Convention Secretariat

Theme: Wetlands and Climate Change

First Observed in: 1997

World Cancer Day: 04 February 2019

Designated by: Union for International Cancer Control (UICC)

Theme: I am and I Will (for 2019-21)

First Observed in: 2000

Safer Internet Day: 05 February 2019

Designated by: European Union

Theme: Together for better internet

First Observed in: 2004

International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation: 06 February 2019

Designated by: U.N.O.

First Observed in: 2013

World Pulses Day: 10 February 2019

Designated by: U.N.O.

First Observed in: 2019

International Day of Women and Girls in Science: 11 February 2019

Designated by: U.N.O.

Theme: Investment in Women and Girls in Science for Inclusive Green Growth

First Observed in: 2016

World Radio Day: 13 February 2019

Designated by: UNESCO

Theme: Dialogue, Tolerance and Peace

First Observed in: 2013

World Day of Social Justice: 20 February 2019

Designated by: UN General Assembly

Theme: If you want Peace and Development: Work for Social Justice

First Observed in: 2008

International Mother Language Day: 21 February 2019

Designated by: UN General Assembly

Theme: Indigenous Languages as a Factor in Development, Peace and Reconciliation

First Observed in: 2008

Rare Disease Day: 28 February 2019 (Last day of February)

Designated by: European Organisation for Rare Diseases (EURORDIS)

First Observed in: 2008

91st Academy Awards (Oscars)

Best Picture – **Green Book** directed by Peter Farelly

Best Director – **Alfonso Cuaron** for Roma

Best Actor – **Rami Malek** for Bohemian Rhapsody

Best Actress – **Olivia Colman** for The Favourite

Best Animated Film – **Spiderman : Into the Spider Verse** by Bob Persichetti, Peter Ramsey, and Rodney Rothman

Best Foreign Language Film – **Roma** (Spanish and Mixtec) submitted by Mexico

Best Documentary – **Short Subject Period. End of Sentence** by Rayka Zehtabchi and Melissa Berton

Most nominations – **The Favourite and Roma** (10 each)

Indian entry in the Foreign Language Film category – **Village Rockstars** (Assamese) (Not nominated)

Interim Budget 2019-20 Highlights

1. 12 crore small and marginal farmers to be provided with assured yearly income of Rs. 6000 per annum under PM-KISAN.

2. Rashtriya Kamdhenu Ayog to be setup for sustainable genetic up-gradation of the Cow resources
3. New separate Department of Fisheries for welfare of 1.5 crore fishermen
4. Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan scheme to ensure fixed monthly pension to 10 crore unorganized sector workers i.e. Rs 3000 per month after 60 years of age with an affordable contribution of only Rs 100/55 per month.
5. 22nd AIIMS to be setup in Haryana
6. Income upto Rs. 5 lakh exempted from Income Tax
7. Standard Deduction to be raised to Rs. 50,000 from Rs. 40,000
8. TDS threshold to be raised from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 40,000 on interest earned on bank/post office deposits
9. 25% additional seats in educational institutions to meet the 10% reservation for the poor
10. All willing households to be provided electricity connections by March 2019
11. Defence budget to cross Rs 3,00,000 crore for the first time ever
12. The Government to make 1 lakh villages into Digital Villages over next five years
13. New National Artificial Intelligence portal to support National Program on Artificial Intelligence

Gandhi Peace Prize

The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, presented the Gandhi Peace Prize for the years 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 on 26 February 2019.

- 2015: Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari for 2015
- 2016: Akshaya Patra Foundation and the Sulabh International
- 2017: Ekal Abhiyan Trust
- 2018: Shri Yohei Sasakawa

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana (PM KISAN)

- Announced in the interim Budget 2019-20 on February 1, 2019.
- Launched by the Prime Minister at Gorakhpur on February 24, 2019
- Benefit: Rs 6,000 will be given per year to small and marginal farmer families having combined land holding/ownership of upto 2 hectares.
- The amount will be given in three installments of Rs.2000 each.
- The amount will be transferred directly to the bank account of beneficiaries through Direct Benefit Transfer.
- It is estimated to benefit more than 12 crore small and marginal farmers.
- PM KISAN is a Central Sector scheme with 100% funding from Government of India. The Scheme becomes effective from 1.12.2018 for transfer of benefit to eligible beneficiaries.

Emergency Response Support System (ERSS)

Launched by – Shri Rajnath Singh and Smt Maneka Gandhi

Launched in – 16 States/UTs (Andhra Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, UP, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Puducherry, Lakshadweep, Andaman, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu, J & K)

Features – One can dial 112 or use Panic Button on their phones or 112 India Mobile App to connect to a single emergency services number 112 which will combine Police, Fire, Health and other helplines through an Emergency Response Centre in the State.

The emergency response system can be triggered in the following manners:-

1. On the smart phones, the power button (which is dedicated panic button) when pressed three times quickly.
2. Dialing 112 from any phone.
3. In case of feature phones, long press of the touch key 5 or 9.
4. Using 112 India Mobile App which is available for free downloading.
5. For women and children, 112 India App provides a special SHOUT feature which alerts registered volunteers in the vicinity of victim for immediate assistance.

Laureus World Sports Awards 2019

Awarded by – Laureus Sport for Good Foundation

Sportsman of the Year – Novak Djokovic (Serbia)

Sportswoman of the Year – Simone Biles (USA)

Laureus Lifetime Achievement Award – Arsene Wenger (France – Football)

Breakthrough of the Year – Naomi Osaka (Japan)

Comeback of the Year – Tiger Woods (USA)

83rd Senior National Badminton Championship 2019

S.No.	Title	Winner	Runner-up
1.	Men's Singles	Saurabh Verma	Lakshya Sen
2.	Women's Singles	Saina Nehwal	PV Sindhu
3.	Men's Doubles	Pranav Chopra and Chirag Shetty	MR Arjun and Shlok Ramchandran
4.	Women's Doubles	Shikha Gautam and Ashwini Bhat	Meghana Jakkampudi and Poorvisha Ram
5.	Mixed Doubles	Manu Attri and K Maneesha	Rohan Kapoor and Kuhoo Garg

BAFTA Awards 2019

Best Film: **Roma**

Best Actor: **Rami Malek** for Bohemian Rhapsody

Best Actress: **Olivia Colman** for The Favourite

Best Director: **Alfonso Cuaron** for Roma

Launch of GSAT-31

Launched on: 06 February 2019

Launched from: Spaceport in French Guiana

Launch vehicle: Ariane 5 VA-247

With a lift-off mass of 2536 kg, GSAT-31 will augment the Ku-band transponder capacity in Geostationary Orbit. GSAT-31 will provide DTH Television Services, connectivity to VSATs for ATM, Stock-exchange, Digital Satellite News Gathering (DSNG) and e-governance applications.

India – New Zealand ODI Series 2019

S.No.	Venue	Winner	Player of the match
1.	Napier	India	Mohammad Shami
2.	Mount Maunganui	India	Rohit Sharma
3.	Mount Maunganui	India	Mohammad Shami
4.	Hamilton	New Zealand	Trent Boult
5.	Wellington	India	Ambati Rayudu

Player of the Series: **Mohammad Shami**

India – New Zealand T20 Series 2019

S.No.	Venue	Winner	Player of the match
1.	Wellington	New Zealand	Tim Seifert
2.	Auckland	India	Krunal Pandya
3.	Hamilton	New Zealand	Colin Munro

Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards 2017

The President of India conferred the following Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards 2017

Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards in the field of Music Person

	Field
Shri Lalith J Rao	Hindustani Vocal
Shri Umakant Gundecha and Shri Ramakant Gundecha	Hindustani Vocal
Shri Yogesh Samsi	Tabla
Shri Rajendra Prasanna	Shehnai/Flute
Smt MS Sheela	Carnatic Vocal
Smt Suma Sudhindra	Veena
Shri Tiruvarur Vaidyanathan	Mridangam
Shri Shashank Subramanyam	Flute
Smt Madhurani	Sugam Sangeet
Smt Haimanti Sukla	Sugam Sangeet

Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards in the field of Traditional/Folk/Tribal Music/Dance/Theatre and Puppetry

Person	Field
Anwar Khan Manganiyar	Folk Music, Rajasthan

Prakash Khandge	Folk Arts, Maharashtra
Jagannath Bayan	Traditional Music – Khol, Assam
Ramchandra Majhi	Folk Music, Bihar
Rakesh Tiwari	Folk Theatre, Chhattisgarh
Parvathy Baul	Folk Music (Baul), West Bengal
Saravjit Kaur	Folk Music, Punjab
K.C. Runremsangi	Folk Music, Mizoram
Mukund Nayak	Folk Music, Jharkhand
Sudip Gupta	Puppetry, West Bengal

Vijay Verma and **Sandhya Purecha** have been selected for the Akademi Award 2017 in the field of Overall Contribution/Scholarship in the Performing Arts.

Abbreviations in News

PM-KISAN: Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi

KUSUM: Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan

SWAYATT: Start-ups, Women and Youth Advantage Through eTransactions

Books in News

India Unmade – Yashwant Sinha

Let's Talk on Air – Rajiv Anand Bakshi

Undaunted, Saving the Idea of India – P. Chidambaram

The Third Pillar – Dr. Raghuram Rajan