

# UPSC PRELIMS 2018/2019



**Daily Current Affairs  
- Entire "The Hindu"  
broken into 4 liners**

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## FRONT PAGE

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### RAIN COOLS DOWN KALABURAGI DISTRICT

**NEWS :** Heavy rain in Kalaburagi city and in rural parts

**WHY THIS RAIN SO SPECIAL ?** Kalaburagi recorded the State's highest maximum temperature of 40 degrees Celsius, followed by Ballari which recorded 39 degrees Celsius.

**WHERE IS KALABURAGI LOCATED ?** District in Karnataka

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### MUMBAIKARS EAT OUT, CASUALLY

**WHAT WAS THE STUDY ?** A three-city survey covering Mumbai, Delhi-NCR and Bengaluru - survey about restaurants.

**WHAT WAS THE RESULT ?** This survey has found that Mumbai has the highest proportion of casual dining restaurants in the Food and Beverages (F&B) space - 60% of all restaurants in Mumbai were casual dining places.

**WHO CONDUCTED THE SURVEY ?** The survey, conducted by CBRE, a real estate

**WHAT WERE THE FIGURES IN OTHER SITIES ?** The corresponding figures for

- ✓ Delhi-NCR – 43%
- ✓ Bengaluru - 46% .

**WHAT ARE CASUAL DINING RESTAURANTS ?** Casual dining restaurants = those serving moderately priced food in a casual environment.

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### **CAG FAULTS STATE FOR DELAY IN AGRICULTURE PROJECTS**

**NEWS :** The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) found fault with the State government for delaying the completion of 61 irrigation projects leading to a cost escalation to the tune of Rs. 27,403.74 crore.

**WHO IS CAG ? Comptroller and auditor general (CAG)** of India is a constitutional body.

**WHAT IT WILL DO ?** It is empowered to audit all expenses from the combine Fund of the union or state governments, whether incurred within India or outside.

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### **PROCESS TO PROCURE 110 FIGHTER JETS BEGINS**

**NEWS :** The Ministry of Defence recently initiated the formal process to buy 110 fighter jets for the Indian Air Force (IAF) through a global tendering process.

**WHAT PAST SAYS ?** The effort culminated in the global tender for 126 fighters which was cancelled in 2015.

**THE COMPENSATION MOVE :** Later the Modi government decided to buy 36 Rafale fighters from France under a government-to-government deal.

**IMPORTANCE :** It would be the world's biggest fighter jet tender in market right now.

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**NATIONAL PAGE**

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## **INVEST IN NEPAL, OLI TELLS INDIAN INDUSTRIES**

**WHO IS MR. OLI ?** Mr. K.P. Sharma Oli is Prime Minister of Nepal.

**WHAT HE SAID ?** He said his country offered investor-friendly environment and incentives for industries.

**WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED AREAS OF INVESTMENT ?** Infrastructure, tourism, power, agriculture and IT hold huge opportunities for investors.

**THE STEP FORWARD :** The country was planning to establish special economic zones (SEZ) in the cities bordering india with incentives for industries, including liberal labour laws,

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## **VIDEOCON LOAN PROBE: CBI ISSUES LOOK-OUT CIRCULARS**

**WHAT WAS THE ISSUE ABOUT ?** It was pertaining to Rs. 3,250 crore loans extended to the Videocon group in 2012.

### **THE SUSPECTS :**

- ✓ Venugopal Dhoot's Videocon group and
- ✓ Deepak Kochhar, the husband of ICICI Bank MD and
- ✓ CEO Chanda Kochhar.

## **KURIEN FOR CHANGE IN HOUSE RULES**

**WHAT HAPPENED ?** Outgoing Deputy Chairman of *Rajya Sabha P.J. Kurien* argued for changing the existing rules to “effectively” deal with disruptions in the Upper House.

### **DIFFERENCE OF RULES IN LOK SABHA AND RAJA SABHA :**

- ✓ Lok Sabha -rules allow the Speaker to suspend members without seeking prior nod of the House
- ✓ Rajya Sabha – Suspension requires a motion and approval of majority

**WHY THIS RAJYA SABHA RULE DOESN WORK ?** “To suspend, you have to move a motion and that motion has to be passed by the House. When majority of the members are protesting, how can the motion be carried? So the rules in the Rajya Sabha doesn’t help us.

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### **AMBEDKAR’S STATUE DAMAGED IN HARYANA VILLAGE**

**WHERE ?** Haryana’s Ramayan village, about 20 kilometres from Hisar.

**WHY IT IS IMPORTANT ?** This was the third time the statue was vandalised. In 2015 and 2016, the same statue was damaged by unidentified persons.

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### **SEVERE DUST STORM LASHES DELHI, 24 FLIGHTS DIVERTED**

A dust storm with a wind speed of 81 kmph lashed the Capital recently.

**WHAT HAPPENED ?** It affected flight and metro services, and causing traffic jams across the city. Reports of building collapses came in from Wazirabad and Mandawali.

**WHAT WAS THE REASON FOR THE STORM ?** The sharp change in weather brought the temperature down from a maximum of 36.6 degrees to 22 degrees Celsius. Influence of two cyclonic systems combined with rising temperatures and strong winds led to the thunder and dust storms, said the weatherman.

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### **INTERNATIONAL**

#### **U.S. SANCTIONS TARGET PUTIN’S ALLIES**

**WHAT DID US DO ?** The U.S. imposed sanctions affecting Russian President Vladimir Putin’s inner circle ( closely related people ) recently.

**WHAT WAS ITS EFFECT ?** It has dubbed a new Cold War.

**SOME IMPORTANT PERSONS AFFECTED :**

- ✓ Metals magnate Oleg Deripaska, described as operating for the Russian government,
- ✓ Alexei Miller, director of state-owned energy giant Gazprom.
- ✓ Tycoon Suleiman Kerimov, under investigation in France over allegations he brought in millions of euros in suitcases full of cash,
- ✓ Kirill Shamalov, a billionaire reported to be Mr. Putin's son-in-law.
- ✓ Russia's state arms exporter, a key tool in Mr. Putin's efforts to support the modernisation of his own military

**WHY UD SO THIS ?** The U.S. is taking these actions in response Russian malign activity across the world- This included their occupation of Crimea, instigation of violence in eastern Ukraine, support for the Assad regime in Syria... and ongoing malicious cyber-activity.

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**S. KOREA'S PARK GETS 24 YEARS JAIL**

**WHO IS THIS ?** South Korea's former President Park Geun-hye .

**WHAT HAPPENED ?** She was jailed for 24 years on Friday for corruption.

**WHAT WERE THE OFFENCES ACHARGED AGAINST HERE ?**

Ms. Park, 66, was convicted of

- ✓ receiving or demanding more than \$20 million from conglomerates,
- ✓ sharing secret state documents,
- ✓ "blacklisting" artists critical of her policies, and
- ✓ firing officials who resisted her abuses of power.

**ADDED BURDEN :** Ms. Park was also ordered to pay a fine of 18 billion won (\$17 million).

**THE RELIEF :** She now has seven days to file an appeal.

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**WTO IS UNFAIR TO US, SAYS TRUMP - 'China gets tremendous perks, especially over U.S... We were badly represented'**

**WHAT HAPPENED ?** U.S. President Donald Trump teed up a fight with the World Trade Organisation (WTO)

**WHEN THIS HAPPENED ?** When China asked the WTO to referee a rapidly escalating trade fight with Washington - Mr. Trump questioned the organisation's impartiality.

**PREVIOUS INSTANCES :** Mr. Trump has repeatedly expressed skepticism about multilateral bodies — from the WTO to the UN to NATO —believing they constrain U.S. power.

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**2.7 MN IN EU HIT BY FACEBOOK ROW**

**THE AWE FACT :** Facebook has admitted it may have “improperly shared” the personal data of up to 2.7 million people in the European Union.

**SHARED WITH WHOM ?** Shared with Cambridge Analytica

**WHAT WAS THE RESPONSE ?** The EU wrote to Facebook last week to ask how many Europeans were affected.

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**CHINESE CURBS ON SPERM DONATION**

**THE EVENT :** A sperm donation drive launched on recently by Peking University Third Hospital — a public hospital affiliated to an elite university considered to be China's Harvard.

**WHAT IT DID ?** It laid a pre-condition for donation : As well as being free of genetic or infectious diseases, potential donors must have “sound ideological qualities”.



**THE PAYMENT :** Those who successfully donate after undergoing two rounds of medical checks — to assess the quality of their semen and general fitness — will be paid 5,500 yuan (\$900)

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### **SEVEN DEAD, OVER 1,000 INJURED IN GAZA CLASHES**

**NOTE :** The **Gaza-Israel conflict** is a part of the wider Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

**WHAT LED TO THIS CONFLICT ?** Palestinian militant actions escalated in the Gaza Strip following the overwhelming election to government of the Islamist political party Hamas in 2005 and 2006.

**THE IMMEDIATE CAUSE :** Palestinian rocket attacks on Israel and the joint Egyptian-Israeli blockade of Gaza have exacerbated the conflict.

**THE SAD TRUTH :** The combatants attack civilians too against the international norms

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### **RUSSIA SEEKS TO BLOCK TELEGRAM APP**

Russia's telecom watchdog recently asked a Moscow court to block the popular messaging app Telegram.

**WHY ?** It gave deadline for telegram to give the state security services access to private conversations and it got expired.

**IMPORTANT :** Telegram app known for its secure communications.

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### **OPNION**

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### **ALL THE RHINOCEROSES**

**FACTS TO KNOW - one-horned rhinos in Kaziranga National Park are 'vulnerable' species**

- ✓ Bokabil is an anti-poaching camp, located about 2 km from Borbil Misinggaon.
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- ✓ One horned rino also called the Indian rhinoceros is Assam's iconic mammal.
- ✓ Bokabil is one of the 178 anti-poaching camps in Kaziranga National Park (KNP).
- ✓ The rhino domain important to the fragile Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot that stretches from eastern Bangladesh to Vietnam.
- ✓ Kohora (or Central) is one of the five ranges of KNP.
- ✓ The others are Agratoli (or Eastern), Bagori (or Western), Burapahar, and the Northern Range. The KNP used to be 1,030 sq km, with a core area of 482 sq km, when it was notified as a tiger reserve in 2007. But erosion by the Brahmaputra has shrunk it to 884 sq km now.
- ✓ The park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1985.
- ✓ A female rhino has an elongated, narrower head while the male's head is thicker and shorter.
- ✓ The male's horn is broader and invariably broken, while the female's is thinner, unblemished, and tapers into a conical form.
- ✓ KNP has had rhino censuses since 1966.

#### **ABOUT KPN**

- ✓ Kaziranga is a mixture of woodlands, grasslands and wetlands. The rhinos prefer the grasslands and wetlands
- ✓ A 2014 population module by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) sounded the saturation alarm for Kaziranga rhinos and suggested adding more areas.
- ✓ Studies revealed that Kaziranga has a carrying capacity of 2,700 rhinos, but the park has already lost land to erosion
- ✓ Of the six areas or 'additions' comprising Kaziranga's buffer zone of 548 sq km, the northern range, encompassing islands along the Brahmaputra, has been cleared of settlers, as has been the Burapahar area

#### **THE TRIBES INVOLVED**

- ✓ According to a study by the Wildlife Institute of India, the old generation of shikaris (hunters) who subsequently turned into forest rangers had the tradition of regularly tracking tigers and mapping their movements.

- ✓ Bapiram Hazarika, more popularly known as Nigona Shikari, had in 1905 guided Baroness Mary Victoria Leiter Curzon around the core area of the present-day Kaziranga on elephant back.
- ✓ The baroness was the wife of Lord George Curzon, who as Viceroy of India would go on to earn notoriety by dividing Bengal.
- ✓ There are many legends behind the name Kaziranga. A popular one says it refers to two tribal lovers, Kazi and Rongai, who eloped to live among the animals.

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