

March – 17

NATIONAL

Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) from USA

- ❖ India for the first time has started process of importing Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) from United States.
- ❖ The first US-sourced LNG shipment was imported by state-owned GAIL.
- ❖ GAIL had signed 20-year Sale Purchase Agreement (SPA) with US' natural gas exporter Cheniere Energy in December 2011.
- ❖ India primarily imports LNG from Qatar and Australia under long-term contracts.

INTERNATIONAL

Kinzhal missile

- ❖ Russia successfully launched high-precision aero ballistic Kinzhal hypersonic missile from a MiG-31 supersonic interceptor jet.
- ❖ The Kinzhal missile is one of array of new weapons developed by Russia.
- ❖ The Kinzhal is said to travel at 10 times the speed of sound.
- ❖ The range of Kinzhal missile is 2,000km.
- ❖ The first air unit equipped with Kinzhal system was deployed in Russia's Southern Military District in December 2017.

Facts

- ❖ Mach is a unit of sound's speed.
- ❖ Mach number is greater than five is called Hyper-sonic speed.
- ❖ Sub-sonic – Any speed lower than the speed of sound. Mach number greater than 1 is called as super-sonic.
- ❖ Cruise Missile – It is a guided missile that flies major portion of its flight within atmosphere at approximately constant speed.
- ❖ Ballistic Missile – It is a missile that follows a ballistic trajectory and guided only relatively during brief periods and spends most of their flight out of the atmosphere.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Women Entrepreneurship Platform

- ❖ NITI Aayog has launched Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) on the occasion of International Women's day.
- ❖ WEP's theme song 'Naari Shakti' composed and sung by renowned singer Kailash Kher was also released.
- ❖ Three pillars on which WEP is built,
 - ✓ Ichha Shakti - Motivating aspiring entrepreneurs to start their enterprise.
 - ✓ Gyaan Shakti - Providing knowledge and ecosystem support to women entrepreneurs to help them foster entrepreneurship.
 - ✓ Karma Shakti - Providing hands-on support to entrepreneurs in setting-up and scaling up businesses.
- ❖ The Women Entrepreneurship Platform will provide unique services such as credit evaluation of women-led start-ups by CRISIL to the women entrepreneurs.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Stephen Hawking - Death

- ❖ Renowned British theoretical physicist and cosmologist Stephen Hawking has passed away at the age of 76.
- ❖ The physicist suffered from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, an incurable degenerative disorder also known as Lou Gehrig's disease that left him almost entirely paralyzed.
- ❖ Hawking was diagnosed with the motor neuron disorder when he was 21. He lived with the degenerative disorder for more than 50 years.
- ❖ The British scientist was famed for his work with black holes and relativity and wrote several popular science books including 'A Brief History of Time', which became a worldwide bestseller.
- ❖ In 1974, he became one of the youngest fellows of Britain's most prestigious scientific body, the Royal Society.



- ❖ In 1979, he was appointed for the chair of “Lucasian Professor of Mathematics” at Cambridge University.
- ❖ His early life was chronicled in the 2014 film "The Theory of Everything"

Press Information Bureau – Director General

- ❖ Sitanshu Kar has been appointed as the Principal Director General of the Press Information Bureau, in effect the top spokesperson of the Government of India.
- ❖ He will replace Frank Noronha who will superannuate in April this year. Noronha was appointed in August 2014.
- ❖ Sitanshu Kar, a senior Indian Information Service (IIS) officer, is presently the DG news services division of All India Radio.
- ❖ In the past, he has served as spokesperson of the Ministry of Defence.

Nari Shakti Puraskar 2017

- ❖ President of India presented Nari Shakti Puraskar 2017 to 30 eminent individuals and 9 distinguished institutions at special ceremony held in Rashtrapati Bhavan on occasion of International Women’s Day.
- ❖ They were felicitated in recognition of their efforts in rendering distinguished services for cause of women, especially vulnerable and marginalized women.

About Award

- ❖ It established in 1991 and since then it is conferred annually by President on the occasion of International Women’s Day on March 8 every year.

- ❖ It carries cash award of 1 lakh Rupee and certificate for individuals and institutions.
- ❖ The Ministry of Women and Child Development announces these national level awards for eminent women, organisations and institutions who has made significant contribution for women empowerment.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Consumer Rights Day – 15 March

- ❖ The World Consumer Rights Day (WCRD) is celebrated every year on March 15 to promote basic rights of consumers and raising awareness about consumer rights.
- ❖ The theme of the WCRD for the year 2018 is “Making Digital Market Places Fairer”



- ❖ The WCRD commemorate the historic address given by the then US President John F Kennedy to the US congress on this day in 1962. He was the first world leader to formally define ‘consumer rights’.
- ❖ The first WCRD was observed on 15 March 1983.
- ❖ In India, 24th December is observed as National Consumer Day. On this day in 1986, Consumer Protection Act, 1986 had received the assent of the President.
