

## CURRENT AFFAIRS= 20-04-2019



### **Union Territories and Twenty states join pan-India Single Emergency helpline Number '112'**

To get immediate assistance to the people who are in trouble, Union territories and Twenty states have joined in a pan-India network of single emergency helpline number '112', which is implemented by central government's Nirbhaya Fund( 2012 Delhi gangrape case).

### **India's Haj Quota increased to 2 lakh by Saudi Arabia**

India's Haj Quota has been increased by about 25,000, raising the number to 2 lakh from 1.75 lakh by Saudi Arabia. Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman gave the assurance to Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a meeting

### **Asian Tea Alliance launched in China**

On 19th April 2019, To boost tea trade, cultural and technical exchanges as well as global promotion of tea, the Asian Tea Alliance (ATA), a union of five tea-growing and consuming countries, was opened in Guizhou, China. The alliance was constituted with Indian Tea Association, Indonesian tea Marketing Association, China tea marketing Association, Sri Lanka Tea Board and tea Association.

### **Police officer Sunil Kumar Gautam bestowed with 'Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant Award' for writing 'Samvidhan Kavya', a poetic verse of the Indian Constitution**

Sunil Kumar Gautam, Special Commissioner of Police (Operations) was honoured with 'Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant Award' for 2018-19 by the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) under the Ministry of Home Affairs, for his book titled 'Samvidhan Kavya'

**The Constitution of Monaco is the shortest written constitution of the world containing only 12 chapters.**

### **UN List Bhopal Gas Tragedy as one of the world's 'Major Industrial Accident' in 20th century**

UN labour agency International Labour Organisation (ILO) in its recent report titled "The Safety and the Health at the Heart of the Future of Work- Building on 100 years of Experience" termed Bhopal Gas Tragedy as one of the world's 'major industrial accident' which killed more than 15,000 people due to the result of at least 30 tons of highly toxic Methyl Isocyanate (MIC) gas leak in Union Carbide pesticide plant in Bhopal in 1984.

### **India and France to hold 'Varuna' naval exercise off Goa coast**

India and France will conduct their largest ever naval exercise 'Varuna' in May 2019. The objective of this exercise is to expand the strategic partnership between India and France in the Indian Ocean region (IOR).

### **NASA Astronaut Christina Koch to set Longest Spaceflight Record by a Woman**

NASA astronaut Christina Koch is set to spend the longest duration in space by a woman, surpassing the previous record of 288 days in spaceflight by astronaut Peggy Whitson.

### **India ranked 17th in the global startup ecosystem from 37**

On 20th April 2019, India ranked 17th position among 100 countries in the global startup ecosystem in 2018, from the 37th spot last year in the Startup Ecosystem Ranking for 2019 as per the data released by StartupBlink. The United States, United Kingdom, and Canada are the top three countries ranked the first, second and third respectively in terms of global rankings.

### **The Intellectual Property Rights Cell (IPR Cell) of Kerala Agricultural University (KAU) selected for the National Intellectual Property Award 2019**

The Intellectual Property Rights cell (IPR cell) of Kerala Agricultural University (KAU) has been selected for the National Intellectual Property Award 2019 for its contributions in best facilitation for registration of Geographical Indications and promotion of registered GI in the country

### **Malayalam film “Bhayanakam” won the best cinematography award at Beijing International Film Festival**

Malayalam film Bhayanakam (Fear) which was directed by Jayaraj won the best cinematography award at the Beijing International Film Festival and had also won the best cinematography award at the 65th National Film Awards.

### **Universe’s first molecule, formed 14 billion years ago, detected in space**

Scientists have detected the most ancient type of molecule in our universe in space for the first time ever. **Helium hydride ion (HeH<sup>+</sup>)** was the first molecule that formed when, almost 14 billion years ago, falling temperatures in the young universe allowed recombination of the light elements produced in the Big Bang.

### **April 21 observed as National Civil Service Day**

National Civil Service Day is observed every year on April 21. This year the focus is on ‘Evolving Strategies for Transforming Aspirational Districts’ and the function is organized by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances and Pensions on which PM give “Prime Minister Award for Excellence in Public Administration” to best civil servants. First time this award was given in 2006 at the function in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. So from this year, we celebrate National Civil Service Day every year on April 21.