

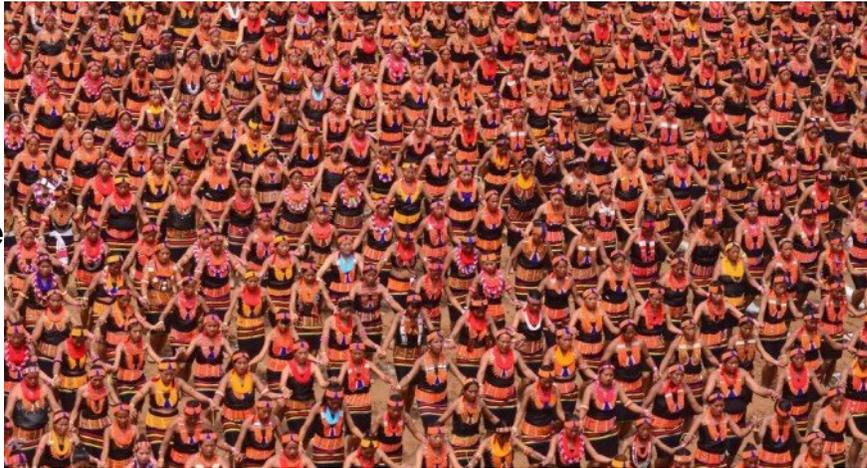


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Important Facts For Prelims (6th April 2019)

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Konyak Dance



- Around **4,700 Konyak Naga women**, in their colourful traditional attire came together on April 5, 2019, in an **attempt to set a Guinness World Record** for the “Largest Traditional Konyak Dance”.
 - In their attempt, Konyak people danced to the beats of traditional instruments and sang a ceremonial song for five minutes and one second.
 - The official declaration on the record to be announced by the Guinness authorities is expected within the five days.
 - **Guinness World Records is a global brand**, with offices in London, New York, China, Japan and UAE and with brand ambassadors on the ground around the world.
- The **programme** was organised at Mon (Nagaland) **during the Aoleang Monyu festival** of the Konyak tribe which is celebrated every year in the first week of April **to welcome the spring**.
- **Konyak** is one of the 16 **Naga tribes** and people of this community live mainly in the **Mon district** of Nagaland.

New World Bank President

- **David Malpass**, a top U.S. Treasury official in Trump administration has been unanimously selected as the **new President of the World Bank**.
- He will be the **13th President** and will start his five year term from April 9, 2019.
- He will succeed Jim Yong-kim, who stepped down on February 1, 2019. Kristalina Georgieva, chief executive officer of the bank, is acting as the interim President.
- **Since the bank's creation, all of its Presidents have been from America.**
- The World Bank **President** is Chair of Boards of Directors of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and International Development Association (IDA).
- The **President is also ex officio Chair of Boards of Directors** of the International Finance Corporation (IFC), Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), and the Administrative Council of the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID).

Asteroid Ryugu

- The **Japan's space agency, JAXA** has announced that its **Hayabusa 2 spacecraft** released an explosive onto the **asteroid Ryugu to make a crater on its surface** and collect underground samples to find possible clues to the origin of the solar system.
- Earlier, JAXA had announced that a group of scientists participating in the Hayabusa 2 mission had **detected hydroxyl-bearing minerals on the asteroid** by analyzing near-infrared spectrometer readings by the spacecraft.
This could help explain where the Earth's water came from.

Chytridiomycosis Disease

- Deadliest disease of all times till now has wiped out **90 species of frogs and toads**.
- Chytridiomycosis is caused by a fungus—*Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*—that attacks the skin of frogs, toads and other amphibians.
 - As the creatures use their **skin to breathe and regulate their bodies' water levels**, the damage caused by the disease eventually leads to **heart failure and death**.
 - It spreads **through contact and water**.
- The rapid global spread of the fungus is due to a **lack of animal trade rules and airport surveillance**, which allows wildlife to be imported without examination.
 - The **fungus originated in Asia** and gradually became pandemic in Latin America and Australia owing to trade (import and export of amphibians as pets) with Asia.
 - This can be termed as a **negative externality of Globalisation on the wildlife**.

- Moreover, a **genetic mutation of the fungus** may have made it more dangerous.
- **Other factors leading to amphibians decline** are:
 - Climate change,
 - Habitat destruction,
 - Draining of wetlands and
 - Changes to terrestrial ecosystems.
- **Importance of Amphibians:**

Amphibians play a major role in **maintaining aquatic environmental quality**. They also feed on mosquitoes, which carry human diseases such as malaria and the Zika virus.
- Governments and other agencies must focus on **regulation** and need to start taking **biosecurity and the illegal wildlife trade far more seriously** to prevent the spread of diseases.