



Important Facts For Prelims (17th April 2019)

Vayoshreshtha Samman

- Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment as the nodal ministry for the cause of senior citizens, has been **celebrating the International day of Older Persons since 2005 by conferring Vayoshreshtha Sammans to eminent senior citizens and institutions** in recognition of their services **towards the [cause of elderly persons](#)**, especially indigent senior citizens.
- In **2013**, the Vayoshreshtha Sammans were upgraded as a **“National Award”**.
- The Awards are given to institutions/organisations/individuals from any part of the country.
- **Given in 13 categories**, nominations for the year 2019 awards have started.

International day of Older Persons (IDOP)

- On **14 December 1990**, the United Nations General Assembly designated **1st October as the ‘International Day of Older Persons’**.
- It is celebrated every year to pay attention to the particular needs and challenges faced by many older people.
- The **theme for the year 2018 celebration was " Celebrating Older Human Rights Champions"**.

Saturn’s Moon Titan

- Using data from Cassini spacecraft, scientists have found that the Saturn's moon **Titan has lakes of liquid Methane**.
- With this discovery, Titan becomes the **only planetary body in our solar system other than Earth which has stable liquid on its surface**.

Saturn

- It is the **second largest planet after Jupiter** in our Solar System.
- Saturn is a **Jovian planet** i.e. it is completely made up of gas.
- Along with **Uranus and Neptune, Saturn is the only planet which has rings**.
- As of now, Saturn has **53 confirmed moons orbiting it**.
- **Titan is largest** of all moons of the Saturn and **second largest moon in Solar system** after Jupiters Ganymede.

Cassini

- Launched: **Oct. 15, 1997**
- End of Mission: **Sept. 15, 2017**
- Significance: **Cassini orbited and studied the Saturn** and its moons in detail.

- Cassini mission **also landed the Huygens probe on Saturn's largest moon, Titan**, in January 2005.

Grafting Technology

- The Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) has evolved **grafting technology - to boost the yield of Brinjal**.
- It is the method in which the **cut stem of two different plants- one with root and other without root, are joined together in such a way that the two stem grows as a single plant**. This **new plant has the characteristics of both the plants**.
- The cut stem of plant **having root is called stock** and the cut stem of another **plant is called Scion**.
- It boosts plant growth by increasing the uptake of nutrients and developing resistance to soil-borne diseases with suitable rootstocks.
- Grafting is used in a variety of plants **like roses, apples, avocado, etc.**

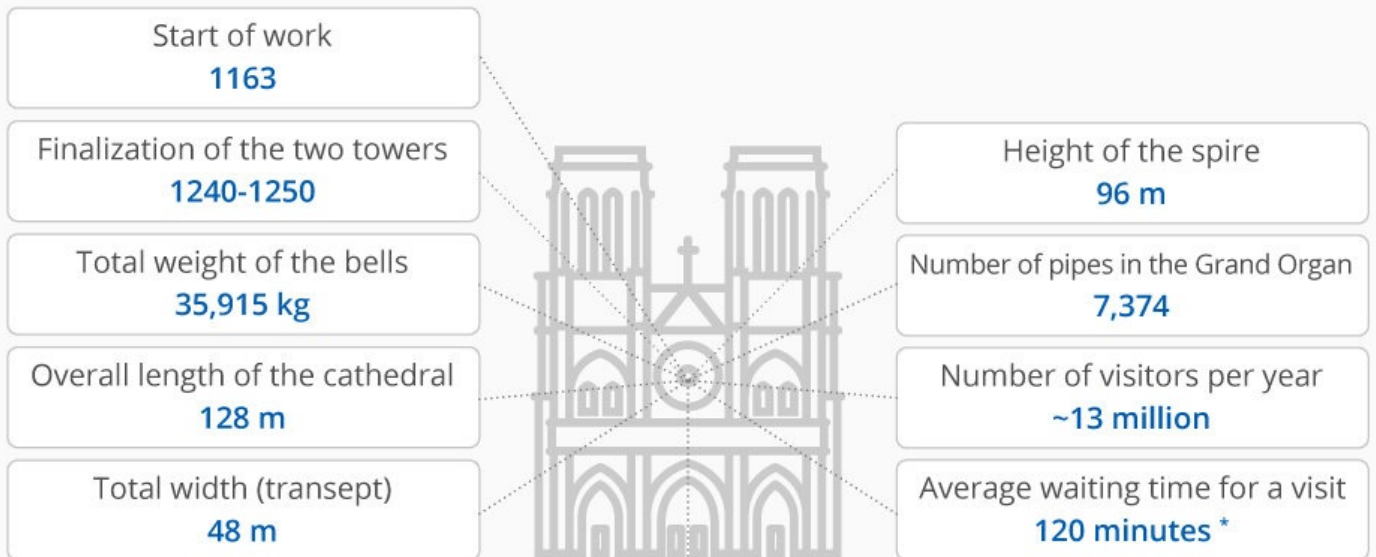
Home Expo India 2019

- The **8th edition of HOME EXPO INDIA 2019** opened at India Expo Centre and Mart, **Greater Noida**.
- It has been organized by the **Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH)**.
- EPCH is the **nodal export promotion body for handicrafts in India** and plays an important role with the main objective of boosting trade in handicrafts and also projects India's image in the global market as a reliable supplier.

Notre-Dame de Paris

- It is a **medieval Catholic cathedral** located on an **island in Seine River in the Paris, France**.
- The cathedral is **consecrated to the Virgin Mary** and considered to be one of the finest examples of **French Gothic architecture**.
- The cathedral construction **began in 1160 and completed by 1260**.
- In **1804**, the cathedral was the site of the **Coronation of Napoleon I** as Emperor of France.
- It contains **Holy Crown of Thorns** the most precious item of **Holy relics** and relics from the crucifixion of Jesus- **a piece of the cross on which he was nailed and one of the nails**.

Notre Dame Cathedral By The Numbers



Historical events:

- 1302** Philip the Fair opens the first Estates General
- 1715** Louis XIV's bowels are buried
- 1804** Napoleon's coronation as Emperor
- 1831** Publication of the novel "Notre-Dame de Paris" by Victor Hugo
- 1944** Mass held during the liberation of Paris and attended by De Gaulle
- 1996** Funeral of François Mitterand
- 2019** Huge fire destroys large part of the roof and spire

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