“THE MORE WE COME OUT AND TO GOOD TO OTHERS, THE MORE OUR HEARTS WILL BE PURIFIED”

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page Range</th>
<th>Section</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>04 - 37</td>
<td>National News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37 - 48</td>
<td>International News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48 - 50</td>
<td>Important Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 - 55</td>
<td>Science &amp; Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55 - 58</td>
<td>Sports News</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58 - 59</td>
<td>Economic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59 - 61</td>
<td>Awards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62 - 65</td>
<td>Appointments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 - 65</td>
<td>Books &amp; Authors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 - 69</td>
<td>Banking News</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NATIONAL NEWS

March 1
1. Who is to launch 10,000 Farmers Producer Organisations (FPO) across the country at Chitrakoot?
   **Answer:** Narendra Modi
   **Explanation:**
   - Prime Minister Narendra Modi is to launch **10,000** Farmers Producer Organisations (FPO) across the country at Chitrakoot on 29 February 2020.
   - The event aims to mark the first anniversary of PM-KISAN, which transformed the lives of crores of farmers in the last one year.
   **Related Keys**
   - FPOs will help in the collectivization of small, marginal and landless farmers in order to give them the collective strength to deal with such issues.
   - FPO members will manage their activities together in the organization to get better input, access to technology, finance, and the market for faster enhancement of their income.

March 2
1. Which Railways has launched its first 'Restaurant on Wheels' at the circulating area of Asansol railway station?
   **Answer:** Indian Railways
   **Explanation:**
   - In a significant development, Indian Railways has launched its first 'Restaurant on Wheels' at the circulating area of Asansol railway station for the use of passengers as well as the general public. Indian Railways is amongst the biggest train systems in the world, and it operates around 13,000 passenger trains every day.
   - It was inaugurated by Union Minister and Asansol MP Babul Supriyo.
   **Related Keys**
   - Indian Railways Founded: 16 April 1853
   - Indian Railways Headquarters: New Delhi
2. Which Department has announced that months of March, April and May are to be warmer than normal?

**Answer:** Indian Meteorological Department

**Explanation:**
- The Indian Meteorological Department has announced that months of March, April and May are to be warmer than normal. The heat waves are to prevail over the heat wave zones of India Heat Wave Zone.
- The Core Heat Wave Zone of India includes Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, West Bengal and Telangana.

**Related Keys**
- According to the World Meteorological Organization, a Heat Wave occurs when the daily maximum temperature of 5 consecutive days exceeds average maximum temperature by 5 degrees Celsius.

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**March 3**

1. Which Assembly went paperless on with the implementation of e-Vidhan, a project under the Digital India programme?

**Answer:** Arunachal Pradesh Assembly

**Explanation:**
- The Budget session of the 7th Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly began. The Arunachal Pradesh Assembly went paperless on with the implementation of e-Vidhan, a project under the Digital India programme.
- With the implementation of the e-Vidhan project, MLAs can access every information regarding the Assembly, see the list of business and read questions and other documents.

**Related Keys**
- Arunachal Pradesh Capital: Itanagar
- Arunachal Pradesh Chief minister: Pema Khandu

2. Which country has managed to bag a $40 Million defence export deal?

**Answer:** India
Explanation:
- In a major win, India has managed to bag a $40 Million defence export deal. Under this contract, India is required to supply four Swathi weapons-locating radars. The radars provide fast, automatic, and accurate location of enemy weapons like mortars, shells, and rockets in its 50-km range.
- It can also simultaneously handle multiple projectiles fired from different weapons at different locations.

3. Who had started their 7 day training on ‘Case Management and Court Management’?
Answer: 30 Judicial Officers from Supreme Court of Nepal

Explanation:
- The first batch of 30 Judicial Officers from Supreme Court of Nepal have started their 7 day training on ‘Case Management and Court Management’ at the National Law University, Jodhpur in Rajasthan from March 2nd.
- Second batch of 30 Judicial Officers from Nepal’s Supreme court will undergo training from March 23 to 29, 2020. This is a tailor-made course specially designed at the request of Government of Nepal.

Related Keys
- Nepal President: Bidhya Devi Bhandar
- Nepal Capital: Kathmandu
- Nepal Currency: Nepalese rupee

March 4
1. Who announced that his government will pay Rs 900 per month to farmers willing to keep stray cattle?
Answer: Yogi Adityanath

Explanation:
- On March 3, 2020, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced that his government will pay Rs 900 per month to farmers willing to keep stray cattle. Earlier in 2019, the farmer protests in Uttar Pradesh had gone up over stray cattle destroying their fields.

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o Initially cow shelters were built to adopt abandoned stray cattle. However, they began overflowing and also it was financially difficult for the UP Government to take care of cattle in huge numbers.

2. In which state National Chambal Sanctuary located?
Answer: Madhya Pradesh  
Explanation:  
o On March 2, 2020 Centre notified 870 sq km around the National Chambal Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh (MP) as eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) to prohibit polluting activities like industries, major hydroelectric project, mining, stone quarrying & big construction within the ‘no-go area’ for the purpose of conservation of water bodies, unique geographical features (ravines), flora & fauna.

3. In which place 11th National Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Conference - 2020 was held?
Answer: New Delhi  
Explanation:  
o A 3-day long 11th National Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Conference - 2020 based on the theme ‘Empowering Youth for Technology Led Farming’ was held in New Delhi.

o It was inaugurated by Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers’ Welfare, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar  

Related News  
o Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers’ Welfare Founded – 1947  
o Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers’ Welfare Headquarters – New Delhi

4. Who launched Tamil Nadu Health System Reform Programme (TNHSRP) in Chennai?
Answer: Edappadi K. Palaniswami  
Explanation:  
o On March 3, 2020 Tamil Nadu (TN) Chief Minister (CM) Shri Edappadi K. Palaniswami launched Tamil Nadu Health System

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Reform Programme (TNHSRP) in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. The programme will be implemented with the World Bank’s fund.

- This was the first Program-for-Results (PforR) project for the Bank in India and the first for Tamil Nadu.

Related News
- TN Health Minister - C. Vijayabaskar
- TN Governor- Banwarilal Purohit.

March 5
1. Who cleared the Foreign Direct Investment Policy on Civil Aviation?
   Answer: Modi
   Explanation:
   - On March 4, 2020, the Union Cabinet under PM Modi cleared the Foreign Direct Investment Policy on Civil Aviation. According to the policy, 100% FDI is permitted in the air transport services. Earlier only 49% was available for sale to NRIs.
   - The main benefit of the policy is that it will help in divestment of Air India.
   Related Keys
   - For airlines other than Air India, 100% FDI is permitted under automatic route. This includes domestic, scheduled and other air transport services.

2. In which place The Agricultural and Processed Food Export Development Authority Headquarters located?
   Answer: New Delhi
   Explanation:
   - The Agricultural and Processed Food Export Development Authority (APEDA) has signed Memorandum of Understandings with IIT Delhi, Quality Council of Indian Chamber of Food and Agriculture (ICFA).
   - The Agriculture Export Policy was launched in 2018. It aims to increase the agricultural export potential of the country.
   Related Keys
   - The Agricultural and Processed Food Export Development Authority
Headquarters location: **New Delhi**
- The Agricultural and Processed Food Export Development Authority
- Founded: 1986

   **Answer:** Piyush Goyal
   **Explanation:**
   - On March 3, 2020, A 5-day-long 35th edition of the Food and Hospitality fair ‘**AAHAR 2020**’ has commenced in **Pragati Maidan, New Delhi**. It was inaugurated by Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, **Piyush Goyal**.
   - This fair has been specially focused on promoting the agriculture-community as well as tourism sectors especially hospitality companies.

   **Related Keys**
   - Ministry of Commerce and Industry - Headquarters New Delhi
   - Ministry of Commerce and Industry administers two departments, the Department of Commerce and the Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade.

**March 6**

1. In which place International Conference on Nano-Science and Nano Technology (ICONSAT) held?
   **Answer:** Kolkata
   **Explanation:**
   - On March 5, 2020, the Department of Science and Technology operating under Ministry of Science and Technology organized an International Conference on **Nano-Science and Nano Technology (ICONSAT)** at **Kolkata**. The Conference is to be held between March 5, 2020 and March 7, 2020.

   **Related Keys**
   - India started its journey of nanotechnology with the launch of “Nano Science and Technology Initiative” (NSTI) in 2001 for a span of 5 years. In 2007, it was renamed as “Nano Mission”.

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2. In which Authority has asked insurers to expeditiously settle hospitalization claims related to novel coronavirus disease under health policies?  
**Answer:** IRDAI  
**Explanation:**  
- **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has asked insurers to expeditiously settle hospitalisation claims related to **novel coronavirus** disease under health policies.  
- In a circular, the Regulator has instructed insurance companies to come out with policies to cover treatment costs for coronavirus infection.  

**Related Keys**  
- Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India  
  - Founded: 1999  
- Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India  
  - Headquarters: Hyderabad.

**March 7**

1. Which two countries signed Rs 1200 crore deal for acquiring missile protection suits for the new Boeing VVIP planes?  
**Answer:** India and the United States  
**Explanation:**  
- **India and the United States** have signed a **Rs 1200 crore** deal for acquiring missile protection suits for the new Boeing VVIP planes that India is acquiring for the President and the Prime Minister. The new aircraft will be used for both international and domestic visits of the President and Prime Minister.  
- The missile protection suits on the two Boeing-777 Extended Range planes will provide it the capability to fend off any missile attacks.  

**Related Keys**  
- United States Capital: Washington, D.C.  
- United States President: Donald Trump

2. In which place The Fourth Global Ayurveda Festival, GAF will be held?  
**Answer:** Kochi
Explanation:
- The **Fourth Global Ayurveda Festival**, GAF will be held at **Kochi** in Kerala from 16th to 20th May. A curtain raiser event was organized in New Delhi this evening for the GAF.
- The theme for the five-day event is Ayurveda Medical Tourism: Actualizing India's credibility.

**Related Keys**
- It will be the largest Ayurvedic event ever to be held anywhere across the world and will witness the largest gathering of experts, stakeholders and business explorers from the field of Ayurveda.

3. In which bill was passed in the parliament without discussion?
**Answer:** Mineral Laws (Amendment) bill

**Explanation:**
- On March 6, 2020, the **Lok Sabha passed Mineral Laws (Amendment) bill, 2020**. The bill aims to amend Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) act, 1957 and also Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015.
- The bill was passed in the parliament without discussion. This was because of the constant uproar of the opposition over death of 52 people in the Delhi Violence over Citizenship Amendment Act.

**Related Keys**
- The FDI in coal sector has been made to 100%. GoI is also taking several steps to reduce coal imports. In spite being the fourth largest producer of coal in the world, India imported 235 billion tonnes of coal in 2019.

**March 8**
1. Who is President of Archery Association of India (AAI)?
**Answer:** Arjun Munda

**Explanation:**
- Archery Association of India (AAI) pulled out its team from the upcoming Asia Cup world ranking tournament in **Bangkok**, scheduled from March 8 to 15, owing to the coronavirus threat.
- India's first international competition since its return from a five-month suspension in January, which was lifted after the AAI's
election.

**Related Keys**
- AAI President: **Arjun Munda**
- AAI Headquarters: New Delhi
- AAI Founded: 8 August 1973

**March 9**

1. In which place Headquarters of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited located?

   **Answer:** Mumbai

   **Explanation:**
   - Union Government has invited bids for the sale of its entire 52.98 per cent stake in the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited.
   - Expressions of interest for the strategic sale of BPCL were invited by 2nd of May, the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management said in the bid document.

   **Related Keys**
   - Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited operates two large refineries of the country located in Kochi and Mumbai.
   - Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited Headquarters: **Mumbai**

2. Which scheme was launched by TIFAC operating under Ministry of Science and Technology?

   **Answer:** VigyanJyoti

   **Explanation:**
   - On March 8, 2020, TIFAC operating under Ministry of Science and Technology launched VigyanJyoti. The scheme was announced to celebrate International Women’s Day.
   - The Technology Information Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC) launched VigyanJyoti in order to encourage women to take science as their career.

   **Related Keys**
   - TIFAC was formed as a registered body in 1988 under DST (Department of Science and Technology).
3. Which organization has conducted a 2-day 9th edition of national level search and rescue exercise ‘SAREX-2020’?

Answer: Indian Coast Guard

Explanation:
- Indian Coast Guard (ICG), an armed force that protects India’s maritime interests, has conducted a 2-day 9th edition of national level search and rescue exercise ‘SAREX-2020’ based on the theme ‘Harmonization of Maritime and Aeronautical Search and Rescue (HAMSAR)’ in the sea at Vasco, South Goa district from March 5-7, 2020.

Related Keys
- Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Headquarters – New Delhi
- Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Director General – Krishnaswamy Natrajan

March 10

1. In which place the 5th edition of BIMSTEC Summit 2020 to be held?

Answer: Colombo

Explanation:
- The summit will be preceded by the 17th Ministerial Meeting and 21st Senior Officials Meeting by the end of 2020.

Related Keys
- BIMSTEC Founded: 6 June 1997
- BIMSTEC Headquarters location: Dhaka, Bangladesh

2. Who announced that Odisha is the 1st state to own a separate department for Self Help Groups named as “Mission Shakti”?

Answer: Naveen Patnaik

Explanation:
- On March 8, 2020 Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced that Odisha is the 1st state to own a separate department for Self Help Groups named as “Mission Shakti”. It is created for the development of women & is dedicated to all the women of Odisha.
Mission Shakti and Mamata Scheme combinedly benefits 70 lakh women. 50% reservation in Panchayati Raj has created a new era for the socio-economic development of women.

**Related Keys**
- Odisha Capital - **Bhubaneswar**
- Odisha Governor - Ganeshi Lal
- Odisha Chief Minister - Naveen Patnaik

3. In which state will soon launch a digital literacy drive named “I am also digital”?

**Answer:** Kerala

**Explanation:**
- On March 7, 2020 **Kerala** will soon launch a digital literacy drive named “I am also digital” in the Thiruvananthapuram Corporation, Kerala, to create public-awareness about e-governance and use of various digital platforms through which wide ranges of services are being delivered.
- The literacy drive is organized by Kerala State IT mission under the Department of Information Technology (IT) and Kerala Literacy Mission

**Related Keys**
- Kerala Chief Minister (CM)- Pinarayi Vijayan.
- Kerala Governor - Arif Mohammad Khan

**March 11**

1. Which state got first rank in the list of domestic solar rooftop installations?

**Answer:** Gujarat

**Explanation:**
- **Gujarat** ranks first in the list for domestic solar rooftop installations, throughout the country with 64 percent of domestic solar installations. Nearly 50,915 domestic solar rooftops have been fixed in the state of Gujarat with a capacity of **177.67 MW** on 2nd March 2020.
- Maharashtra is the second state to top in the domestic solar rooftop installations list with installation of 5,513 systems on 2nd March
2020.

**Related Keys**
- Solar rooftops need only the light from the sun to generate electricity.
- No health hazards are involved and no pollutants are emitted by solar rooftops.

2. Which state ranked 1st in the country for the overall implementation of POSHAN Abhiyaan?
   **Answer:** Andhra Pradesh
   **Explanation:**
   - **Andhra Pradesh** ranked 1st in the country for the overall implementation of **POSHAN Abhiyaan** (Prime Minister’s Overreaching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment). According to the report of NITI Aayog, “Transforming Nutrition in India: POSHAN Abhiyaan”.
   - Tamil Nadu tops the list of the states in terms of the number of participants in the programme.
   **Related Keys**
   - Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh: Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy.
   - Governor of Andhra Pradesh: BiswaBhushanHarichandan.
   - Capital of Andhra Pradesh: Amaravati.

3. Which organization has taken approval for use of second line HIV drugs on COVID patients?
   **Answer:** ICMR
   **Explanation:**
   - **India**, for the first time, used the Lopinavir/ Ritonavir combination, usually a second line HIV medication, in the treatment of two Italian patients who tested positive for COVID-19 in Jaipur.
   - **ICMR** (Indian Council of Medical Research) has taken approval for use of second line HIV drugs on COVID patients, but this **Lopinavir/Ritonavir** combination therapy has been approved for emergency use among COVID-19 patients with moderate degree of severity with laid down protocols.
1. In which place 6th International Day of Yoga is to be held?
   Answer: Ladakh
   Explanation:
   - The Major national event for the 6th International Day of Yoga is to be held in Leh, the capital of Ladakh on 21st June, 2020. The event is to be led by PM Modi.
   - Since 2015, PM Modi leads a mass demonstration of Yoga every year on the International Day of Yoga.
   Related Keys
   - The IDY is being celebrated since 2015. The idea was introduced in the United Nations in 2014. Today more than 200 countries observe IDY. It is also called the World Yoga Day.

2. Who announced the Government-issued industrial licenses to 15 companies to manufacture Bullet Proof Jackets (BPJs)?
   Answer: Rajnath Singh
   Explanation:
   - Government-issued industrial licenses to 15 companies to manufacture Bullet Proof Jackets (BPJs) on 11 March. The announcement was made by Minister of Defence Rajnath Singh.
   - India exports Bullet Proof Jackets to 18 countries.
   Related Keys
   - Earlier, Indian soldiers did not have bullet-proof jackets. At present, 1.86 lakh soldiers are given BPJs.

March 13

1. In which place Headquarters of State Bank of India is located?
   Answer: Mumbai
   Explanation:
   - On March 11 India’s largest lender State Bank of India decided to waive maintenance of Average Monthly Balance (AMB) for all Savings Bank Accounts. “This initiative will further boost the efforts to promote financial inclusion in the country”
   - The charges on maintaining AMB are now waived off on all 44.51 crore SBI savings bank accounts.

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Related Keys
  o State Bank of India Headquarters: Mumbai
  o State Bank of India SBI is ranked as 236th in the Fortune Global 500

2. Which country was ranked second in the Global Animal Protection Index 2020?
   Answer: India
   Explanation:
   o On March 12, 2020, Global Animal Protection Index 2020 was released by World Animal Protection, an international animal welfare charity. India was ranked second in the index.
   o The Animal Protection Index ranks countries from A to G. India was ranked along with Spain, Mexico, France and New Zealand.

Related Keys
  o The index highlighted the works that are required to be done in India to include dairy animals under protection.

3. Who introduced the Mineral Laws (Amendment) Bill?
   Answer: Pralhad Joshi
   Explanation:
   o The Bill was already passed by Lok Sabha on 6 March 2020. The Bill was introduced by the Union Minister of Coal & Mines Sh. Pralhad Joshi.

March 14
1. In which place 130th Foundation Day of National Archives of India (NAI) an exhibition on JallianwalaBagh is organised?
   Answer: New Delhi
   Explanation:
   o On the occasion of 130th Foundation Day of National Archives of India (NAI) an exhibition on JallianwalaBagh is organised at the

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premises of National Archives, **New Delhi**. This exhibition is an
endeavour to commemorate the centenary of JallianwalaBagh
Massacre covering a period from (1915-50).
- The present exhibition is primarily presented with the help of original
and digital copies of archival documents relating to the
JallianwalaBagh Massacre available in National Archives of India.

**Related Keys**
- National Archives of India Founded: 11 March 1891
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Parent department: Ministry of Culture

2. Which organization has sanctioned Rs 7.25 crore to IIT Mandi to establish a
Technology Innovation Hub (TIH) at the Institute?

**Answer:** Department of Science and Technology

**Explanation:**
- Under its National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical
  Systems (NM-ICPS), the **Department of Science and Technology**
  (DST) has sanctioned **Rs 7.25 crore** to **IIT Mandi** to establish a
  Technology Innovation Hub (TIH) at the Institute.
- The major focus of the TIH in IIT Mandi will be on human-computer
  interaction (HCI) research, where projects will focus on design and
development of computer technology (interfaces) and the study of
interaction between humans (users) and computers.

3. Which Cabinet approved to withdraw the MEIS (Merchandise Export from
India) Scheme in phases?

**Answer:** Union Cabinet

**Explanation:**
- On March 13, 2020, the **Union Cabinet** approved to withdraw the
  **MEIS** (Merchandise Export from India) Scheme in phases. It is later
to be replaced with RoDTEP (Remission of Duties or Taxes on Export
Product) scheme.
- The MEIS is being replaced as the exports are to fall further due to
Corona Virus outbreak.

**Related Keys**
The MEIS scheme offers export incentives between 2% and 5%. It was introduced under the Foreign Trade Policy of India (FTP 2015-20).

4. Which Ministry has notified the new Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Rules, 2020 by replacing the earlier 2012 Rules?

**Answer:** Ministry of Women and Child Development

**Explanation:**
- On March 13, 2020, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 45 of the POCSO Act, 2012, the Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD), Government of India (GoI), has notified the new Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Rules, 2020 by replacing the earlier 2012 Rules.

**Related Keys**
- Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) Headquarters—New Delhi
- Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) Union Minister—Smriti Zubin Irani

March 15

1. Which Portal launched by HIL (India) Limited, in association with Union Bank of India?

**Answer:** "Customer Payment Portal"

**Explanation:**
- It was launched by Dr. S.P. Mohanty, Chairman, and Managing Director, Shri. Anjan Banerjee, Director Finance) of HIL (India) Limited; and Shri R. K. Jaglan, Head, Government Business Department, Shri G. K. Sudhakar Rao, Regional Head Delhi South of Union Bank of India.

**Related Keys**
- Customer Payment Portal will help the customers to pay their dues in a quick and convenient manner by any Debit Card, Credit Card, Net Banking, UPI, or online wallets from their homes or offices.
2. Who is to inaugurate the ROPAX FerryVessel and its Terminal at Mandwa in Maharashtra?
   **Answer:** Shri MansukhMandaviya
   **Explanation:**
   - The Minister of State (I/C) for **Shipping and Chemical & Fertilizers** Shri MansukhMandaviya is to inaugurate the ROPAX FerryVessel and its Terminal at Mandwa in **Maharashtra** on 15 March.
   - Mandwa Port is an important passenger port on the coast of Maharashtra. Around 15 lakhs passengers commute annually by catamarans and launches from Gateway of India to Mandwa and then to Alibaug and other places in Raigad district.

   **Related Keys**
   - Mumbai Port Trust developed infrastructure for ROPAX service at Ferry wharf at the cost of Rs 31 crores.
   - Maharashtra Maritime Board developed infrastructure facilities at Mandwa under the ROPAX project, with a total expenditure of Rs 135.29 crores.

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**March 16**

1. Which Ministry has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Aditya Mehta Foundation?
   **Answer:** Central Reserve Police Force
   **Explanation:**
   - On March 13, 2020, The **Central Reserve Police Force** (CRPF), India’s largest Central Armed Police Force, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Aditya Mehta Foundation** (AMF), a non-profit organization. It aids people with disabilities to pursue sports, to train its 189 CRPF personnel who had lost their limbs in operations in areas of cyber security, artificial intelligence (AI) and paralympic sports.

   **Related Keys**
   - Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Headquarters: New Delhi
   - Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Formed: 27 July, 1939
2. Which year Limca Book of Records (LBR) Originally published?
   **Answer:** 1990
   **Explanation:**
   - [Welcomgroup Graduate School of Hotel Administration (WGSJA)](https://example.com) of Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE) entered the Limca Book of Records (LBR) for establishing "India's First Living Culinary Arts Museum" at WGSJA, Manipal, Karnataka.
   - The museum was opened in the year April 2018, spread approximately over 25,000 square feet & the structure of the museum is shaped in the form of a giant pot.
   **Related Keys**
   - Limca Book of Records (LBR) is a catalogue of achievements made by Indians, at home and abroad in diverse fields of human endeavour.
   - Limca Book of Records (LBR) Originally published: 1990

3. Who announced that statehood of Jammu and Kashmir is to be restored?
   **Answer:** Amit Shah
   **Explanation:**
   - On March 15, 2020, at a political delegation Home Minister **Amit Shah** announced that statehood of Jammu and Kashmir is to be restored. While resuming statehood of the state, the GoI is to release people from detention, relax curfew and restore internet.
   - This is the first political delegation that is being held after the Abrogation of Article 370.

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**March 17**

1. Who hosted a video-conference meet of leaders of all SAARC member nations?
   **Answer:** Narendra Modi
   **Explanation:**
   - Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** hosted a video-conference meet of leaders of all SAARC member nations. PM Modi also proposed a...
COVID-19 emergency fund, which will be based on voluntary contributions from all SAARC members. India can start with an initial offer of 10 million US dollars for this fund.

- The PM also proposed the creation of a common research platform to carry out research to control epidemic diseases in the region.

**Related Keys**

- SAARC Headquarters: **Kathmandu**
- SAARC Founded: 8 December 1985

2. Who launched a new website of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)?

**Answer:** Raj Kumar (R K) Singh

**Explanation:**

- The new website is created to address the latest needs of the ministry’s rapid and accurate information and making it more informative, interactive & user friendly, including for those with visual disabilities.

**Related Key**

- Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) Headquarters: New Delhi
- Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) Formed 1992

**March 18**

1. In which place Headquarters of WHO located?

**Answer:** Geneva, Switzerland

**Explanation:**

- Minister of State for **Jal Shakti** and Social Justice and Empowerment, **Shri Rattan Lal Kataria** said that, there is prevalence of Uranium concentration above 30 microgram per litre in some of the localized pockets of few States/UTs in the country.
o As per WHO provisional guidelines, the maximum permissible limit of Uranium as 0.03 mg/l in all drinking water standards. Elevated uranium level in drinking water may affect human health.

**Related Keys**
- WHO Founded: 7 April 1948
- WHO Headquarters: **Geneva, Switzerland**

2. In which place Headquarters of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is located?

**Answer:** New Delhi

**Explanation:**
- On March 17, 2020, the draft National Policy for rare diseases has been shared in the website of **ministry of Health and Family Welfare**. The draft has been opened for comments from the states and Union territories and also from General public.
- Also, the ministry has included one-time financial assistance of **Rs 15 lakhs** to families affected with rare diseases and living under Below Poverty line.

**Related Keys**
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Founded: 1976
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Headquarters: **New Delhi**

3. Who is Chief Executive Officer of Microsoft?

**Answer:** Satya Nadella

**Explanation:**
- Innovate for Accessible India campaign has been launched jointly by **Microsoft India and NASSCOM Foundation** to empower people with disabilities. The campaign aims to empower people with disabilities with the help of technology and tools to provide better integration into society and access to equal opportunities.

**Related Keys**
- Chief Executive Officer of Microsoft: **Satya Nadella**.
- Microsoft Founded: April 4, 1975;
1. In which place Headquarters of Ministry of Road Transport and Highways is located?
   Answer: New Delhi
   Explanation:
   - The government has approved a proposal for the development of **780 km of national highways in four states at a cost of Rs 7,660 crore**. This project will set new standards for green highway projects in the form of green cover, utilisation of reusable material in laying roads, etc.
   - The project investment includes Rs 3,500 crore assistance from the World Bank under Green National Highways Corridor Project (GNHCP).

   **Related keys**
   - Ministry of Road Transport and Highways Founded: July 1942
   - Ministry of Road Transport and Highways Headquarters: Transport Bhawan, New Delhi

March 20

1. Which Council has approved the procurement of 83 Tejas Mark-1A jets from HAL for the Indian Air Force?
   Answer: Defence Acquisition Council
   **Explanation:**
   - On March 18, 2020 the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) under the chairmanship of Union Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** held a meeting with its Acquisition Wing in New Delhi.
   - During the meet, DAC has approved the procurement of **83 Tejas Mark-1A jets** from HAL for the Indian Air Force (IAF), marking a boost to the government’s flagship “Make in India” programme.

   **Related Keys**
   - Tejas is a Light Combat Aircraft which has been indigenously-designed by Aircraft Development Agency (ADA) under the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
   - Their aim is to replace ageing MiG-21 fighters of IAF.

2. Which temple in Odisha is to be included in the ‘Iconic Sites’ list of 19
monuments?

**Answer:** Black Pagoda

**Explanation:**
- The famous Black Pagoda, the Sun temple in **Konark in Puri district of Odisha** is to be included in the ‘Iconic Sites’ list of 19 monuments, informed Union Culture and Tourism Minister **Prahlad Singh Patel**. Accordingly, the Sun temple will be developed as an iconic site by the Centre.
- The Union Minister further said that the Statue of Unity in Gujarat and the Sun temple in Odisha will be included in the said list as the total number of monuments in the list is to be raised from 17 to 19.

**Related Keys**
- Sun temple in Konark Opened: 1250
- Sun temple in Konark Architectural style: Kalinga architecture

**March 21**

1. Which government abolished reservation in promotion in the state government jobs?

**Answer:** Uttarakhand government

**Explanation:**
- The Uttarakhand government abolished reservation in promotion in the state government jobs. The Trivendra Rawat government took the major decision on completion of three years of its tenure.
- The government employees from the General-OBC category in the state had been staging a protest, demanding the implementation of the Supreme Court’s decision on the issue.

**Related Keys**
- Uttarakhand Literacy (2011): 79.63% (17th)
- Uttarakhand Capital - Dehradun

2. Which state will also implement a scheme worth of Rs 4,300 to install smart meters for 42 lakh electricity consumers?

**Answer:** Tamil Nadu

**Explanation:**
- On March 19, 2020, According to the Tamil Nadu (TN) Chief
Minister (CM), **Edappadi K. Palaniswami**, a total of 64,583 sanitary personnel employed by urban and rural civic bodies in the State will be called as “cleanliness workers” (Thooimaipaniyalargal in Tamil) to honour their work.

**Related Keys**
- The state will also implement a scheme worth of **Rs 4,300** to install smart meters for **42 lakh** electricity consumers to compute their power consumption.
- Tamil Nadu Governor— BanwarilalPurohit

3. Which Railways has planned to electrify a total of 28,810 km of broad gauge route by December 2023?

**Answer:** Indian Railways

**Explanation:**
- **Indian Railways** has planned to electrify a total of 28,810 km of broad gauge route by December 2023. As part of its solar mission, it plans to source approximately **1000 megawatt** (MW) of solar power & to source around **200 MV** of wind power, based on the technocommercial assessment.

**Related Keys**
- Indian Railways Founded: 16 April 1853
- Indian Railways Headquarters: **New Delhi**

March 22

1. Which program has been launched by the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India?

**Answer:** “Tech for Tribal”

**Explanation:**
- On March 19, 2020, A 30- days long capacity building program called **“Tech for Tribal”** has been launched by the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED), which works under Ministry of Tribal Affairs in association with IIT-Kanpur, IIT-Roorkee, IIM Indore, Kalinga Institute of Social Science, **Bhubaneshwar** (Odisha) and SRIJAN, Jaipur (Rajasthan) to provide entrepreneurship skills to the tribal people.
Related Keys
- Ministry of Tribal Affairs Headquarters- New Delhi
- Ministry of Tribal Affairs Union minister- Arjun Munda

2. Which Cabinet approved Ayush Health and Wellness Centre under Ayushman Bharat Mission?
   **Answer:** Union Cabinet

   **Explanation:**
   - On March 21, 2020, the **Union Cabinet** approved **Ayush Health and Wellness Centre under Ayushman Bharat Mission**. Under the approval, an expenditure of Rs 3,395 crores have been allocated.
   - The centres are to be constructed within a time span of five years. On the whole, GoI has planned to operationalise 12,500 centres.

Related Keys
- The scheme is being implemented by the National Health Authority operating under Ministry of Health and Farmer Welfare.

3. What is the price of two hundred milliliter bottle of hand sanitiser?
   **Answer:** 100 rupees

   **Explanation:**
   - Government is keeping a close watch on the prices of every essential commodity. The **government** has fixed the prices for face masks and sanitizers in light of the COVID-19 outbreak.
   - He informed that the two and three **layered mask** would cost **8 and 10** rupees respectively while a **two hundred milli-litre bottle of hand sanitiser** is priced at **100 rupees**.

   **Related Keys**
   - The prices would remain the same till 30th June this year.

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**March 23**

1. Which agreement was signed with Turkey to manufacture 45,000 tonne FSV at Vishakhapatnam?
   **Answer:** Fleet Vessel Ship (FVS) Agreement

   **Explanation:**
   - In October 2019, India had put the **Fleet Vessel Ship (FVS)**
Agreement on hold. The agreement was signed with Turkey to manufacture 45,000 tonne FSV at Vishakhapatnam. Highlights India and Turkey signed the FSV agreement in 2016.

- FSVs are important for the Indian Navy to transport fuel and other supplies for warships at sea.

**Related Keys**
- Turkey Capital: Ankara
- Turkey Currency: Turkish lira

March 24
1. Which are the three people chaired high-level technical committee of public health experts to control activities of COVID-19?

**Answer:** V K Paul, Preeti Sudan, Balram Bhargava

**Explanation:**
- On March 22, 2020 the government set up a 21 member high-level technical committee of public health experts to guide the people in preventive & control activities of COVID-19.
- The committee is headed by NITI Aayog member V K Paul & is co-chaired by Union Health Secretary - Preeti Sudan, Director General Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) - Balram Bhargava

2. Which Ministry has acquired land from the State Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu?

**Answer:** Defence Ministry

**Explanation:**
- On March 23, 2020, the Defence Ministry announced in the Parliament that it has acquired land from the State Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. As Land is state subject, it is important for the centre to acquire land from the state government for development projects.

**Related Keys**
- Defence Investor Cell was created to address the issues related to investments and its related regulatory measures.

March 25
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1. Which council has recommended the use of hydroxychloroquine for healthcare workers?

**Answer:** Indian Council of Medical Research

**Explanation:**
- The National Task Force for the novel coronavirus constituted by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has recommended the use of hydroxychloroquine for healthcare workers or persons staying with and caring for positive COVID-19 patients. This protocol has been approved by the Drug Controller General of India (DGCI), Dr. V. G. Somani.
- The protocol has mandated that hydroxychloroquine is to be taken only for prophylaxis or prevention. Its use is restricted for emergency situations.

**Related Keys**
- Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Founded: 1911
- Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Headquarters: New Delhi

2. Which organization provides four levels of Bio-Safety to be followed in India?

**Answer:** National Centre for Disease Control

**Explanation:**
- The National Centre for Disease Control provides four levels of Bio-Safety to be followed in India. There are four Bio-Safety levels. It includes:
  - BSL-1 that are basic teaching laboratories.
  - BSL-2 offering diagnostic services
  - BSL-3 offers high containment special diagnostic services.
  - BSL-4 are those laboratories that handle dangerous pathogens

**Related Key**
- National Centre for Disease Control Founded: 190
- National Centre for Disease Control Headquarters: New Delhi

3. Which company had set up the first hospital of India that will operate exclusively to treat Corona Virus patients?
Answer: Reliance

Explanation:
- On March 23, 2020, Reliance had set up the first hospital of India that will operate exclusively to treat Corona Virus patients. The Reliance Group of Companies in collaboration with Brihanmumbai Municipal corporation has set up a COVID-19 Centre at the Seven Hills Hospital in Mumbai. The Negative Room Pressure technology is used to isolate patients.

Related Keys
- The Negative Pressure Room is a technique in medical centres that prevent cross-contamination. This allows air to flow into the room and prevents air from escaping out of the room.

March 26

1. Who launched Test Yourself Goa, a self-assessment tool for COVID-19?
   Answer: VishwajitRane
   Explanation:
   - On March 23, 2020 Goa health minister VishwajitRane launched Test Yourself Goa, a self-assessment tool for COVID-19 to help people identify if they are infected by the virus without visiting a doctor or hospital.
   - Goa has partnered with InnovaccerInc, a United States (US)-based healthcare data analytics company, to launch the tool
   Related Keys
   - Goa Capital– Panaji
   - Goa Chief Minister– PramodSawant

2. Who has ordered an indefinite curfew across the Punjab state?
   Answer: Amarinder Singh
   Explanation:
   - On March 24, 2020, After the lockdown became ineffective, Punjab Chief Minister (CM) Captain Amarinder Singh has ordered an indefinite curfew across the state. With this, it becomes the 1st state in the country to take drastic measure to stop the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).
Related Keys

- **Curfew** differs in every country, means keeping people off the streets for pre-decided hours. Any violation is met with a fine or arrest. Curfew includes complete closure essential services in addition to Section 144. Only administration & police personnel are allowed on the street.

3. Which Ministry launched Stay Home India with Books initiative?
   **Answer:** Ministry of Human Resources and Development
   **Explanation:**
   - On March 25, 2020, the National Book Trust functioning under the Ministry of Human Resources and Development launched Stay Home India with Books initiative. Under the initiative more than 100 books can be downloaded from the NBT website.
   **Related Keys**
   - The National Book Trust was founded in 1957. The trust activities include publishing, promotion of Indian books, children literature, etc.

4. Which Cabinet approved extra supply of food grains via rations shops?
   **Answer:** Union Cabinet
   **Explanation:**
   - On March 25, 2020, the Union Cabinet approved extra supply of food grains via rations shops. The monthly quota of subsidized food grains is to be increased from 2 kg to 7 kg. The step has been taken to help people during the lockdown.
   **Related Keys**
   - The act aims to provide nutritional security. It provides coverage up to 75% of rural population and 50% of urban population.

**March 27**

1. Which Bank announced series of measures to counter economic slowdown caused due to COVID-19?
   **Answer:** Reserve Bank of India
   **Explanation:**
   - On March 27th 2020 The Reserve Bank of India announced series of measures...
measures to counter economic slowdown caused due to COVID-19. The central Bank advanced its monetary policy committee meet due to COVID-19 pandemic

- The RBI Measures Introduced is to inject Rs. 3.74 Lakhs core into Indian Economy according to RBI Governor

**Related Keys:**
- Newly appointed Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor- Shaktikanta Das.
- Headquaters located in Mumbai, Maharastra, India

2. Who is appointed as CEO of walmart India?
**Answer:** Sameer Agarwal

**Explanation:**
- **Sameer Agarwal** is appointed as CEO of walmart India.
- Aggarwal appointment will come into effect from 1st April. He will Report to Dirk Van Den Bergha, Executive, Vice president and Regional CEO of Asia and Global Sourcing walmart.

**Related Keys**
- Aggarwal will replace **Krish Iyar** who is set to retire

3. Which Bank launched 5 special emergency loans for COVID – 19 affected customers?
**Answer:** Indian Bank

**Explanation:**
- **Indian Bank** launched 5 special emergency loans for COVID – 19 affected customers.
- On March 25, 2020 Indian Bank lauched five special emergency loans. For Special emergency loan, for large corporate medium enterprises. MSMEs Salaried and pensioners as a support to its customers affected through economic slump and lowdown because of the COVID-19 Pandamic
- The Loans are given below.
- **IND – MSE COVID Emergency Loan**
- **SHG – COVID – SAHAYA Loan**
- **IND – COVID Emergency Salary Loan**
4. Who approved the recapitalization of regional rural banks (RRB) to improve the capital to risk weighted assets, ratio?
Answer: Modi
Explanation:
- Recapitalization of Regional Rural Banks approved by union cabinet
- The union cabinet under the Chairmanship of PM Modi on March 25, 2020 approved the recapitalization of regional rural banks (RRB) to improve the capital to risk weighted assets, ratio. The committee approved the continuation of recapitalization of RRBs.

Related Keys:
- The scheme of Recapitalization of RRBs was launched in 2011.
- It was launched on the recommendation of Dr. K.C. Chakrabarty Committee.

March 28
1. Which state to set up the largest COVID – 19 hospital in the country?
Answer: Odisa
Explanation:
- Odisa to set up the largest COVID – 19 hospital in the country.
- On March 27, 2020. The Odisa Government announced that it is readying to set up the largest covid – 19 hospital in India due to the outbreak of the coronavirus in the country. The State-level hospitals will have 1000 beds in Bhubanashwar. Odisa and will be functional in the fornight

Related Keys
- Capital - Bhubanashwar
- Chief Minister - Naveen Patnaik
- State flower - Ashoka
- State Bird - Indian roller
2. Which report released by the economic research team from SBI (State Bank of India)?

**Answer:** “Ecowrap”

**Explanation:**
- India’s GDP growth rate may fall sharply **to 2.6% in 2020-21**: SBI’s Ecowrap
- According to a report titled “Ecowrap” released by the economic research team from SBI (State Bank of India), India’s GDP (Gross Domestic product) growth is expected to decline sharply to 2.6% in the next financial year 2020-2021 amid the 21-day lockdown coronavirus (covid-19) epidemic.

**Related Keys:**
- About SBI (State Bank of India).
- Headquarters - Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman - Rajnish Kumar.

**March 29**

1. Who launched the self Declaration COVID-19 Nagaland APP at kohima?

**Answer:** Nagaland Neiphiu Rio

**Explanation:**
- Nagaland CM launches self Declaration COVID-19 APP. Chief Minister of Nagaland Neiphiu Rio launched the self Declaration COVID-19 Nagaland APP at kohima on 28 March. The app is aimed to trace the person who entered the state, as a measure to tackle the spread of coronavirus.

- The app will be mandatory for any person who entered Nagaland after 6th March. The app is available for Android and ios users. The app is crucial for tracking and surveillance of high-risk cases people can download the app from the website.

**Related Keys:**
- About Nagaland
- Capital - Kohima
- CM - Neiphiu Rio
March 30
1. Who chaired the high-level committee to suggest measures to improve health-care?
   Answer: P K Mishra
   Explanation:
   - On March 29, 2020 the Prime Minister Office constituted a high-level panel to restore normality after 21 days. The high-level committee is to suggest measures to improve health-care, reduce miseries and put the economy back on track.
   - The committee is to work under the chairmanship of P K Mishra, principal secretary of the Prime Minister.
   Related Keys
   - The “Economy and Welfare” panel will work under the Economic Affairs Secretary. The panel has been tasked to bring out solutions to the issues caused

2. Who announced the creation of an assistance and emergency situation relief fund where people can contribute?
   Answer: Narendra Modi
   Explanation:
   - Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the creation of an assistance and emergency situation relief fund where people can contribute and help in the government's fight against coronavirus.
   - The Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations (CARES) Fund will go a long way in creating a healthier India.

March 31
1. Who has created assistance an emergency situation relief fund?
   Answer: Narendra Modi
   Explanation:
   - Prime Minister Narendra Modi has created assistance an emergency situation relief fund Namely
   - Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situation Fund

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(PM – Cares) where people can contribute and help in the govi’s fight against Coronavirus. This newly created public Charitable trust has PM Narendra Modi as the chairman and defense minister, home minister and the finance minister as its member.

- People can visit pmindia.gov.in to make contributions using credit and debit cards, UPI, Net banking and RTGS.

**Related Keys**
- About Indian Control Govt Defense Minister – Rajnath Singh
- **Home Minister** – Amit Shah
- **Finance Minister** – Nirmala Sitaraman

2. **Which Bank merged into Indian Bank?**

**Answer:** Allahabad Bank

**Explanation:**
- The mega bank consolidation Plan is all set to come into force from April 1, 2020. The branches of merging banks will operate as of the banks which those have been amalgamated.
- Also the, customers of merging banks will be treated as customers of the banks in which these banks have been merged with effect from April 1st 2020.

**Related Keys**
- As per the Scheme, **Oriental Bank of Commerce** and united Bank of India will be merged into Punjab National Bank; Syndicate Bank into Canara Bank; **Allahabad Bank** into Indian Bank; and **Andhra Bank and Corporation Bank** into Union Bank of India.

3. **Which Bank has launched a new logo before the moga merger of the Bank?**

**Answer:** Punjab National Bank

**Explanation:**
- PNB releases new logo ahead of merger with UBI & BC on April 1st 2020
- On March 30, 2020. The **Punjab National Bank** (PNB) has launched a **new logo** before the moga merger of the Bank. With the united Bank of India (UBI) and the oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC) comes into force from 1st April 2020. The new logo will have signages of all the 3
Bank.
- With the merger, PNB will be the 2\textsuperscript{nd} largest bank in the country with a total Business and size of Rs. 17.94 lakh core. Currently, State Bank of India is the largest Bank in the country.

**Related Keys:**
- About Punjab National Bank (PNB)
- Headquarters – New Delhi
- M.D & CEO – S.S. Mallikarjuna Rao

**INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

**March 2**
1. Which is the Capital of Afghanistan?
   **Answer:** Kabul
   **Explanation:**
   - The US signed a historic peace deal with the Taliban in Doha to end America’s presence in Afghanistan in a phased manner. India attended the historic event as Observer. India has been an important stakeholder in the peace and reconciliation process in Afghanistan.
   - The landmark peace deal will see a phased withdrawal of thousands of US soldiers from Afghanistan.
   **Related Keys**
   - Afghanistan Currency: Afghan afghani
   - Afghanistan Capital: Kabul

**March 5**
1. Which is the Capital of Israel?
   **Answer:** Jerusalem
   **Explanation:**
   - Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has claimed victory in the general elections held. With 90% of votes counted, his Likud party and its right-wing allies were on course to win 59 seats. This election was Israel's third in less than a year.
   - Neither of the two main party leaders was able to command a majority
in the 120-seat parliament following the last two rounds.

**Related Keys**
- Israel parliament: **Knesset**
- Israel Capital: **Jerusalem**

**March 6**
1. What is the goal of Luxembourg?

**Answer:** reduce traffic congestion and emissions

**Explanation:**
- **Luxembourg** has become the first country with a free public transport system, with all fares for trams, trains, and buses abolished as of February 29, 2020. The one exception is first-class train travel, which will cost £2.60 (€3) per journey.
- The scheme was originally announced in 2018, with a summer **2019 launch** planned, but pushed back to this year.

**Related Keys**
- Luxembourg, one of the **smallest** countries in Europe
- The goal is to **reduce traffic congestion and emissions**.

**March 8**
1. In which place Fourth International Diabetes Summit 2020 inaugurated?

**Answer:** JW Marriott Hotel Pune.

**Explanation:**
- Fourth International Diabetes Summit **2020** inaugurated at **JW Marriott Hotel Pune**.
- **Lt Gen Dr. MadhuriKanitkar** (Deputy Chief of Integrated Defense Staff under the Chief of Defense Staff) was the Chief Guest, and **Dr. BhushanPatwardhan** (Vice-Chairman, University Grants Commission, New Delhi) was the Guest of Honour.

2. Who is the Chief minister of Kerala?

**Answer:** PinarayiVijayan

**Explanation:**
- Kerala government decided to offer safe abodes for couples who married across religion and castes. The main initiative, named Safe
Homes will provide inter-faith and inter-caste couples temporary shelters for up to a year after their marriage.

- The project is likely to be initiated soon. The government will be joining hands with NGOs for opening the safe houses in all districts.

**Related Keys**
- Kerala chief minister: Pinarayi Vijayan
- Kerala headquartered at Thiruvananthapuram

**March 12**

1. In Which Organization declared Corona Virus as Global Pandemic as it is rapidly spreading across the world?

**Answer:** World Health Organization.

**Explanation:**
- On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared Corona Virus as Global Pandemic as it is rapidly spreading across the world. Today there are more than 126,369 people infected with COVID-19 virus. The virus has so far killed 4,634 people.

**Related Keys**
- The United States Centre for Disease Control and Prevention defines pandemic as epidemic spread over several countries affecting large number of people.

**March 13**

1. Which Organization announced its new list of 115 Young Global Leaders (YGL)?

**Answer:** World Economic Forum (WEF)

**Explanation:**
- On March 11, 2020 the World Economic Forum (WEF) announced its new list of 115 Young Global Leaders (YGL), where 5 Indians Byju Raveendran, Gaurav Gupta, Swapneel Mehta, Vinati Muteja and Tara Singh Vachani are named in the list.
- WEF stated that the change makers are using their power of under 40’s to change the world, from reforming health systems to investigating corruption in 52 countries.

**Related Keys**
March 15
1. Who is chairman of Microsoft?
   Answer: John W. Thompson
   Explanation:
   - Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates stepped down from Microsoft's board.
   - Microsoft did not announce any replacement for Gates on the board. Gates also announced that he would be stepping down from the board of Berkshire Hathaway. Since 2004, he has served as a director of Berkshire Hathaway.
   **Related Keys**
   - Microsoft Founded on: 4 April 1975
   - Microsoft Founders: Bill Gates, Paul Allen
   - Microsoft Headquarters: Washington, US
   - Microsoft chairman: John W. Thompson

March 16
1. Which Country has become the world's first whole country recognized as a 'Dark Sky Place'?
   Answer: Niue
   Explanation:
   - The small Pacific island nation Niue, with a population of just over 1,600, is the first country to receive the designation by the International Dark-Sky Association. It has become the world’s first whole country recognized as a 'Dark Sky Place'.
   - International Dark Sky Places are spaces recognised for responsible lighting policies that keep the night-time environment naturally dark.
   **Related Keys**
   - Niue Capital: Alofi
   - Currency: New Zealand dollar

March 18
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1. Who is the President of Nepal?
   **Answer:** Bidya Devi Bhandari
   **Explanation:**
   - On March 16, 2020, India assured to provide a grant of Nepalese Rupees (NPR) 107 million to construct 3 schools in Nepal & to create better facilities for students.
   - The Embassy of India & the Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration (MoFAGA) Nepal signed 2 Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs)
   **Related Keys**
   - Nepal Capital— Kathmandu
   - Nepal President— Bidya Devi Bhandari
   - Nepal Prime Minister— K.P. Sharma Oli

**March 19**
1. Which country become the first country to close its financial markets due to the COVID 19 (Coronavirus) outbreak?
   **Answer:** Philippines
   **Explanation:**
   - On March 17, 2020, Philippines become the first country to close its financial markets due to the COVID 19 (Coronavirus) outbreak. It resumed its trading on March 19, 2020. This measure was taken to ensure the safety of their employees and the people they interact with.
   **Related keys**
   - Philippines Capital— Manila
   - Philippines Currency— Philippine peso

**March 20**
1. Which Organization launched the “Coronavirus Information Hub” globally, in partnership with WHO?
   **Answer:** WhatsApp
   **Explanation:**
   - On March 19, 2020 Facebook-owned messaging app WhatsApp launched the “WhatsApp Coronavirus Information Hub” globally, in partnership with WHO (World Health Organization), UNICEF
(United Nations Children’s Fund) and UNDP (United Nations Development Programme).

- WhatsApp also donated $1 million dollars to Poynter Institute’s International Fast-Checking Network (IFCN) in order to avoid fake information about the disease.

**Related Keys**

- UNICEF Founded: 11 December 1946
- UNDP Founded: 22 November 1965
- WHO Founded: 7 April 1948

March 22

1. Which is released the 8th World Happiness Report 2020?
   **Answer:** United Nations
   **Explanation:**
   - On March 21, 2020 the United Nations (UN) released the 8th World Happiness Report 2020 to measure the happiness of people of 156 countries where India (3,573) ranks in 144th position & Finland (7.809) tops the 3rd time.
   - This is the 1st time India ranked among the least happy countries.

   **Related Keys**
   - The main objective of the United Nations is to maintain international peace & security, develop friendly relations among nations & to promote social progress, better living standards & human rights.
   - Headquarters—New York, United States

2. Which Summit was recently postponed due to the threat of Corona Virus?
   **Answer:** World Cities Summit
   **Explanation:**
   - The World Cities Summit was recently postponed due to the threat of Corona Virus. The summit that is to be held in Singapore has been postponed to June 20, 2021. The Summit is an international conference that brings together policy makers to identify innovative solutions to cities that are facing challenges.
   - This year the summit was to be held under the theme Theme: Liveable and Sustainable Cities: Adapting to a Disrupted World
Related Keys
- The first summit was held in 2008.
- The summit helps other cities to learn live examples from Singapore.

March 23
1. Which Committee has set a time frame of 4 weeks to make a decision about the postponement of Olympics?
   Answer: International Olympics Committee
   Explanation:
   - Recently, Greece handed over the Olympic Flame to Japan. However, due to the increasing threats of Corona Virus, the **International Olympics Committee** is considering postponement of 2020 Olympics. The organization might postpone **Olympics to 2021**.
   - The International Olympics Committee has set a time frame of 4 weeks to make a decision about the postponement of Olympics.

Related Keys
- Greece Currency: Euro
- Greece Capital: Athens

March 24
1. Which Foundation published its 26th annual edition of Economic Freedom Index 2020?
   Answer: Heritage Foundation
   Explanation:
   - On March 23, 2020 the **Heritage Foundation** published its 26th annual edition of Economic Freedom Index 2020 to measure the level of economic freedom in 186 countries. **India (56.5)** ranks in **120th position & Singapore (89.4)** tops the index for the **1st time**.

Related Keys
- Economic Freedom Index created in **1995**
- Economic Freedom Index by the Heritage Foundation and The Wall Street Journal

March 25
1. In which country has pledged to contribute $5 million to the SAARC?
Answer: Sri Lanka

Explanation:
- On March 23, 2020, the Government of Sri Lanka has pledged to contribute $5 million to the SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) Corona Emergency Fund proposed by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi on March 15, 2020 with an initial grant of $10 million from India to deal with the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Related Keys
- Sri Lanka Capitals—Colombo, Sri JayawardenepeuraKotte
- Sri Lanka Currency—Sri Lankan rupee
- SAARC Establishment—8 December 1985
- SAARC Headquarters—Kathmandu, Nepal

March 26
1. How Many percentage of Hantavirus has a mortality rate?
   Answer: 38%
   Explanation:
   - After a deadly Coronavirus, now a death has been reported in China’s Yunnan province due to Hantavirus infection, a virus spread from rodents. Rodents are a type of small mammal with sharp front teeth which include mouse, squirrel, or beaver, hamster etc.
   - However, this is not a new virus and it does not spread from person to person.

   Related Keys
   - Hantavirus has a mortality rate of 38%.
   - Its first cases were reported during Korean War (1951-1953).

March 27
1. Who named for FIFA’s COVID-19 Campaign?
   Answer: Sunil Chhetri
   Explanation:
   - Sunil Chhetri, Indian Football team captain named for FIFA’s COVID-19 Campaign
   - The world Governing body FIFA (Federation International de Football Association)
Football Association) has selected Indian Football captain Sunil Chhetri among 28 other stars for its campaign. The Campaign is to be combat COVID-19

Related Keys:
- FIFA headquarters located in Zurich, Switzerland
- President – Gianni Infantino

March 28

1. Which are two countries conduct Joint patrols for the first time?
   Answer: India and France
   Explanation:
   - India and France conduct Joint patrols for the first time
   - For the 1st time India & France conducted joint patrol. From the Reunion Island in February 2020 by P-81 aircraft with French navy personal to maintain the security of International maritime router for the trade and communications. Apart From them, India and France have many collaborations across a number of important sectors such as space, nuclear and defence.
   Related Keys:
   - France Capital – Paris
   - France Prime Minister – Edouard Philippe

2. Which Day is celebrated every year on 27th march by ITI centers and International Theatre community?
   Answer: World Theatre Day
   Explanation:
   - World Theatre Day (WTD) is celebrated every year on 27th march by ITI (International Theatre Institute) centers and International Theatre community. The day promotes the values of arts and its forms across the world. The day was initiated by ITI in 1961.
   - Every year, various national and International events are organized on this day and ITI selects an outstanding theatre personality to write the message for world Theatre day. The message given by renowned theatre artists focus on the theme “Theatre and a culture of peace.”
Related Keys:
- The first world Theatre day International message was written by Jean Cocteau in 1962.
- SahidNadeem Pakistani playwright was selected as the author of the message of WID for the year 2020.

March 29
1. Which agency JICA signed Rs. 15,295 Crore agreement with the Indian Government for three mega rail infrastructure projects?
Answer: Japanese Government Funding agency
Explanation:
- India Japan signed major rail projects for public, freight transport. Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) initiative is part of the Japanese-Indian collaborative project aimed at comprehensive regional Development.
- Japanese Government Funding agency JICA signed Rs. 15,295 crore agreement with the Indian Government for three mega rail infrastructure projects. The agreement will provide long-term low-cost loans for development projects to various countries.
Related Keys
- About Japan
- President - Shinzo Abe
- Capital - Tokyo
- Currency - Japanese yen

2. Who is the Managing Director of IMF?
Answer: Kristalina Georgieva
Explanation:
- IMF reported that the global economy might enter a recession.
- International Monetary Fund (IMF) Chief Kristalina Georgieva announced that the global economy is now in a recession due to coronavirus. It has been made clear that the world countries have entered a recession.
- IMF stated that over 80 countries have already have requested emergency aid to contain coronavirus of the 80 countries. Most of the...
countries are low-income countries.

**Related Keys:**
- About IMF: Kristalina Georgieva
- Managing Director: Kristalina Georgieva
- Chief Economist: Gita Gopinath
- Chairman: Kristalina Georgieva

**March 30**

1. **On Which Year Abbott Founded?**
   **Answer:** 1888
   **Explanation:**
   - Abbott announced it has received the United States Food and Drug Administration’s Emergency Use Authorisation (EUA) for its rapid, portable, point-of-care molecular test for the detection of novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The test, called ID NOW COVID-19, delivers positive results in as little as five minutes and negative results in 13 minutes.
   - Abbott said it makes the tests available next week to healthcare providers in urgent care settings in the US.
   **Related Keys**
   - Abbott Founded: 1888
   - Abbott Headquarters: Chicago

2. **Which organization has launched a policy tracker to track the policies of the governments?**
   **Answer:** International Monetary Fund
   **Explanation:**
   - On March 25, 2020 the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has launched a policy tracker to track the policies of the governments so as to share knowledge about COVID-19 which helps to tackle the crisis.
   - It includes 186 economies (G20 and European Institutions) & more countries will be added & information will be updated on a regular basis.
   **Related Keys**

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IMF Headquarters – Washington, United States  
IMF Managing Director (MD) – Kristalina Georgieva.

IMPORTANT DAYS

March 1
1. In which day Zero Discrimination Day is observed every year?
   Answer: 1 March
   Explanation:
   - **Zero Discrimination Day** is observed on **1 March**. The day promotes diversity and recognizes that everyone counts.
   - The symbol for Zero Discrimination Day is the butterfly. It is used by people to share their stories and photos as a way to end discrimination and work towards positive transformation.
   - **World Defence Day** is celebrated on **1 March 2020**. The day is observed to raise awareness of public protection from natural and technogenic disasters and rescue service work.

March 3
1. In which day World Wildlife Day is observed every year?
   Answer: 3 March
   Explanation:
   - **World Wildlife Day** is celebrated annually across the world on **03 March**. The aim of World Wildlife Day is to acknowledge the importance of wildlife species in maintaining the ecological balance on earth.
   - The theme for World Wildlife Day 2020 will be “Sustaining All Life on Earth”

March 8
1. In which day International Women’s Day is observed every year?
   Answer: March 8
   Explanation:
   - **International Women’s Day** is observed every year on **March 8** to
celebrate the women’s movement and struggle for equality.
- **Theme:** I am Generation Equality: Realizing Women’s Rights
- **Aim:** To bring together people of every gender, age, ethnicity, race, religion, and country in a bid to drive actions that will lead to a gender-equal world we all deserve.

**March 12**
1. In which day World Kidney Day is observed every year?
   - **Answer:** March 12
   - **Explanation:**
     - **World Kidney Day** is observed on **12 March**. It is celebrated on the second Thursday of March every year.
     - The theme of the 2020 World Kidney day is "Kidney Health for Everyone Everywhere—from Prevention to Detection and Equitable Access to Care."

**March 15**
1. In which day World Consumer Rights Day is observed every year?
   - **Answer:** 15 March
   - **Explanation:**
     - **World Consumer Rights Day** is observed on **15 March**. The consumer movement marks 15 March with World Consumer Rights Day every year. The day aims to raise global awareness about consumer rights and needs.
     - **Aim:** The day aims to demand that the rights of all consumers are respected and protected, and to protest against market abuses and social injustices which undermine those rights.

**March 21**
1. In which day The International Day is observed every year?
   - **Answer:** 21st March
   - **Explanation:**
     - **The International Day of Forests** was observed on the **21, March** every year, by resolution of the United Nations General Assembly on November 28, 2012.
The theme for World Forest Day is 'Forests and Biodiversity'.

March 23
1. In which day World Meteorological Day is observed every year?
   **Answer:** March 23
   **Explanation:**
   - Every year on **March 23, World Meteorological Day** is celebrated. It was established in 1950. The Day is being observed by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and also by the United Nations. March 23 has been chosen as the World Meteorological Organization was established on that day in 1950.
   - The theme of 2020 World Meteorological Day is Theme: Climate and Water

March 24
1. In which day World Tuberculosis Day is observed every year?
   **Answer:** March 24
   **Explanation:**
   - Every year, **March 24** is marked as the **World Tuberculosis Day**. The idea was proposed by International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (IUATLD). The day is also marked by the World Health Organization (WHO).
   Theme: It’s Time

**SCIENCE & TECH UPDATES**

March 1
1. How many planets are discovered by the Columbia researchers?
   **Answer:** 17 new planets.
   **Explanation:**
   - Columbia researchers have discovered **17 new planets** by combing through data gathered by NASA's *Kepler space telescope*.
   - The planets include a potentially habitable Earth-sized world.
researchers looked for planets, especially those lying in the potentially habitable "Goldilocks Zone" of their stars, where liquid water could exist on a rocky planet's surface.

**Related Keys**
- The planet is located about a thousand light-years away.
- The planet is one and a half times the size of the Earth.

**March 16**
1. Which bacteria are reducing the emission of methane in rice plants?
   **Answer:** methanotrophic bacteria.
   **Explanation:**
   - The Agharkar Research Institute of Pune has isolated 45 strains of methanotrophic bacteria. These bacteria are capable of reducing methane emissions in rice plants.
   - Apart from isolating the strains, the scientists have also created methanotrophic culture. The isolated bacteria were from southern and western India.
   **Related Keys**
   - Bio-Inoculant are strains of bacteria, algae or fungi. They take in nitrogen from atmosphere and prepare nitrates required for plants.

**March 17**
1. Which country was evaluating first human trial COVID-19 vaccine?
   **Answer:** United States of America.
   **Explanation:**
   - On March 16, 2020, the United States of America began the first human trial evaluating COVID-19 vaccine. The US National Institute of Health will enroll 45 healthy adult volunteers between age 18 and 55 for a period of 6 weeks in order to test the vaccine.
   - A healthy volunteer of Washington was injected with the vaccine.
   **Related Keys**
   - The International Clinical Trials Registry Platform of WHO is a mission aimed to make sure a complete view of research is accessible.

**March 18**

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1. Which Centre is using the NAVIC system designed by ISRO?
   Answer: INCOIS.
   Explanation:
   - On March 17, 2020, the Department of Space reported at the Parliament that ISRO has designed NAVIC messaging system and receiver. The system is currently used by the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information system (INCOIS).
   - The system is used to broadcast emergency warning messages in cases such as tsunami, cyclone, high waves.
   Related Keys
   - The NAVIC is Navigation in Indian Constellation. It is an Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS).
   - It is developed by ISRO.

March 19
1. Which material is stops the rapid loss of blood?
   Answer: Hemostat.
   Explanation:
   - On March 17, 2020, Scientists from the Institute of Nano Science and Technology (INST), an autonomous institute under the Department of Science & Technology, developed a starch-based ‘hemostat’ material which absorbs excess fluid by concentrating the natural clotting factors in the blood that stops the rapid blood loss.
   Related Keys
   - The micro particles of the product are called ‘calcium-modified. carboxymethyl-starch,’ which form a cohesive & sticky gel within 30 seconds of contact with blood.

March 23
1. How many asteroids are discovered by NASA centre for Near-Earth Object Studies?
   Answer: 4 asteroids.
   Explanation:
   - On March 20, 2020, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration’s (NASA) Centre for Near-Earth Object Studies
(CNEOS) identifies 4 asteroids namely, **2020 FK, 2020 FS, 2020 DP4 & 2020 FF1** approaching the earth which follows Earth-intersecting orbits. The **2020 FK asteroid is the smallest of the four**, with a diameter of 43 feet.

- The **2020 DP4 asteroid is the largest of the four**, and is large enough to hit nearly 12 limousines with a diameter of 180 feet.

**Related Keys**

- NASA Founded: 29 July 1958, United States.

**March 25**

1. Which Organization is testing four most promising treatments to combat the virus?

   **Answer:** World Health Organization

   **Explanation:**

   - The **World Health Organization** recently launched a mega trial of four most promising corona virus treatments. The organization focuses on repurpose drugs that have already been approved to be safe rather than finding new compounds from the scratch.
   - The **WHO** is testing four most promising treatments to combat the virus. It includes
     - **Remdesivir**, an anti-viral compound
     - **Chloroquine and Hydroxychloroquine**, the Malarial medications
     - Combination of **Lopinavir and Ritonavir**, HIV drugs
     - Interferon-beta along with the combination of **Lopinavir and Ritonavir**

**March 28**

1. Which Country launched its 1st national security by sending an ultra-secure military communication satellite into orbit?

   **Answer:** United state

   **Explanation:**

   - On March 26, 2020. The United state (US) space force launched its 1st national security by sending an ultra-secure military communication satellite into orbit called **Advanced Extremely High Frequency**

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(AEHF)-6 from Cape Canaveral, Florida on the AtlasV551 rocket

Related Keys:
- About US:
- Capital: Washington
- President: Donald Trump

March 29
1. Which country to launch long March-5B Carrier rocket in April?
   Answer: China
   Explanation:
   - China to launch long March-5B Carrier rocket in April. China is planning to launch a long March-5B Carrier rocket an experimental spacecraft, without a crew in April 2020. The mission is a part of a border space flight program to shuttle: astronauts to its future space station.
   - The new generation spacecraft has been scheduled to launch China’s largest carrier rocket from the southern island province of Hainan. The launch has been set for mid to late April.
   Related Keys:
   - China Currency Name: Renminibi
   - China Capital: Beijing

2. Which organization launched app for COVID-19 Information?
   Answer: Apple
   Explanation:
   - Apple launched app for COVID-19 Information. Tech giant app has released a new dedicated app and website for users across the US. The app provides accurate and credible information to users about the COVID-19 pandemic.
   - The news COVID-19 app and website provide the needed guidance and latest information from the centers for disease control and prevention (CDC). The app has been made available on the APP store. The users can also use the new tools to answer questions around risk factors, Recent exposure and symptoms.
   Related Keys:
SPORTS

March 2
1. In ATP Mexico Open finals, whom defeated by Rafael Nadal?
   Answer: Taylor Fritz
   Explanation:
   o In Tennis, World Number 2 Rafael Nadal captured his first title of the year, defeating unseeded Taylor Fritz in straight sets, 6-3, 6-2, in the final of the ATP Mexico Open on February 29.
   o Nadal, playing in his first tournament since losing in the quarter-finals at the Australian Open last month.

Related Keys
o Mexico Open Founded 1993.
o The Mexican Open is part of the ATP Tour 500 series on the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) Tour.

March 6
1. Who placed in the first place ICC women's T20 International rankings?
   Answer: ShafaliVerma
   Explanation:
   o ShafaliVerma, the teenage Indian batting sensation, has gained the top spot in the ICC women's T20 International rankings, riding on her stellar run at the ongoing World Cup.
   o She has become only the second India batter after Mithali Raj to top the women's T20 International rankings, according to an ICC statement.

Related Keys
o The ICC Player Rankings is a widely followed system of rankings for international cricketers based on their recent performances.
The rankings include the top 10 WODI and WT20I batsmen, bowlers and all-rounders based on the rating of the each player.

March 8
1. Which place conduct Khelo India Winter Games in every year?
   **Answer:** Gulmarg in Jammu and Kashmir.
   **Explanation:**
   - Union Minister for **Youth Affairs and Sports KirenRijiju** inaugurated the first-ever five-day Khelo India Winter Games at Gulmarg.
   - Jammu and Kashmir's Gulmarg hosting Khelo India Winter Games 2020 from March 7th to 11th. The sports shall be organized every year **at Gulmarg**.
   - **Related Keys**
     - Khelo India Youth Games First event: 2018.
     - Khelo India Youth Games Last event: 2020.

March 9
1. Which Indian boxers are qualifying for Tokyo Olympics?
   **Answer:** Pooja Rani and VikasKrishan.
   **Explanation:**
   - Asian champion **Pooja Rani in the 75kg category and VikasKrishan in 69kg category** became the first set of Indian boxers to qualify for Tokyo Olympics 2020.
   - Both boxers advanced to the semifinals of the continental qualifiers at Amman in Jordan.
   **Related Keys**
   - Tokyo was selected as the host city during the 125th IOC Session in Buenos Aires, Argentina on 7 September 2013.
   - This will be the second time that Japan and specifically Tokyo has hosted the Summer Olympic Games.

March 10
1. Which is the famous tourist site in Jammu and Kashmir?
   **Answer:** Gulmarg.

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Explaination:
- Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Kiren Rijiju inaugurated the five-day Khelo India Winter games at famous tourist destination Gulmarg in Jammu and Kashmir.
- During the event, the competitions in the sports disciplines like snow skiing, snowboarding, snow shoeing, ski mountaineering and snow baseball would be held.

Related Keys
- Ministry for Youth Affairs and Sports Headquarters location: New Delhi.

March 17
1. Who won the third women's singles title in the all England championship in Badminton?
   Answer: Taiwan's shuttler Tai Tzu Ying.

   Explanation:
- In Badminton, Taiwan's shuttler Tai Tzu Ying clinched her third women's singles title of the All England Championships at Birmingham in the United Kingdom. Ying beat China's Chen Yufei in two straight games 21-19, 21-15 in 44 minutes.
- Earlier in the men's singles, Denmark's Victor Axelsen outclassed Taiwan's Chou Tien-Chen.

March 31
1. Who was awarded the 2019 BBC Indian Sports woman of the year?
   Answer: PV Sindhu

   Explanation:
- PV Sindhu was awarded the 2019 BBC Indian Sports woman of the year.
- Top Indian Shuffler PV Sindhu won the BBC Indian sports woman of the year 2019. The award ceremony was hosted BBC Direct – General tony hall. Also veteran athlete.
- PT Usha was awarded the lifetime Achievement Award. She is the first Indian Singles badminton Player to win an Olympic Silver Medal.
Related Keys:
- BBC Headquarters located in London
- Chairman – Sir David Clemonti

ECONOMY

March 4
1. Which was predicting the India's real GDP growth is 5.1 percent in 2020?
   Answer: OECD Interim Economic Outlook Forecasts.
   Explanation:
   - According to the latest OECD Interim Economic Outlook Forecasts, India's real GDP growth is expected at 5.1 percent during the fiscal year starting 1 April, 2020 and improves to 5.6 percent in the following year.
   - The latest projection for 2020-21 is 1.1 percentage point lower than the November 2019 forecast.
   Related News
   - OECD Headquarters – Paris, France
   - OECD Member Countries – 36

March 11
1. Which service was reports G-20 countries are to grow by 2.1 percent in 2020?
   Answer: Moody’s Investors Service.
   Explanation:
   - Moody’s Investors Service said G-20 countries are expected to grow by 2.1 per cent in 2020. It has lowered its previous forecast by 0.3 percentage as the global spread of the corona virus is resulting in simultaneous supply and demand shocks.
   - Previously on February 17, 2020 it had reduced India’s growth projection from 6.6% to 5.4% for 2020.
   Related Keys
   - Moody’s Investors Service Headquarters – New York, United States
   - Moody’s Investors Service President & Chief Executive Officer–
Raymond W. McDaniel, Jr.

March 19
1. Which was sign a multi-year Memorandum of Understanding with the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur to collaborate?
   Answer: L&T Technology Services (LTTS).
   Explanation:
   - On 18th March 2020, L&T Technology Services (LTTS) signed a multi-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT) to collaborate on research industrial and infrastructure cyber security.

   Related Keys
   - LTTS Headquarters – Vadodara, Gujarat
   - LTTS CEO – Dr. Keshab Panda

AWARDS

March 1
1. Who was conferring the Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee award 2020 for Politics?
   Answer: S Jaishankar
   Explanation:
   - Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal was conferred the Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee award 2020 for Politics on 28 February.
   - The award was conferred by the External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Speaker of People's Majlis of Maldives Mohamed Nasheed at the 6th India Ideas Conclave in Gujarat. He was awarded for his work in integrating the nation and to take Mukherjee's vision and philosophy forward.

   Related Keys
   - Syama Prasad Mukherjee served as the youngest ever Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University.
   - Syama Prasad Mukherjee is the first Minister of Industry and Supply in independent India. In 1946.
March 2
1. Which award is given for environmental activist Jadav Payeng?

   Answer: Swami Vivekananda Karmayogi Award

   Explanation:
   - Assam's eminent environmental activist Jadav Payeng will be awarded the Swami Vivekananda Karmayogi Award for his efforts through reforestation to create a man-made forest. The award ceremony will be organized by My Home India, a nongovernmental organization that aims to bring emotional integration between people from different parts of India.
   - Union environment minister Prakash Javadekar handed over the award to Payeng on Saturday.

   Related Keys
   - Swami Vivekananda Karmayogi Award is organized by My Home India in New Delhi. The award was conferred for the first time in 2013.

March 7
1. Who won the Spirit of Sports award?

   Answer: PV Sindhu

   Explanation:
   - World champion shuttler PV Sindhu was named as Sportsperson of the Year at the fourth Times of India Sports Awards (TOISA) 2019 in New Delhi.
   - Rio Olympic silver medalist Sindhu, who won the world championship gold at Basel, Switzerland, last year also bagged the Unbreakable Spirit of Sports award.

   Related Keys
   - The Times of India Sports Awards is a tribute to Indian sportspersons. Endeavour to honour the past, celebrate the present and nurture the future in Indian sports.

March 9

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1. Which edition of the International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) Awards is postponed due to corona?

   **Answer:** 21st edition

   **Explanation:**
   - The **21st edition** of International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) Awards has been postponed in light of the coronavirus scare.
   - One of the most popular award functions in the country **IIFA** was scheduled to be held from March 27 to 29 at Indore and Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh.

   **Related Keys**
   International Indian Film Academy awards were introduced in 2016, around the films released in 2015.

### March 31

1. Who won The Hindu Prize 2019?

   **Answer:** Mirzawaheed and Santanu Das

   **Explanation:**
   - **Mirzawaheed and Santanu Das** win The Hindu Prize 2019
   - The Hindu Prize (annual) 2019 is awarded to mirzawaheed’s Tell her Everything (Fiction) – 2019 and SantanuDas’s India Empire and first world war culture writings.
   - Images and songs (Non – Fiction) **2018**.
   - Mirzawaheed’s Novel talks about **human ethics noble love & the corrosive nature of companionship** and is published by westland publications limited

   **Related Keys**
   - About The Hindu
   - Founder– G. SubramaniyaIyer
   - Owners – The Hindu Group and Kasturi and So limited

### APPOINTMENTS

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March 3
1. Who has been announced as the new Chief Executive Officer & President of Nokia?
   **Answer:** Pekka Lundmark
   **Explanation:**
   - **Pekka Lundmark** has been announced as the **new Chief Executive Officer & President of Nokia**. Pekka Lundmark will succeed Rajeev Suri who will serve as the President & CEO of Nokia till August 31, 2020.
   - Pekka Lundmark is presently serving as the President and CEO of an energy company “Fortum” which is based in Espoo, Finland.
   **Related Keys**
   - Nokia Founded: 12 May 1865
   - Nokia Headquarters: Espoo, Finland

March 5
1. Who has been appointed as one of the key members of the White House Coronavirus Task Force constituted by US President Donald Trump?
   **Answer:** Seema Verma
   **Explanation:**
   - **Indian-American Seema Verma** has been appointed as one of the **key members of the White House Coronavirus Task Force** constituted by **US President Donald Trump**.
   - The Task Force has been created to combat the deadly disease that has claimed six lives in the country and infected over 90 others.
   **Related Keys**
   - WHO have named Corona Virus as COVID.
   - It was first reported from Wuhan, China, on 31 December 2019.

March 6
1. Who has been appointed as the new Finance Secretary by the government of India?
   **Answer:** Bhushan Pandey
   **Explanation:**
   - The **Government of India** appointed the current Revenue Secretary...
Ajay Bhushan Pandey as the new Finance Secretary. Pandey replaces current Finance Secretary Rajiv Kumar.

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment.

March 10
1. Who becomes the 1st woman to be promoted as Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of the Indian Coast Guard?
   **Answer:** Nupur Kulshrestha
   **Explanation:**
   - On March 8, 2020, Nupur Kulshrestha becomes the 1st woman to be promoted as Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Indian Coast Guard. She joined Indian Coast Guard in 1999.
   **Related Keys**
   - Indian Coast Guard Founded 18 August 1978
   - Indian Coast Guard Headquarters New Delhi

March 11
1. Who will be appointed as a Director-General, Defence Intelligence Agency?
   **Answer:** Lt Gen Kanwaljeet Singh Dhillon
   **Explanation:**
   - On 9th March 2020, the Ministry of Defence announced that Lt Gen Kanwaljeet Singh Dhillon (57) will be appointed as a Director General, Defence Intelligence Agency, Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff, under the Chief of Defence staff (CDS) in the Department of Military Affairs, replacing Lt Gen AS Bedi.
   **Related Keys**
   - Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA): Established- 2002
   - Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA): Headquarters- Cabinet Secretariat Raisina Hill, New Delhi

March 13
1. Who took over the additional charge of Director General (DG) of Border Security Force (BSF)?
   **Answer:** Surjit Singh Deswal
Explanation:
- Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of Haryana cadre **Surjit Singh Deswal** took over the **additional charge of Director General (DG) of Border Security Force (BSF)**. Deswal, a 1984-batch IPS officer, is currently the Director-General of Indo-Tibet Border Police.
- He has succeeded Director-General Vivek Johri, who has been appointed Director-General of Madhya Pradesh Police.

**Related Keys**
- Indian police service Founded: 1948
- Indian police service Cadre Controlling Authority - Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

**March 19**

1. Who appointed as the new Chief Electoral Officer of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir?
   **Answer:** Hirdesh Kumar

**Explanation:**
- The Election Commission of India appointed **Hirdesh Kumar** as the **new Chief Electoral Officer** of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. He will replace Shailendra Kumar with effect from the date he assumes charge.
- Hridesh Kumar, a 1999 batch IAS officer is presently serving as Commissioner Secretary in the School Education Department of J&K.

**March 20**

1. Who has appointed as the country's new prime minister-designate in the latest bid to resolve a months-long political crisis?
   **Answer:** Hirdesh Kumar

**Explanation:**
- Iraqi President **Barham Salih** has appointed **Adnan al-Zurfi** as the country's **new prime minister-designate in the latest bid to resolve a months-long political crisis**.
- Al-Zurfi has 30 days to form his cabinet which he must then put to a vote of confidence in Iraq's Parliament.

**Related Keys**

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Iraq Capital: Baghdad
Iraq Currency: Iraqi dinar

BOOKS

March 7
1. Who released the book of ‘Chronicles of Change Champions’?
   Answer: SmritizubinIrani.
   Explanation:
   - SmritizubinIrani released a book titled ‘Chronicles of Change Champions’ at an event held in New Delhi.
   - The book is a compilation of 25 innovative initiatives taken at the state and district levels under the Prime Minister’s flagship scheme of Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao.

BANKING NEWS

March 12
1. How many Countries are involved in World Bank Membership?
   Answer: 189 Countries
   Explanation:
   - The aim is to improve water management practices and increase agricultural productivity in selected Gram Panchayats in Himachal Pradesh.
   Related Keys
   - World Bank Headquarters: Washington, DC, US.
   - World Bank Membership: 189 countries.

March 14
1. Who is the Chairperson of State Bank of India?
   **Answer:** Rajnish Kumar
   **Explanation:**
   - The **State Bank of India** said that it will buy shares worth **7,250 crore** rupees of the cash-strapped Yes Bank in accordance with the draft reconstruction scheme envisaged by the Reserve Bank of India.
   - SBI’s shareholding in Yes Bank will remain within **49 percent** of the paid-up capital.
   **Related Keys**
   - State Bank of India Chairperson: **Rajnish Kumar**
   - State Bank of India Headquarters: **Mumbai**

**March 15**
1. Who permitted to exposures of up to 15% and 40% of their capital funds to a single borrower and a group of borrowers, respectively?
   **Answer:** UCBs
   **Explanation:**
   - The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** revised exposure limits for urban cooperative banks (UCBs) to a single borrower and a group of borrowers to **15% and 25%**, respectively, of tier-I capital.
   **Related Keys**
   - Previously, the UCBs were permitted to have exposures of up to **15% and 40%** of their capital funds to a single borrower and a group of borrowers, respectively.

**March 17**
1. Who is the Founder of RBI?
   **Answer:** British Raj
   **Explanation:**
   - The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** on Friday lowered the single borrower and group exposure limit for urban cooperative banks (UCBs) to **15% and 25%** of tier I capital, respectively, to reduce concentration risks arising out of such large loans.
   - Existing norms allowed 15% for single borrowers and 40% to group exposures of a bank’s total capital, including tier I and tier II capital.
Related Keys
- RBI Founder: British Raj
- RBI Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata

March 20
1. On which Year Vakrangee Ltd Established?
   Answer: 1990
   Explanation:
   - On March 18, 2020, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has extended the validity of Authorization to Vakrangee Limited till March 31, 2021 to setup, own and operates the White Label ATMs (WLA) Business in India.
   - In this regard, Renewal of Authorization has been granted to Vakrangee Limited.
   Related Keys
   - Vakrangee Ltd Established in 1990
   - Headquarters – Mumbai, Maharashtra

March 21
1. Which organization has decided to launch a special train ‘Swavalamban Express’ on June 05, 2020?
   Answer: MSMEs
   Explanation:
   - On March 19, 2020, Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), a development financial institution in India, engaged in the promotion, financing and development of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), has decided to launch a special train ‘Swavalamban Express’ on June 05, 2020 to empower budding entrepreneurs under its mission Swavalamban.
   Related Keys
   - Small Industries Development Bank of India Founded: 2 April 1990
   - Small Industries Development Bank of India Headquarters location: Lucknow.

March 23
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1. In which place Headquarters of RBI is located?
   Answer: Mumbai

   Explanation:
   - The Reserve Bank of India decided to infuse additional liquidity with a second tranche of bond purchase worth ₹30,000 crores amid the Covid-19 pandemic. In the backdrop of the Coronavirus outbreak, the Apex Bank has decided to ensure that all market segments function normally with adequate liquidity and turnover.
   - The auctions would be conducted on March 24 and March 30.

   Related Keys
   - RBI Headquarters: Mumbai
   - RBI Founder: British Raj

March 24

1. Who is the Chairman of SBI?
   Answer: British Raj

   Explanation:
   - On March 23, 2020, State Bank of India (SBI), an Indian multinational, public sector bank, became the 1st bank to launch COVID-19 emergency credit line (CECL) to provide funds to businesses affected by the infectious coronavirus.

   Related Keys
   - State Bank of India (SBI): Headquarter—Mumbai, Maharashtra
   - SBI Chairman—Rajnish Kumar

March 30

1. Which bank has said that the merger of 10 state-run banks into four will come into force from April 1?
   Answer: Reserve Bank of India

   Explanation:
   - Reserve Bank of India has said that the merger of 10 state-run banks into four will come into force from April 1. The branches of merging banks will operate as of the banks in which these have been amalgamated.
   - The government on March 4 had notified the amalgamation schemes.
for 10 state owned banks into four as part of its consolidation plan to create bigger size stronger banks in the public sector.

**Related Keys**

- Reserve Bank of India Founded: 1 April 1935
- Reserve Bank of India Headquarters: Mumbai
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