

Weekly One-Liner

1-7 March 2020



Weekly One Liner Updates 1-7th March 2020

Dear readers,

Weekly One Liner Updates is a collection of important news and events that occurred in the **first week** (1-7th) of **March 2020**. This file is important for, **Banking, SSC, Railway & Insurance** exams.

Banking & Financial Awareness

1. Fitch Ratings lowers India's economic growth forecast for FY20 to ___ **4.9%**.

Note:

- Fitch Ratings Inc has lowered India's GDP growth forecast to 4.9% for the fiscal year –FY20 (2019-2020) ending March 31,2020.
- It cuts the rate from 5.1% predicted earlier, due to coronavirus, weak domestic demand and supply disruptions, which put pressure on the manufacturing sector.
- However, it estimates a slight improvement in GDP growth in FY2020-21 & forecasts that the pace of economic growth of the country could remain at 5.4% (from 5.9 % previously).

2. Which Bank has switched to Cash Budget Based Assessment (CBBA) method of assessment for corporates ___ **State Bank of India**.

Note:

- State Bank of India (SBI) has switched to "Cash Budget Based Assessment (CBBA)" from "Projected Balance Sheet (PBS)" method of Fund Based Working Capital (FBWC) limits for assessment of the working capital requirement for corporates or large advances.
- CBBA of limits has been initiated for assessment of the FBWC limits for units with total FBWC exposure of more than ₹50 crore from the banking system.
- SBI has also started Risk Intel, an email service, advising the business units of rating actions in respect of units it has funded

3. Which bank has ties-up with Zomato to launch co-branded credit card powered by Mastercard ___ **RBL Bank**.

Note:

- RBL Bank as entered into a partnership with Online food ordering and delivery app Zomato to launch co-branded credit cards, powered by Mastercard, for Zomato users.
- It will be the first of its kind co-branded credit card, available in two variants – basic Edition Classic card and a more premium Edition Card. The basic Edition Classic card starts with an annual membership of Rs.500.

4. The Indian Institute of Technology, Mandi and Enabling Women of Kamand (EWOK) Society have signed a tripartite agreement with which bank for setting up 3 Farmer Producer Organisation ___ **NABARD**.

Note:

- The IIT Mandi along with Enabling Women of Kamand (EWOK) Society have signed a tripartite agreement with the National Bank For Agriculture And Rural Development (NABARD) for collaboration on setting up 3 Farmer Producer Organisation (FPOs) in Himachal Pradesh's(HP) Mandi district in the next 3 years.
- NABARD has approved an amount of Rs 35 lakhs in this regard to IIT Mandi and EWOK Society for establishing FPOs, which is a group of farm producers, with members as shareholders in an organisation. It helps them get better access to quality inputs, technology, credit and better marketing access through economy.

5. Name the entity which has received the brokerage licence from the Insurance Regulatory and Authority of India (IRDAI) ___ **Paytm Insurance Broking**.

Note:

- Indian digital payments platform Paytm's subsidiary, Paytm Insurance Broking, has received the brokerage licence from the Insurance Regulatory and Authority of India (IRDAI).
- Paytm will now offer insurance in various categories namely automotive, health and life.
- In addition to this, Paytm customers can also get policy management and claim settlement at select merchant points.

6. The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) downgraded India's GDP growth to ___ **5.1% for FY 2020.**

Note:

- Global agency Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in its report titled "OECD Interim Economic Assessment Coronavirus: The world economy at risk" has trimmed India's real GDP (Gross Domestic Product) growth forecast to 5.1% from the earlier projection of 6.2% for 2020.
- This is due to the impact of deadly coronavirus (COVID-19) on the domestic as well as the global economy. For 2021, India's real GDP growth is projected at 5.6% from the earlier forecast of 6.4%.

7. For handling the credit needs of rural people, including farmers the what amount National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has granted in the rural banking system during the current fiscal-FY (2019-20) ___ **Rs 1.46 lakh crore**

Note:

- Of the total amount, it had infused Rs 87,069 crore to rural cooperative banks and regional rural banks (RRB) in short-term refinance.
- Along with this, long-term refinance of Rs 59,502 crore has also been offered to these banks and other financial institutions on February 28, 2020.
- NABARD also offered institutional credit to rural sectors through non-banking financial institutions (NBFCs) and MFIs (Micro Finance Institutions), which have obtained Rs 4,638 crore till now during FY 2019-20.

8. Recently, the Reserve Bank of India has put a moratorium on which bank ___ **Yes Bank.**

Note:

- In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of section 45 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (10 of 1949), the Central Government, through the Ministry of Finance has imposed moratorium on Yes Bank Limited w.e.f. 6PM of March 5, 2020 till April 3, 2020.
- The decision has been taken on the recommendations of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) under sub-section (1) of section 45.
- During the period of moratorium, withdrawal from Yes Bank is restricted to Rs 50,000 per account

9. The Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has cuts interest rate to ___ **8.5%.**

Note:

- The EPFO has declined interest rate on EPF deposits for 2019-20 to seven years low by 0.15% or 15 basis points from 8.65% to 8.5%.
- The decision has been taken during the meeting of EPFO's apex decision making body, Central Board of Trustees (CBT) chaired by Minister of State (MoS) for Labour and Employment Santosh Kumar Gangwar in New Delhi.

10. The ICICI Prudential AMC has entered into the partnership with which bank to distribute its products with the bank's customers base spread across its 280 branches in 6 states ___ **Saraswat Co-operative Bank.**

Note:

- ICICI Prudential AMC (Asset Management Company), one of the leading mutual fund investment companies in India, has entered into the partnership with Saraswat Co-operative Bank, an urban co-operative banking institution, to distribute its products with the latter's customers base spread across its 280 branches in 6 states.
- This partnership will help ICICI Prudential to increase its outreach, especially in smaller villages and cities and also boost the bank's over 100-year presence in the country.

11. The union government has approved the merger of 10 Public Sector Bank into four banks effective from ___ **1st April 2020.**

Note:

- According to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, the exercise of consolidation of 10 public sector banks (PSBs) into four is on course and the merger will come into effect from the new financial year 1st April 2020.
- The Union Cabinet has given a go-ahead for the merger proposal. The Central government has been in regular touch with these banks.
- Finance Minister stated that the merger of Public Sector Banks' merger is on course and decisions have already been taken by the respective bank boards.

Obituaries

1. Padma Shri awardee Balbir Singh Kullar passed away, he was associated with ___ **Hockey.**

Note:

- Balbir Singh Kullar, former Indian hockey player, Padma Shri awardee and a Punjab Police Officer passed away at the age of 77 in Sansarpur, Jalandhar district, Punjab.
- Balbir was born on 8th August 1942 in Sansarpur, Punjab. He also served as an Indian national team selector.

2. Dronacharya awardee coach Joginder Singh Saini passed away, he was associated with which sport ___ **Athletics.**

Note:

- Senior athletics coach & Dronacharya awardee Joginder Singh Saini, who trained some of India's finest track and field stars, passed away at the age of 90, in Patiala, Punjab, due to age related problems.
- He served as the chief national athletics coach for many years from the year 1970 to 1990.
- He was born on January 1, 1930 in Hoshiarpur district in Punjab.

3. Name the former chairman & CEO of General Electric (GE) Company who passed away at the age of 84 ___ **John Francis Welch Jr.**

Note:

- He was born on March 19, 1935 in Massachusetts, US. He grew General Electric company during the 1980s & 1990s into the most valuable public company in the US.
- He was also known as "Neutron Jack" & under his guidance the GE's market value grew from \$12 billion to \$410 billion.

4. Name the former UN Chief & Prime Minister of Peru who passed away recently ___ **Javier Perez de Cuellar.**

Note:

- Javier Perez de Cuellar was born on 19th January 1920 in Lima Peru.
- He was the president of the UN Security Council from 1973 to 1974 and Perez de Cuellar served as UN fifth secretary general from 1981 to 1991. He was often described as a "pacifist by vocation and nature."
- He served as the Prime Minister (PM) of Peru from November 22, 2000 - July 28, 2001.

5. Name the Buddhist religious leader in Bangladesh who passed away recently ___ **Suddhananda Mahathero.**

Note:

- The head of the Bangladesh Bouddha Kristi Prachar Sangha Sanghanayaka Suddhananda Mahathero passed away in Dhaka. He was a revered figure among the Buddhists of Bangladesh.
- He is known for running many social service activities particularly the orphanage at Dharmarajika Buddhist Monastery which takes care of more than 350 children.
- Government of Bangladesh awarded the Ekushey Award to him in 2012.

Important Days

1. The Zero Discrimination Day 2020 was observed globally on ___**March 1, 2020**.

Note:

- Zero Discrimination is celebrated every year to challenge the discrimination faced by women & girls, to raise awareness & mobilize action to promote equality & empowerment for women & girls.
- The theme for 2020 is “Zero Discrimination against Women & Girls”.
- The symbol for this day is Butterfly.

2. The World Civil Defence Day was observed on _____ **March 1, 2020**.

Note:

- The World Civil Defense Day (WCDD) is celebrated annually on 1st March, to create awareness on the self-protection & preventive measures to be taken in the event of disasters or accidents and pay tribute to the efforts, sacrifices of the national services responsible for the fight against disasters.
- Theme of the WCDD 2020: “Civil Defence and a first aider in every home”.

3. The World Wildlife Day is celebrated around the world on which date ___**March, 03, 2020**.

Note:

- The World Wildlife Day (WWD) has been celebrated based on the theme “Sustaining all life on Earth”.
- The day aims to celebrate the beautiful and varied forms of wild fauna and flora & raises awareness for conservation of wildlife.
- The main objective of this day is to familiarize the common people with the diverse forms of wildlife and flora. At the same time people have to create awareness about the many benefits for their conservation

4. The World Hearing Day (WHD) is observed annually on ___**3rd March**.

Note:

- World Hearing Day (WHD) is observed annually on 3rd March by the Office of Prevention of Blindness and Deafness of the WHO (World Health Organization) to raise awareness on how to prevent deafness and hearing loss. The day is being observed since 2007 and before 2016 it was known as International Ear Care Day.
- Theme of WHD 2020: Hearing for life: Don't let hearing loss limit you.
- The theme ensures that the people with hearing loss are able to achieve their full potential.

5. The National safety day is observed every year on ___**4th March**.

Note:

- The National safety day is observed every year on 4th March. This year 2020 will be celebrated as the 49th National Safety day organized by the National Safety Council (NSC).
- The National safety day is celebrated throughout the country to reiterate the importance of safety and create awareness throughout the country.
- The Theme of National Safety day 2020 is “Enhance Health & Safety Performance by Use of Advanced Technology”.

6. Janaushadhi week was celebrated throughout the country from ___**1st March to 7th March 2020**.

Note:

- The main aim of the week is to provide various activities like health checkup Camp, free doctor consultation, free medicine distribution is hosted by Jan Aushadhi Kendras.
- On the fourth day of the event for empowering women, the event was focused on the theme ‘Suvidha Se Sammaan’.
- The “Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana” initiated by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Government Of India to provide quality medicines at an affordable price.

New Appointments

1. Who has been appointed as the 8th Prime Minister of Malaysia ___**Muhyiddin bin Haji Muhammad Yassin**.

Note:

- 72 years old Former Deputy Prime Minister Muhyiddin bin Haji Muhammad Yassin took oath of office as Malaysia's 8th Prime Minister(PM) at National Palace in Kuala Lumpur.
- He is from Malaysian United Indigenous Party, Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia (PPBM).

- He succeeds 94-year-old Mahathir bin Mohamad, who abruptly resigned & was in office since the general elections 2018.
2. Who has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Nokia ____ **Pekka Lundmark**.
- Note:**
- Nokia appointed Pekka Lundmark as CEO (Chief Executive Officer) and he will take charge from September 1, 2020.
 - He will be the successor of Rajeev Suri, who was more than a decade in charge of Nokia and Nokia Siemens Networks.
 - Pekka Lundmark is currently serving as the CEO of Fortum since 2015 and also served as executive positions at Nokia between 1990 & 2000 including Vice President (VP) of strategy & business development at Nokia networks.
3. Who has been appointed as the new CMD of Metals & Minerals Trading Corporation (MMTC) ____ **Sudhanshu Pandey**.
- Note:**
- Sudhanshu Pandey, Additional Secretary at the Department of Commerce, assumed additional charge as CMD (Chairman & Managing Director) of MMTC (Metals & Minerals Trading Corporation).
 - He was the successor of Ved Prakash. Pandey currently discharges functions as the Chief Negotiator of India.
4. Who has been appointed as the new Finance Secretary of India ____ **Ajay Bhushan Pandey**.
- Note:**
- Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) headed by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi has approved the appointment of Ajay Bhushan Pandey as the new Finance Secretary in Ministry of Finance. He will succeed current Rajiv Kumar, who has retired in February 2020.
 - Ajay Bhushan Pandey is a 1984 batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of Maharashtra cadre who had earlier worked as the chief executive officer (CEO) of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI).
 - The new one-rupee notes will have his bilingual signature of Finance Secretary.
5. Who has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer of the SBI Life Insurance Company ____ **Sanjeev Nautiyal**.
- Note:**
- The Board of Directors of SBI Life Insurance Company re-appointed Sanjeev Nautiyal as managing director (MD) and chief executive officer of the company (CEO) with effect from March 10, 2020 replacing Arijit Basu.
 - This approval is given by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) and members of the Company.
 - He served as a Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the SBI Life since March 10, 2018.
6. Who has been appointed as new prime minister of Ukraine ____ **Denys Shmygal**.
- Note:**
- Ukraine parliament Or Verkhovna Rada approved Denys Shmygal (44) as a new prime minister & also approved Oleksiy Honcharuk (35) resignation who is previous PM.
 - Denys Shmygal is the nominee of Volodymyr Zelensky, the President of Ukraine.
 - He won by majority, previously he held the post as the Deputy Prime Minister in charge of regional Development & before that was governor of the western Ivano-Frankivsk region.
7. Who has been elected as Director General of World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) ____ **Daren Tang**.
- Note:**
- Singapore's Daren Tang was elected as Director General of World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO).
 - He will succeed Australia's Francis Gurry who will step down at the end of September after 12 years of being in this position.
 - As a traditional formality the vote will be confirmed in an extraordinary Session where, the WIPO General Assembly, the Paris Union Assembly, and the Berne Union Assembly will meet on May 7 & 8, 2020.
8. Who has been elected as the new prime minister of Slovenia ____ **Janez Jansa**.
- Note:**

- Slovenia's lawmakers have approved the Leader of Slovenian Democratic Party (SDS), Janez Jansa as Slovenia's new Prime Minister.
- He will replace center-left Prime Minister Marjan Sarec, who resigned from his post in January 2020.
- Janez Jansa (61), led the Slovenian government from 2004 to 2008 and from 2012 to 2013. He has a close ally of Poland's Jaroslaw Kaczynski and Hungary's Viktor Orban.

Important News - India

1. Indian Air Force signed MoU with which University to establish a 'Chair of Excellence' named "Marshal of the Air Force Arjan Singh Chair of Excellence" ____ **Savitribai Phule Pune University**.
Note:
 - **Indian Air Force (IAF)** and **Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU)** signed a **MoU** (Memorandum of Understanding) to establish a '**Chair of Excellence**' at Department of Defense & Strategic Studies at Pune, Maharashtra.
 - In order to pay tribute to the legend and commemorate the centenary birth year of the MIAF (Marshal of the Indian Air Force), IAF has named it as "Marshal of the Air Force Arjan Singh Chair of Excellence".
2. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla launched 'Suposhit Maa Abhiyan' in ____ **Kota, Rajasthan**.
Note:
 - Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has launched 'Suposhit Maa Abhiyan' in his constituency Kota, Rajasthan, to provide nutritional support to pregnant women and adolescent girls.
 - Smriti Irani, Ministry of Women & Child Development & Ministry of Textiles, also presided over the function.
 - The aim of the campaign is to preserve & maintain the health of our future generations.
3. 108th Indian Science Congress 2021 will be held in ____ **Pune, Maharashtra**.
Note:
 - The Indian Science Congress association (ISCA) announced that Pune will host the annual session of 108th Indian Science Congress on January 3-7, 2021 at Symbiosis International University's Lavale campus with the theme, "Science and Technology for Sustainable Development with Women Empowerment".
 - Dr Vijay Laxmi Saxena elected as general president of the Indian Science Congress, 2020-21
4. Which wildlife sanctuary has received eco-sensitive zone tag ____ **National Chambal Sanctuary**.
Note:
 - 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.
5. 11th National Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Conference -2020 was held in ____ **New Delhi**.
Note:
 - A 3-day long 11th National Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Conference -2020 based on the theme 'Empowering Youth for Technology Led Farming'.
 - It was inaugurated by Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar.
 - The conference, organized by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), focused on technology-led farming and youth entrepreneurship through agriculture.
6. Under the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA), a financial assistance of Rs 1.51 crore has been sanctioned to ____ **Kaziranga National Park**.
Note:
 - under the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA), a financial assistance of Rs 1.51 crore has been sanctioned to Kaziranga National Park in Kanchanjuri, Assam during the financial years 2018-19 and 2019-2020.

- For the financial years 2018-19 Rs 94,46,585 was sanctioned while Rs 51,24,670 was allocated for 2019-2020.
7. 35th edition of the International food and hospitality fair 'AAHAR 2020' commences in ____ **New Delhi**.
- Note:**
- A 5-day-long 35th edition of the International 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.
 - The fair, open for business visitors from 10 am to 6 pm, is being jointly organized by India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) in partnership with the Agriculture and Processed Food Products Development Authority (APEDA), Union Ministry of Food Processing Industries and several apex industry associations
8. An International Conference and Exhibition on Smart Energy and Water India Smart Utility Week 2020 (ISUW) for Smarter Cities was held in ____ **New Delhi**.
- Note:**
- New Delhi based India Smart Grid Forum (ISGF) has been organizing India Smart Utility Week 2020 (ISUW) as an International Conference and Exhibition on Smart Energy and Water for Smarter Cities in New Delhi from March 3-7, 2020.
 - India and European Union (EU) called upon the Integrated Local Energy System, in which they will jointly work upon clean energy.
 - India and Sweden are also agreed to jointly work on Smart Grids Programme, which is to be funded by Department of Science and Technology (DST)
9. Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat launched Phase II of Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) ____ **in New Delhi**.
- Note:**
- This phase-II will be implemented from 2020-21 to 2024-25 with an outlay of Rs. 1,40,881 crores.
 - During the workshop, a study namely "Impact of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) on the convenience, safety and self-respect of women in rural India" by the UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund), and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) on the impact of the SBM(G) on rural women was also released
10. Maharashtra Government renamed Aurangabad Airport as ____ **Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj Airport**.
- Note:**
- The Maharashtra Government renamed Aurangabad Airport as Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj Airport.
 - The decision was taken at a meeting of the state cabinet, chaired by Maharashtra Chief Minister (CM) Uddhav Bal Thackeray.
 - The name of the airport has been renamed in order to honour Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, who was the son of Maratha warrior King Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.
11. International Conference on Nano Science and Technology 2020 (ICONSAT) was held in ____ **Kolkata, West Bengal**.
- Note:**
- The event was supported by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and organized by S.N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences, Kolkata. The conference was held from March 5 to 7, 2020.
 - The conference provides a platform for the young researchers & students from within the country and abroad, with the latest development in the emerging areas of Nano Science and Technology
12. 5th edition of India Pharma & India Medical Device 2020 Conference held at ____ **Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.
- Note:**
- The 5th edition of India Pharma 2020 and India Medical Device 2020 Conference & Exhibition will be held at Gandhinagar, Gujarat from March 5 to 7, 2020.
 - The conference was organized by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers in association with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI)
13. The National Water Mission organized the inaugural session of the workshop on "Increasing Water Use Efficiency in Industries" in ____ **New Delhi**.
- Note:**
- The National Water Mission organized the inaugural session of the workshop on "Increasing Water Use Efficiency in Industries".
 - The workshop on "Increasing Water Use Efficiency in Industries" was held in New Delhi.
 - The National Water Mission organized the workshop under the initiative "HarKaamDeshkeNaam".

14. Name the mobile app which has been launched by the government for delivery of diesel at doorsteps of Housing societies, hotels and hospitals in the national capital region ____ **'Fuel Humsafar'**.

Note:

- Minister of State (I/C) for Labour and Employment, Santosh Gangwar has launched a mobile application named 'Fuel Humsafar' for delivery of diesel at doorsteps of Housing societies, hotels and hospitals in the national capital region.
- The app will be used for the fuel delivery services to housing societies, hotels, hospitals, malls, construction sites, industries, banquets and other bulk buyers of diesel in various NCR cities, including Gurugram, Ghaziabad, Noida, Faridabad, Hapur, Kundli, Manesar, and Bahadurgarh.

15. Which Festival has been organised in New Delhi to promote Craftsmanship & Products of Divyang Artisans and Entrepreneurs ____ **"EKAM Fest"**.

Note:

- National Handicapped Finance Development Corporation (NHFDC) has organised the exhibition-cum-Fair under the Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry.
- The NHFDC foundation is working to develop a brand and platform for marketing of products made by Divyang Artisans and Entrepreneurs. The name of the brand has been chosen as "EKAM".
- EKAM signifies Entrepreneurship, Knowledge, Awareness, Marketing.

Important News – State

1. Which state government has prohibited Online Food Supply Aggregators (OFSAs) related to those Food Business Operators (FBOs) who are not possessing hygiene rating ____ **Punjab**.

Note:

- Punjab government's Food and Drug Administration has prohibited Online Food Supply Aggregators (OFSAs) related to those Food Business Operators (FBOs) who are not possessing hygiene rating, by invoking provisions under Section 18(1)(a) of food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 to ensure safe food to public.
- It also prohibits OFSAs from sourcing the food from FBOs where rating is less than three out of five.
- The prohibition orders would be effective for one year beginning April 30, 2020.

2. The historic City Chowk, which was a commercial center in Old Jammu, has been renamed as ____ **'Bharat Mata Chowk'**.

Note:

- A resolution in this regard was passed by the General house of the BJP (Bharatiya Janata Party)-led Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), after which it was done.
- Along with this, the starting point of the circular road near Panjtirthi in the city has also been changed to 'Atal Chowk' in the memory of former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- This is the first major change in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) after becoming a union territory (UT).

3. Tamil Nadu government has launched the 5 year Tamil Nadu Health System Reform Programme that will be implemented with the ____ **World Bank's fund**.

Note:

- This was the first Program-for-Results (PforR) project for the Bank in India and the first for Tamil Nadu.
- This is to strengthen the management of non-communicable diseases (NCD) & injuries, improve the quality of care & reduce the inequities in reproductive and child health services in the State.
- The total cost is Rs 2,857.003 crore, of which World Bank has provided Rs 1999.902 crore. The remaining cost will be provided by Tamil Nadu State government.

4. With which state government the Airport Authority of India (AAI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) equipment hiring centers ____ **Tripura**.

- The project has been taken by the AAI as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) scheme and the project will benefit 6000 families.
- The equipment hiring centers consists of equipment related to agriculture, animal husbandry & fisheries and the equipment will be rented to the needy farmers, Self Help Groups (SHG) & to other needy at a minimal cost.

5. Which state government to provide monthly grant of Rs 900 for adopting a stray cattle ____ **Uttar Pradesh**.

Note:

6. Which city will be the summer capital of Uttarakhand ____ **Gairsain**.

Note:

- Chief Minister (CM) of Uttarakhand Trivendra Singh Rawat announced 'Gairsain' as the summer capital of the state, on the 3rd day of the budget session held in Gairsain, Uttarakhand.
- The announcement fulfils the long-standing demand of hill people and the people who sacrificed themselves for the formation of Uttarakhand state.
- Those who spearheaded the movement for statehood to Uttarakhand in 1990 wanted Gairsain in Chamoli district to be made as permanent capital.

Important News – World

1. To restore peace in Afghanistan the United States and Taliban militants have signed historic peace agreement in ____ **Doha, Qatar.**

Note:

- The agreement, signed by the US special envoy for Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad and Taliban leader Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar in the presence of Michael Richard Pompeo, United States Secretary of State, would end the 18 years-long American war in Afghanistan.
- India's Ambassador to Qatar, P. Kumaran attend the US-Taliban peace deal in Doha on behalf of India. This is the first time India has officially joined any Taliban related case.

2. Which country becomes the world's 1st nation to make all public transport free ____ **Luxembourg.**

Note:

- In order to reduce traffic pressure on the road, Luxembourg, the 7th smallest country in Europe, has been made public transport free from February 29, 2020. It became the first country in the world to do so.
- However, this free public transport system does not include 1st -class travel tickets on trains and certain night bus services. Commuters can still pay for first class, at a cost of 660 euros a year.

3. What is India's rank in the 'Freedom in the World 2020' report released by the Freedom House, a U.S (United States) - based watchdog that conducts research and advocacy on democracy ____ **83rd.**

Note:

- According to the 'Freedom in the World 2020' report, released by the Freedom House, a U.S (United States) -based watchdog that conducts research and advocacy on democracy, India has ranked 83rd in the report along with Timor-Leste and Senegal in 'Free' category.
- While, Finland topped the list as the free democratic country.
- The report derives its methodology from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948.
- The report analyzes democratic values and people's freedom in 195 countries & 15 territories and ranks them category-wise.

4. The European Commission has launched a new global coalition for biodiversity called 'United for Biodiversity' in ____ **Monaco.**

Note:

- On the occasion of the World Wildlife Day on March 3, 2020, the European Commission has launched a new global coalition for biodiversity called 'United for Biodiversity' in Monaco.
- The coalition consists of national parks, aquariums, botanical gardens, zoos, science and natural history museums from around the world to boost public awareness about the nature crisis

5. India joined the Indian Ocean Commission as the ____ **fifth observer.**

Note:

- The other four observers in the grouping are Malta, China, European Union and OIF (International Organization of La Francophonie).
- It is important for India to join as an observer at the Commission because, it will help India in expanding its plans in Western Indian Ocean. The Western Indian Ocean strategically connects South Eastern Coast of Africa.
- However, this move is not connected with the Chinese presence in the Indian Ocean. This is purely to support India interests in the western flanks of the Indo-Pacific region.

6. To contain COVID-19, the Corona Virus what amount will be provided by the Asian Development Bank is to its members countries ____ **4 million USD.**

Note:

- The fund is being allocated for buying emergency supplies, assessing health systems, improve resilience and respond to animal human disease outbreaks.
- The main objective of fund allocation is to strengthen immediate response in China, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Myanmar and Vietnam.
- The bank has also sanctioned special loan of 18.6 million USD to China to enhance distribution and supply of protective equipment and essential medicines.

Honor & Awards

1. Who has been honoured with the Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee award for politics ____ **Sarbananda Sonowal**.

Note:

- Assam's Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal was honoured with Swarajya Awards 2020 under the category, Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee Award for Politics at the 6th India Ideas Conclave at Tent City Narmada in Gujarat.
- The award is instituted by India Foundation & Indic Academy, & presented by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Speaker of People's Majlis of Maldives Mohamed Nasheed.

2. Which film won the Golden Bear prize 2020 for the best picture at the Berlin International Film Festival 2020 ____ **'There Is No Evil'**.

Note:

- The 70th edition of Berlin International Film Festival 2020 was held in Berlin, Germany from 20 February–1 March 2020.
- It was the first under the leadership of new Berlin Film Festival heads, business administration director Mariette Rissenbeek and artistic director Carlo Chatrian.
- The Opening film of the festival was 'My Salinger Year' & the Closing film was 'There Is No Evil'.

3. Who has been named as the 128th Commonwealth Points of Light Award winner ____ **Jadav Payeng**.

Note:

- Jadav Payeng, an environmental activist of Assam also known as the "Forest man of India" named as 128th winner of Commonwealth Points of Light Award.
- He had spent 30 years of his life for planting trees.
- He was honored by the Head of Common Wealth the Queen Elizabeth II for his exceptional volunteer service in environmental conservation.

4. In the Time Magazine's '100 women of the year' to recognize selected women or groups to represent each year from 1920 to 2019 former prime minister Indira Gandhi will be honored as 'Women of the Year' for ____ **1976**.

Note:

- TIME Magazine created 100 New Covers for the Project '100 women of the year' to recognize selected women or groups to represent each year from 1920 to 2019.
- India's freedom fighter Amrit Kaur will be honored as 'Women of the Year' for 1947 & Former prime minister Indira Gandhi for 1976.

5. Who has been adjudged as the Sportsman of the year in the 4th edition of Times of India Sports Awards 2019 ____ **PV Sindhu**.

Note:

- The 4th edition of TOISA (Times of India Sports Awards) awards honoured the best Indian in 2019 sports in New Delhi, India. The event was powered by BHIM-UPI (Bharat Interface for Money- Unified Payments Interface).
- Rohit Sharma was named as the Cricketer of the year and PV Sindhu was named as the Sportsman of the year as she won gold at the World Championships in Basel, Switzerland.

Sports News

1. Who won the Mexico Open Men's single title ____ **Rafael Nadal**.

Note:

- It was the 27th edition of men's Mexican Open and 20th for the women with a prize money of ATP (Association of Tennis Professionals) \$1,789,445 (USD) & WTA (Women's Tennis Association) \$ 250,000 (USD).
- The tournament was consisted of two categories ATP 500 & WTA International.
- Rafael Nadal (33) clinched the 85th ATP Tour title defeating Taylor Fritz in the final, 6-3, 6-2.

- He won the ATP 500 title for the third time and first since the event changed from clay to hard-court in 2014.
2. 1st Khelo India University Games 2020 was held in ____**Bhubaneswar**.
- Note:**
- The 1st edition of the 2020 Khelo India University Games (KIUG) was held from February 22 – March 1, 2020 at KIIT University (Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology University) in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
 - The tournament, inaugurated by Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi, held with the official mascots of 'Jay and Bijay'.
 - Panjab University (PB) emerged as the winner of Khelo India University Games 2020 with 45 medals
3. International Hockey Federation (FIH) World Rankings 2020, ranks Indian Hockey men's team in ____**4th place**.
- Note:**
- Fédération Internationale de Hockey or International Hockey Federation (FIH) World Rankings 2020, ranks Indian Hockey men's team at 4th position with 2064.
 - 14 points for the 1st time & Women's team is ranked at 9th with 1543 points.
 - The men's list is topped by Belgium for the first time with 2481.34 & women's list is topped by Netherlands with 2626.03 points.
4. Name the player who won the bronze medal in the Yonex Dutch Junior International 2020 competition ____**Tasnim Mir & Mansi Singh**.
- Note:**
- Young Indian badminton players Tasnim Mir (14) & Mansi Singh (14) have won historic bronze medal each in the girls' singles section of the Yonex Dutch Junior International 2020 competition held at B.C. Duinwijck, in Haarlem, Netherlands from 26 February 2020 – March 1, 2020.
 - This is the first time India has won two bronze medals in this BWF Junior International Grand Prix tournament.
5. Badminton Asia Championships 2020 has been shifted to ____**Manila, Philippines**.
- Note:**
- Badminton Asia confirmed that Badminton world federation (BWF) has shifted the Badminton Asia Championships 2020 to Manila, Philippines from Wuhan, China. It will be conducted in Manila from April 21 to 26, 2020.
 - The Badminton Asia Championship 2020 event is shifted due to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and this championship falls within the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games Qualification window.
 - The Philippine Badminton Association (PBA) successfully hosted the Asia Team Championships from Feb 11-16 2020, in Manila.
6. Which city will host the International Olympic Committee (IOC) session 2023 as recommended by IOC Executive Board ____**Mumbai**.
- Note:**
- Mumbai will host the International Olympic Committee (IOC) session 2023 as recommended by IOC Executive Board and the decision will be approved at the 136th IOC session in Tokyo in July 2020.
 - The IOC session was held in 1983 in New Delhi and the session is going to be held in India after 40 years.
 - The Evaluation Commission had visited Mumbai in October 2019 to study the feasibility of hosting the session & the board selected Mumbai due to the quality of the facilities at the Jio World Centre, Mumbai, Maharashtra.
7. All India Police Athletic Championship 2019 was held in ____**Panchkula Haryana**.
- Note:**
- All India Police Athletic Championship 2019 has commenced in the Panchkula District of Haryana. This is the 68th edition of All India Police Athletic Championship.
 - The championship aims to enhance India's performance in the Olympics scheduled to be held in 2028.
 - To achieve this feat, the Government of India has identified more than 15,000 children and has also commenced their training.
 - These selected children are receiving their training in 284 Sports Authority of India (SAI) training centres across the country.

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