

# Monthly GK Digest

March 2020



## Monthly Digest March -2020

**Dear readers,**

This **Monthly GK Digest** is a **complete docket** of important news and events that occurred in a month of March **2020**. This file is important for, **Bank, SSC and Railways** 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. **State Bank of India** has switched to Cash Budget Based Assessment (CBBA) method of assessment for corporates.  
**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. **RBL Bank** has ties-up with Zomato to launch co-branded credit card powered by Mastercard.  
**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.
4. The Indian Institute of Technology, Mandi and Enabling Women of Kamand (EWOK) Society have signed a tripartite agreement with **NABARD** for setting up 3 Farmer Producer Organisation,  
**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. **Paytm Insurance Broking** has received the brokerage licence from the Insurance Regulatory and Authority of India (IRDAI).  
**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.
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 **Rs 1.46 lakh crore** in the rural banking system during the current fiscal-FY (2019-20).

- 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 **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.
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 **Saraswat Co-operative Bank** to distribute its products with the bank's customers base spread across its 280 branches in 6 states.  
**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. 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.
12. Under its 'Bachhpan Ka Rakshakaran' program which entity is to provide football coaching to under-privileged girls -- **Tata AIA Life Insurance**.  
**Note:** In order to create interest in education for the under-privileged girls aged 12-16 years, by using football coaching as a medium, Tata AIA Life Insurance has launched a 'Bachhpan Ka Rakshakaran' program in association with Mumbai based Non-profit 'Oscar Foundation'. It is a joint venture company formed by Tata Sons Ltd and AIA Group Ltd (AIA). It also conducted a full day coaching session at Astra Turf, WIFA (Western India Football Association), Cooperage, Colaba in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
13. **Hyderabad Metro Rail Limited** in partnership with Paytm has launched a QR-code-based metro ticketing system.  
**Note:** This system will help people book digital tickets easily and it also reduces the ticket congestion at the ticket counters. It also provides a hassle-free journey to the customers. Hyderabad Metro Rail Limited (HMRL) will introduce two more trains between Ameerpet and Raidurgam route.
14. Board of Approval headed by Anup Wadhawan approved TCS, DLF proposals to set up SEZs for IT in **Haryana and Uttar Pradesh**.  
**Note:** The highest decision-making body for special economic zones (SEZs) chaired by the commerce secretary Anup Wadhawan, has approved the proposals of Information technology (IT) major TCS and DLF Limited to establish a special economic zones (SEZs) for IT sector in Uttar Pradesh (UP) and Haryana respectively. TCS has proposed to establish an IT/ITeS (Information Technology Enabled Services.) SEZ in Noida, Uttar Pradesh, over an area of 19.9 hectare at a cost of Rs 2,433.72 crore. Similarly, DLF has proposed to establish two SEZs in Haryana with an investments worth of Rs 793.95 crore and Rs 761.54 crore.
15. Under the draft scheme of reconstruction of the Yes Bank "Yes Bank Ltd. Reconstruction Scheme, 2020" SBI can invest for up to **49% stake**.  
**Note:** Reserve Bank of India (RBI) after exercising its powers conferred under sub-section (4) of section 45 of



the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, has issued a draft scheme of reconstruction of the Yes Bank. It should be noted that State Bank of India (SBI) wants to invest in Yes Bank and also to participate in its reconstruction scheme. SBI can invest for up to 49% stake for nearly Rs 2,450 crore. Here are the key points from draft scheme titled "Yes Bank Ltd. Reconstruction Scheme, 2020":

- 16.** As a result of Coronavirus (COVID-19), Moody's Investors Service again lowered India's growth projection to **5.3% for 2020**.

**Note:** Previously on February 17, 2020 it had reduced India's growth projection from 6.6% to 5.4% for 2020. Moody's Global Macro Outlook stated that the spread of COVID-19 will result in simultaneous supply & demand shocks which will result in further slowing down of the global economic activity particularly in the 1st half of this year.

- 17.** On the basis of 'Customers First' approach **State Bank of India** has reduced its interest rate on savings bank (SB) accounts to 3% along with waiving off of average monthly balance (AMB) for all SB accounts.

**Note:** State Bank of India (SBI) has reduced its interest rate on savings bank (SB) accounts to 3% along with waiving off of average monthly balance (AMB) for all SB accounts on the basis of 'Customers First' approach. Also, to make home and auto loans cheaper SBI reduced its one-year marginal cost of fund-based lending rate (MCLR) to 7.75% from 7.85%. All these changes are with effect from March 10, 2020.

- 18.** To provide a shield against all uncertainties of life at an affordable premium which company has launched iSelect+ Term Plan -- **Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance Company**.

**Note:** Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance Company Limited launched iSelect+ Term Plan to provide a shield against all uncertainties of life at an affordable premium which includes Whole Life Cover, Return of Premium, Multiple Payout Options, Increase Coverage Option & Tax Benefits. The plan is designed to provide a death benefit, terminal illness, & has additional options of the accidental death benefit, accidental total, permanent disability benefit & child support benefit.

- 19.** To improve water management practices & also to increase agricultural productivity which state has signed a loan agreement of US\$80 million with World Bank -- **Himachal Pradesh**.

**Note:** The Integrated Project for Source Sustainability & Climate Resilient Rain-Fed Agriculture to be implemented in 428 Gram Panchayats in 10 districts which will benefit over 400,000 smallholder farmers, women & pastoral communities. It will improve upstream water sources to ensure sufficient water is available for sustainable agriculture in Himachal Pradesh & downstream states.

- 20.** Name the world's first Digital Solutions Exchange Cloud launched in India -- **GOKADDAL**.

**Note:** GOKADDAL, the World's first Digital Solutions Exchange in Cloud, was launched in India on March 11, 2020. www.gokaddal.com, a cloud-based solution exchange platform mainly focuses on 4A's – Automation, Artificial Intelligence, Analytics and Augmentative Technologies. It is a Business to Business (B2B), Business to Government (B2G), Business to Consumer (B2C) solution platform which connects solution providers to solution seekers and an innovative platform for Startups and SME companies.

- 21. Amitabh Bachchan** has been appointed as the first-ever brand ambassador of IDFC Bank.

**Note:** Bollywood actor Amitabh Bachchan was appointed as the first-ever ambassador of the IDFC FIRST Bank. IDFC FIRST Bank was founded as a new entity by the merger of IDFC Bank and Capital First on December 18, 2018.

- 22. Rs 7,250 crore** has been approved by the executive committee of the central board of State Bank of India to invest in Yes Bank.

**Note:** The executive committee of the central board of State Bank of India (SBI) has approved an investment of Rs 7,250 crore in Yes Bank Ltd. as a part of RBI formulated rescue plan titled "Yes Bank Ltd. Reconstruction Scheme, 2020" for the revival of Yes Bank. The SBI has not specified its shareholding the bank but it will remain under 49% of the paid-up capital of the Yes Bank. The investment has been made by purchasing 725 crore equity shares of Yes Bank at a price of Rs 10 per share

- 23.** According to the report "Developments in India's Balance of Payments during the third quarter (October-December) of 2019-20", released by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), India's current account deficit (CAD) fell sharply to USD **1.4 billion, or 0.2 % of GDP**.

**Note:** This figure was 2.7 % of GDP (or \$ 17.7 billion) in the same period of last fiscal and 0.9 % of GDP (or \$ 6.5 billion) in the previous quarter of the current financial year. The Net Foreign direct investment (FDI) stood at \$

- 10.0 billion. It is higher level than in the same period of 2018-19, which registered \$ 7.3 billion. Foreign portfolio investments: It posted a net inflow of \$ 7.8 billion compared to an outflow of \$ 2.1 billion in 2018-19 due to net purchases in both the debt and equity markets.
- 24. For UPI transactions PhonePe inks partnership with private sector lender ICICI Bank.**  
**Note:** PhonePe earlier partnered with Yes Bank, but after YES Bank has been placed under moratorium by Reserve Bank of India due to which UPI transactions at PhonePe got disrupted. The popular payment app had faced outage for nearly 24 hours after the Reserve Bank of India put a moratorium on March 5.
- 25. RBI issues guidelines for Ind AS implementation by NBFCs and ARCs.**  
**Note:** The guidance has been framed to promote a high quality, consistent implementation, and better supervision of FS. The guidelines mandate NBFCs/ARCs to put in place board-approved policies that clearly articulate and document their business models and portfolios.
- 26. The Reserve Bank of India revised exposure limits for urban cooperative banks (UCBs) to a single borrower and a group of borrowers to 15 per cent and 25 per cent respectively for tier-1 capital.**  
**Note:** The revised exposure limits shall be applicable to all types of fresh exposures taken by UCBs. The RBI had earlier permitted UCBs to have exposures up to 15% and 40% of their capital funds to a single borrower and a group of borrowers, respectively. UCBs shall have at least 50% of their aggregate loans and advances comprising loans of not more than Rs 25 lakh or 0.2% of their tier 1 capital, whichever is higher, subject to a maximum of Rs 1 crore, per borrower.
- 27. To sell quick life insurance policies Flipkart has partnered with Aegon life insurance.**  
**Note:** With instant life insurance cover through a digital policy as its core value proposition, such policies do not require medical tests or paperwork. Life insurance has the second highest penetration among all types of insurance available in the country. This partnership aims to overcome the issue & make life insurance more convenient & transparent for customers at the click of a button.
- 28. 39th GST Council meet on 'Know your Supplier' was held in New Delhi.**  
**Note:** It was headed by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. During the summit several decisions have been taken regarding the GST mechanism on particular sections. One of the decisions includes calculation of delayed GST payment on the net tax liability w.e.f. 1st July 2017, the day the GST came into force. Net cash tax liability is arrived at after deducting the input tax credits available from gross tax liability.
- 29. OIL signed Crude Oil agreement with Numaligarh Refinery.**  
**Note:** The agreement is named as Crude Oil Sales Agreement (COSA) which have a term of 5 years. It is expected to organize the sale & purchase transactions of crude oil produced from fields in northeastern India.
- 30. An 'Innovate for accessible India campaign' has been launched by Microsoft India and NASSCOM Foundation.**  
**Note:** It is a nation-wide innovation challenge aimed at empowering people with disabilities with the new technologies required for better integration into society and access to equal opportunities. The campaign was launched in partnership with the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Department of Science & Technology (DST), Ministry of Science and Technology and National Research and Education Network (NREN).
- 31. To provide ease for payments industry players the Reserve Bank of India has launched new guidelines for payment aggregators.**  
**Note:** These are issued under Section 18 read with Section 10(2) of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 and shall come into effect from April 1, 2020. The new rules are for non-bank PAs. RBI has reduced the minimum capital requirements (MCR) for PAs at the time of application for the licence to Rs 15 crore from Rs 100 crore. However, the net worth needs to be increased to Rs 25 crore within three years of operations. Means the PAs who apply for authorisation on April 4, 2020, they need to achieve Rs 25 crore net-worth by March 31, 2023, and thereafter.
- 32. RBI opens 6 months dollar-swap window along with infusion of Rs 1,00,000 crore through LTRO.**  
**Note:** There is global instability in financial markets due to the spread of COVID 19 (Coronavirus), which may lead or leading to a slowdown in growth. Every economy is making efforts to stabilize the financial market condition, among them, the Central Bank of India i.e. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has opened a six-month dollar sell-buy swap window, and will also inject Rs 1,00,000 crore additional Long Term Repo Operations (LTROs) at the policy repo rate. These measures taken by RBI are to boost liquidity in the foreign exchange market of India and will serve the requirement of U.S. dollars in the market.
- 33. S&P slashes India's growth rate for 2020 to 5.2% from 5.7%**  
**Note:** It says that the global economy is entering a recession due to the spread of infection of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. As a result, the growth rate in the Asia Pacific may be reduced by half to

- around 3%. It lowered China's growth rate to 2.9%, Japan's growth rate to -1.2 % (from 4.8 %, and -0.4% predicted earlier) respectively. To boost economic activity, the US Fed has raised interest rates to near zero, while the Bank of Japan has increased asset purchases.
- 34. For Research in Cybersecurity Programs L&T Technology Services has signed with IIT-Kanpur.**  
**Note:** 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 cybersecurity. The MoU is signed between Dr Keshab Panda, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of LTTS and Professor Manindra Agarwal, Padma Shri Awardee, Deputy Director at IIT-Kanpur.
- 35. RBI extended authorisation for white label ATMs till Mar 31, 2021 to Vakrangee Ltd.**  
**Note:** In this regard, Renewal of Authorization has been granted to Vakrangee Limited. As per the renewal, Vakrangee Ltd has to deploy minimum 1,000 ATMs for every calendar year starting 2020 for an initial period of three years. They shall be in the ratio of 1:2:3 for Metro & Urban, Semi-Urban and Rural regions respectively. It should be noted that ATM is one of the key services offered by Vakrangee under Nextgen Vakrangee Kendra Business Model.
- 36. Paytm payment banks will issue virtual debit cards to customers.**  
**Note:** After Rupay debit cards Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL) announced to issue Visa virtual debit cards to its customers. It targets to issue over 10 million new digital debit cards in 2020-21. This issue will enable the customers to transact at all merchants who accept payments through cards. They can make international transactions using the card. Shortly, they will have an option to request a physical card, which enables them to have a contactless payment by the chip-inserted cards. The bank is famous for launching neo-banking in the country & is the largest issuer of RuPay Debit Cards.
- 37. To roll out insurance plan covering COVID-19 which bank has ties up with Bharti AXA -- DBS Bank India.**  
**Note:** DBS Bank India Limited has entered into the partnership with Bharti AXA General Insurance Company Ltd to launch a complimentary insurance for customers of DBS treasures. DBS is a wholly-owned subsidiary of DBS (Development Bank of Singapore) Bank Ltd. The plan covers all medical conditions including Novel Coronavirus (Covid-19), under which a cover of Rs 5000 per day is available for a period of 30 days if DBS customers are hospitalized for 10 days. Apart from this, the customers of the bank can also adopt health insurance products which are currently available through the General Insurance Partner on the Digibank app.
- 38. Financial organization SIDBI will launch 'Swavalamban express'.**  
**Note:** Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has decided to launch a special train 'Swavalamban Express' on June 05, 2020, to empower new entrepreneurs under its mission Swavalamban. SIDBI is engaged in the promotion, financing and development of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).
- 39. Fitch Ratings in its Global Economic Outlook 2020 has declined India's growth forecast to 5.1% for FY 2020-21.**  
**Note:** For FY 2021-22, Fitch has projected India's growth at 6.4%. In December 2019, Fitch projected India's growth at 5.6% for 2020-21 and 6.5% in the FY2021-22. This downward revision is not only impacted by coronavirus but it also worsened due to steady decline in the financial position of Yes Bank.
- 40. ICICI Lombard general insurance company has introduced a 1 year-long "COVID-19 Protection Cover" at a premium of Rs. 149.**  
**Note:** Launched in group insurance mode, this policy will pay 100% of the sum insured to the COVID-19 positive individual, irrespective of hospitalization expenses. It should be noted that it provides a sum insured of 25,000 including value-added benefits such as Health Assistance and CHAT/Virtual assistance, teleconsultation and ambulance assistance, as part of the offering. The age group of 18-75 years is eligible for COVID-19 protection cover. -100% of the opted sum insured will be paid as a lump sum in the event of first diagnosis itself.
- 41. Star Health and Allied Insurance Co Ltd. has launched 'Star Novel Coronavirus Insurance Policy' that provides coverage for hospitalized patients who test positive for the current pandemic COVID-19.**  
**Note:** The company has set a premium of Rs 459 plus GST (Goods and Services Tax) for a sum insured of Rs. 21,000 and a premium of Rs 918 plus GST for a sum insured of Rs 42,000. Anyone aged 18-65 years can avail this policy online at www.starhealth.in or through the company's network of insurance agents. However, this coverage does not apply to those who have traveled overseas.
- 42. Due to the coronavirus pandemic Crisil downgraded India's GDP for FY 2021 to 5.2%.**  
**Note:** As per Crisil, if the COVID 19 is not tackled by April-June 2020 globally then it may lead to a severe slowdown. CRISIL says that it is spreading rapidly in India causing adverse effects on domestic consumption, investment, and production and slowing the financial markets.
- 43. Karur Vysya Bank (KVB) has launched India's 1st prepaid wallet card 'Enkasu'.**



**Note:** In a bid to promote digital India initiative of the central Government, Karur Vysya Bank (KVB), a Scheduled Commercial Bank in India, has launched India's 1st prepaid wallet card 'Enkasu'. The card functions based on Near Field Communication Technology (NFC) in a semi closed loop & the customers buying this card can make 'tap & go' payments for even small purchases to merchants from an amount of Rs. 1 to doing away with the need for cash & small change. These cards are special in a sense that it can be accepted 'online' & 'offline' as well.

44. The Reserve Bank of India has extended the 6-month regulatory restrictions on **PMC Bank**.

**Note:** Now, the restriction is extended for three more months i.e. from March 23, 2020 to June 22, 2020 to work out a revival scheme. The restriction has been imposed under Section 35A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 on withdrawal and lending. RBI also superseded the board and the management of PMCBank and appointed an ex-RBI official JB Bhorla as the administrator at the bank.

45. **State Bank of India** becomes the first bank to launch COVID 19 emergency credit line (CECL) to provide funds to businesses affected by the infectious coronavirus.  
**Note:** Under this emergency credit line, loan will be given at a fixed interest rate of 7.25 % for a period of 12 months. Maximum loan amount of up to Rs 200 crore or 10 % of the existing fund-based working capital limits (FBWC) will be provided and such facility will be available by 30 June 2020.

46. RBI has injected **30,000 crores rupees** through open market operations (OMOs) in the economy.  
**Note:** The RBI will purchase government securities under OMOs in two tranches of Rs 15,000 crore each. OMO is the sale and purchase of government securities and treasury bills by the central bank of the country. Already, RBI infused Rs 10,000 crore through open market operations, last week. RBI will purchase securities with a coupon rate of 6.84 per cent (maturity December 19, 2022); 7.72 per cent (May 25, 2025); 8.33 per cent (July 9, 2026) and 7.26 per cent (January 14, 2029).

47. **Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)** company has become the first company to begin the supply of BS-VI fuel across country.  
**Note:** All 28,000 petrol stations of IOC's across the country are dispensing BS-VI (Bharat Stage- VI) ultra-low sulphur grade fuel in order to reduce the pollution from vehicles in the air. India has switched to the cleanest fuel

as other fuel retailers such as Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) are also supplying BS-VI grade fuel. The Government of India had set April 1, 2020 as the deadline for starting supply of Euro- VI (equivalent to BS-VI grade) fuels in all petrol stations.

48. For Yes Bank the Reserve Bank of India has an emergency line of credit of **Rs. 59,000 crores**.

**Note:** After the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) reconstruction plan for Yes Bank, the latter has resumed its standard operations from last week. Now, to keep the liquidity of the bank for paying back to its depositors stable, RBI has opened an emergency line of credit of Rs 59,000 crore. This liquidity support to Yes Bank is an additional liquidity arsenal provided under Section 17 (4) of the RBI Act, 1934 as the bank has no solvency problem or any other issue except liquidity.

49. For building rural infrastructure in the FY 2019-20 the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) provides financial support of **Rs. 42,313 crores**.

**Note:** In this FY, NABARD has provided Rs 20,869 crore for irrigation related projects, in addition to Rs 5,686 crore for rural connectivity. Apart from this it has released Rs 10,935 crore for Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Gramin (PMAYG) to provide "housing for all by 2022" & for Swachh Bharat Mission to provide clean water and sanitation facilities.

50. Global Ratings agency, Standard & Poor's (S&P) has slashed India's economic growth forecast to **5.2 %**.  
**Note:** The agency has estimated a permanent loss of about \$ 620 billion in the Asia Pacific region due to Covid-19 pandemic. It has also reduced the growth forecast for 2021-22 to 6.9% from 7%. At the same time GDP growth could remain at 7% percent in the financial year 2022-23 and 2023-24. The agency believes that in the next financial year, the average inflation rate will come down to 4.4 % from 4.7 % in 2020.

51. **Jana Small Finance Bank (SFB)** in partnership with National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI), has launched a UPI QR-based loan installment payment facility.  
**Note:** Now the bank's customers can generate UPI QR code for their loan account and make instalment payments instantly using any of the UPI applications. The UPI QR-based payment mode is available for person to person (P2P) and person to merchant (P2M) payments.

- 52. National Investment Promotion & Facilitation Agency** has launched “The Invest India Business Immunity Platform” in order to minimise the impacts & crisis in business due to COVID-19 (Coronavirus).  
**Note:** The platform was hosted on the Invest India website, providing the latest initiative of the State and Central Governments. The Business Immunity Platform (BIP) is the active platform for business issue redressal which operates 24/7, with a team of dedicated sector experts & responds to queries at the earliest through emails and on WhatsApp.
- 53. Indian Bank** has launched five special emergency loans for large corporates, medium enterprises, MSMEs, salaried and pensioners.  
**Note:** This is as a support to its customers effecting through economic slump and lockdown because of COVID-19 pandemic. Earlier, State Bank of India (SBI), Union Bank of India (UBI), Bank of India (BOI) initiated schemes to provide liquidity relief to borrowers.
- 54. As per the Seventh Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement** what is the current repo rate -- **4.40 percent**.  
**Note:** Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released the Seventh Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement, 2019-20 Resolution of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC). RBI under which MPC has decided rate changes with immediate effect due to the current and evolving macroeconomic situation impacted by COVID-19.
- 55. CRISIL** has reduced India's GDP growth to **3.5%**.  
**Note:** CRISIL has reduced India's GDP (Gross Domestic Product) growth by 170 bps (basis points) to 3.5% for fiscal year-FY 2020-21 from 5.2 % estimated earlier. It revised downwards its projection due to the damaging impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.
- 56. Moody's Global Macro Outlook 2020-21** again slashed India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to **2.5%**.  
**Note:** It revised its estimate of India's GDP to 5.3% from 5.4% in February 2020 & also stated that the growth of the country can slow down to 5% in the absence of virus in the country. Moody's anticipate the global economy to shrink 0.5% of real GDP by 2020, then rise to 3.2% by 2021. China's growth forecast is again lowered to 3.3% in 2020 from 4.8%.
- 57. Asian Development Bank** will invest 100 million US Dollars in India's infrastructure sector through the government-promoted National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF).  
**Note:** With this, the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund has now received a total of \$700 million in commitments. The investment comes at a time when India's economy is expected to suffer huge losses due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) epidemic. This will help in increasing the capital of domestic private equity funds in India. It will also contribute a great deal in providing long term growth financing for private sector companies, social infrastructure development and economic development.
- 58. The mega bank consolidation plan** is all set to come into force from **1st April 2020**.  
**Note:** The branches of merging banks will operate as of the banks in which these 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 1, 2020. 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.
- 59. Punjab National Bank** has launched a new logo before the mega merger of the bank with the United Bank of India (UBI) and the Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC).  
**Note:** The new logo will have signages of all the 3 banks. With the merger, PNB will be the 2nd largest bank in the country with a total business and size of Rs 17.94 lakh crore. Currently, State Bank of India (SBI) is the largest bank in the country, whose total business is about 52 lakh crore rupees.
- 60. Fitch Ratings Inc** has lowered India's GDP (Gross Domestic Product) growth forecast to -- **4.6%**.  
**Note:** It cuts the rate due to weak domestic demand and private consumption, which put pressure on the investment amid the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. Earlier on March 2, 2020, Fitch has lowered India's GDP growth forecast to 4.9% for the fiscal year –FY20 (2019-2020) ending March 31, 2020 from 5.1% due to coronavirus and supply disruptions.

### 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 **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. Former chairman & CEO of General Electric (GE) Company **John Francis Welch Jr** passed away at the age of 84.  
**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. Former UN Chief & Prime Minister of Peru **Javier Perez de Cuellar** passed away recently.  
**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 passed away -- **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.
6. Kalyanasundaram Anbazhagan passed away recently, he was associated with **Politics**.  
**Note:** Kalyanasundaram Anbazhagan, DMK (Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam) party General Secretary for 43 years, passed away at the age of 97 in Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN). He was born as Ramaih on December 19, 1922 Kattoor, Thiruvavur district, TN. He was a sound academician and served general secretary of DMK party for 9 times from 1977.
7. Renowned personality Hansaraj Bhardwaj passed away recently, he was associated with **Politics**.  
**Note:** Former Union Law Minister and former governor of Karnataka & Kerala, Senior Congress leader passed away at the age of 83 in New Delhi, India. He was born in Garhi Sampla village in Rohtak district, Haryana. He also holds the record of India's second longest serving Law Minister. He served as Rajya Sabha member for 5 terms from April 1982 to May 2009.
8. Name the famous Swedish Actor **Carl Adolf von Sydow** passed away recently.  
**Note:** Carl Adolf von Sydow, Swedish actor, passed away at the age of 90 in Provence, France. He was born on April 10, 1929, in Lund, Sweden. He was known for his character who played a game of chess with death in the movie "Seventh Seal", directed by Ingmar Bergman and also the Three-Eyed Raven (Fictional Character) in "Games of Thrones" and the horror classic film "The Exorcist". He considered his director Bergman as his mentor and worked with him in 11 films, which includes Wild Strawberries, The Passion of Anna, Shame and The Virgin Spring.
9. Santu Mukhopadhyay or Santu Mukherjee passed away recently, he was associated with **Cinema**.  
**Note:** Veteran Bengali actor Santu Mukhopadhyay or Santu Mukherjee, 69 a widower passed away at his south Kolkata residence due to cardiac arrest. He is known for his films 'Sansar Simante' & 'Bhalobasa Bhalobasa'. He got good recognition on the big screen for films like 'Ganadevata' & 'Byapika Biday'.
10. Former Czechoslovak javelin-thrower **Dana Zatopkova** passed away recently.  
**Note:** She is an Olympic javelin champion, won gold in the Helsinki Olympics in 1952 and won the Olympic silver in Rome in 1960. Dana Zatopkova was born on September 19, 1922 in Frystát, Czechoslovakia. She also won a European championship in 1954 and 1958 and in 1958, she set the world record of 55.73 meters. Helsinki Organizing Committee declared her "the happiest gold

- medalist". She served as a coach in 1960 and retired from the role in 1980.
11. Dr Puthusseri Ramachandran passed away recently, he was a veteran **Malayalam poet**.  
**Note:** A scholar of Dravidian linguistics and a teacher passed away due to age-related illness at the age of 91 years. His first poem Onnanthyakkuttam was published at the age of 16. His poems have been translated and published in various languages like Hindi, English and Tamil.
  12. Veteran journalist, writer, Khadi Activist **Patil Puttappa** passed away.  
**Note:** He was born on January 14, 1921, at Kurabagond village, Dharwad district, Karnataka. He was also known as PaPu. He completed his graduation in Law in 1954 in Belagavi and master's degree in Journalism from California State University in 1949. He was the first president of the Kannada Watchdog Committee and founder-president of the Border Advisory Committee. He served as a president of Vidyavardhaka Sangha, Dharwad, in 1967. He published "Vishwavani" daily newspaper in 1959 and weekly newspaper "Prapancha" he also edited Navayuga.
  13. Former world champion boxer and trainer **Roger Mayweather** passed away.  
**Note:** Roger Mayweather won the world champion boxer title in two weight classes. He won his first 17 career fights and captured the world title in World Boxing Association junior lightweight and earned the World Boxing Council junior welterweight title in 1987. He was born on April 24, 1961 in Grand Rapids, Michigan, US. The United States named him Black Mamba, who is trainer and uncle of Floyd Mayweather's.
  14. Pradip Kumar Banerjee passed away at the age of 83 in Kolkata, he was associated with **Football**.  
**Note:** He was born on June 23, 1936, in Jalpaiguri, West Bengal. P.K Banerjee scored 65 international goals in 84 appearances for the national team. Banerjee led India in the 1960 Rome Olympics and also represented India in the 1956 Melbourne Olympics. Awards & honours: Banerjee won Asian Games gold-medallist in 1962, won the gold medal at the Jakarta Asian Games in 1992, FIFA (Fédération Internationale de Football Association) awarded him the Centennial Order of Merit in 2004.
  15. Meenakshisundaram Ramasamy Viswanathan, popularly known as Visu passed away recently, he was a veteran **Actor**.  
**Note:** Famous actor, director and stage artiste Meenakshisundaram Ramasamy Viswanathan, popularly known as Visu passed away at the age of 75 in Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN). He was a writer for films such as Pattina Pravesam & Thillu Mullu, he also began acting, directing and had also assisted director K. Balachander on a few films.
  16. Veteran **Actor** Kenneth Ray Rogers passed away recently  
**Note:** He was inducted to the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2013, for his "distinctive & husky voice". Kenneth Rogers was a six-times Country Music Awards (CMA) winner and 3 times Grammy award winner. He is well-known for his hits like 'Lady', 'The Gambler', 'Islands in the Stream', 'Lucile', 'She Believes in Me' and 'Through the years' and has 24 number-one hits, throughout his career.
  17. French comic book artist, scriptwriter, the co-creator and illustrator of the "Asterix and Obelix" who passed away -- **Alberto Aleandro Uderzo**.  
**Note:** Albert Uderzo created Asterix in 1959 with the fellow Frenchman and writer Rene Goscinny, who gave life to the French-Belgian comics magazine Pilote. Both Alberto and Rene Goscinny were considered as founding fathers of modern comics.
  18. Name the former India football player and 1970 Asian games bronze medallist passed away recently -- **Abdul Latif**.  
**Note:** He also represented India in Asia Cup Qualifier in 1968 in Myanmar and Merdeka Cup in 1969 in Kuala Lumpur. He was born on June 20 of 1947 in Mysore, Karnataka. He played as a midfielder and also played for the two famous Kolkata clubs Mohammedan Sporting Club and Mohun Bagan. He was the coach of the Assam team which won the junior & sub-junior national titles under his guidance.
  19. Nawab Banoo alias Nimmi passed away recently was a famous **Bollywood actress**.  
**Note:** She was also known as Nimmi, who was popular in the early 1950s & 1960s of Hindi films. She was born on February 18, 1933 in Agra, Uttar Pradesh (UP). She made her debut with legendary actor-director, Raj Kapoor's "Barsaat" in 1949, who had given her the screen name of Nimmi and her last screen appearance was in Love and God (1986).
  20. Nema Ghosh passed away recently, was a veteran **Photographer**.  
**Note:** He is known for working with director Satyajit Ray as a still photographer who captured the director, framing actors over 2 decades. He debuted with "Goopy Gyne Bagha Byne" (1969) and was with Satyajit Ray till his last film "Agantuk" (1991).

21. Rajyogini Dadi Janki passed away recently, she was chief of which spiritual organization **Brahmakumaris Sansthan**.
22. Former Union Minister, Beni Prasad Verma passed away.  
**Note:** He was considered close to party patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav. Verma served as the telecom minister between 1996-1998 in then Prime Minister (PM) H D Deva Gowda's Cabinet and was the steel minister Congress- led UPA (United Progressive Alliance) government.
23. Paravai Muniyamma who passed away recently, was a famous **Tamil Folk Singer**.  
**Note:** She was born on June 26, 1937, in Paravai, Madurai, Tamil Nadu (TN). The acting career of Muniyamma began in the year 2003 in the film Dhool. Her song "Madurai Veeran" became a huge hit. She had appeared in over 50 films, usually playing grandmother roles. In March 2019, Muniyamma was honoured with the Kalaimamani title by the Tamil Nadu government.

### Important Days

1. The Zero Discrimination Day 2020 was observed globally on **1st March 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".
2. The World Civil Defence Day was observed on **1st March 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 **3rd March**.  
**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.
7. The International Women's Day (IWD) 2020 was observed globally on **March 8, 2020**.  
**Note:** Since 1977, the United Nations (UN) Women is organizing International Women's Day (IWD) all over the world on March 8 to recognize women for their efforts in changing the individual lives as well as of nations. The day celebrates women's achievements without regard to divisions, whether national, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic or political. The 2020 theme for IWD was "I am Generation Equality: Realizing Women's Rights".
8. The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) Raising Day is observed every year on **10th March**.  
**Note:** The 51st CISF Raising Day is celebrated on March 10, 2020, for better protection and security throughout the country and to create awareness among the public regarding the role and functions of CISF. CISF provides security to all the government infrastructure projects all over the country.
9. The World Kidney Day is observed globally on **12th March**.



- Note:** The World Kidney Day is observed on March 12, 2020 to raise awareness on the importance of kidneys to our health and also reduce the impact of kidney diseases, its associated health problems. This year marks the 15th Observance of World Kidney Day which is observed globally on second thursday of March every year since 2006.
- 10. The World Sleep Day was observed on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020.**  
**Note:** The World Sleep Day was observed on March 13, 2020. The day creates awareness about the importance of healthy sleep, to lessen the burden of sleep problems on society through better prevention and management of sleep disorders. The theme of the year 2020: "Better Sleep, Better Life, Better Planet".
- 11. The Pi Day is celebrated every year on 14<sup>th</sup> March.**  
**Note:** Pi Day is celebrated every year on March 14, 2020 because the date stands as 3/14 in the month/day format. Pi (Greek letter "π") is the symbol used in mathematics to represent a constant and its value up to five decimal places 3.14159. Coincidentally, March 14 is also Physicist Albert Einstein's birthday. Pi (π) is the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter. The diameter of a circle is the distance from edge to edge (measuring through the center) & the circumference is the distance around the circle.
- 12. The World Consumer Day 2020 was observed on March 15, 2020.**  
**Note:** The day is celebrated every year on March 15 to spread awareness about consumer rights and needs since 1983. It is an initiative by Consumer International which is a membership organisation for consumer groups around the world. The theme of the year 2020 is 'The Sustainable Consumer.'
- 13. National Vaccination Day is observed every year on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020.**  
**Note:** This day is celebrated throughout India to create awareness and the importance of getting timely vaccinations. This day was first observed in 1995 and the first dose of Oral Polio Vaccine was given in India. Vaccination protects children from serious illness and complications of vaccine-preventable diseases.
- 14. The Global Recycling Day 2020 was observed on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020.**  
**Note:** This day was first observed on March 18, 2018, by the Bureau of International Recycling (BIR) and celebrated globally every year to raise awareness of the importance of recycling. The Global Recycling Foundation announces "Recycling Heroes" as the theme for third Global Recycling Day. The main aim of the day is to turn 'waste' into a valuable resource.
- 15. World Sparrow Day (2020) is observed every year on March 20.**  
**Note:** This day was first celebrated in 2010 initiated by the Nature Forever Society (NFS). This day is celebrated globally to spread awareness about the importance of sparrows and their major functional conservation values. The theme of the World Sparrow Day 2020 is I LOVE Sparrows. The theme aims to highlight the love that people have for sparrows.
- 16. The "International Day of Happiness" is celebrated worldwide every year on 20<sup>th</sup> March.**  
**Note:** The day creates awareness of the importance of happiness in everyone's life around the world. The theme this year is "Happiness for All Together".
- 17. The world day of theatre for children and Young People celebrated every year on 20<sup>th</sup> March.**  
**Note:** It is an ASSITEJ, the International Association of Theatre for Children and Young People campaign & celebrates the performing arts for children & young people worldwide. The main purpose of the day is to draw the attention of the wider public to children's and young people's theatre. For children, it is promoted & celebrated through the slogan 'Take a Child to the Theatre Today' which is a call to parents, grandparents & guardians to take the children in their care to the theatre on the day.
- 18. The World Poetry Day is observed every year on 21<sup>st</sup> March.**  
**Note:** United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) observes World Poetry Day to encourage people to read, write, teach, publish poetry & also to recognize poetry's unique ability which captures the creative spirit of the human mind. It aims to support linguistic diversity by poetic expression & increase the chance for endangered languages to be heard
- 19. The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is observed annually on 21<sup>st</sup> March.**  
**Note:** The day remembers the Sharpeville massacre on 21st March 1960, which involved killing of 69 people by police, at a peaceful demonstration against the Apartheid regime (a regime which embraced racial discrimination) in Sharpeville, South Africa. The UN (United Nations) General Assembly proclaimed the day as a UN Day of observance in 1966.
- 20. The International Day of Forests (IDF) is observed annually on 21<sup>st</sup> March.**  
**Note:** This day is celebrated to raise awareness of the importance of all types of forests and of trees outside forests. The theme of the day this year is "Forests and Biodiversity".
- 21. The World Down Syndrome Day (WDS) is observed annually on 21<sup>st</sup> March.**  
**Note:** The day has been observed based on the theme 'We Decide' by the UN. The day aims to raise awareness and provide support to the patients suffering from Down syndrome, a congenital disorder caused by having an extra 21st chromosome. The theme for this year has been inspired by the United Nations Convention on the Rights

- of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) that supports better participation as a core human right.
22. The World Puppetry Day is observed annually on **21<sup>st</sup> March**.  
**Note:** The day was celebrated with the aim to raise interest and encourage the kids and youngsters towards the comic-art-entertainment form. The idea of celebrating this day came in the mind of its founder, Iran's puppet theater Artist Javad Zolfaghari. He conceived the idea at the 18th Union Internationale de la Marionnette (UNIMA) conference in Magdeburg, Germany in 2000.
  23. The International Day of Nowruz was celebrated on **21<sup>st</sup> March**.  
**Note:** The word Nowruz (new day) is the name of the Iranian new year or Persian new year which is celebrated worldwide by various ethnolinguistic groups. The UN (United Nations) general assembly recognized March 21 as International Day of Nowruz in 2010.
  24. The World Water Day is observed globally every year on **March 22**.  
**Note:** The day is observe to highlight the importance of freshwater. Theme of the year 2020: "Water and Climate Change".
  25. The World Meteorological Day (WMD 2020) is observed every year on **23<sup>rd</sup> March**.  
**Note:** The was first organized by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in the year 1950. The theme of WMD 2020 is "Climate and Water". It is celebrated globally to showcase the efforts of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services to the safety and wellbeing of society.
  26. The World Tuberculosis Day is observed globally on **24<sup>th</sup> March**.  
**Note:** The day is observed to raise awareness of Tuberculosis (TB) disease and the efforts made to eliminate the disease. The date marks the day in 1882 when Dr Robert Koch announced that he had discovered the bacterium that causes TB. World TB Day is one of the 8 official global health campaigns marked by the World Health Organization (WHO).
  27. The International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade is observed on **25<sup>th</sup> March**.  
**Note:** The 2020 Theme of the day is "Confronting Slavery's Legacy of Racism Together". The day aims to create awareness of the dangers of racism and prejudice today.
  28. World Theatre Day (WTD) is celebrated every year on **27<sup>th</sup> March**.  
**Note:** 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 messages given by renowned theatre artists focus on the theme of "Theatre and a Culture of Peace".

### New Appointments

1. **Muhyiddin bin Haji Muhammad Yassin** has been appointed as the 8<sup>th</sup> Prime Minister of Malaysia.  
**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. **Pekka Lundmark** has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Nokia.  
**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. **Sudhanshu Pandey** has been appointed as the new CMD of Metals & Minerals Trading Corporation (MMTC).  
**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. **Ajay Bhushan Pandey** has been appointed as the new Finance Secretary of India.  
**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. **Sanjeev Nautiyal** has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer of the SBI Life Insurance Company.  
**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. **Denys Shmygal** has been appointed as new prime minister of Ukraine,  
**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. **Daren Tang** has been elected as Director General of World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO).  
**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. **Janez Jansa** has been elected as the new prime minister of Slovenia.  
**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.
9. **Anurag Mehrotra** has been appointed as the Chief Executive officer for the New joint venture formed by Mahindra and Ford with effect from April 1, 2020.  
**Note:** This joint venture is formed to develop and sell Ford branded cars in India and other emerging markets. The joint venture created is valued at \$275 million (Rs 1,925 crore). Mahindra will own the controlling stakes of 51 per cent, while Ford will own 49 percent stakes in the new company.
10. **Injeti Srinivas** has been appointed as the chairman of the 12 members committee to prepare an investigation manual for the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO).  
**Note:** A 12-member high level panel was set up to prepare an investigation manual for the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) chaired by the Corporate Affairs Secretary Injeti Srinivas. The Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SIFO) is set up under the corporate affairs ministry. Under the Chairmanship of Shri Naresh Chandra, former Cabinet Secretary. SIFO investigates white-collar crimes and the Headquarter of SFIO is at New Delhi.
11. **Lt Gen Kanwal Jeet Singh Dhillon** has been appointed as the Director General, Defence Intelligence Agency.  
**Note:** The Ministry of Defence announced that Lt Gen Kanwal Jeet 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. Lt Gen KJS Dhillon of Indian Military Academy (IMA) served as XV Corps and handed over the charge to Lt Gen Baggavalli Somashekar Raju. Lt Gen B.S. Raju has taken charge as a XV Corps commander from 1st March 2020 in Srinagar.
12. **Kareena Kapoor Khan** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of PUMA for a period of two years.  
**Note:** Indian film actress Kareena Kapoor Khan signed a contract with German sportswear brand Puma to be its brand ambassador for a period of 2 years. With this association she joins the brand's roster of celebrity faces such as Virat Kohli, Sara Ali Khan, MC Mary Kom and Dutee Chand. Kareena will be the face for Puma's low-intensity training apparel collection targeted at workouts such as yoga, barre and pilates.



- 13. PV Sindhu.** has been appointed as the brand ambassador for Andhra Pradesh government's anti-graft helpline or anti-corruption helpline- 14400.  
**Note:** Badminton world champion PV Sindhu is appointed as the brand ambassador for Andhra Pradesh government's anti-graft helpline or anti-corruption helpline- 14400. She has featured along with Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy in a video titled 'stop corruption' which states people keep their eyes & ears open against corruption.
- 14. Disha Patani and Sanjeev Kapoor** has been appointed as the brand ambassador in India for the Washington Apple Commission,  
**Note:** The Washington Apple Commission appoints Actor Disha Patani & celebrity chef Sanjeev Kapoor as brand ambassadors in India. The Commission launched a campaign called #WashingtonApplesKuchKhaasHai featuring its brand ambassadors. India is a key market for Washington apples.
- 15. Harbhajan Singh** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Indian online leather accessory brand Brune & Bareskin.  
**Note:** Cricketer Harbhajan Singh becomes brand ambassador of Indian online leather accessory brand Brune & Bareskin as the company goes into offline retail with its first store in Jalandhar.
- 16. Amitabh Bachchan** has been appointed as the first ever brand ambassador of IDFC Bank.  
**Note:** Bollywood actor Amitabh Bachchan was appointed as the first-ever ambassador of the IDFC FIRST Bank. IDFC FIRST Bank was founded as a new entity by the merger of IDFC Bank and Capital First on December 18, 2018.
- 17. Salman Khan** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Smartphone brand realme.  
**Note:** Smartphone brand realme appointed Bollywood actor Salman Khan as its brand ambassador. Khan will endorse realme 6 & realme 6 Pro. In 2019, realme was the world's fastest-growing smartphone brand.
- 18. Akshay Kumar** has been appointed as the brand ambassador PepsiCo's snack brand Kurkure.  
**Note:** PepsiCo India has allegedly appointed actor Akshay Kumar as the new brand ambassador for its snacks brand Kurkure.
- 19. Virat Kohli** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of iQOO (i Quest On and On).
- Note:** iQOO (i Quest On and On) named Indian Cricketer Virat Kohli as its brand ambassador. The brand's first product in India is iQOO 3, 5G-enabled smartphone. iQOO is a sub-brand of Vivo in China and has entered India as a separate entity & also part of the BBK group. The BBK (Guangdong Bu Bu Gao Electronics Industrial Private Limited) group markets smartphones of 5 brands: Vivo, OnePlus, OPPO, Realme and iQOO (in India).
- 20. Prashant Kumar** has been appointed as the MD and Chief Financial Officer (CEO) of Yes Bank.  
**Note:** State Bank of India (SBI), which has a 49 % stake in Yes Bank, will nominate 2 directors & Reserve Bank could appoint one or more additional directors. Any investor other than SBI with 15% voting rights can nominate 1 director. Until an alternate board is constituted board members will have a term of 1 year.
- 21. Bansi Lal Bhat** has been appointed as the officiating Chairperson of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT).  
**Note:** The government has also appointed Justice (Retd.) Anant Bijay Singh as a Judicial Member of NCLAT & Ms Shreesha Merla and Mr Alok Srivastava as Technical Members. Prior to this appointment, Justice Bansi served as a Member (Judicial) of NCLAT for 2-years. He also worked as a judicial member of the Armed Forces Tribunal and as a Judge of the Jammu & Kashmir High Court (HC).
- 22. Shardul Thakur** has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Tata Power.  
**Note:** Tata Power is the largest power generation company in India which aims to provide uninterrupted power supply from its various plants located across India. This is his 1st major commercial endorsement & the campaign featuring him does have a significant presence in digital, radio & outdoors.
- 23. Ravinder Singh Dhillon** has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director of Power Finance Corporation (PFC).  
**Note:** This was confirmed by the Appointment Committee of the Cabinet with effect from June 1, 2020. He will be serving in this post till his superannuation on May 31, 2023. He served as a Director (Projects, Public Grievance) in Power Finance Corporation (PFC) Limited.
- 24. Adnan al-Zurfi** has been appointed as the Prime Minister (PM) of Iraq.  
**Note:** He will succeed Mohammed Allawi, the 1st politician named by the president as PM-designate who withdrew his candidacy for the post. Adel Abdul Mahdi was an interim PM who withdrew his candidature in December 2019 after heavy protest where 40 people were killed by security forces. Adnan al-Zurfi's difficult task is to gain the confidence of parliament.

25. Former chief justice of India **Ranjan Gogoi** has been nominated as the member of Upper House of the Parliament, Rajya Sabha.  
**Note:** He was nominated by President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind, under the exercise of the powers conferred by sub-clause (a) of clause (1) of article 80 of the Constitution of India, read with clause (3) of that article to the Council of States and to fill the vacancy caused due to the retirement of one of the nominated members. Ranjan Gogoi will be the successor of K.T.S Tulsi. Gogoi headed a 5-judge bench, who gave the judgement on the sensitive Ayodhya land dispute on November 9, 2019.
26. **Rama Subramaniam Gandhi & Ananth Narayan Gopalakrishnan** has been appointed as the additional directors of Yes Bank.  
**Note:** In the exercise of powers under the 'Yes Bank Ltd. Reconstruction Scheme, 2020' and the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed 2 additional directors. Ananth, an expert in international banking and financial markets, served as regional head of financial markets for ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) and South Asia at Standard Chartered Bank. Gandhi was previously appointed as an additional director to Yes Bank's board in May 2019 till 13 May 2021 and was being reappointed on 5 March 2020 after the bank's board was superseded.
27. Congress leader Kamal Nath resigned as Chief Minister of **Madhya Pradesh**.  
**Note:** Kamal Nath submitted his resignation letter to MP Governor Lalji Tandon at Raj Bhawan, Bhopal. The Governor accepted the resignation of INC (Indian National Congress) Government led by Kamal Nath. After the resignation of Jyotiraditya Scindia and his associated 22 MLA's (Member of Legislative Assembly) from Congress party. Kamal Nath was unable to prove the majority. The Legislative Assembly of MP has 230 MLAs, of which 24 seats are vacant. A majority of House of 206 MLAs will require the support of 104 MLAs.
28. Under chairmanship the Insurance Regulation and Development Authority (IRDAI) **Pravin Kutumbe** instituted a 16-member committee.  
**Note:** The committee will further strengthen IRDAI guidelines on corporate governance & will find ways to improve key functions such as risk management and internal audits independent of each other. The committee consists of a head, six members from the insurance regulator besides members from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) along with other industry participants. The committee has to submit report to IRDAI in three months.
29. **V K Paul** will chair the 21 member high-level technical committee of public health experts to guide the people in preventive & control activities of COVID-19.  
**Note:** 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
30. **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** has sworn in as the chief minister of Madhya Pradesh after the resignation of Kamal Nath.  
**Note:** He took oath as Chief Minister (CM) of Madhya Pradesh (MP) for the 4th time. He was the CM of MP for 13 years since 2005 & resigned in December 2018 after Congress secured a narrow majority which paved way for Kamal Nath to become the CM
31. **Sumant Kathpalia** has been appointed as the MD and CEO of IndusInd bank.  
**Note:** Kathpalia is a career banker with over 33 years of experience in large multinational banks such as Citibank, Bank of America, ABN AMRO and IndusInd bank.
32. **Bibhu Prasad Kanungo** has been reappointed as the Deputy Governor of RBI for a period of one year.  
**Note:** Kanungo was appointed as the Deputy Governor of RBI on April 3, 2017. He was assigned the portfolio of monetary policy and forecasting department in addition to his regular portfolio currency management after the exit of Viral Acharya. He served in various areas of the banks such as foreign exchange management, banking & non-banking Supervision, currency management, government and bank accounts etc.

### Important News – India

1. Indian Air Force signed MoU with **Savitribai Phule Pune University** to establish a 'Chair of Excellence' named "Marshal of the Air Force Arjan Singh Chair of Excellence".  
**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. **National Chambal Sanctuary** has received eco-sensitive zone tag.  
**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. **"EKAM Fest"** has been organised in New Delhi to promote Craftsmanship & Products of Divyang Artisans and Entrepreneurs.

**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".

16. India's rank, according to the "Wealth Report 2020" released by Knight Frank LLP -- **12<sup>th</sup>.**

**Note:** According to the "Wealth Report 2020" released by Knight Frank LLP India had 5,986 UHNWIs Ultra high-net-worth individuals (UHNWIs) in 2019 and they expected to increase by 73% in the coming 5 years. This

will almost double the current count to 10,354. India, according to Knight Frank, ranks 12th and had 5,986 such individuals in 2019, which is likely to reach 10,354 by 2024. The number of billionaires in India, on the other hand, is likely to reach 113 by 2024, up from 104 in 2019.

17. For e-Marketing of products made by Self Help Groups (SHGs) across the Country Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY- NULM) signed MoU with **Amazon.**

**Note:** In the first phase of the e-marketing nearly 2,500 products will be on sale from March 28, 2020. About 24 states, 40 clusters and 350 SHGs have been enrolled in the 1st phase and has the potential to generate around Rs 45 crore in the next one year and aims Rs 500 crore turnover in the next 3 years. By promoting the products made by SHGs, helps in preserving & documenting the unique traditional art and crafts of different states.

18. Indian Coast Guard conducts 9th edition of rescue exercise 'SAREX-2020' in **Goa.**

**Note:** Indian Coast Guard (ICG) 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. For the 1st time, it was attended by 3 pillars of national SAR mechanism i.e. Ministry of Shipping, Ministry of Civil Aviation and Ministry of Defence.

19. Two cities are approved by the Government of India as authorised land immigration check posts to enter or exit India -- **Agartala and Ghojadanga.**

**Note:** Government of India (GOI) has approved Tripura capital Agartala and West Bengal's Ghojadanga as authorised land immigration check posts to enter or exit India. Agartala and Ghojadanga are located along the Indo-Bangladesh border. The senior immigration officers, under the Bureau of Immigration, have been appointed for the Check posts with effect from March 2, 2020. The Central Government issued notification and approved check posts according to sub-rule (b) of rule 3 of the Passport (Entry into India) Rules, 1950, to Tripura and Ghojadanga land check post, located in North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal.

20. The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) & the World Bank organized a discussion programme on the topic "The Future of Work: Women in India's Workforce" in **New Delhi.**

**Note:** The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) & the World Bank organized a discussion programme on the topic "The Future of Work: Women in India's Workforce" at New Delhi. It was inaugurated by Minister of WCD, Smriti Zubin Irani & Dr. Junaid Kamal Ahmad, Country Director India, World Bank. It is a part of a series of events to observe International Women's Day 2020

21. The Rural Development Ministry announced that Government plans to achieve 75 lakh SHGs by 2022.  
**Note:** Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, announced that the Rural Development Ministry plans to add more than 14 lakhs SHGs (Self Help Groups) to achieve 75 lakh SHGs by the year 2022 to enable more women to get livelihood. The Minister announced this during the programme on Women's Empowerment to mark the International Women's Day held in New Delhi.
22. **Odisha** becomes the 1st state to own a separate department for Self Help Groups named as "Department of Mission Shakti".  
**Note:** Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced that Odisha is the 1st state to own a separate department for Self Help Groups named as "Department of 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 in the state. 50% reservation in Panchayati Raj has created a new era for the socio-economic development of women.
23. The 6th edition of Economic Times Global business summit was held in **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** The 6th edition of Economic Times Global business summit is held on 6th – 7th March 2020 at Taj Palace, New Delhi. This summit is organised by the heads of the government, business leaders from India and throughout the world and by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The theme of the Global Business Summit is 'Collaborate to Create: Sustainable Growth in a Fractured World'.
24. National Conference on Women in Police and CAPFs held in **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** Smriti Zubin Irani, Union Minister for Women and Child Development inaugurated the "National Conference on Women in Police and CAPFs (Central Armed Police Forces)" in New Delhi, India. The Conference was organized by the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR & D). Smriti Irani also released a hand-out- 'BPR & D Mirror- Gender Bender' and also the book titled "To Greater Heights". Themes of the Conference 2020: 'Cyber Stalking and Bullying of Women: Steps for Protection' and 'Challenges faced by CAPF Women in Operational Areas'.
25. United Nations Global Compact Network India has organized the 3rd edition of its Gender Equality Summit 2020 in **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** The summit, aims to create a strong roadmap towards gender equality at workplaces in India, focuses on driving and bringing in change for equal opportunities in employment and growth for the women skill workforce. The summit also coincides with the International Women's day (March 8), and consequently linked the international theme with the Indian context to underscore the present generation as a main role and the India Inc as a key catalyst for gender equality. The summit saw the participation of over 250 leaders including Nishtha Satyam, Deputy Representative of UN Women MCO for India, Bhutan, Maldives, and Sri Lanka & Anjali Singh, MD, Deutsche Bank to share insights on 'women empowerment'.
26. **Andhra Pradesh** state ranked 1st in the country for overall implementation of POSHAN Abhiyaan.  
**Note:** Andhra Pradesh (AP) ranked 1st in the country for overall implementation of POSHAN (Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment) Abhiyaan as per September 2019 progress report of NITI Aayog, "Transforming Nutrition in India: POSHAN Abhiyaan". The 2nd anniversary of POSHAN Abhiyaan is recognized by celebrating Poshan Pakhwada from 8th-22nd March 2020.
27. **Gujarat** state ranks first in the list for domestic solar rooftop installations, throughout the country with 64 percent of domestic solar installations.  
**Note:** 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. About 79,950 systems have been installed throughout the country having a capacity of 322 MW.
28. **Jewar Airport, Uttar Pradesh** has been included in the world's 100 strategic global infrastructure projects for the year 2020.  
**Note:** The first phase of Jewar Airport, Uttar Pradesh (UP) has been included in the world's 100 strategic global infrastructure projects for the year 2020. It has been recognised in the CG LA Infrastructure List. UP (India) and Yugoslavia (Europe) have been chosen in the field of aviation category all over the world. The success story of Jewar Airport will be presented by the UP government in two sessions at the 13th Global Infrastructure Leadership Forum, to be held in New York City, US (United States) on March 25 to 27, 2020.
29. A week long Exhibition-cum-Fair, the first "EKAM Fest" organized by National Handicapped Finance Development Corporation (NHFD) in **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** It was inaugurated by Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot. EKAM, an acronym for Entrepreneurship, Knowledge, Awareness, Marketing, was aimed to showcase products made with extra ordinary determination by the divyang (differently-abled) crafts persons and entrepreneurs.
30. India post launches India's 1st digital parcel locker service in **Kolkata, West Bengal**.  
**Note:** Under this service, customers will be able to collect their parcel from the post office according to their convenience. This facility is quite popular in European

countries but is starting for the first time in India. This service has been done for such people of working-class, who do not have to receive any parcel at home. Such people can take their parcel and letters addressed to them from the kiosks at 24x7. Customers adopting this facility will be given a special locker number for their address wherever the parcel will be dropped from India Post.

**31. New Delhi Railway Station to be converted as World Class Station.**

**Note:** The committee chaired by Bibek Debroy has recommended concession of commercial operation of train service like Rajdhani/Shatabdi to private parties. Already, Railways proposed to initiate 150 passenger trains through private operators in PPP (Public-private partnership) mode on 100 routes by 2022.

**32. First regional edition of "Divya Kala Shakti Event" was held in Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN).**

**Note:** Shri Banwarilal Purohit, Governor of TN witnessed the performances and V. Saroja, Minister of Social Welfare and Nutritious Noon Meal programme and senior officers participated in the occasion. The event was organised by the National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities (NIEPMD), in association with the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) and Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The Divya Kala Shakti event aims to provide a platform for the disabled to exhibit their talents.

**33. The Mumbai Central Station to be renamed after Nana Shankarsheth.**

**Note:** The Maharashtra Government has approved to rename the Mumbai Central Station as Nana Shankarsheth Mumbai Central Railway Station. The Mumbai Central Station has been re-named to Nana Shankarsheth Central Railway Station as his involvement in the formation of Indian Railway association was pivotal to the country. The Bombay Central is designed by British architect Claude Batley. The first railway in India ran over 21 miles from Bombay to Thane.

**34. WINGS INDIA 2020 an international exhibition and conference was held in Hyderabad.**

**Note:** The conference was held between March 12-15 is a biennial event. The event was themed as 'Flying for All' is an International Exhibition & Conference. The exhibition was organized by Ministry of Civil Aviation & Airports Authority of India (AAI) & Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

**35. Rs 1.83 lakh crore amount has been spent under MNREGA in 2017-2020.**

**Note:** The government states that Rs 1.83 lakh crore is spent under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, (MNREGA) in 2017-2020 which is nearly double the amount of Rs 92,483 crore

spent in 2011-14. Indian legislation enacted on August 25, 2005. It provides a legal guarantee for 100 days of employment in every financial year to adult members of any rural household who willingly does unskilled manual work.

**36. The government proposed masks & hand sanitizers under Essential Commodities Act 1955.**

**Note:** The government amended Essential Commodities (EC) Act, 1955 to declare 2 ply & 3 ply surgical masks, N95 masks & hand sanitizers as Essential Commodities up to 30th June 2020. It also issued a consultation under the Legal Metrology (LM) Act, 2009 that under EC law, after consultations with manufacturers, states can ask them to increase the production capacity of these products & streamline the supply chain, while states can ensure the sale of both products under MRP under the LM Act.

**37. US \$10 million amount has been offered by India in the proposed COVID-19 Emergency Fund for SAARC Nation by PM Narendra Modi.**

**Note:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has proposed the formulation of a common strategy to tackle COVID-19 (Coronavirus) in the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) region during the video conference with SAARC representatives. PM Modi has proposed the creation of COVID-19 Emergency Fund through voluntary contributions from all SAARC Nations. This fund can be used by any of the partner countries to meet the cost of immediate actions.

**38. As per the Minister of Road Transport & Highways Nitin Gadkari the number of deaths caused due to road accidents have been reduced by 10%.**

**Note:** Minister of Road Transport & Highways and Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Nitin Gadkari revealed that the number of deaths caused due to road accidents has been reduced by 10% in India after the Motor Vehicles (Amended) Act 2019. From 12 states and union territories, Tamil Nadu made notable progress in reducing road accidents by 24% which is the maximum anywhere in the country.

**39. Government targeted to achieve sales around 70 lakh hybrid & electric vehicles by the end of 2020.**

**Note:** The Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change & Minister of Information & Broadcasting & Minister of Heavy industries and Public Enterprises Prakash Javadekar informed that the government has set an ambitious target to achieve sales of around 70 lakh hybrid & electric vehicles by the end of 2020. In 2015 as part of the National Electric Mobility Mission Plan (NEMMP) 2020, Department of Heavy Industry formulated the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles in India (FAME India) scheme.



40. As per the New & Renewable Energy, (MNRE) Ministry till March 13, 2020, Rooftop solar power plants in India installed at **1,922 MW**.  
**Note:** Minister of State Independent Charge (IC) of, New & Renewable Energy, (MNRE) and Power, Minister of State of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Raj Kumar(RK) Singh stated till March 13, 2020, the rooftop solar plants contain an aggregate capacity of 1,922 MW are installed in the country. Out of the total capacity, 346 MW is installed in the residential sector.
41. Banihal to Katra railway link to be completed by **2022**.  
**Note:** It is part of the Udhampur- Srinagar-Baramulla rail link project. It is to be completed before the 75th Independence day of India. This completion will pave the way for the creation of Indian rail from Kanyakumari to Baramulla. The Katra-Banihal railway track is a 111-km long stretch which will link Kashmir Valley with the rest of the country by train.
42. The central government has included which two sites in the Iconic Tourist Sites list -- **Konark Sun Temple & Statue of Unity**.  
**Note:** The move has been taken after the ministry got the proposals from the Odisha Chief Minister (CM)- Naveen Patnaik, the Union Petroleum Minister – Dharmendra Pradhan and other delegations. A total of 17 iconic tourist sites were identified by the government of India in 2019. It includes- Taj Mahal and Fatehpur Sikri (Uttar Pradesh), Ajanta and Ellora (Maharashtra), Humayun's Tomb, Red Fort and Qutub Minar (Delhi), Colva (Goa), Amer Fort (Rajasthan), Somnath and Dholavira (Gujarat), Khajuraho (Madhya Pradesh), Hampi (Karnataka), Mahabalipuram (Tamil Nadu), Kaziranga (Assam), Kumarakom (Kerala) and Mahabodhi Temple (Bihar).
43. Under 'Stand up India scheme' what loan amount government has sanctioned to women **Rs 20,466.94 crore**.  
**Note:** According to the Minister of State (MoS) for Finance & Corporate Affairs, Shri Anurag Singh Thakur, the central government has sanctioned a loan of Rs 20,466.94 crores to over 91,000 accounts up to March 10, 2020 since inception of the Stand-Up India scheme, as it counted the work being done for the empowerment of women. It was launched on April 5, 2016, to promote entrepreneurship for economic empowerment and job creation.
44. Indian Railways to electrify all broad gauge routes by **December 2023**.  
**Note:** Minister of Railways and Commerce & Industry, Piyush Goyal informed that Indian Railway(IR) Ministry plans to electrify all broad gauge(BG) routes by December 2023. As a target to electrify 4,310 km of BG route in the year 2023-2024 (till December 2023), it is planned to electrify a total of 28,810 km of BG route. 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 techno-commercial assessment.
45. Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) signed an MoU with **Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC)**.  
**Note:** This MoU aims for better synergy with this organization for the development of agriculture, allied sectors and its exports for bringing better value to the stakeholders. The MoU was signed between Ms. Neelkamal Darbari, Managing Director of SFAC and Mr. Paban Kumar Borthakur, Chairman of APEDA. This collaboration focuses to reach large farmers for improving the production base of agri products quantitatively and qualitatively.
46. India has signed Rs 880 crore with **Israel** to contract for Negev 7.62X51 mm Light Machine Guns.  
**Note:** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has given his approval to the Acquisition Wing of Ministry of Defence for a capital acquisition contract with Israel Weapons Industries (IWI) of Israel. The contract enables the procurement of 16,479 Negev 7.62X51 mm Light Machine Gun (LMG) at a cost of Rs 880 crore. The weapons are procured under the Fast Track Procedure (FTP).
47. Finance Commission sets up committee to review the fiscal consolidation road map under the chairmanship of **Nand Kishore Singh**.  
**Note:** An 8-member committee is set up by Finance Commission (FC) to review the fiscal consolidation road map of state & central governments. The committee is headed by 15th Finance Commission Chairman Nand Kishore Singh.
48. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has declared the formulation of COVID-19 Economic Response Task Force led by **Nirmala Sitharaman**.  
**Note:** Its objective is to tackle the economic challenges arising out of novel coronavirus outbreak. The task force is mandated to execute measures to reduce the economic difficulties facing by various sectors. It should maintain a regular touch with all stakeholders, take their feedback and make decisions accordingly.
49. To empower new entrepreneurs under the mission Swavalamban a special train 'Swavalamban express' will be launched by **SIDBI**.  
**Note:** The train will visit 11 cities in 15 days and will cover a 7000 km journey. Around 20 workshops and interactions will be held to promote entrepreneurial culture among the youth about financial and non-financial aspects of enterprise running. Participant individuals should be between the age of 20 and 35 years. The train will start from Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh-UP) and thereafter to Jammu, Delhi, Jaipur, Ahmedabad, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Bhubaneswar, Kolkata and finally reach Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh). The train journey will

- also focus on the Prime Minister(PM) Narendra Modi's vision of becoming a \$5 trillion economy by 2024-25.
- 50.** The proposed new "Draft Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) 2020" will come into effect from **1st April 2020**.  
**Note:** Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has proposed a new "Draft Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) 2020". It will replace DPP 2016 and would remain in force till 31 March 2025. Its draft has been finalized by a high-level committee headed by Apurva Chandra, Director General (DG) Acquisition, Ministry of Defence that was set up in August 2019.
- 51.** TRIFED launches 'Tech For Tribals' program to bring technology to **tribal entrepreneurs**.  
**Note:** A 30- days long capacity-building program called "Tech for Tribal" has been launched by the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED). It was launched in association with IIT-Kanpur, IIT-Roorkee, IIM Indore, Kalinga Institute of Social Science, Bhubaneswar (Odisha) and SRIJAN, Jaipur (Rajasthan) to provide entrepreneurship skills to the tribal people.
- 52.** Amidst Coronavirus outbreak India's 1st AI summit 'RAISE 2020' postponed to **October 2020**.  
**Note:** The Indian government announced the postponement of the country's 1st summit on Artificial Intelligence (AI), 'RAISE 2020- Responsible Artificial intelligence (AI) for Social Empowerment' to October 5-6, 2020. It was to be conducted between April 11 & 12, 2020 in New Delhi by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). The summit is a drive to India's vision & roadmap for social empowerment, inclusion & transformation through AI.
- 53.** The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) opened a 360 feet long bailey suspension bridge for traffic over -- **Teesta River**.  
**Note:** The bridge constructed will be useful for the people residing in Lahen town, North Sikkim. The bridge constructed will facilitate the movement of logistics for the Armed forces deployed in forward areas and also acts as tourist spots.
- 54.** **IIT Madras** is to organize India's 1st Global Hyperloop Pod Competition.  
**Note:** The Competition has been named as 'Indian Hyperloop Pod Competition'. This is to increase the awareness & enthusiasm about Hyperloop in India. The final round to take place in the IIT-Madras campus in July 2020.
- 55.** **15,000 crores** has been allocated by the union government for health sector to deal with Coronavirus Pandemic.
- 56.** **Indore** becomes the first city in India to use drones to sanitize the city.  
**Note:** Indore the cleanest city in India becomes the 1st city in India to use drones to sanitize the city against COVID-19 scare. Indore Municipal Corporation has hired 2 drones from a private company to sprinkle chemicals with sodium hypochlorite and bio-clean in crowded areas like vegetable markets, streets.
- 57.** Which Initiative has been launched the National Book Trust to encourage people to read books while at home -- **#StayHomeIndiaWithBooks**.  
**Note:** As part of this initiative, it provides select and best-selling titles for FREE Download of 100+ books, in PDF format, from the NBT's its website. The PDFs are read-only, and no unauthorized or commercial use is permitted.
- 58.** **1.70 lakh crores rupees** has been provided by the union government under PMGaribKalyanYojana for the poor to tackle Corona Virus.  
**Note:** The motive behind this is to aid and support the Poverty-stricken people to fight a battle against Corona Virus. Insurance Cover of Rs 50 Lakh per healthcare worker workers fighting COVID-19 in Govt Hospitals & health centres. PM Garib Kalyan Ann (अन्न) Yojana; foodgrain entitlement doubled. Farmers to get the first instalment of Rs 2000 under PM KISAN in April 2020
- 59.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in an extraordinary "Virtual Group of 20 (G20) Leaders' Summit" which was hosted by **Saudi Arabia**.  
**Note:** It was held to discuss the challenges created by the COVID-19 and to develop an action plan for globally coordinated response against it. G20 leaders agreed to inject over USD 5 trillion into the global economy to counter the social and economic impact of COVID-19. Leaders also agreed to contribute to the WHO led COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund on a voluntary basis.
- 60.** Amid the growing coronavirus pandemic, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) categorizes which medicine as schedule H1 drug -- **Hydroxychloroquine**.  
**Note:** It means it can't be sold without the prescription of a registered medical practitioner. Now the sale of the drug will be based on the conditions specified in Schedule H1 to the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945. The Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) recently suggested that hydroxychloroquine be used in high risk cases of coronavirus (COVID-19).
- 61.** **Rs 5,751.27 crores** amount has been approved by the central government as additional assistance to 8 disaster-hit states.  
**Note:** The High-Level Committee (HLC) under the Chairmanship of Union Home Minister Amit Shah approved Rs 5,751.27. crores as additional Central assistance under National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) to 8 States affected by floods, landslides, cyclones 'Bulbul' & drought during 2019.

- 62. Operation Namaste.** has been given to the initiative launched by Indian Army to protect 1.3 million strong forces from coronavirus.  
**Note:** Indian Army Chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane launched 'Operation Namaste' initiative to protect 1.3 million strong forces from coronavirus and provide all possible assistance to the government to control the pandemic. Under 'Operation Namaste', the army has issued a series of directives to all its bases to protect the force from the coronavirus & the army headquarters issued a number of suggestions to deal with the situation over the past few weeks.
- 63. Japanese government funding agency (JICA)** has signs an agreement worth Rs 15,295 crore with India to provide an Official Development Assistance (ODA) for 3 rail infrastructure projects.  
**Note:** Japanese ODA loans are long-term low-interest rate loans advanced to the developing countries. The project aims to cope up the increasing demand for freight transport in India by setting up a new dedicated freight railway line between Delhi and Mumbai.
- 64.** What amount has been released by the central government to clear pending wages under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 - **- Rs 4,431 crores.**  
**Note:** With this increase in wages, the national average wage under MGNREGA will rise from Rs 182 to Rs 202 per day. The release is made at a time of country's lockdown to combat COVID-19 which has made wage labourers with no work & financial resources.
- 65. IIT Madras** is organizing India's first Global Hyperloop Pod Competition named as 'Indian Hyperloop Pod Competition'.  
**Note:** The competition is aimed at increasing awareness and enthusiasm about Hyperloop in India. The competition is open globally and the final round will take place in the IIT Madras campus in July 2020. Team Avishkar from IIT Madras was the only team from Asia to qualify for the finals of 2019 Hyperloop Pod Competition, developing India's first self-propelled Hyperloop Pod.
- 66. DRDO** has designed a casualty evacuation bag to transport or isolate persons infected with COVID-19.  
**Note:** The bag is water and air-proof and treated to deal with biological agents. DRDO will be procuring an initial lot of 500 such bags. DRDO's Defence Bioengineering and Electromedical Laboratory (DEBEL), which carries out research in aero-medical engineering and life support equipment and Nuclear Chemical and Biological (NBC) protection systems, has developed this bag.
- 67.** The Government of India has launched a coronavirus risk-tracking app called '**Corona Kavach.**'  
**Note:** Jointly developed by the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The app uses a person's location to assess whether they are in the high-risk geographical zone or not. This app is being developed in the public interest to give information and capture the outbreak of Coronavirus.
- 68.** The first prototype of hospital isolation coaches has been created successfully by the **Northern Railways.**  
**Note:** The hospital isolation coach has been created in order to fight against the COVID-19 outbreak in the country. There are 10 isolation wards in each coach. The Northern Railways has removed the middle berth from one side of the coach while all three berths have been removed in front of the patient berth to build an isolation cabin prototype.
- 69.** To engage students in creative projects during the COVID-19 lockdown 'Project Isaac' has been launched by **IIT Gandhinagar.**  
**Note:** The project aims to enhance the student's skills while they are confined in their homes. The project is inspired by Sir Isaac Newton, who was similarly sent home by Trinity College, Cambridge, because of the Great Plague of London in 1665. During this year, Newton, then a 22-year-old college student developed some of his most profound discoveries, including early calculus, as well as his theories of optics and gravity.
- 70.** India's national Investment Promotion & Facilitation Agency, the Invest India has launched "**The Invest India Business Immunity Platform**".  
**Note:** The Invest India Business Immunity Platform has been launched to assist businesses and investors in getting real-time updates on India's active response to COVID-19. This platform tracks the regular developments with respect to the Coronavirus.

### Important News – State

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



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. **Tripura** state government the Airport Authority of India (AAI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) equipment hiring centers.  
**Note:** 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. **Uttar Pradesh** government to provide monthly grant of Rs 900 for adopting a stray cattle.
6. **Gairsain** city will be the summer capital of Uttarakhand.  
**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.
7. **Madhya Pradesh** state cabinet approved to form trust for 'Ram Van Gaman Path' project.  
**Note:** The Madhya Pradesh (MP) Cabinet approved to form the trust under the Chairmanship of Chief Minister Kamal Nath for the project of constructing 'Ram Van Gaman Path' project, a route taken by Lord Ram during his 14-years of life in the forest. The project seeks to retrace the route believed to have been taken by Lord Ram during his life in forest and it is proposed to be constructed from Chitrakoot to Amarkantak. State chief secretary will be the member of the trust.
8. **Kerala** state government will launched digital literacy drive named "I am also digital".  
**Note:** 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.
9. **Punjab** government has launched a mobile app to spread awareness and precautions to be taken against coronavirus.  
**Note:** The Punjab Government launched "Cova Punjab" mobile application to spread awareness and precautions to be taken against coronavirus. The application was launched by Punjab Chief Secretary Karan Avtar Singh. The application was developed by the Department of Government Reforms and Public Grievances in consultation with the Health & Family Welfare Department.
10. **Andhra Pradesh state govt.** has launched NIGHA application to curb the use of money and alcohol in the upcoming local body elections.
11. **Maharashtra** government has approved the implementation of "happy hours" for auto rickshaws, reducing 15% of fare prices from 12 pm to 4 pm.  
**Note:** Maharashtra Government (govt) has approved the implementation of "happy hours" for auto rickshaws, reducing 15% of fare prices from 12 pm to 4 pm, barring the minimum fare for first 1.5 km, as recommended by Khatua panel. The decision will not be applicable to local taxis and app-based taxis. The panel also recommended a new concept will turn lean hours to happy hours, for housewives and senior citizens who normally don't have a fixed schedule for their outings.
12. **Karnataka** government has launched 'Namaste over Handshake' campaign to prevent from COVID-19.  
**Note:** The Karnataka Government (govt) launched 'Namaste over Handshake' campaign in order to avoid the spread of COVID-19 (CoronaVirusDisease-19) and advises people to keep a safe distance from one another. The campaign conveys people to greet each other by 'Namaste' instead of shaking hands in order to protect themselves from others who might be affected with the COVID-19. The state and health family welfare department has uploaded a poster on the social media with a message "Use Namasthe to greet others, fight against corona".
13. **Uttar Pradesh** government has launched Kaushal Satrang, Yuva hub and Apprenticeship scheme for skill development for youth of state.

- Note:** Uttar Pradesh (UP) Chief Minister (CM) Yogi Adityanath launched three ambitious schemes for skill development and employment generation for the state youths, during the 'Kaushal Satrang' programme organized by the Vocational Education and Skill Development and Labour and Employment Exchange departments at the Lok Bhawan in Lucknow, UP. Apart from this, it was announced that 'Arogya Mitras' at all primary health centres of the states will be deployed to inform people about the govt health schemes.
- 14. Assam** state government planning to construct 33 stadiums across the state under the Uttaran Scheme.  
**Note:** 300 crores will be provided to construct these stadiums announced by Principal Secretary of Sports Avinash Joshi and Joint Director Kamaljit and 500 playgrounds are being built to encourage rural talents. The Government has decided to provide an amount of Rs.50,000 to 1000 players and Rs.75,000 will be given to 2500 clubs. The Uttaran Scheme is adopted by the Assam Government to give a new dimension to the visions of the MLAs and to implement innovative projects which will be suitable to local needs.
- 15. Phool Dei festival** was celebrated in **Uttarakhand**.  
**Note:** The festival also showcases the inner bonding between the communities who all are residing in the hills. It is the harvest festival of Uttarakhand that is celebrated in the month of Chaitra (March- April) in the Hindu Calendar. On this traditional festival young girls pluck the first flowers of the season to decorate their houses with flowers. The term 'Dei' refers to ceremonial pudding which is the key food in the festival that is made from jaggery, Whiteflour & curd, are offered to everyone.
- 16. The Central Government** approved renaming the Amin village as **Abhimanyupur**.  
**Note:** The decision has been taken by the Union Home Ministry after getting permission from a few central organisations. The Union Ministry will approve the change of name of any place after taking no-objections from the Ministry of Railways, Department of Posts and Surveys of India. These organisations have to confirm that there is no such city, town or village in their records with a name similar to the proposed one.
- 17. M Gopal Reddy** appointed as Chief Secretary of **Madhya Pradesh**.  
**Note:** Madhya Pradesh (MP) Government appointed M Gopal Reddy as a Chief Secretary of the state replacing Sudhi Ranjan Mohanty with effect from April 1, 2020. M Gopal Reddy is a 1985 batch IAS officer is currently serving as an Officer on Special Duty (OSD) before he takes charge as the state's new Chief Secretary. He worked as a vice-chairman of the Narmada Valley Development Authority (NVDA) prior to the current position.
- 18. Jharkhand** becomes the third state in India to launch its "Star Rating Program".  
**Note:** The state government of Jharkhand will launch its "Star Rating Program" on June 5, 2020, to rate industries based on the amount of pollutants generated by them. With this, it became the 3rd state in India to launch this system for industries after Maharashtra & Odisha. The program will be implemented by the Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board (JSPCB) in association with the University of Chicago Trust (UC Trust).
- 19. Uttar Pradesh** has promulgated Recovery of Damage to Public Properties Ordinance 2020'.  
**Note:** Recovery of Damage to Public Properties Ordinance 2020' for recovery of losses due to damage to public property during violent protests was passed by the Uttar Pradesh cabinet headed by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. The ordinance will aim at dealing with violent acts at public places, controlling its tenacity and upsurge and providing for recovery of damage to public or private property during hartal, bandh etc.
- 20. Jammu and Kashmir** announced Rs 5 lakh Free Health Insurance under Ayushman Bharat.  
**Note:** The decision was taken by the administrative council under the chairmanship of J&K Lieutenant Governor Girish Chandra Murmu. Nearly 1.25 crore residents of the UT will be benefited & at present 5.95 lakh families are eligible for benefits under the center's Ayushman Bharat- PMJAY scheme. The scheme also covers 15 lakh additional families, under J&K health scheme & the beneficiaries will receive free health insurance of Rs 5 lakh per family per year on the floater basis & there is no restriction for family size, age or gender.
- 21. Uttarakhand** state has canceled quota in promotion for state government employees.  
**Note:** It issued orders relating to the departmental promotion committee (DPC). For the period of strike, the striking employees were granted leave. The order of the state government stated that it has abolished the promotion ban dated September 11, 2019 according to the Supreme Court decision. Apart from that, the order of the state government dated September 5, 2012 to ban reservation in promotions has also come into effect.
- 22. Jammu and Kashmir** government has Social and Educational Backward Classes Commission.  
**Note:** The Jammu and Kashmir Government sets up a commission named as "J&K Socially and Educationally Backward Classes Commission" will be headed by Justice (retired) GD Sharma to examine the social and educational backwardness of various backward classes people, dalits, in the Union Territory.
- 23. Himachal Pradesh** state government has launched Police Station Visitor Survey System and e-Night Beat Checking System.

- Note:** Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister (CM) Jai Ram Thakur launched Police Station Visitor Survey System and e-Night Beat Checking System for Himachal police in Shimla. These systems help the Police Department to provide an immediate response to the complaints registered in the police stations.
- 24. Tamil Nadu** state government has decided to call Sanitary personnel as “cleanliness workers”.  
**Note:** According to the Tamil Nadu (TN) Chief Minister (CM), Karuppa Gounder Palanisamy a total of 64,583 sanitary personnel employed by urban and rural civic bodies in the State will be called as “cleanliness workers” in Tamil) to honour their work. 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.
- 25. Gujarat** state Police becomes first in India to introduce taser guns.  
**Note:** The Gujarat Police is equipped with taser guns in order to ensure safety and security of the public. The Gujarat Police is equipped with taser guns in order to ensure safety and security of the public. By introducing the taser guns as part of police weapons, Gujarat becomes the first state in India. The taser guns have been introduced to find an alternative between “ineffective lathis” and “deadly guns”.
- 26. Gujarat** state government has signed an MoU with Dutch Flying car-maker PAL-V.  
**Note:** A Dutch Flying car-maker, PAL-V (Personal Air Land Vehicle) will set up a manufacturing plant in Gujarat. The Dutch car company sets up the firm for the first time in India and has set a target of commencing production by 2021. The company has chosen Gujarat state for its world-class infrastructure, ease of doing business, better port and logistic facilities.
- 27. Goa** has become the 1st Indian state to launch assessment tool for COVID-19.  
**Note:** Goa health minister Vishwajit Rane 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 Innovaccer Inc, a United States (US)-based healthcare data analytics company, to launch the tool.
- 28. Amidst** Coronavirus outbreak which becomes the 1st state to impose curfew after lockdown fails -- **Punjab**.  
**Note:** With this, it becomes the 1st state in the country to take drastic measure to stop the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). After Punjab, the Chandigarh Union Territory (UT) Administration has also imposed curfew in the city to check the spread of virus.
- 29. Odisha** state 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.
- Note:** The state-level hospitals will have 1000 beds in Bhubaneswar, Odisha and will be functional in a fortnight. The State Government signed 2 tripartite agreements with KIMS (Kalinga Institute of Medical Sciences) and SUM Medical Colleges of Odisha to set up 500-bed hospitals each exclusively for Coronavirus treatment.
- 30. Justice Bhushan P Dharmadhikari** has been appointed as the Chief Justice of Bombay High Court.  
**Note:** President of India, Ram Nath Kovind issued a notification for appointing him as Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court. Members present at the ceremony are Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis and HC judges
- 31. Jharkhand** state government has launched a mobile app PRAGYAAM to issue e-passes.  
**Note:** The app was launched by the State Chief Minister Hemant Soren. The app aims to issue e-passes to everyone associated with the delivery of essential services during the nationwide lockdown to curb the spread of COVID-19.
- 32. Andhra Pradesh** government has set up “Mobile Hand-wash facilities” for the benefit of Slum Dwellers amidst lockdown in the state.  
**Note:** This facility to help them protect themselves from COVID-19. The mobile Hand Wash facility has become handy for both the state authorities and slum dwellers to access facility of hands cleaning.
- 33. Nagaland** state government has launched the Self Declaration COVID19 App.  
**Note:** The app will be mandatory for any person who entered Nagaland after March 6. The app is crucial for tracking and surveillance of high-risk cases. The app can be downloaded from the website nagalandhealthproject.org. User will be directed to click the menu button and select the nCOVID-19 App.
- 34. Uttar Pradesh** government has set up “Team-11” comprising of as many inter-departmental committees to fight the coronavirus spread.  
**Note:** Each of the committees will be headed by a senior bureaucrat of the state while the CM will be the head of the Team-11.
- 35. Odisha** government has launched ‘Mo Jeeban programme’ for the containment of COVID-19 pandemic.  
**Note:** Through Mo Jeeban programme, the chief minister of Odisha urged the people of the state to take a pledge to stay indoors. He also urged the people of Odisha to wash their hands for at least 20 seconds before entering their house.
- 36. Uttarakhand** state has abolished reservation in promotion in the state government jobs.  
**Note:** 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. The state government also issued orders regarding the departmental promotion

committee (DPC).

### 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. **Luxembourg has** become the world's 1st nation to make all public transport free.  
**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. 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 -- **83<sup>rd</sup>**.  
**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 83<sup>rd</sup> 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.
7. According to the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) India study female labour-force participation has declined from 34% in 2006 to **24.8% in 2020**.  
**Note:** In accordance with the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) India study, India is the only country among the 153 surveyed countries where the economic gender gap is larger than the political gap. If women participation raised in the labour force same as men then it can boost India's GDP (Gross Domestic Product) by 27%. Globally, 38.7% of employed women are working in agriculture, forestry and fisheries, but only 13.8% of landholders are women.
8. The 5th edition of Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Summit 2020 to be held in **Colombo, Sri Lanka**.  
**Note:** This was informed by BIMSTEC Secretary General (SG) Mohammad Shahidu Islam during his meeting with Sri Lankan Prime Minister (PM) Mahinda Rajapaksa. The summit will be preceded by the 17th Ministerial Meeting and 21st Senior Officials Meeting by the end of 2020. During the meet, it was decided that Sri Lanka will lead the science, technology, and innovation sector India on security, Bangladesh will lead Trade and Investment, Bhutan on Environment and Climate Change, Myanmar

- on Agriculture and Food Security, Nepal on People-to-People Contact and Thailand on Connectivity in BIMSTEC.
9. India has joined Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) as its **5th observer state**.  
**Note:** India has joined **Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)** as its 5th observer state to strengthen its Indo-Pacific vision and also to boost strategic partnership with France, and Vanilla Islands. The decision has been taken during the meeting of the Commission's council of ministers in **Seychell**. With this move, India would lead to greater security cooperation with countries in East Africa. It facilitates collective engagement of India with the islands in Western Indian Ocean (WIO).
  10. India's rank in the Inclusive Internet Index 2020, released by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) -- **46th**.  
**Note:** Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) released the 4th iteration of the Inclusive Internet Index 2020 for 100 countries where India is overall ranked in 46th place & Sweden in 1st place. The index aims to measure the extent to which the Internet is not only accessible & affordable, but also relevant to all, allowing usage that enables positive social & economic outcomes at the individual & group level. It is commissioned by Facebook. Among South Asian countries India ranks first followed by Srilanka, Bangladesh & Pakistan.
  11. **Pakistan** country ranks first according to the 1st edition of 'Gender Social Norms Index (GSNI) 2020'.  
**Note:** According to the 1st edition of 'Gender Social Norms Index (GSNI) 2020', released by the UNDP (United Nations Development Programme), about 90 % or 9 in 10 of the world's population has some bias against women. This index studied 75 countries covering over 80 % of the world's population & measures social beliefs that obstruct gender equality in areas like politics, work, and education. The highest number of bias against women was in Pakistan, where 99.81 % of the people supported similar bias. This was followed by Qatar and Nigeria, where 99.73 % of the people supported bias.
  12. India's rank in the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute's (SIPRI) annual report titled "Trends in international arms transfers, 2019" -- **Second**.  
**Note:** India is the world's second largest arms importer during 2015-19 with its global share of 9.2% after Saudi Arabia, who has topped the ranking with global share of 12%. On the other hand, India ranked 23rd in terms of world's largest arms exporters with global share of 0.2% and its main clients being Myanmar (46%), Sri Lanka (25%), and Mauritius (14%). United States (US) topped the list in this section with a share of 36%.
  13. In the 2nd edition of global Animal Protection Index (API) 2020 released by the World Animal Protection India gained --- **Grade C**.  
**Note:** World Animal Protection released the 2nd edition of global Animal Protection Index (API) 2020, where India gained C grade with other 8 countries which indicates India is one of the better-performing countries. Tragically no country gained A grade.
  14. **World Economic Forum (WEF)** has initiated the creation of the COVID Action Platform with the support of the World Health Organization (WHO), and Wellcome Trust.  
**Note:** The World Economic Forum (WEF) has initiated the creation of the COVID Action Platform with the support of the World Health Organization (WHO), and Wellcome Trust. This first of its kind platform, operating globally, is open to all businesses and industry groups, as well as other stakeholders, for integrated and collective business action to mitigate the risk and impact of COVID-19 (Coronavirus). The Forum has established a special team to support the platform's work.
  15. 3rd edition of WION Global Summit 2020 held in **Dubai, UAE**.  
**Note:** WION (World Is One News), the India's first International News Channel, has organized its 3rd edition of Global summit 2020 based on the theme "Navigating and negotiating global imperatives" at The Oberoi, in Dubai. It saw the participation of global leaders to engage in dialogue on a common global agenda to underscore the critical challenges of climate change, global governance, economic slowdown, and global crisis that threatens to become the new normal.
  16. First country to close its financial markets due to the COVID 19 (Coronavirus) outbreak -- **Philippines**.  
**Note:** 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. Now the speculations are if other countries may take similar measures then there is a fear of a global recession.
  17. The 7th World Cities Summit (WCS) is to be held from July 5 to 9, 2020 in **Singapore**.  
**Note:** It is organized by Singapore's Centre for Liveable Cities and the Urban Redevelopment Authority. The theme for WCS 2020 is "Liveable and Sustainable Cities: Adapting to a Disrupted World". The WCS 2020 is held in conjunction with the Singapore International Water Week (SIWW) and the CleanEnviro Summit Singapore (CESG). Singapore Government invited Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to the WCS-2020.
  18. **USD 1 million dollars** has been donated by the WhatsApp to Poynter Institute's International Fast-Checking Network (IFCN) in order to avoid fake information about the disease.  
**Note:** Facebook-owned messaging app WhatsApp launched the "WhatsApp Coronavirus Information Hub" globally, in partnership with WHO, UNICEF and UNDP. The WhatsApp Coronavirus Information Hub will be available at [Whatsapp.com/coronavirus](https://www.whatsapp.com/coronavirus) and provides simple, actionable guidance for health workers,

- educators, community leaders, nonprofits, local governments & local businesses. The site also offers general tips and resources for users around the world to reduce the spread of rumours and provides accurate health information.
19. India's rank in the 8th World Happiness Report 2020 released by the United Nations (UN) -- **144<sup>th</sup>**.  
**Note:** The survey ranks the countries using Gallup World Poll, GDP levels, life expectancy, generosity, social support, freedom & corruption income. This year's report mainly focuses on happiness in the environment especially in social, urban, rural & natural areas and also links happiness & sustainable development. Finland tops the report for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time.
  20. India's rank in the 26th annual edition of Economic Freedom Index 2020 -- **120<sup>th</sup>**.  
**Note:** The Heritage Foundation published its 26th annual edition of Economic Freedom Index 2020 to measure the level of economic freedom in 186 countries. Singapore (89.4) tops the index for the 1st time. Hong Kong (89.1) for the 1st time secured 2nd rank since the 1st publication in 1995
  21. Singapore has rescheduled the 7th World Cities Summit (WCS) 2020 to **20 – 24 June 2021**.  
**Note:** The summit is organized by Singapore's Centre for Liveable Cities and the Urban Redevelopment Authority. The theme of WCS is Liveable and Sustainable Cities: Adapting to a Disrupted World, it was earlier scheduled from July 5 to 9, 2020.
  22. Which streaming media service has announced the formation of \$100 million fund to deal with Covid-19 \_\_\_\_  
**Netflix Inc (NFLX.O)**.  
**Note:** The fund has been created to help workers on film and television productions that have been impacted due to the global coronavirus outbreak. The fund will help
  - cast and crew members such as electricians, carpenters, drivers and other hourly workers.
  23. **Canada** has become the first country in the world to withdraw from Tokyo 2020 Olympics.  
**Note:** The decision has been taken in view of the coronavirus pandemic. The Canadian Olympic Committee announced that holding the Tokyo 2020 Olympics as per schedule would threaten the health of its athletes.
  24. **IMF** has organization has launched a "Tracker of Policies Governments are Taking in Response to COVID-19".  
**Note:** The policy tracker outlines the key economic responses taken by the government of various countries in order to contain the COVID-19 pandemic. The policy tracker has the updated data till March 24, 2020
  25. **The United Nations** organization has launched a \$2 billion coordinated global humanitarian response plan to fight COVID-19.  
**Note:** UN Secretary-General has warned that the pandemic is threatening the entire human race and all of us must fight back. The Global HRP has been launched for a period of nine months (April–December 2020). The response plan will be coordinated by the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and will bring together requirements from the World Health Organization and other UN humanitarian agencies.
  26. **Asian Development Bank** will invest 100 million US Dollars in National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) of India Fund of Funds (FoF).  
**Note:** ADB's investment into the NIIF platform, the FoF has now secured \$700 million in commitments. ADB will now join the Government of India (GOI) and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) as an investor in the Fund. The investment announcement comes at a critical time for India, whose already sagging economic growth is set to take a beating due to the coronavirus pandemic.

### Honor & Awards

1. **Sarbananda Sonowal** has been honoured with the Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee award for politics.  
**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. **'There Is No Evil'** film won the Golden Bear prize 2020 for the best picture at the Berlin International Film Festival 2020.  
**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 Chatrion. The Opening film of the festival was 'My Salinger Year' & the Closing film was 'There Is No Evil'.
3. **Jadav Payeng** has been named as the 128th Commonwealth Points of Light Award winner.  
**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. **PV Sindhu** has been adjudged as the Sportsman of the year in the 4th edition of Times of India Sports Awards 2019.  
**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.
6. **Nupur Kulshrestha** becomes the 1st woman to be promoted as Deputy Inspector General(DIG )of Indian Coast Guard.  
**Note:** She joined Indian Coast Guard in 1999. On August 18, 1978 ICG was established by the Coast Guard Act, 1978 of the Parliament of India as an independent Armed force of India & is operated under the Ministry of defence. It is an armed forces & multi-mission organisation, which conducts real life operations at sea round the year.
7. President Ram Nath Kovind honoured 'Nari Shakti Puraskar' for 2019 to **15 women**.  
**Note:** The award is conferred annually to eminent women and institutions in recognition of their service towards the cause of women empowerment & social welfare. This award is an initiative of the Ministry of Women and Child Development(MWCD) to acknowledge the achievements of women for the nation & recognize their contributions towards society.
8. The theme of the 4th Edition of the Women Transforming India (WTI) Awards 2019 -- **Women and Entrepreneurship**.  
**Note:** On the occasion of International Women's Day (March 8, 2020), NITI Aayog in collaboration with United Nations (UN) in India has organized the 4th Edition of the Women Transforming India (WTI) Awards 2019 in New Delhi. The theme for WTI awards 2019 was "Women and Entrepreneurship". The awards were conferred by Defence Minister of India (or Raksha Mantri), Rajnath Singh who was the chief guest of an event.
9. **Manpreet Singh Pawar and Rani Rampal** have won the Hockey India Dhruv Batra Player of the Year Award 2019 for Men and Women respectively.  
**Note:** The captain of India men's national field hockey team, Manpreet Singh Pawar (27) & Captain of Indian Women Hockey Team, Rani Rampal (25) have won the Hockey India Dhruv Batra Player of the Year Award 2019 for Men and Women respectively. Apart from the trophy, they also collected a prize money of Rs 25 lakh each. Harbinder Singh, who was a member of the Tokyo Olympics 1964 gold medal winning team, was honored with Major Dhyani Chand Lifetime Achievement Award 2019, which carries a prize money of Rs 30 lakh and a trophy.
10. **V Praveen Rao** has won the 7th edition of Dr MS Swaminathan Award for the period 2017- 2019.  
**Note:** V Praveen Rao, Vice-Chancellor (VC) of Professor JayaShankar Telangana State Agricultural University (PJTSAU), won the 7th edition of Dr MS Swaminathan Award for the period 2017- 2019. The award will be conferred on him in June 2020. The award was constituted by Retired Indian Council of Agricultural Research Employees Association (RICAREA) and Nuziveedu Seeds Limited (NSL).
11. **PV Sindhu** has been named as BBC Indian Sportswoman of the year 2019.  
**Note:** Indian Badminton player Pusarla Venkata Sindhu, 24 years old, won BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation) Indian Sportswoman of the year award 2019 and former sprinter Pilavullakandi Thekkeparambil Usha was awarded with Lifetime Achievement award. The BBC award ceremony was held in New Delhi. Union Sports Minister Shri Kiren Rijiju was the guest of honour and Tony Hall, BBC Director General hosted the awards ceremony event.
12. **Kempegowda International Airport** has been adjudged as best Airport in Airport Service Quality awards 2019.  
**Note:** Annual Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Awards recognize and reward the best airports in the world according to ACI's 'ASQ Departure Survey' and the 'ASQ Arrivals Survey'. 34 key performance indicators under eight major categories were assessed during the survey & Indian Airports under the Airport Authority of India (AAI) have won many awards under Asia-Pacific region in "2019 Airport Service Quality (ASQ) awards". The award is given by the Airports Council International (ACI).
13. **Dr Jaimanti Bakshi** has won Best Citizens of India Gold medal Award.  
**Note:** Dr Jaimanti Bakshi, Professor & Unit Head II, Department of Otolaryngology and Head Neck surgery at PGIMER (Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research), Chandigarh was awarded with "Best Citizens of India". The award was given by "GEPR" (Global Economic Progress and Research Association) during the National Unity conference held in Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN).

14. Indian woman has been included in 'Influential Women in Sport' list for 2020 -- **Nita Ambani**.  
**Note:** Sports business network, iSportconnect released the 'Influential Women in Sport' list for 2020, which named Nita Ambani, Serena Williams & Simone Biles along with 7 other women. Nita Ambani led her Mumbai Indians franchise to become the most successful in IPL history & is in many sports projects across different sports in the country. Tennis player, Serena Williams's overall impact both on the court, (the greatest female player of all time), & as a businesswoman.
15. Indian journalist **Arfa Khanum Sherwani and Rohini Mohan** have won the "Chameli Devi Jain Award 2019" for outstanding Women media persons.  
**Note:** Arfa Khanum Sherwani is a senior editor of the news website 'The Wire'. While Rohini Mohan is freelance journalist. The annual award recognises social concern, dedication, courage and compassion all over India from the print, broadcast and online media category. Arfa Khanum Sherwani was selected for her reporting from conflict situations in Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh (UP). Rohini Mohan has been chosen for her reportage on NRC (National Register for Citizens) exercise in Assam & set a new benchmark for investigative journalism.
16. **Prachi Salve and Pradeep Dwivedi** has won the won the Road Safety (RS) Media Fellowship 2019.  
**Note:** Centre for Media Studies (CMS) announced that Prachi Salve of IndiaSpend and Pradeep Dwivedi of DainikJagran as the first winner of Road Safety (RS) Media Fellowship 2019, for their work in contribution

towards reporting on road safety. Centre for Media Studies (CMS) supported by the World Health Organization (WHO), conducted a three-month program for journalists to work on road safety issues in 2019. This program is conducted to Strengthen the capacities of the journalists.

17. **Hillel Furstenberg and Gregory Margulis** has been awarded with Abel Prize 2020.  
**Note:** The award is given by The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters. They are awarded for their "pioneering use of methods from probability & dynamics in group theory, number theory and combinatorics". They used probabilistic methods & random walks techniques to solve deep problems in diverse areas of mathematics.
18. **Ruchika Tomar** has won the 2020 PEN/Hemingway Award for Debut Novel, for "A Prayer for Travelers".  
**Note:** The novel was published on July 9, 2019. The Novel states about the friendship of 2 women which grows complicated until the relationship breaks apart and one of the friends disappear. Ruchika Tomar hails from California & is currently working as a lecturer at Stanford University.
19. **Zoya Akhtar** has been honored with IIFTC Tourism Impact Award 2020.  
**Note:** She has promoted tourism through her films like 2011 'Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara' which was shot in Spain, and 2015 comedy-drama 'DilDhadakne Do' shot in Turkey. Asia's largest film tourism event, 8th India International Film Tourism Conclave (IIFTC) was held in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

### Sports News

1. **Rafael Nadal** has won the Mexico Open Men's single title 2020.  
**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. **Mumbai** city will host the International Olympic Committee (IOC) session 2023 as recommended by IOC Executive Board.  
**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.
  8. Indian runner who has been provisionally suspended by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) failing doping test -- **Prachi Choudhary**.  
**Note:** Indian 400-meter runner Prachi choudhary from Uttar Pradesh was tested out of competition and was provisionally suspended by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) on March 6, 2020, for the presence of anabolic steroid, Oxandrolone. The provisional suspension starts to apply from February 20, 2020.
  9. Former Indian opening batsman and a domestic cricket giant has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket -- **Wasim Jaffer**.  
**Note:** Wasim Jaffer (42) a former Indian opening batsman and a domestic cricket giant has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket. He hails from Mumbai, Maharashtra. He is the fifth-highest run-scorer in Indian first-class cricket with 10 Ranji trophy titles. Wasim Jaffer is the highest run-scorer in the Ranji and Irani Trophy, who became the first player to play 150 Ranji trophy matches and the first batsman to score more than 12,000 runs in Ranji Trophy with 40 centuries and 89 half-centuries.
  10. **Australia** has won the 7th ICC Women's T20 World Cup tournament.  
**Note:** Australia women's cricket team defeated the Indian women's cricket team by 85 runs and won the title for the 5th time.
  11. Footballer of Malta **Andre Schembri** has announced his retirement from professional football.  
**Note:** Currently Andre Schembri (33 years old) playing for Chennaiyin FC's (Football Club) announced that he will retire from professional football after the Hero Indian Super League (ISL) final against ATK FC in Goa on March 14, 2020. He announced retirement from international football in November 2018 after 94 appearances for his nation.
  12. The Asian/Oceanian Boxing Olympic Qualifiers event 2020 was held in **Amman, Jordan**.  
**Note:** A total of 9 Indian boxers qualified in this event for Tokyo 2020 Olympics, which is to be held at New National Stadium in Tokyo, Japan from 24 July 2020 – 9 August 2020.
  13. **Saurashtra** team has won the Ranji Trophy title 2019-20.  
**Note:** Jaydev Dipakbhai Unadkat led Saurashtra team and won the maiden Ranji Trophy title defeating Bengal team at the Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium, Rajkot, Gujarat. The final of the Ranji trophy is headed towards a draw, then the winner Saurashtra is decided on the basis of a first-innings lead.
  14. **ATK FC** has won the Indian Super League trophy for the 3rd time.  
**Note:** ATK Football Club won the Indian Super League (ISL) trophy for the 3rd time following a 3-1 win against Chennaiyin FC in the final match held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Margao, Goa.
  15. New Zealand (NZ) all-rounder **Andrew Malcolm Ellis** has announced his retirement from Canterbury cricket.  
**Note:** After Ross Taylor he became the 2nd player in NZ to play over 100 games in each format. He is the only player to be named as Men's Domestic Player of the Year twice by NZ National Cricket Team, in the 2014-15 & 2016-17 seasons. The highlight of his career was the 2016-17 season, as he raised the Plunket Shield & The Ford Trophy in his first year as captain.
  16. **Achanta Sharath Kamal** has won the ITTF Challenger Plus Oman Open men's singles title.  
**Note:** He beat top-seeded Marcos Freitas of Portugal 4-2 in the final played in Muscat. It was in 2010, Sharath



bagged a title last time when he won the Egypt Open. Since then he made two semi-final appearances (Morocco Open in 2011 and India Open in 2017) but couldn't manage to get through it.

- 17. Viktor Axelsen and Tai Tzu Ying** have won the men's and women's singles title respectively at All England Championship.

**Note:** All England Championship was held in Birmingham, England. This was the last badminton event before the Badminton World Federation's suspension of all tournaments due to the coronavirus pandemic. Viktor Axelsen of Denmark defeated Chinese Taipei's Chou Tien-chen by 21-13, 21-14 to win the men's singles title of All England Championship. Tai Tzu Ying of Chinese Taipei defeated Chinese Chen Yu Fei by 21-19, 21-15 to win the women's singles title of All England Championship.

- 18. Two Indian Vrinda Rathi and Janani Narayanan.** have been named in the International Panel of ICC Development Umpires.

**Note:** 100% Cricket is a 12-month campaign which has been launched to build on the momentum of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2020.

- 19. The International Olympic Committee and Tokyo Olympic organizers agreed to move the Tokyo Games to 2021.**

**Note:** Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and the head of the International Olympic Committee agreed to postpone the Tokyo 2020 Games by a year in an extraordinary move, unprecedented in peacetime, as the world battles the coronavirus pandemic. It will mark the first time in history that the start of an Olympics will be delayed to another year.

- 20. Shilpa Shetty** has partnered with the Government of India's flagship fitness movement "Fit India".

**Note:** The tie-up will provide free access of the Shilpa Shetty Kundra's premium 21-Day Weight Loss Programme during the 21-day lockdown owing to Covid-19 pandemic. Fit India Movement was launched by the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the occasion of National Sports Day.

- 21. Indian shot-putter** who has been suspended for four years by World athletics body's -- **Navin Chikara.**

**Note:** He has been banned for use of a prohibited substance and his four-year suspension starts from July 27, 2018.

Chikara won the silver medal in the 2018 Federation Cup. At the same year, he was runner up in the Inter-State Championship.

gradeup

-----0-----



## Gradeup Green Card

### Features:

- › 700 + Full-length Mocks
- › 35+ Bank & Insurance Exams Covered
- › Tests Available in English & Hindi
- › Performance Analysis & All India Rank
- › Previous Year Question Papers in Mock Format
- › Available on Mobile & Desktop



[www.gradeup.co](http://www.gradeup.co)