

SSC & Railway

Bi-weekly Current Affairs

(16th to 31st March 2020)



Weekly One Liners Updates 16-31st March 2020

Dear readers,

Bi-Weekly One Liners Update is a collection of important news and events that occurred in the **two weeks** (16-31st) of March 2020. This file is important for, **SSC and Railways** exams.

Important News - India

1. 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.

2. 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).

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

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.
-

4. 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.

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

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.

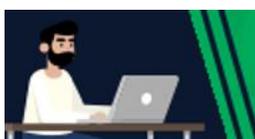
6. As per the Minister of Road Transport & Highways Nitin Gadkari the number of deaths caused due to road accidents have been reduced by _____ **10%**.

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.

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

Note:



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- 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.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. 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).
11. 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.
12. 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.
- ii.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.
13. 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.
14. With which country India has signed Rs 880 crore contract for Negev 7.62X51 mm Light Machine Guns _____ **Israel**.

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.



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- The weapons are procured under the Fast Track Procedure (FTP).
15. 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.
16. 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..
17. 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.
18. 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.
19. 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.
20. 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.
21. 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.
22. Which IIT is to organize India's 1st Global Hyperloop Pod Competition _____ **IIT Madras.**
- 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.
23. What amount has been allocated by the union government for health sector to deal with Coronavirus Pandemic _____ **15,000 crores.**
- Note:**
24. Which becomes the first city in India to use drones to sanitize the city _____ **Indore.**
- Note:**



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- 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.
25. 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.
26. What amount has been provided by the union government under PMGaribKalyanYojana for the poor to tackle Corona Virus _____**1.70 lakh crores.**
- 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
27. 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.
28. 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).
29. What amount has been approved by the central government as additional assistance to 8 disaster-hit states _____ **Rs 5,751.27 crores.**
- 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.
30. What is the name has been given to the initiative launched by Indian Army to protect 1.3 million strong forces from coronavirus _____ **Operation Namaste.**
- 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.
31. Which has signs an agreement worth Rs 15,295 crore with India to provide an Official Development Assistance (ODA) for 3 rail infrastructure projects _____ **Japanese government funding agency (JICA).**
- 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.
32. 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:**



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- 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.
33. Which IIT is organizing India's first Global Hyperloop Pod Competition named as 'Indian Hyperloop Pod Competition' _____ **IIT Madras**.
- 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.
34. Which organization has designed a casualty evacuation bag to transport or isolate persons infected with COVID-19 _____ **DRDO**.
- 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.
35. 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.
36. 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.
37. 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.
38. 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. Which state government planning to construct 33 stadiums across the state under the Uttaran Scheme _____ **Assam**.
- 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.
2. Phool Dei festival was celebrated in _____ **Uttarakhand**.
- Note:**



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- 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. Which becomes the third state in India to launch its "Star Rating Program" _____ **Jharkhand**.
- 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).
6. Which state has promulgated Recovery of Damage to Public Properties Ordinance 2020' _____ **Uttar Pradesh**.
- 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.
7. Which state/UTs announced Rs 5 lakh Free Health Insurance under Ayushman Bharat _____ **Jammu and Kashmir**.
- 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.
8. Which state has canceled quota in promotion for state government employees _____ **Uttarakhand**.
- 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.
9. Which state/UTs government has Social and Educational Backward Classes Commission _____ **Jammu and Kashmir**.
- 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.
10. Which state government has launched Police Station Visitor Survey System and e-Night Beat Checking System _____ **Himachal Pradesh**.



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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.

11. Which state government has decided to call Sanitary personnel as “cleanliness workers” _____ **Tamil Nadu**.

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.

12. Which state Police becomes first in India to introduce taser guns _____ **Gujarat**.

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”.

13. Which state government has signed an MoU with Dutch Flying car-maker PAL-V _____ **Gujarat**.

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.

14. Which becomes the 1st Indian state to launch assessment tool for COVID-19 _____ **Goa**.

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.

15. 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.

16. Which 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 _____ **Odisha**.

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.

17. Who has been appointed as the Chief Justice of Bombay High Court _____ **Justice Bhushan P Dharmadhikari**.

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

18. Which state government has launched a mobile app PRAGYAAM to issue e-passes _____ **Jharkhand**.

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.

19. Which state government has set up “Mobile Hand-wash facilities” for the benefit of Slum Dwellers amidst lockdown in the state _____ **Andhra Pradesh**.

Note:

- This facility to help them protect themselves from COVID-19.



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- The mobile Hand Wash facility has become handy for both the state authorities and slum dwellers to access facility of hands cleaning.
20. Which state government has launched the Self Declaration COVID19 App ____ **Nagaland**.
- 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.
21. Which state government has set up "Team-11" comprising of as many inter-departmental committees to fight the coronavirus spread ____ **Uttar Pradesh**.
- 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.
22. Which state government has launched 'Mo Jeeban programme' for the containment of COVID-19 pandemic ____ **Odisha**.
- 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.
23. Which state has abolished reservation in promotion in the state government jobs ____ **Uttarakhand**.
- 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. 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.
2. Which becomes the 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.
3. 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.
4. What amount has been donated by the WhatsApp to Poynter Institute's International Fast-Checking Network (IFCN) in order to avoid fake information about the disease ____ **\$1 million dollars**.
- 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.
 - ii. The site also offers general tips and resources for users around the world to reduce the spread of rumours and provides accurate health information.
5. What is India's rank in the 8th World Happiness Report 2020 released by the United Nations (UN) ____ **144th**.
- Note:**



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- 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 3rd time.
6. What is India's rank in the 26th annual edition of Economic Freedom Index 2020 _____ **120th**.
- 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
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. Which country has become the first country in the world to withdraw from Tokyo 2020 Olympics _____ **Canada**.
- 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.
10. Which organization has launched a "Tracker of Policies Governments are Taking in Response to COVID-19" _____ **IMF**.
- 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
11. Which organization has launched a \$2 billion coordinated global humanitarian response plan to fight COVID-19 _____ **The United Nations**.
- 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.
12. Which financial institution will invest 100 million US Dollars in National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) of India Fund of Funds (FoF) _____ **Asian Development Bank**.
- 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. Name the Indian journalist who have won the "Chameli Devi Jain Award 2019" for outstanding Women media persons _____ **Arfa Khanum Sherwani and Rohini Mohan**.

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).



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- Rohini Mohan has been chosen for her reportage on NRC (National Register for Citizens) exercise in Assam & set a new benchmark for investigative journalism.
2. Who has won the Road Safety (RS) Media Fellowship 2019 _____ **Prachi Salve and Pradeep Dwivedi.**
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.
3. Who has been awarded with Abel Prize 2020 _____ **Hillel Furstenberg and Gregory Margulis.**
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.
4. Who has won the 2020 PEN/Hemingway Award for Debut Novel, for “A Prayer for Travelers” _____ **Ruchika Tomar.**
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.
5. Who has been honored with IIFTC Tourism Impact Award 2020 _____ **Zoya Akhtar.**
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.

Banking & Financial Awareness

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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,



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Department of Science & Technology (DST), Ministry of Science and Technology and National Research and Education Network (NREN).

7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. **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.
13. 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.
14. 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).
15. 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.
16. **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,



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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.

- 17. 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.

- 18.** 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.

- 19. 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.

- 20.** 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 Bhoria as the administrator at the bank.

- 21. 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.

- 22.** 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).

- 23. 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.

- 24.** 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.

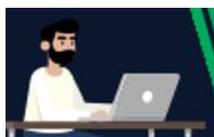
- 25.** For building rural infrastructure in the FY 2019-20 the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) provides financial support of **Rs. 42,313 crores**.



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- 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.
- 26. 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.
- 27. 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.
- 28. 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.
- 29. 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.
- 30. 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.
- 31. 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 .
- 32. 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%.
- 33. 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.
- 34. 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.
- 35. 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).**



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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.

36. 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. Dr Puthussery 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. Name the French comic book artist, scriptwriter, the co-creator and illustrator of the "Asterix and Obelix" who passed away recently _____ **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.

8. 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.

9. Nawab Banoo alias Nimmi passed away recently was a famous _____ **Bollywood actress**.



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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).

10. Nemai 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).

11. Rajyogini Dadi Janki passed away recently, she was chief of which spiritual organization _____ **Brahmakumaris Sansthan**.

Note:

12. Former Union Minister, Beni Prasad Verma passed away recently, was the founding member of which political party _____ **Samajwadi Party**.

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.

13. 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 Pi Day is celebrated every year on _____ **14th 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.

2. 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.'

3. National Vaccination Day is observed every year on _____ **16th 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.

4. The Global Recycling Day 2020 was observed on _____ **18th 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.



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- The main aim of the day is to turn 'waste' into a valuable resource.
5. 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.
6. The "International Day of Happiness" is celebrated worldwide every year on ____ **20th 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".
7. The world day of theatre for children and Young People celebrated every year on ____ **20th 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.
8. The World Poetry Day is observed every year on ____ **21st 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
9. The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is observed annually on ____ **21st 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.
10. The International Day of Forests (IDF) is observed annually on ____ **21st 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".
11. The World Down Syndrome Day (WDS) is observed annually on ____ **21st 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.
12. The World Puppetry Day is observed annually on ____ **21st 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.
13. The International Day of Nowruz was celebrated on ____ **21st 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.
14. The World Water Day is observed globally every year on ____ **March 22**.
- Note:**
The day is observe to highlight the importance of freshwater.



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Theme of the year 2020: "Water and Climate Change".

15. The World Meteorological Day (WMD 2020) is observed every year on _____ **23rd 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.

16. The World Tuberculosis Day is observed globally on _____ **March 24**

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).

17. The International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade is observed on _____ **25th 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.
- The United Nations General Assembly designated March 25 as the day on December 17, 2007

18. World Theatre Day (WTD) is celebrated every year on _____ **27th 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. Who has been appointed as the MD and Chief Financial Officer (CEO) of Yes Bank _____ **Prashant Kumar.**

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.

2. Who has been appointed as the officiating Chairperson of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) _____ **Bansi Lal Bhat.**

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).

3. Who has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Tata Power _____ **Shardul Thakur.**

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.

4. Who has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director of Power Finance Corporation (PFC) _____ **Ravinder Singh Dhillon.**

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.

5. Who has been appointed as the Prime Minister (PM) of Iraq _____ **Adnan al-Zurfi.**

Note:

- He will succeed Mohammed Allawi, the 1st politician named by the president as PM-designate who withdrew his candidacy for the post.



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- 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.
6. Name the former chief justice of India who has been nominated as the member of Upper House of the Parliament, Rajya Sabha _____ **Ranjan Gogoi**.
- 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.
7. Who has been appointed as the additional directors of Yes Bank _____ **Rama Subramaniam Gandhi & Ananth Narayan Gopalakrishnan**.
- 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.
8. Congress leader Kamal Nath resigned as Chief Minister of which state _____ **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.
9. Under whose chairmanship the Insurance Regulation and Development Authority (IRDAI) instituted a 16-member committee _____ **Pravin Kutumbe**.
- 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.
10. Who will chair the 21 member high-level technical committee of public health experts to guide the people in preventive & control activities of COVID-19 _____ **V K Paul**.
- 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
11. Who has sworn in as the chief minister of Madhya Pradesh after the resignation of Kamal Nath _____ **Shivraj Singh Chouhan**.
- 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
12. Who has been appointed as the MD and CEO of IndusInd bank _____ **Sumant Kathpalia**.



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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.

13. Who has been reappointed as the Deputy Governor of RBI for a period of one year _____ **Bibhu Prasad Kanungo**.

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.

Sports News

1. Which team has won the Ranji Trophy title 2019-20 _____ **Saurashtra**.

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.

2. Which team has won the Indian Super League trophy for the 3rd time _____ **ATK FC**.

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.

3. Name the New Zealand(NZ) all-rounder who has announced his retirement from Canterbury cricket _____ **Andrew Malcolm Ellis**.

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.
- He finished his career with 9366 runs & 548 wickets.

4. Who has won the ITTF Challenger Plus Oman Open men's singles title _____ **Achanta Sharath Kamal**.

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.

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

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.

6. Which two Indian have been named in the International Panel of ICC Development Umpires _____ **Vrinda Rathi and Janani Narayanan**.

Note:

- The announcement was made after the launch of 100% Cricket.
- 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.

7. The International Olympic Committee and Tokyo Olympic organizers agreed to move the Tokyo Games to _____ **2021**.

Note:



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- 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.

8. Which celebrity has partnered with the Government of India's flagship fitness movement "Fit India" _____ **Shilpa Shetty**.

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.

9. Name the 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.

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