

Weekly One-Liners

22-31st March 2020



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Dear readers,

Weekly One Liner Updates is a collection of important news and events that occurred in the **fourth week** (22-31st) of **March 2020**. This file is important for, **Banking, SSC, Railway & Insurance** exams.

Banking & Financial Awareness

1. Which health insurance company has launched 'Star Novel Coronavirus Insurance Policy' that provides coverage for hospitalized patients who test positive for the current pandemic COVID-19 ____ **Star Health and Allied Insurance Co Ltd.**

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.

2. 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.

3. Which bank has launched India's 1st prepaid wallet card 'Enkasu' ____ **Karur Vysya Bank (KVB).**

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.

4. 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- RBI also superseded the board and the management of PMCBank and appointed an ex-RBI official JB Bhorla as the administrator at the bank.

5. Which bank becomes the first bank to launch COVID 19 emergency credit line (CECL) to provide funds to businesses affected by the infectious coronavirus ____ **State Bank of India.**

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.
6. What amount RBI has injected through open market operations (OMOs) in the economy _____ **30,000 crores**.
- 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).
7. Which oil company becomes the first company to begin the supply of BS-VI fuel across country _____ **Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)**.
- 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.
 - Key Points:
 - 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.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. Which small finance bank in partnership with National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI), has launched a UPI QR-based loan installment payment facility _____ **Jana Small Finance Bank (SFB)**.
- 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.

12. Which agency has launched “The Invest India Business Immunity Platform” in order to minimise the impacts & crisis in business due to COVID-19 (Coronavirus) _____ **National Investment Promotion & Facilitation Agency.**

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.

13. Which bank has launched five special emergency loans for large corporates, medium enterprises, MSMEs, salaried and pensioners _____ **Indian Bank.**

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.

14. 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.

15. 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.

16. 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%.

17. Which financial institutions will invest 100 million US Dollars in India’s infrastructure sector through the government-promoted National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) _____ **Asian Development Bank.**

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.

18. The mega bank consolidation plan is all set to come into force from _____ **April 1, 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.

19. Which 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) _____ **Punjab National Bank.**

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.

20. 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. 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.

2. Kenneth Ray Rogers passed away recently, he was a veteran _____ **Actor.**

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.

3. 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.

4. 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.
5. 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).
6. 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).
7. Rajyogini Dadi Janki passed away recently, she was chief of which spiritual organization _____ **Brahmakumaris Sansthan**.
- Note:**
8. 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.
9. 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 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
2. 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.
3. 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".
4. The World Down Syndrome Day (WSDS) 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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".**
8. 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.
9. 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).
10. 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
11. 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. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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
4. 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
5. Who has been appointed as the MD and CEO of IndusInd bank _____ **Sumant Kathpalia**.
- 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.
6. 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.

Important News – India

1. 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.
2. 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, Bhubaneshwar (Odisha) and SRIJAN, Jaipur (Rajasthan) to provide entrepreneurship skills to the tribal people.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. What amount has been allocated by the union government for health sector to deal with Coronavirus Pandemic ____ **15,000 crores**.
- Note:**
7. Which becomes the first city in India to use drones to sanitize the city ____ **Indore**.
- 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.
8. 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.
9. 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
10. 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.
11. 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).

12. 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.

13. 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.

14. 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.

15. 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.

16. 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.

17. 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.

18. 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.

19. 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.

20. 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.

21. 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 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".

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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
7. 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.
8. 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.
 - The mobile Hand Wash facility has become handy for both the state authorities and slum dwellers to access facility of hands cleaning.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. 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. What is India’s rank in the 8th World Happiness Report 2020 released by the United Nations (UN) _____ **144th**.
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 3rd time.
2. 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
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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
7. 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.
8. 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. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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 Dobaar' 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. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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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