

# Mid-monthly One Liner Current Affairs March 2019

## Financial One Liner Current Affairs

- The Reserve Bank of India and Bank of Japan have completed signing of the Agreement for Bilateral Swap Arrangement (BSA) between India and Japan. This BSA provides for India to access USD 75 billion and was approved by the Union Cabinet in January 2019.
- Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways, Shipping and Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Nitin Gadkari inaugurated and laid foundation stones for sixteen National Highways projects worth Rs 6943.04 crore in Chhapra and Madhepura, Bihar on February 28, 2019.
- The National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) will organise a first of its kind 'India International Cooperative Trade Fair' in October 2019 in New Delhi.
- Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Skill development and Entrepreneurship, Dharmendra Pradhan handed over the 100th Letter of Intent (LoI) to the Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) Entrepreneur under the SATAT scheme.
- The Union Tribal Affairs Minister, Jual Oram launched the Minimum Support Price for Minor Forest Produces and the Value Addition component of Van Dhan scheme on February 28, 2019 at a workshop organised by TRIFED at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi.
- The Union Government on March 1, 2019 signed a 926 million dollar loan agreement to operationalise two of the Mumbai Metro Rail System.
- The Cabinet approved the payment of the face value of the subscribed share capital of Rs.1450 crore in National Housing Bank (NHB) to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) consequent to amendments made to the NHB Act, 1987 in 2018.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the 'Pradhan Mantri Jaiv Indhan- Vatavaran Anukool fasal awashesh Nivaran (JI-VAN) Yojana' for providing financial support to the Integrated Bioethanol Projects.
- Indian economy is expected to grow at 7.3 per cent in calendar years 2019 and 2020, the US-based rating agency Moody's stated on March 1, 2019.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the continuation of the implementation of the Tertiary healthcare programmes for non-communicable diseases and E-Health upto 2020 with an outlay of Rs 2551.15 crore.
- The Union Cabinet approved Kanpur Metro Rail Project having two corridors, which will connect major public nodes and city cluster areas of Kanpur.
- The Union Cabinet approved Agra Metro Rail Project having two corridors.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the FDI Proposal for Foreign Direct Investment of more than Rs. 5000 crore and up to Rs. 25000 crore in Vodafone Idea Limited (VIL) as part of a proposed equity fund raise by way of a Rights issue of equity shares.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved investment for Transmission Component of Arun-3 Hydro Electric Project (Nepal portion) by Sutlej Jal Vikas Nigam (SJVN) Limited for an estimated cost of Rs. 1236.13 crore at June 2017 Price level.
- Former Finance Secretary Hasmukh Adhia was appointed as non-executive chairman of Bank of Baroda on Friday, according to a Personnel Ministry order.
- The Reserve Bank has imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 3 crore on Union Bank, Rs 2 crore on Dena Bank, and Rs 1 crore each on IDBI and the SBI for non-compliance with various directions, regulatory filings.
- Niti Aayog has been tasked with drawing up a list of non-core assets of various CPSEs, both healthy and sick ones, as a first step towards finance ministry's plan to monetise such assets and unlock value to shareholders.
- In a big bonanza to over 42,000 employees of public sector insurance companies, the government Saturday decided to give one more pension option as retirement benefit to these leftover officers and staff who missed the opportunity in the past.
- Web portal PSBloansin59minutes .com launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi three months ago has emerged as the largest online lending platform, according to a report by global financial firm Credit Suisse.

The portal was launched in November to provide credit of up to **Rs 1 crore** to **micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs)** in just **59 minutes**.

- **The Union Government and Brunei signed an agreement for the Exchange of Information and Assistance in Collection with respect to Taxes (TIEA) in New Delhi on February 28, 2019.**
- **Union Minister of Textiles, Smriti Zubin Irani on February 28, 2019 launched a comprehensive scheme for the development of knitting and knitwear sector under PowerTex India in New Delhi.**
- **Maharashtra government has signed an MoU with Nine Dragon Papers, a Chinese paper manufacturing company, for setting up a unit in the state and is expecting an investment of \$1 billion.**
- **Former finance secretary Ajay Narayan Jha Friday joined the 15th Finance Commission as a member, pursuant to the resignation of Shaktikanta Das.**
- **Yes Bank Friday said Ravneet Gill has taken charge as its MD and CEO with immediate effect for a tenure of three years.**
- **The IDBI Bank has received government nod to handle import and export transactions with Iran, a move which would help in promoting two-way trade amid US sanctions on the Persian Gulf nation, industry sources said.**
- **The Ministry of Finance is planning to set up a special cell in the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) to expedite the monetisation of non-core assets of state-owned companies.**
- **Private sector lender Yes Bank Tuesday said the Reserve Bank of India has slapped a fine of Rs 1 crore on the bank for non-compliance of directions on Swift messaging software.**
- **Private sector Karnataka Bank Monday said the RBI has slapped a fine of Rs 4 crore on the bank for violating regulatory norms.**
- **LIC Housing Finance on Monday announced that it has inked a partnership with India Mortgage Guarantee Corporation (IMGC) in order to offer its customers a special loan scheme under which borrowers will be able to repay the amount till they turn 75 years of age.**
- **India today signed a loan agreement with the World Bank for 96 Million US dollars for additional financing of Uttarakhand Disaster Recovery Project.**
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi on March 5, 2019 launched the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan Yojana (PM-SYM), a mega pension scheme for unorganised sector, from Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The scheme was announced in the Interim Budget 2019.**
- **The Third group of 22 officials of Nepal's Ministry of Finance joined the training course on 'Global Perspectives on Public Financial Management' at the Institute of Government Accounts and Finance (INGAF) in New Delhi.**
- **The Indian Government on March 5, 2019 signed a \$250 million loan agreement with the World Bank for the National Rural Economic Transformation Project (NRETP) that aims to help women in rural households shift to a new generation of economic initiatives by developing viable enterprise for farm and non-farm products.**
- **The Department of Commerce under the Union Ministry of Commerce & Industry on March 5, 2019 notified a scheme for Transport and Marketing Assistance (TMA) for Specified Agriculture Products.**
- **State Bank of India will soon sign up with the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Transactions' (SWIFT) Global Payment Interface (gpi), adding to the list of Indian banks that have subscribed to the interbank communication channel's new payment interface which is set to make cross-border transactions much more secure and transparent, a top official said.**
- **The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) has signed a cooperation agreement with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) to train professionals, the government said on Thursday.**
- **Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated National Highways projects worth Rs 1,10,154 crore in Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh.**
- **The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved measures to promote the Hydro Power Sector, which include declaring Large Hydropower Projects (HPO) as part of non-solar Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO)**
- **The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the construction of a 3rd railway line between Narayangarh in West Bengal and Bhadrak in Odisha of 155 kilometres length.**
- **The Centre and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have signed a 26 million dollar loan agreement to provide additional financing for improving drainage infrastructure in Dibrugarh town of Assam.**

- The government has set up a committee to examine the issues related to framing of a proper, structured scheme for providing insurance cover to advocates and suggest modalities for its implementation.
- India signed a USD 3 billion deal with Russia for leasing a nuclear-powered attack submarine for the Indian Navy for a period of 10 years.
- Business organisations using Aadhaar services now need to pay Rs 20 for each customer verification and 50 paise for authentication of each transaction carried out by the entities, as per the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI).
- The Union Cabinet has approved the scheme to rebate state and central embedded taxes to support the textile sector. This will enable the government to take various measures for making exports of apparel and made-ups zero-rated.
- The Union Cabinet has approved Delhi Metro's Phase -4 project comprising of 3 - priority corridors. The total length of these 3 corridors will be 61.679 km.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved Phase-IIIA of the Mumbai Urban Transport Project.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved procedure and mechanism for Strategic Disinvestment of the CPSEs.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the investment approval for 2x660MW Khurja Super Thermal Power Plant (STPP) in District Bulandshahar of Uttar Pradesh at an estimated cost of Rs 11,089.42 crore and Amelia Coal Mine in District Singrauli, Madhya Pradesh.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given its approval for investment approval for 2x660 MW Buxar Thermal Power Project (Buxar TPP) in District Buxar of Bihar.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given its approval for the investment sanction for acquisition of Lanco Teesta Hydro Power Ltd (LTHPL) and execution of balance work of the Teesta Stage-VI HE project by NHPC Ltd in Sikkim.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given its approval for funds amounting to Rs 2790 crore towards interest subvention for extending indicative loan amount of Rs 12900 crore by banks to the sugar mills under the scheme for extending financial assistance to sugar mills for enhancement and augmentation of ethanol production capacity.
- InstantPay reiterated its focus on the SME industry with its launch of the first-of-its-kind Neo-banking services.
- Credit bureau Crif Highmark and data analytics firm CreditVidya have tied up to help lenders provide credit to borrowers who have been underserved or are new to credit and do not have a credit history
- A panel set up by insurance regulator Irdai has suggested modifications in the norms for surveyors and loss assessors in order to attract youngsters and promote expeditious settlement of claims.
- The Board of Reserve Bank of India, which included the present Governor Shaktikanta Das as the Director, had warned of short-term negative impact of demonetisation on the country's economic growth.
- The Government, so far, transferred Rs 5,215 crore to over 2.6 crore small and marginal farmers under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme.
- India launched its third IT corridor in China to facilitate partnerships between Indian and Chinese companies.
- State Bank of India (SBI) on Friday linked its interest rate on savings account with balance above ₹1 lakh and short-term loans to Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) repo rate, effective 1 May 2019.
- Global investment company Blackstone and realty firm Embassy will hit the capital market with the country's first real estate investment trust (REIT) to raise up to Rs 4,750 crore, while it has received Rs 876-crore commitment from strategic investors.
- The Union Government has approved two corridors of the Surat Metro project to be executed at an estimated cost of around Rs 12,000 crore.
- Private sector lender Axis Bank Tuesday has appointed Rakesh Makhija as its non-executive chairman for a term of 3 years, with effect from July 18.
- The Union Ministry of Corporate Affairs has released the National Guidelines on responsible business conduct and revised the National Voluntary Guidelines on social, environmental and economic responsibilities of business, 2011.

- IDBI Bank has been categorised as a private sector lender following acquisition of majority stake by Life Insurance Corporation, RBI said.
- Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPB) has today announced the launch of its mobile banking app that offers users quick, effortless & secured access to their bank account on the go.

## Non-financial One Liner Current Affairs

- Railways Minister Piyush Goyal on February 27, 2019 announced the “**South Coast Railway (SCoR)**” as the **new Zone of Indian Railways**.
- NITI Aayog’s Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and Adobe on February 28, 2019 signed a Statement of Intent (SOI) to collectively drive the charter of developing creative skills and spreading digital literacy across all **Atal Tinkering Labs in India**.
- Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways, Shipping and Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Nitin Gadkari will lay the foundation stone for a **six-lane National Highway (NH) project at Kalindi Kunj-Meethapur Road in Delhi on March 1, 2019**.
- Suresh Prabhu, Union Minister of Commerce, Industry and Civil Aviation **inaugurated the Aviation Conclave 2019 with the theme of “Flying for All”**.
- Union Minister of Textiles, Smriti Zubin Irani, **launched five short term courses at NIFT Panchkula, Haryana**.
- Himachal Pradesh Forest Minister Govind Singh Thakur informed that monkeys have been declared as **Vermin species for next one year for eleven districts and 91 tehsils and sub-tehsils in Himachal Pradesh**.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday conferred the **Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prizes for Science and Technology for the years 2016, 2017 and 2018 in New Delhi**.
- The **National Aeronautics and Space Administration** has selected a new mission that will help scientists understand and ultimately, forecast the vast space weather system around the Earth.
- Anupriya Patel, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, inaugurated the ‘**International Digital Health Symposium**’ and the exhibition on **Digital Health as part of the Symposium**.
- The **2019 World Zero Discrimination Day** is observed on **1 March, 2019** with the theme “**Act to change laws that discriminate**”.
- Assam, the state where oil was discovered and produced for the first time in the country more than a century ago, will have the **first Oil Museum in the country**.
- AYUSH Minister Shripad Yesso Naik on March 1, 2019 laid the foundation stone for **National Institute of Unani Medicine at Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh**.
- The Union Cabinet approved the Implementation of Master Plan to convert ‘**All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)**’, New Delhi into a world class ‘**Medical University**’.
- The Union Cabinet approved inclusion of **Common Service Centres (CSC)** under MEITY as an enrolment agency for the **Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM-SYM) Yojana**.
- The Union Cabinet approved setting up of a **Railway Zone at Vishakhapatnam** and a new division with **headquarter at Rayagada by reorganizing the existing South Central Railway and East Coast Railway**
- The Union Cabinet was apprised about the joining of **Union Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas as the 25th member of the IEA Bioenergy TCP on January 25, 2019**.
- The Union Cabinet approved the draft **Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Ordinance, 2019** to extend the period for reconstitution of the **Central Council from existing period of one year to two years**.
- The Union Cabinet approved the proposal for Creation of two posts of Commissioners in the **Office of the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD)**, in terms of provisions of **The Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPWD) Act, 2016**.
- The Union Cabinet Modi approved promulgation of an **Ordinance for establishing the New Delhi International Arbitration Centre (NDIAC)** for the purpose of creating an independent and autonomous regime for institutionalised arbitration.
- The Union Cabinet approved the proposal for setting up of a **Centre for Disability Sports at Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh, to be registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860**.



- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved **construction of four lane bridge including approaches over river Brahmaputra between Dhubri on North Bank and Phulbari on South Bank on NH-127 B in the State of Assam/Meghalaya.**
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved development of **New Greenfield Airport at Hirasar, Rajkot, Gujarat at an estimated cost of Rs.1405 crore.**
- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on March 1, 2019 **approved the National Policy on Software Products 2019 to develop India as a Software Product Nation.**
- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 28, 2019 **approved National Mineral Policy 2019.**
- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, **approved the establishment of new All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Rewari at Manethi, Haryana at a cost of Rs 1299 crore.**
- Senior IPS officer Subodh Kumar Jaiswal was on Thursday appointed Maharashtra's Director General of Police (DGP), while Sanjay Barve will take over as the police commissioner of Mumbai, a senior official said.
- Kargil war hero and present Eastern Air Command chief Air Marshal R Nambiar has been appointed as the new chief of Indian Air Force's sword arm Western Air Command (WAC) on Thursday.
- The alumnus and researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi have created a laptop "Dotbook" for visually-impaired.
- Former Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court Ajit Singh is appointed as the first Lokayukta of Odisha.
- Indian American Medha Narvekar has been appointed vice president and secretary of the University of Pennsylvania.
- Roger Federer has claimed the 100th ATP title of his career with after beating 20-year-old Greek Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-4, 6-4 in the final of the Dubai Tennis Championships.
- World Wildlife Day 2019 is observed on 3 March, 2019 with the theme "Life Below Water: For people and planet".
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on March 4, 2019 launched 'One Nation, One Card' Model from Ahmedabad, Gujarat for seamless travel through different metros and other transport systems.
- On the first day of his two-day visit to Gujarat, the Prime Minister inaugurated the first phase of the Ahmedabad Metro Rail project and laid the foundation of the second phase of the project.
- Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis inaugurated the 11.28 km second phase of the monorail. The full route of the monorail is 19.54 km long, Chembur-Wadala-Jacob Circle.
- Union Minister Harsh Vardhan launched an anthem as a part of a campaign to make India plastic-free by 2022 and stressed on strengthening plastic waste management and recycling ecosystem in the country.
- The Indian Space Research Organisation has launched a special programme for school children called Yuva Vigyani Karyakram or Young Scientist Programme.
- Indo-Bangladesh joint military exercise, 'Exercise Sampriti 2019' began on March 2, 2019 at Tangail, Bangladesh. This will be the eighth edition of the exercise which is hosted alternately by both countries.
- Cricket is set for a return at the Asian Games after the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) Sunday included it in the sports programme for the 2022 edition in Hangzhou.
- **India tops Global Consumer Confidence Survey**
- World Hearing Day 2019 was observed on 3 March, 2019 with the theme **Check your hearing!**
- **Russian scientist Zhores Ivanovich Alferov who won the 2000 Nobel Prize in physics for his work in semiconductor and laser technologies died at the age of 88 in St Petersburg,** the Russian Communist party said on Saturday.
- Around 96.5 percent of the households in Rural India who have access to the toilet use it as per the National Annual Rural Sanitation Survey (NARSS) 2018-19, conducted by Independent Verification Agency (IVA).
- Exercise Al Nagah III, third in the series of bilateral joint exercise between India and Oman is scheduled to be held from March 12 to 25, 2019 at Jabel Al Akhdar Mountains in Oman.
- The Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of Shikshan Bhavan and Vidhyarthi Bhavan at Annapurna Dham Trust in Adalaj, Gujarat.
- Home Minister Rajnath Singh will inaugurate 28 major infrastructure projects of Central Armed Police Forces, Delhi Police and other Central Police Organizations in New Delhi.

- As per the World Air Quality Report 2018 released by IQAir AirVisual and Greenpeace on March 5, 2019, seven of the top 10 most polluted cities in the world are in India.
- US President Donald Trump informed the US Congress on March 4, 2019 that he intends to end India's preferential trade treatment under the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) programme.
- India nominated NITI Aayog member Ramesh Chand for the post of the new Food and Agriculture Organisation's (FAO) Director-General.
- France, which assumed the Presidency of the United Nations Security Council for the month of March, has reiterated its support for India as the permanent member of the powerful UN body.
- Technology giant Google has unveiled a new app called 'Bolo' that aims to help children in primary school learn to read in Hindi and English.
- Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh on March 5, 2019 launched smart fencing under the Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System along the Indo-Bangladesh border in Dhubri district of Assam to deter illegal infiltration.
- To ease the use of public transport in the nation capital, the Delhi government on Tuesday launched a common mobility app 'One Delhi' to allow users plan more efficiently their journey with Delhi Metro and all city buses.
- The Union Ministry of Defence has taken steps to ensure permanent commission to women officers in the Indian Armed Forces, implementing the announcement made regarding the same by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 15, 2018.
- A Memorandum of Understanding, MoU, was signed today between the National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) and the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) to ensure better utilisation of infrastructure facilities during training programmes.
- Three cities in Madhya Pradesh bagged top awards in Swachh Survekshan 2019 announced by the union government at a function in New Delhi on March 6, 2019.
- The Swedish Academy has announced that two Nobel Prizes for literature will be awarded this year.
- An Israeli spacecraft on its maiden mission to the moon has sent its first selfie back to Earth.
- *China has decided to extend anti-smog measures for a third successive winter in a bid to reduce pollution levels.* The Ministry of Ecology and Environment, in a pollution battle plan for 2019 published today, vowed to speed up the elimination of small coal-fired heating boilers in major regions.
- The Venezuelan government has announced to expel German ambassador Daniel Kriener from the country.
- Mansukh Mandaviya, the Union Minister of State for Chemicals & Fertilizers, Road Transport & Highways, and Shipping on March 6, 2019 announced March 7, 2019 will be observed as the 'Janaushadhi Diwas' across the country.
- The Prime Minister Narendra Modi on March 7, 2019 released the new series of visually impaired friendly circulation coins of Rs 1, Rs 2, Rs 5, Rs 10 and Rs 20.
- The Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched key development projects at Kalaburagi in Karnataka and Kancheepuram in Tamil Nadu.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said, the Smart City Mission enables cities to identify their potential and challenges.
- Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Puri today launched e-Dharti app where all the three modules- Conversion, Substitution and Mutation related to properties have been made online.
- The National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories launched a voluntary scheme called Quality Assurance Scheme (QAS) for basic composite medical laboratories in February 2019 for sensitising small laboratories to basic doable quality practices.
- Union Cabinet approved the proposal for promulgation of the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Teachers' Cadre) Ordinance, 2019.
- National space agency ISRO and its French counterpart CNES signed an agreement to set up a joint maritime surveillance system in the country.
- The Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government, Prof. K. Vijay Raghavan shared details of the nine national missions guided by the Prime Minister Science, Technology & Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC).
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Shri Vishwakarma Skill University (SVSU) and National Institute of Technical Teacher's Training and Research (NITTTR) was signed.

- Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat laid the foundation stone for the Dehradun-Mussoorie ropeway project.
- In Madhya Pradesh, ancient tribal language Gondi will be taught in tribal districts.
- The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs on March 6, 2019 issued the model guidelines for development & regulation of 'Retirement Homes'.
- Soumya Swaminathan, a Deputy Director-General of the World Health Organisation has been named Chief Scientist of the WHO.
- Dr. Ausaf Sayeed, presently High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Seychelles, has been appointed as the next ambassador of India to Saudi Arabia.
- President Ram Nath Kovind nominated Justice SA Bobde of the Supreme Court as Executive Chairman of National Legal Services Authority (NALSA).
- Former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Raghuram Rajan has been chosen for the 'Yashwantrao Chavan National Award 2018' for his contribution towards economic development.
- Malaysia ratified the Rome Statute making it the 124th State party to join the International Criminal Court (ICC).
- As per a paper published in WHO bulletin recently, the poorest of the poor and uneducated women are not being covered under the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS).
- The International Women's Day 2019 was observed across the world on March 8, 2019 with the theme 'Think equal, build smart, innovate for change'.
- The inaugural India-Japan Space Dialogue was held in New Delhi yesterday. The dialogue brought together Ministries and agencies related to outer space in the two countries and provided an opportunity for information exchange on the respective space policies.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid foundation stone of Kashi Vishwanath corridor and beautification at Baba Vishwanath Temple.
- The Defence Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman approved the first batch of reforms in the Indian Army.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on March 7, 2019 approved the extension of time and scope for *revival and development of un-served and under-served air strips of State Governments, Airports Authority of India (AAI), Civil enclaves, CPSUs, helipads and water aerodromes*.
- The Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the National Women Livelihood Meet 2019, held at Deendayal Hastkala Sankul in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh on the occasion of International Women's Day 2019.
- The Prime Minister Narendra Modi on March 7, 2019 released the Dictionary of Martyrs of India's Freedom Struggle (1857-1947) at an event in Lok Kalyan Marg, New Delhi.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given its approval for the continuation of National AIDS Control Programme-IV beyond 12th five-year plan for a period of three years from April 2017 to March 2020. The total outlay will be Rs 6434.76 crore.
- Mizoram Governor Kummanam Rajasekharan resigned from his post on March 8, 2019.
- The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal for constitution of a committee to recommend the process for conferring ownership or transfer, mortgage rights to the residents of unauthorized colonies in Delhi.
- The National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories launched a voluntary scheme called Quality Assurance Scheme (QAS) for basic composite medical laboratories in February 2019 for sensitising small laboratories to basic doable quality practices.
- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has appointed Indian-American television personality and food expert Padma Lakshmi as its new Goodwill Ambassador, in support of its fight against inequality and discrimination around the world.
- The BCCI in the latest list of Central Contracts rewarded the young wicketkeeper-batsman Rishabh Pant with a Grade A retainership while demoted senior opener Shikhar Dhawan from the elite A plus category.
- US has said today Former Fox News executive Bill Shine has resigned as President Donald Trump's communications director.
- In order to sustain polio eradication drive from the country, government on Saturday launched Pulse Polio programme for 2019.

- Around 20 years after the **Humsafar Trust** started a support group for gay men, male sex workers and transgenders, creating awareness about the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), **the group inaugurated the country's first HIV treatment centre and holistic clinic for the for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) community.**
- **The Marayoor Jaggery**, the traditional and handmade product from Idukki district of Kerala, on March 8, 2019 received the **Geographical Indication (GI) tag from the Central Government.**
- **The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), under the Union Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers on March 8, 2019 announced the reduction in prices of 390 Anti-Cancer Non-Scheduled Medicines up to 87 percent.**
- **Jagdish Mukhi was on Saturday sworn-in as the Governor of Mizoram** at a function held at the Raj Bhavan in Aizawl.
- **Senior Indian Police Service officer Param Bir Singh was on Saturday appointed Director General of the Maharashtra Anti-Corruption Bureau.**
- **Mohammad Shtayyeh has been named as Palestinian Prime Minister by President of Palestinian Authority Mahmoud Abbas.**
- **The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) medical laboratory came up with a range of 'combat casualty drugs' to reduce casualties in warfare like Pulwama terror attack.**
- **Defence Research and Development organisation, DRDO on Monday successfully test fired the PINAKA guided WEAPON rocket system from Pokhran range in Rajasthan.**
- **The Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Institute of Archaeology at Greater Noida in Uttar Pradesh.**
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the Foundation Stones of Buxar and Khurja Thermal Power Plants digitally from Greater Noida.**
- **The 34th edition of AAHAR - the International Food and Hospitality fair - begins at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi today.**
- **The new visa agreement between India and Maldives, providing a liberal visa policy for Maldivian citizens seeking medical treatment as well as education and business opportunities in India, came into force on March 11, 2019.**
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that Prasar Bharati has brought 11 more State DD Channels on the Satellite footprint of India through 'DD Free Dish'.**
- **The Election Commission (EC) formed a three-member committee to assess the situation on the ground in Jammu and Kashmir before it takes a decision about holding the Assembly elections in the state.**
- **In a first in Madhya Pradesh, a transgender has been given a government job. Sanjana Singh, 36, has been appointed the personal secretary to the director of the state's Department of Social Justice and Disabled Welfare (DSJDW).**
- **The Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the 50th Raising Day celebrations of Central Industrial Security Forces (CISF) at Indirapuram in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.**
- **Veteran Hindi Newsreader Vinod Kashyap has passed away following a prolonged illness. She was 88. She served All India Radio for about 30 years.**
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina on March 11, 2019 jointly unveiled e-plaques for development projects in Bangladesh through video conferencing.**
- **The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on March 12, 2019 midnight ordered to ground the Boeing 737 Max 8 aircraft fleet in India with immediate effect following the Ethiopian Airlines crash.**
- **Nagaland launched the first round of immunisation as part of the nationwide Pulse Polio programme.**
- **Retired IAS officer C Lalsawta was on March 11, 2019 sworn-in as the first Chairman of the newly-constituted Lokayukta in Mizoram.**
- **India is the second largest importer of weapons in the world, as per the annual report 'Trends in International Arms Transfers-2018' released on March 11, 2019 by the think tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).**
- **NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO) spacecraft has observed water molecules moving around the dayside of Moon, a finding that could help scientists learn about the accessibility of water that can be used by humans in future lunar missions.**



- **The Russian military has commissioned more than 1,000 new aircraft and thousands of tanks in the past few years** in a massive modernisation effort amid tensions with the West.
- In the opening match, hosts Nepal easily defeated Bhutan by 3-0. Defending champion India will take on Maldives tomorrow. **India remained unbeaten in 19 matches from last four editions of the championship.**
- **Zinedine Zidane has been re-appointed as the coach of Spanish football club Real Madrid till 2022.**
- **The Indian campaign has ended in the Indian Wells Masters Tennis tournament at California in the United States.**
- **India's star wrestler Bajrang Punia won a gold medal in 65 kilogram freestyle** at the International wrestling tournament, "Dan Kolov – Nikola Petrov" in Ruse, Bulgaria.
- **India and the United States have committed to strengthen bilateral security and civil nuclear cooperation, including the establishment of six US nuclear power plants in India.**
- **Arecanut**, known as supari or betel nut, made its entry in the list of **agricultural produce for the first time with the Geographical Indication (GI) tag for 'Sirsi Supari'.**
- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on March 13, 2019 **approved accession of India to Nice Agreement, Vienna Agreement, and Locarno Agreement.**
- **The Indian Embassy in Nepal on Wednesday awarded 200 Golden Jubilee Scholarships to meritorious Nepali students** for continuing various undergraduate courses at colleges and universities.
- **Vikram Sahay**, Joint Secretary at Union Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and **Sadhana Rout**, Director General of Publications Division jointly inaugurated the **India Pavilion at London Book Fair.**
- Astronomers from **Thiruvananthapuram and Mumbai identified a new population of ultraviolet stars in the globular cluster NGC 2808 using the Indian space observatory AstroSat.**
- **The World Kidney Day 2019 was observed on March 14, 2019, the second Thursday of March with the theme "Kidney Health for Everyone Everywhere".**
- As per the latest report of the World Gold Council, **India has the 11th largest gold reserve and the current gold holding is pegged at 607 tonnes.**
- Website hosting company, **GoDaddy on March 12, 2019 became the official sponsor of the International Cricket Council (ICC) World Cup 2019.**
- **India and Pakistan have agreed to work expeditiously on operationalizing the Kartapur corridor.**
- State-run **NTPC on Thursday said it has teamed up with the Indian Railways for fly ash transportation**, a move that will help enhance ash utilisation at **Rihand and Vindhyachal Super Thermal Power plants.**
- **Acuité Ratings and Research Thursday said that former deputy RBI governor S S Mundra has been appointed as non-executive chairman** to its board with immediate effect.
- **Delhi Capitals**, formerly known as Delhi Daredevils, **appointed former India captain Sourav Ganguly as an advisor for the upcoming Indian Premier League (IPL), 2019 season, starting on March 23.**
- **The Supreme Court on March 14, 2019 appointed senior advocate PS Narasimha as mediator** for resolving various disputes related to cricket administration within the cricket body, the **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).**
- **Special Olympics World Games 2019 began at Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates on March 14, 2019.**
- **World Consumer Rights Day 2019 was observed on 15 March, 2019 with the theme 'Trusted Smart Products'.**
- **World Speech Day 2019 was observed on 15 March, 2019 with the theme "World Citizen: It's a state of mind".**