

# One Liner Current Affairs March 2019

## Financial One Liner Current Affairs

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in March, 2019 named State Bank of India (SBI), ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank as Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs), which in other words mean banks that are too big to fail.
- State-owned NHPC in March, 2019 said its board has approved raising around USD 100 million from MUFG Bank, Japan's largest bank, to partly finance its ongoing projects.
- Customers of State Bank of India will no longer require debit cards to withdraw cash from ATM. *The state-owned lender announced In March, 2019 that the customers can generate a one-time pin (OTP) on their mobile application and use the pin to transact from the bank's ATM.*
- The Reserve Bank of India has come out with guidelines to prevent misuse of price-sensitive information by participants in markets for financial instruments.
- President Ramnath Kovind in March, 2019 inaugurated the Festival of Innovation and Entrepreneurship at Grambharti near Gandhinagar in Gujarat. He also presented the 10th Biennial National Grassroots Innovation Awards on this occasion.
- An RBI-appointed panel in March, 2019 sought suggestions from the public on long-term solutions for economic and financial sustainability of MSME sector, including ways to improve credit rating mechanism to help them raise funds at competitive rates. **The committee was set up in January under former SEBI chairman UK Sinha.**
- London court has issued an arrest warrant against fugitive jeweller designer Nirav Modi.
- The country's largest public sector lender State Bank of India (SBI) has signed a pact with the Bank of China to boost business opportunities.
- The team of Delhi School of Economics emerged victorious at the grand finale of inter-college quiz contest - 'Numero YONO' held here recently.
- The Goods & Services Tax (GST) Council held its 34th meeting on March 19, 2019 to discuss the details for implementation of the recommendations made by the council in its 33rd meeting for lowering GST rate in Real Estate Sector.
- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) on March 19, 2019 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for better implementation of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.
- The Union Ministry of Steel had organised a two-day vigilance conclave in New Delhi, which concluded on March 19, 2019.
- Fitch Ratings in March, 2019 reduced India's economic growth forecast for the next financial year starting April 1, to 6.8 per cent from its previous estimate of 7 per cent, on 'weaker than expected momentum' in the economy.
- The U.K. Sinha led Expert Committee on Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) undertook a comprehensive review of the MSME sector to identify causes and to propose long term solutions for its development.
- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has said that India has been one of the fastest growing large economies in the world.
- Canara Bank launched a issuance of 5 year Senior Unsecured Bonds (Medium Term Notes) to the extent of USD 400 million under Medium Term Note (MTN) Programme, through its London branch on 21 March 2019 value date 28 March 2019 maturing on 28 March 2024.
- NITI Aayog is organising a day-long FinTech Conclave at Dr. Ambedkar International Center, New Delhi in March, 2019.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das has said that the central bank of the country has appointed 5-member committee under the chairmanship of Nandan Nilekani to further deepen digital payments and enhance financial inclusion through Fintech.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is looking to issue guidelines for setting up a regulatory sandbox or innovation hub for the fintech startups in May. This hub will help the companies build innovative products at a lower cost.

- A consortium of two Indian oil companies Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited and Indian Oil Corporation Limited were awarded the exploration rights for Abu Dhabi Onshore Block 1.
- The Supreme Court of India on March 26, 2019 took a strong note of non-disclosure of the annual inspection report of banks by the Reserve Bank of India under the Right to Information Act. The apex court threatened to slap punitive order against RBI for not adhering to its earlier order on making its bank inspection report public.
- The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a penalty worth Rs 2 crore on Punjab National Bank for non-compliance of regulatory directions with regard to SWIFT operations. The announcement was made by RBI on March 26, 2019.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has directed banks to keep open their branches dealing with government business on the last day of the financial year, March 31, 2019, a In March, 2019.
- Niti Aayog and ABB India on March 26, 2019 organised a workshop to discuss regulatory and financial concerns relating to the adoption of Artificial Intelligence and automation technology by the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has relaxed the opening process of branch or liaison offices for the foreign entities running their business in defence or telecom sector in India, provided they have already received clearance from the concerned ministry.
- Private sector lender ICICI Bank in March, 2019 announced the launch of two instantaneous home loan facilities, one of which would enable instant and paperless home loan approval of up to ₹1 crore.
- The Goods and Services Tax, GST Authority has clarified that transfer or change in the ownership of business will include transfer or change in the ownership of business due to death of the sole proprietor.
- The government has decided to infuse around five thousand crore rupees into state-owned Bank of Baroda ahead of merger of two other public sector lenders Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank with Bank of Baroda.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) allowed non-residents to participate in the rupee interest rate derivatives market on March 27, 2019. This decision was taken with a view to deepening the rupee interest rate swap (IRS) market.
- Commerce Secretary, Dr. Anup Wadhawan, launched blockchain based coffee e-marketplace through video conferencing in New Delhi on March 29, 2019. This pilot project will help integrate the farmers with markets in a transparent manner and lead to realisation of fair price for the coffee producer.
- *Miniratna Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd (RVNL) came out with its first Initial public offering (IPO) on March 29, 2019.*
- 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

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- **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee has signed an MoU with The Indian Space Research Organisation of the Department of Space, Government of India, Bengaluru to set up an ISRO-IITR Space Technology Cell (STC) at IIT Roorkee, recognising the need to strengthen their institutional interactions and thereby enhance the scope of the activities pursued under STC commensurate with the programmatic goals of ISRO.**
- **The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test fired indigenously developed, low weight, fire and forget Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) for the second time on March 14, 2019 in the ranges of Rajasthan desert.**
- **The Election Commission launched a mobile application that will help poll observers to submit reports timely.**
- **The Election Commission announced that the vehicles carrying reserved EVMs and VVPATs during the Lok Sabha election 2019 will be equipped with GPS to track their movement.**
- **The Union ministry of human resource development (MHRD) is all set to work with the Afghanistan government on digital education initiatives.** This includes many prominent programs developed by Indian Institutes of Technology.
- **Dr AK Mohanty, a well-known scientist, has been appointed the new director of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC).**
- **Swati Shingade of Pune, Maharashtra has bagged the first prize of DD Mahila Kisan Award for 2018-19.**

- President Ramnath Kovind awarded National Grassroots Innovators at Grambharti near Gandhinagar in Gujarat.
- France announced to freeze all assets of Pakistan based terror outfit Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Masood Azhar in application of its Monetary and Financial Code.
- The first BRICS Sherpa meeting under the Presidency of Brazil concluded yesterday at Curitiba in Brazil. Secretary, Economic Relations in the Ministry of External Affairs, T S Tirumurti led the Indian delegation at the two-day meeting.
- India will host the Under-17 Women's Football World Cup in 2020. This was announced by the President of International Football Federation (FIFA) Gianni Infantino after the council meeting in Miami, USA last night.
- In Athletics, Kamalpreet Kaur grabbed the spotlight by winning a gold medal in the women's discus throw event.
- Former Member of Parliament and Andhra Pradesh minister, YS Vivekananda Reddy passed away in the in Kadapa, Andhra Pradesh.
- Bandhan Bank in March, 2019 said it has received no objection from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for the proposed acquisition of Gruh Finance.
- India's most valued lender HDFC Bank in March, 2019 crossed the Rs 6 lakh crore-market capitalisation mark, becoming the third company to do so after Reliance Industries and Tata Consultancy Services.
- Tata Consultancy Services announced that it is developing solutions to drive scaled adoption of blockchain across industries, using technologies from Microsoft and R3, an enterprise blockchain software firm.
- India and the US have identified small air launch unmanned aerial vehicles and a lightweight small arms technology project along with aircraft maintenance for defence collaboration, a top Pentagon official has said.
- India and Maldives have agreed on a broad spectrum of issues for further collaboration, including development cooperation and enhancing people to people contact. The agreement came at a high level meeting between External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj with her Maldivian counterpart Abdulla Shahid in Male this evening.
- The Geographical Indications Registry on March 1, 2019 granted the Geographical Indication (GI) Tag to Coorg Arabica Coffee, Wayanad Robusta Coffee, Chikmagalur Arabica Coffee, Araku Valley Arabica Coffee and Bababudangiris Arabica Coffee.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank has appointed KVS Manian and Gaurang Shah as whole-time directors for a three-year term effective from the date of approval from the Reserve Bank of India.
- The United Nation Environment Program (UNEP) has released the sixth edition of the Global Environment Outlook (2019) titled 'Healthy Planet, Healthy People'.
- Reliance Industries chairman and Asia's richest man Mukesh Ambani recently topped Forbes' The World's Richest Sports Team Owners 2019 list.
- Goa Chief Minister and former Union Defence Minister, Manohar Gopalkrishna Prabhu Parrikar passed away on March 17, 2019 after battling with pancreatic cancer.
- Veteran Bengali actor Chinmoy Roy has died, family sources said Monday. He was 79.
- India and Maldives signed three agreements on visa facilitation for diplomatic and official passport holders, development cooperation and renewable energy after extensive talks between Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Foreign Minister of Maldives, Abdulla Shahid during the former's visit to the tropical island nation from March 17-18, 2019.
- Ride-hailing platform Ola Monday said it has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Telangana to support the latter's efforts in strengthening traffic infrastructure in the city.
- The Union Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions on March 15, 2019 announced the increase in incentives of Central Government employees acquiring higher qualifications while serving in the job.
- The government has constituted an inter-ministerial panel for monitoring, sanctioning and implementation of projects under the Rs 10,000-crore FAME-II programme, aimed at incentivising clean mobility.
- The Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) in Guwahati and Mandi have collaborated with the Indian Institute of Science in Bengaluru to develop a 'Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment for the Indian Himalayan Region Using a Common Framework.'

- **INS Khanderi**, the second of the **6 Scorpene Class Submarines**, will soon be inducted into the Indian Navy by May 2019.
- **India has decided to divert three Indian naval ships to the port city of Beira in Mozambique** to provide humanitarian assistance to the people affected by tropical cyclone 'IDAI'.
- **BJP's Pramod Sawant will be the new chief minister of Goa**, party sources said here in March, 2019, ending the suspense over who will succeed Manohar Parrikar.
- Popular Indian fashion designer **Ritu Beri has been appointed as the Cultural and Tourism Ambassador of Uzbekistan in India by the Ministry of Tourism of Uzbekistan.**
- **India's Irfan KT on March 17, 2019 qualified for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.** He made the cut after finishing fourth at the **Asian Race Walking Championship at Nomi in Japan.**
- **In Asian Youth Athletics Championships in Hong Kong**, boys medley relay team won a gold medal for India on the final day to help **Indian youth team finish second in the overall medals tally with a total of 26 medals including eight gold, nine silver and nine bronze medals.**
- Ahead of its planned second forum to promote its much-touted Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), **China for the first time announced plans to seek global partners to join the project which drew criticism over its "predatory loans" leaving smaller countries in huge debt.**
- **The 3rd Indo-Japan Workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction was held in New Delhi.**
- **The Africa-India Field Training Exercise 2019 (AFINDEX-19) between India and African nations began on March 18, 2019 at Aundh Military Station, Pune.** The exercise will conclude on March 27, 2019.
- **The Indian Department of Post on March 18, 2019 released a 'special stamp cover on Ice Stupa'.** The stamp was released by **Jammu and Kashmir's Chief Postmaster General during a function organised at the Ice Stupa site at Gangles Village in Leh.**
- **President Ram Nath Kovind on March 19, 2019 presented the Gallantry Awards and Distinguished Service Decorations at the Defence Investiture Ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi.**
- **India has so far won a total of 188 medals at the Special Olympics World Games**, which is being held in **UAE's capital city Abu Dhabi.** India's medal tally comprises 50 gold, 63 silver and 75 bronze medals.
- **The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has paid approximately \$1.6 million as compensation to the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) after losing a case in the ICC's Dispute Resolution Committee.** The information was shared by PCB Chairman Ehsan Mani on March 18, 2019.
- **Actress Priyanka Chopra Jonas joined international celebrities Oprah Winfrey and Meryl Streep in the list of "50 Most Powerful Women in Entertainment" of the USA In March, 2019.**
- **2019 World Sparrow Day** was observed globally on **20 March, 2019.** The theme of 2019 World Sparrow Day was **I Love Sparrows.**
- **The Global Recycling Day was observed across the world on March 18, 2019** to help recognise, and celebrate the importance recycling plays in preserving the precious primary resources. The theme of 2019 Global Recycling Day was **'Recycling into the Future'.**
- **International Day of Happiness** was observed on 20 March, 2019. The 2019 International Day of Happiness theme was **Happier Together.**
- **World Storytelling Day 2019** was observed globally on **20 March, 2019.** The theme of 2019 World Storytelling Day was **Myths, Legends, and Epics.**
- **UN French Language Day is observed on 20 March.**
- **The 33rd edition of the India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (Ind-Indo Corpat) began on March 19, 2019.**
- **The annual joint exercise between India and Sri Lanka, 'Mitra Shakti-VI', will be conducted from March 26 to April 8, 2019 for the year 2018-19 in Sri Lanka.**
- Indian budget carrier, **SpiceJet on March 19, 2019 announced its membership of global airlines' grouping 'International Air Transport Association' (IATA).**
- **India gets its first Lokpal six years after the passage of Act**, former Supreme Court judge, **Pinaki Chandra Ghose** was on March 19, 2019 **appointed as India's first Lokpal also known as the anti-corruption ombudsman.**
- **Election Commission has appointed two eminent former Civil Servants Shailendra Handa and Ms. Madhu Mahajan as Special Expenditure Observers for the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections.**

- **International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination 2019** was observed globally on **21 March, 2019**. The theme of 2019 International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was "**Mitigating and countering rising nationalist populism and extreme supremacist ideologies**".
- **International Day of Forests 2019** was observed globally on **21 March, 2019**. The theme of International Day of Forests 2019 was "**Forests and Education – Learn to Love Forests**".
- **World Poetry Day** was observed globally on **21 March, 2019**.
- **World Puppetry Day** was observed globally on **21 March, 2019**.
- **International Nowruz Day** was observed globally on **21 March, 2019**.
- **Kazakhstan's parliament in March, 2019** voted to rename the country's capital Astana as Nursultan in honour of longtime ruler Nursultan Nazarbayev, a day after he resigned as president.
- **Indian-origin Jagmeet Singh has created history in Canada by entering the House of Commons as the first non-white leader of a major opposition party** in the country.
- **Germany has initiated a move at the European Union to designate the Chief of Jaish-e-Mohammed, Masood Azhar as a global terrorist**. The move comes days after China blocked a motion at the **UN Security Council** to ban him.
- **Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte pledged on March 19, 2019 to make Italy the first group of seven nations to join China's ambitious Belt and Road initiative**, despite objections from the United States and concerns within his governing coalition.
- **Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev abruptly announced his resignation from the position on March 19, 2019** after nearly three decades in power.
- **Afghanistan's cricket team on March 18, 2019 recorded its maiden Test win** after beating Ireland by seven wickets in a one-off game at **Dehradun in Uttarakhand**.
- **Young Indian shuttlers Lakshya Sen and Riya Mookerjee** on March 19, 2019 broke into the top-100 among men's and women's singles players in the latest World Badminton Rankings.
- **The Zayed Cricket Stadium in Abu Dhabi will be hosting an exclusive T10 Cricket League** for the next five years, starting with the 2019 season.
- Educational campus constructed with **Government of India's financial grant of 35.5 million Nepalese rupees was inaugurated**.
- In the first such military outreach to Africa, where China has made deep strategic inroads, **India on March 18, 2019 kicked off an exercise with 17 nations from the continent at the Aundh military station at Pune**.
- **The Indian Air Force will participate in Langkawi International Maritime Aero Expo, LIMA 2019**. The expo will take place in **Langkawi, Malaysia from March 26-30, 2019**.
- The United States President, Donald Trump on March 21, 2019 **declared that the US will recognise Israel's sovereignty over the Golan Heights, a disputed land which Israel captured from Syria in 1967**.
- **The Australian government has decided to slash the nation's permanent migrant intake from 190,000 to 160,000** in the lead-up to May's general election.
- **India was ranked at 140 on the United Nation's latest World Happiness Report that gauged 156 countries, a decline of seven spots from the last edition of the survey**. India was also among the five countries that experienced the highest decline since 2005-2008 in the index. **Finland topped the list for the second consecutive year**, followed by Denmark and Norway. South Sudan was ranked at the bottom of the index.
- **PhonePe, India's fastest growing payments platform in March, 2019 announced appointed of Bollywood superstar Aamir Khan as its brand Ambassador**.
- The government has **appointed Vice Admiral Karambir Singh as the next Chief of the Naval Staff**.
- The union government has notified the appointment of a senior-most judge **Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra of the Chhattisgarh high court as the acting chief justice following the resignation of Chief Justice Ajay Kumar Tripathi**.
- **World Meteorological Day** observed globally on **23 March, 2019**. The theme of 2019 World Meteorological Day was "**The Sun, the Earth and the Weather**".
- **The World Water Day** was observed across the globe on **March 22, 2019** with the theme 'Leaving no one behind'.
- In football, **India has clinched the SAFF Women's Championship for the fifth time in a row, defeating hosts Nepal 3-1 in the final at Biratnagar**.



- Karnataka Municipalities Minister C S Shivalli passed away in a hospital in Hubballi in March, 2019. He was 58.
- In a major boost to the India's strategic airlift capability, the Indian Air Force (IAF) in March, 2019 inducted the first four battle-hardened Chinook heavy lift helicopters into its Chandigarh-based Air Force station.
- India has moved up two places to rank 76th on a global energy transition index. This annual list, compiled by Geneva-based World Economic Forum (WEF), has ranked 115 economies on how well they are able to balance energy security and access with environmental sustainability and affordability.
- Sweden remains on the top on this annual list and is followed by Switzerland and Norway in the top three.
- India has achieved an 84 per cent reduction in tuberculosis deaths among people living with HIV by 2017.
- The union government has notified the appointment of a senior-most judge Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra of the Chhattisgarh high court as the acting chief justice following the resignation of Chief Justice Ajay Kumar Tripathi.
- India finished the Special Olympics World Games with a rich haul of 368 medals, which included 85 gold, 154 silver and 129 bronze in Abu Dhabi in March, 2019.
- Suresh Raina added another feather to his illustrious cap, here in March, 2019, as the Chennai Super Kings' (CSK) batsman became the first in the Indian Premier League (IPL) history to amass 5,000 runs.
- US President Donald Trump signed an executive order on March 21, 2019 to promote free speech on college campuses by threatening the colleges that the government will cut federal research funding if they do not protect those rights.
- New Zealand on March 21, 2019 imposed an immediate ban on assault weapons following last week's Christchurch massacre that claimed the lives of at least 50 mosque-goers.
- International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade is observed on 25 March, 2019. The theme of 2019 is "Remember Slavery: The Power of the Arts for Justice".
- World Tuberculosis Day 2019 was observed on 24 March, 2019. The theme of World TB Day 2019 - 'It's time'.
- International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims was observed on 24 March, 2019.
- International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members was observed on 25 March, 2019.
- Chandrayaan-2, the second moon mission of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), will be carrying laser retroreflector arrays owned by the US space agency National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will launch 29 satellites including the primary payload EMISAT on April 1, 2019.
- The joint training exercise MITRASHAKTI - VI between Indian and Sri Lanka Army is being held from in March, 2019 at Diyatalawa in Sri Lanka.
- Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Sunil Lanba inaugurated the Indian Navy's Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Training Facility (NBCTF) christened "Abhedya", at INS Shivaji in Lonavala in March, 2019.
- American mathematician Karen Uhlenbeck won the Abel Prize 2019.
- The Saudi-led coalition in Yemen and the United Nations (UN) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to protect children affected by the country's five years-long civil war, official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported yesterday.
- US President Donald Trump ordered the withdrawal of additional large-scale sanctions on North Korea, immediately after the Treasury Department imposed them.
- Oman on March 24, 2019 signed an agreement with the United States, allowing American ships and warplanes to take advantage of its ports and airports.
- US President Donald Trump has signed a proclamation recognising Israel's sovereignty over the Golan Heights and told the visiting Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, that Israel has an absolute right to self-defence.
- Defence Research and Development Organisation, DRDO, in March, 2019 successfully conducted an Anti-Satellite (A-SAT) missile test, under Mission Shakti from Dr A P J Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha.
- First Indian Army Mountaineering Expedition to Mt Makalu (8485m) was flagged off on March 26, 2019. Expedition team comprises five Officers, two JCOs and eleven other officers. This expedition was flagged off by Director General Military Training.

- An agreement has been signed between **India and the African Union** to establish an **India-Africa health sciences collaborative platform**.
- **The University Grants Commission (UGC)** has **prohibited** imparting **distance degree programmes in agriculture**.
- **Facebook** is putting in place a **response team for India's general elections for monitoring and tracking of objectionable content in real time round the clock**.
- **India and Bangladesh** will start a **cruise service from March 29, 2019** that would take passengers through the **Sunderbans to Dhaka**.
- **The Punjab and Haryana High Court** has **barred the mentioning of caste in the FIRs**.
- **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi** announced recently that they have developed an **Artificial Intelligence (AI) based electronic hardware system to detect malaria, tuberculosis, intestinal parasite, and cervical cancer in milliseconds**.
- **Karur Vysya Bank** Tuesday said it has **appointed NS Srinath as non-executive chairman for a period of three years**.
- **Lt Gen Rajesh Pant (retd)** is all set to become the **National Cyber Coordination Centre' chief (NCCC)**, taking over from **Gulshan Rai**, who held the post for four years and who will demit office on **March 31**.
- The country's largest carmaker **Maruti Suzuki India (MSI)** **Wednesday re-appointed Kenichi Ayukawa as Managing Director and CEO for a period of three years with effect from April 1, 2019**.
- **All eight members of the Lokpal** were administered the **oath of office on March 27, 2019**. The oath was administered by the Chairperson of the anti corruption ombudsman, **Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose**.
- **Election Commission of India** has appointed former **Director General of Border Security Force K K Sharma as a Special Central Police Observer for Lok Sabha polls in West Bengal and Jharkhand**.
- **The Election Commission has appointed special expenditure observers for six states in view of the forthcoming elections**. These states include **Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Nagaland and Telangana**.
- **President Ram Nath Kovind** was honoured with **Croatia's highest civilian order - The Grand Order of the King of Tomislav, on March 26, 2019**.
- **The Executive Board of the International Olympic Committee (IOC)** has recommended adding **breakdancing, skateboarding, sport climbing and surfing to the 2024 Paris Olympic Games** when the full membership meets in **June**.
- The Supreme Court has sought the **Centre's view within two weeks on bringing all the quasi-judicial bodies under one central umbrella body to ensure efficient functioning and streamlining the working of tribunals**.
- The Supreme Court on **March 28, 2019 refused to stall the release of film 'Ram Ki Janmabhoomi' which is scheduled to hit the screens across the country on March 29**. The court said, there is no connection between the mediation proceeding and the release of the movie.
- The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change recently notified **Island Protection Zone (IPZ) 2019 for Andaman and Nicobar**.
- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on **March 27, 2019 approved the continuation of the Biomedical Research Career Programme beyond its initial 10-year term from 2008-09 to 2018-19 to a new five year phase from 2019-20 to 2023-24**.
- The Cabinet has given its approval for **acquiring 372 sq. yards out of 10 acres of land including compound wall, which is about 200m, in the eastern side of the Central Water Commission land by the Telangana State Government**.
- **India and the United States** on **March 27, 2019 signed an Inter-Governmental Agreement for Exchange of Country-by-Country (CbC) Reports between the countries**.
- **Comoros President Azali Assoumani** was re-elected on **March 26, 2019 by a landslide, as per results published by the electoral commission of the Indian Ocean archipelago**.
- **China** has expelled former Interpol chief **Meng Hongwei from the Communist Party and dismissed him from his official positions**. The announcement was made by the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection on **March 27, 2019**.
- **Syria** has asked the **United Nations Security Council to hold an urgent meeting on the US decision to recognise the Golan Heights as an Israeli territory**.

- Indian shooting players **Manu Bhaker and Saurabh Chaudhary** smashed the qualification world record at **12th Asian Airgun Championship on March 27, 2019**. They clinched the 10m air pistol mixed team gold at **Asian Airgun Championship in Taoyuan, Taipei**.
- International Energy Agency (IEA) recently released **Global Energy and CO2 Status Report** that highlights **worldwide trends and developments of fuels, renewable sources, energy efficiency and carbon emissions**.
- The three pioneers of Artificial Intelligence (AI), **Yoshua Bengio, Geoffrey Hinton, and Yann LeCun** were on **March 27, 2019** awarded with the **2018 ACM A.M.**
- **India and Bolivia on March 29, 2019** signed eight **Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs)** during President **Ram Nath Kovind's** three-day visit to the country.
- During his visit, President Kovind was conferred with the highest State honour of Bolivia, "**Condor de Los Andes en el Grado de Gran Collar**" by the President of Bolivia, **Evo Morales** in **Santa Cruz**.
- **President Ram Nath Kovind** in **March, 2019** inaugurated the plaque of the **Mahatma Gandhi Hall** at the **Gabriel Rene Moreno University** in **Santa Cruz** during his visit to **Bolivia**.
- **Assam Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Mukesh Sahu** launched the **Enajori** initiative in **Guwahati**.
- **Actor Ranveer Singh**, who earned **applauds** for his **rapping skills** in film '**Gully Boy**', has launched his independent music record label "**Inclnk**".
- **The Government on March 29, 2019** constituted a **Multi Disciplinary Terror Monitoring Group (MDTMG)** to ensure concerted action against terror financing and other terror related activities in the **State of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K)**.
- **BCCI's newly appointed Ombudsman, Retired Justice D K Jain** will now also serve as the **cricketing body's ethics officer** till such a time that someone permanent is appointed to the post.
- **The United Nations Security Council (UNSC)** on **March 28, 2019** unanimously passed the **first-ever resolution to suppress the funding of terror groups worldwide**.
- **European Parliament** on **March 28, 2019** has voted to **ban single-use plastic products**. It includes *plastic cutlery, cotton buds, straws and stirrers as part of a sweeping law against plastic waste that despoils beaches and pollutes oceans*.
- **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)**, a **UN agency**, released its annual '**State of the Climate Report**' on **March 28, 2019**.
- **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 Raghvan 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".

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