



Monthly One-Liner GK Digest



March 2020

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

BRAC: Top NGO of the World

- The Geneva-based organization **NGO Adviser**, publishes the rankings **every year** based on publicly available data for the top 500 global NGOs.
- The **Bangladesh-based international development organization BRAC**, was founded by Sir Fazle Hasan Abed in **1972**.

UN Adopted Political Declaration on Women's Rights

- The political declaration on women's rights was adopted during the **64th session of the Commission on the Status of Women**.
- The UN body reaffirmed the **1995 road map** to achieve gender equality that was adopted by 189 countries at the **1995 Beijing women's conference**.

UNSC Approved US Taliban Peace Agreement

- The United States' resolution on the deal is a **rare endorsement of an agreement with a militant group**.

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- The peace deal aims to bring **lasting peace in war-torn Afghanistan** and allow **US troops to return home** from America's longest war.

IMF: World Entered Recession

- **International Monetary Fund (IMF) chief Kristalina Georgieva** has announced on 27th March 2020, that **the world has clearly entered a recession** due to the devastating impact due to the Corona virus pandemic.
- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has **189 member countries** and was founded on 27th December **1945**.

Nagaland CM Launched an App – SELF DECLARATION COVID-19 App

- The **aim behind launching this app is to trace the person** who enters the state as a measure to tackle the spread of Coronavirus.
- The app is made mandatory for any person who entered the Nagaland **after 6th March 2020**.

NATIONAL NEWS

“Ekam Fest” Inaugurated at New Delhi

- Ekam stands for **Entrepreneurship, Knowledge, Awareness, Marketing**.
- The fest is being organised by **National Handicapped Finance Development Corporation (NHFDK)** under **M/o Social Justice & Empowerment**.

Incredible India Website 2.0

- This is a promotional website with an **aim** to project India as a **‘must-visit’ destination across the globe**.
- The **Incredible India 2.0 website** aims towards showcasing the varied tourism products of India at a global arena.

Pension Adalat

- The Programme is being conducted by the **Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare**, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Government of India.
- This is the **first time that Pension Adalat is being conducted outside Delhi**.

CLW Created World Record in Manufacturing Locomotives

- CLW surpassed their **own record of producing 350 locomotives** which they had manufactured during the year 2017-18.
- The Indian Railways' manufacturing unit has also achieved the record of producing **highest ever 3-phase Electric locomotive Shells in one calendar year** (Jan–Dec) 2019.

Companies (Second Amendment) Bill, 2019

- **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** said that the bill focuses on **removing criminality under the Companies Act, 2013** and the Bill will further **ease of living for law-abiding corporates**.
- The cabinet approved **72 changes along with the re-categorisation of 23 offences** in the new bill to further de-clog the **criminal justice system in the country**.

Fourth Global Ayurveda Festival

- The **theme** for the five-day Global Ayurveda Festival (GAF) is **“Ayurveda Medical Tourism: Actualizing India's credibility”**.
- The 4th edition of the GAF will be the **largest Ayurvedic event ever to be held anywhere across the world**.

Poshan Pakhwada

- The two-week-long **PoshanPakhwada 2020** will be focused on **“Men for Nutrition - increasing male engagement in PoshanAbhiyaan to improve Nutritional Indicators”**.
- POSHAN Abhiyaan **PM's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment** was launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on **8th March, 2018**.

Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship Programme

- The MGNF is designed and implemented by **IIM Bangalore** and in collaboration with **State Skill Development Missions (SSDMs)**.
- Under this, Indian Institute of Management Bengaluru will train **75 graduates for two years in preparing the District skill plan**.

Nari Shakti Puraskar

- **President Ram Nath Kovind** gave away the **Nari Shakti Puraskar to 15 women** in Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi.
- The Nari Shakti Puraskar was given on the **occasion of International Women's Day on 8th March 2020**.

4 Indian Airports Among Best Aerodromes in World

- **Airports Authority of India (AAI)** has said in a press release on 9th March 2020 that **four AAI airports have been adjudged the best in the world**.
- In the recently announced **2019 ASQ awards**, **Chandigarh, Mangaluru, Trivandrum and Lucknow aerodrome** has been named best among the world.

Committee on Kisan Rail Formed Under MAFW

- The government has formed a **committee on Kisan Rail under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**.
- The initiative has been taken to **increase farmers' income by helping in the supply chain of farm produce** and promote a **flawless supply chain of perishable products**.

“UdyamSakhi” Portal Launched

- The **“UdyamSakhi” Portal** was launched by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) on **8th March 2018 on the occasion of International Women's Day**.
- The portal is a network for **nurturing entrepreneurship and creating business models** for low-cost products and services in order to **empower women and make them self-reliant and self-sufficient**.

GOI Notified New POCSO Rules

- The **POCSO Act was enacted in 2012**, to Protect the Children from Offences of Sexual Assault, Sexual harassment and pornography for safeguarding the interest and well-being of children.

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- It is a **gender-neutral Act** and defines a child as any person **below eighteen years of age**.

Crime Multi Agency Centre

- The **National Cybercrime Training Centre (NCTC)** was also launched at the occasion for professional quality e-Learning services on cybercrime investigation to police officers, judges, prosecutors and other stakeholders.
- The **NCRB** is responsible for collecting and analysing crime data as defined by the Indian Penal Code and Special and Local Laws.

GOI Put Masks and Hand Sanitizers Under the Essential Commodities Act

- The government has amended the Schedule of the **Essential Commodities Act, 1955** to bring these items under the EC Act.
- The step is taken in view of the ongoing **outbreak of COVID-19 (Corona Virus)** and non-availability of the **masks (2 ply & 3 ply surgical masks, N95 masks) and hand sanitizers**.

Cabinet Approved Hike in MSP for Copra

- The **MSP for Fair Average Quality (FAQ) for milling copra** has been raised to **Rs 9960 per quintal** and for **ball copra to Rs 10300 per quintal** for 2020 season.
- The approval is based on recommendations of the **Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)**.

Central Sanskrit Universities Bill, 2019

- The **Lok Sabha had already passed the Bill on 12th December 2019** and on 16th March 2020, it was passed by voice vote in **Rajya Sabha**.
- After the passage of the bill, these 3 universities will have more opportunities to **spread the knowledge of Sanskrit language not only in India but also across the world**.

Wholesale Inflation in February 2020

- The **Wholesale Price Index for 'All Commodities'** for the month of **February, 2020** declined by **0.6% to 122.2 (provisional)** from 122.9 (provisional) for the January 2020.
- The **annual rate of inflation**, based on monthly WPI, stood at **2.26% (provisional) for the month of February 2020** over February 2019.

S&P Lowers India's Growth Forecast

- S&P Global Ratings had **earlier projected a growth rate of 5.7% during 2020 calendar**.
- The agency projected that the **Asia-Pacific economic growth in 2020 will be more than halve to less than 3%**.

National Commission for Indian System of Medicine Bill 2019

- The National Commission for Indian System of Medicine Bill 2019 was presented in Rajya Sabha on 7th January 2019 and seeks to **repeal the Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970**.
- It also contains the provision for **setting up a National Commission for Indian System of Medicine**.

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Covid-19 Economic Response Task Force

- Prime Minister Modi has also announced '**Janta curfew**' on **22nd March 2020** in the view of coronavirus outbreak.
- Janta curfew means **for the public, curfew imposed by the public on its own** and will be followed from 7 AM to 9 PM on 22nd March.

Fitch Lowered India GDP Growth to 5.1%

- The Fitch Ratings gave the **reason of the coronavirus outbreak**, which is likely to hit business investment and exports.
- In December 2019, Fitch had projected **India's growth at 5.6 % for 2020-21** and 6.5 % for the following year.

DPIIT: NRIs to Own Up to 100% Stake in Air India

- As per the notification, foreign investments in Air India including that of foreign airlines shall **not exceed 49 % either directly or indirectly**.
- But, exemption has been made for those NRIs, who are **Indian Nationals, where foreign investment is permitted up to 100 % under the automatic route**.

Cabinet Approved AYUSH HWC Inclusion in NAM

- The proposed expenditure for operationalization of AYUSH HWCs is **Rs. 3399.35 Crore (Rs.2209.58 Crore as Central Share and Rs. 1189.77 crore as State share)**.
- The expenditure is allotted for a period of **five years, from financial years 2019-20 to 2023-24**.

Govt Constituted High Level Committee of Medical Experts

- The High-level technical committee (HLTC) will guide the **prevention and control activities for COVID 19 in the country**.
- It is a **21 member committee** and is **headed by NITI Aayog member Dr V K Paul**.

Indian Institutes of Information Technology Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2020

- **Lok Sabha** has passed the **Indian Institutes of Information Technology Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2020** on 20th March 2020.
- The Indian Institutes of Information Technology Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2020 will amend the principal acts of the **Indian Institutes of Information Technology Act of 2014** and **Indian Institutes of Information Technology (Public-Private Partnership) Act, 2017**.

"Tech For Tribals" Program

- **"Tech for Tribals"** is supported by the **Ministry of MSME** and aims at capacity building and imparting **entrepreneurship skills to tribal forest produce gatherers** enrolled under the **Pradhan Mantri VanDhan Yojana (PMVDY)**.
- The project is launched jointly with **IIT-Kanpur along with IIT-Roorkee, IIM Indore, Kalinga Institute of Social Science, Bhubaneswar and SRIJAN, Jaipurin**.

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India's First Dedicated COVID-19 Facility

- **Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL)** on 23rd March 2020, has announced that it has set up **India's first dedicated COVID-19 hospital**.
- The Hospital has been set up by **Sir H.N. Reliance Foundation Hospital** in collaboration with the **Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC)**, at **Seven Hills Hospital in Mumbai**.

Funds to Tackle COVID 19 Counted under CSR

- The government has made it compulsory for the companies to **spend 2% of their average net profit of the last 3 years on CSR activity in a particular financial year**, under the amended Companies Act.
- In India, Corporate Social Responsibility was introduced through **Section 135 of the Companies Act of 2013**.

Invest India Business Immunity Platform

- The platform is designed as a comprehensive resource **to help businesses and investors get real-time updates on India's active response to COVID-19 (Coronavirus)**.
- The **Business Immunity Platform (BIP)** is the **24/7 active platform for business issue redressal**, with a team of dedicated sector experts and responding to queries at the earliest.

Largest Covid-19 Hospital to be Set up in Odisha

- The **Odisha state government** on 26th March 2020 has announced to set up **two 500-bed hospitals to exclusively treat Covid-19 patients**.
- The state government has signed **two tripartite agreements** to establish the hospital in partnership with the **Kalinga Institute of Medical Sciences and SUM Hospital**.

PM CARES Fund – To Deal with COVID 19

- The government of India sets up PM CARES Fund to fight the **biggest epidemic COVID-19**.
- PM CARES stands for **Prime Minister Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situation**.

“Corona Studies Series” - to be Launched by National Book Trust

- **National book trust, India of MHRD will be launching “Corona Studies Series”** books to provide relevant reading materials for all age groups for the post corona readership needs.

National Teleconsultation Center- Launched by Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry

- To deal with COVID-19 queries, Union Health and Family Welfare Minister Harsh Vardhan, launched **24x7 National Teleconsultation Center**.

GOI sets up 11 Empowered Groups under Disaster Management Act to Deal COVID-19

- The Government of India has set up 11 empowered groups to ensure a comprehensive and integrated response to **COVID-19**.
- The 11 empowered groups have been set up by the **GOI under the Disaster Management Act**.

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CFSS-2020- Launched by Ministry of Corporate Affairs

- Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has launched a scheme called “Companies fresh start Scheme 2020” with an aim to provide relief to law-abiding companies and the Limited Liability Partnerships (LLP) because of COVID-19 pandemic in the country.
- The CFSS-2020 will remain enforced from 1st April 2020 to 30th Sep 2020.

BANKING

GST Revenue Collection: Feb 2020

- With this, the **total revenue earned** by the Central Government and the State Governments after the regular settlement is **Rs 43,155 crore for CGST and Rs 43,901 crore for the SGST**.
- A growth of **12% is observed in the GST revenue from the domestic transactions** in Feb 2020 over the revenue during the month of February 2019.

NABARD Infused Rs 1.46 lakh Crore in Rural Banking

- NABARD has been extending financial support to the banks operating in rural areas to help them **deploy their resources effectively for meeting the credit needs of rural people, including farmers**.
- The **long term credits** are aimed at supporting sectors like **dairy, poultry, fishery, farm mechanisation, irrigation, and non-farm sector**.

RBI Received Rs 1.71 Trillion in LTRO

- RBI said that, it has received **66 bids in the LTRO of three-year tenor**, which has reversal date on 1st March 2023.
- The total bids imply a **bid to cover ratio of 6.9**, which is the amount of bids received relative to the notified amount.

SC Lifted RBI Ban on Crypto Currency

- The bench **quashed the central bank's order** and said that the **curb on crypto currency trade is illegal**.
- **Cryptocurrency** is an internet-based medium of exchange which uses **crypto graphical functions to conduct financial transactions**.

EPFO Lowered Interest Rate on Deposits to 8.5%

- The announced of the rate cut is made by the **Labour Minister SantoshGangwar** after the meeting of the **Central Board of Trustee** (EPFO apex decision-making body) on 5th March 2020.
- With the rate cut of **15 basis points**, employees will get **0.15% lower returns on their provident fund deposits this year**.

Reserve Bank of India Imposes Restrictions on YES Bank

- RBI has imposed restrictions on Yes Bank since the burden of **Yes Bank has increased**.
- RBI has allowed to **Yes bank customers that they can withdraw only Rs 50,000/- from their accounts**. However, an account holder can withdraw more than Rs 50,000/- for following three reasons: A) Medical treatment. B) Educations. C) Marriage. However, it is mandatory to get RBI approval for same.

RBI Deputy Governor N S Vishwanathan Quits Ahead of Retirement

- He was **first appointed as RBI deputy governor in 2016** for a term of three years.
- He was given a **one-year extension in June 2019** after Shaktikanta Das became the governor.

India's Forex Reserves Jumped to All-Time High of \$481.5 Billion

- **RBI data** showed that **India's foreign exchange reserves** jumped to hit a **new all-time high of \$481.54 billion in the week ended 28th February 2020**.
- **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** announced a **cut in corporate tax rates** on 20th September 2019 and since then the reserves have been rising week-on-week.

Moody Slashed India's GDP to 5.3% for 2020

- Moody's had reduced India's growth projection for the **calendar year 2020 to 5.4% from 6.6% on 17th February 2020**.
- In less than a month's time, it has again slashed the **growth projection from 5.4% to 5.3% for 2020 in its latest "Global Macro Outlook 2020-2021"**.

Sensex Biggest Single Day Loss

- The sharpest fall was registered in **banking, consumer durables, metal and oil and gas stocks**.
- The previous biggest fall for Sensex was on **24th August 2015** when the index closed 1,624 points lower at 25,741.

SBI Reduced FD Rates for 2nd Time

- Interest rates on **FDs maturing in one-year and above** have been reduced by **10 basis points**.
- An **interest rate of 5.90%** against 6 % earlier, will be applicable on **FD with One-year to less than two-year tenor**.

2018-19 Recorded Highest FDI Inflow

- **Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal**, in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha said that the **FDI inflow stood at the highest ever for the fiscal year 2018-19**.
- In **2018-19**, the foreign direct investment (FDI) inflow stood at a record **62 billion US dollars**.

Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill 2020

- The IBC (Amendment) Bill 2020 was **passed by the Lok Sabha** on 6th March 2020 and **received the Rajya Sabha** nod on 12th March 2020.
- The bill aims to **help ring-fence successful bidders of insolvent companies** from risk of criminal proceedings for **offences committed by previous promoters**.

India's Current Account Deficit

- The data showed that the **CAD eased to 0.2% of GDP in the December quarter (3rd quarter)** from 0.9% of GDP in the September quarter.
- The CAD accounted for **2.7% of the GDP in the year-ago period**.

RBI Announced US Dollar Sell/Buy Swap

- The **US dollar sell/buy swap** is announced by RBI observing the mismatch in the US dollar liquidity across the world.
- Due to **COVID 19 outbreak, a slump in international crude prices and a decline in bond yields in advanced economies**, financial markets worldwide are facing intense selling pressures on extreme risk aversion.

Vivad Se Vishwas Bill

- The **Vivad Se Vishwas Bill, 2020** offers a **waiver of interest, penalty and prosecution** for settlement of **Direct Tax disputes**.
- The bill was introduced in Lok Sabha by the **Minister of Finance, Ms Nirmala Sitharaman**, on 5th February 2020.

39th GST Council Meet

- The Goods and Services Tax Council has made recommendations to **increase GST rates on mobile phones to 18% from existing 12%**.
- The GST rates on mobile phones will come into effect from **1st April 2020**.

GOI will Borrow Rs 51,000 crore in March 2020

- The decision is taken after reviewing the cash position of the Centre, in line with the **Revised Estimate announced by the government in the Budget 2020-21**.
- The **Budget 2020-21** has raised the **net borrowing to Rs 4.99 lakh crore** from Rs 4.48 lakh crore in the Budget Estimate.

Paytm Bank to Issue Visa Virtual Debit Cards

- PPBL has said that it is targeting to **issue over 10 million new digital debit cards in 2020-21**.
- The visa virtual debit cards to its customers will enable them to **transact at all merchants accepting payments through cards**.

Governance Panel Set Up by IRDAI

- The **Insurance Regulation and Development Authority (IRDAI)** has announced on 19th March 2020 that it has set up a **governance panel/committee**.
- IRDAI is an **autonomous, statutory body** tasked with regulating and promoting the **insurance and re-insurance industries in India**.

Govt Liabilities Stood at Rs 93.89 Lakh Crore in Q3

- The increase in the Government's liability is **about 3.2% as compared to the previous quarter**.
- The liabilities, including those under the public **account, had stood at Rs 91,01,484 crore** at the end of September 2019.

S&P Forecast on Impact of COVID 19

- S&P has forecasted the **permanent income loss for the Asia-Pacific region, including India, from the impact of Covid-19 to \$620 billion**, 55% higher than its previous projection.

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- It has cut its **forecast of the region's economic growth to 2.7% for 2020** from the 3% expansion, it projected on 18th March 2020.

Govt Increased the Threshold for Invoking Insolvency under IBC

- The threshold has been increased in the view to **prevent the triggering of such proceedings against small and medium enterprises** that are facing problems due to the **COVID 19 pandemic**.
- The **Companies Act 2013** prescribed interval of **120 days** of holding meetings of the Board of the companies, shall be **extended by a period of 60 days till the next two quarters i.e., till 30th September**.

UBS Securities Cut India's FY21 Growth Rate to 4%

- UBS has sharply cut India's growth forecast for the **financial year 2020-21 starting 1st April 2020, to 4%** on 23rd March 2020.
- The UBS had earlier estimated **India's FY21 growth rate to be 5.1%**.

Government Announced to Pay EPF for 3 months

- This will be applicable for establishments with up to **100 employees, where 90% of employees draw less than Rs 15,000 salary**.
- The government has also amended the **EPFO regulations to allow workers under EPFO to draw up to 75% of their non-refundable advance or 3 months of wages**, whichever is lower.

Cabinet Approved Recapitalization of RRBs

- The recapitalization will provide minimum regulatory capital to RRBs for **another year beyond 2019-20, that is, up to 2020-21**.
- It will be for those RRBs which are unable to maintain **minimum Capital to Risk weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) of 9%**, as per the regulatory norms prescribed by the Reserve Bank of India.

Moody's Slashed India's GDP in FY20 to 2.5%

- It has cut the growth rate from its **earlier estimate of 5.3%**, on account of the rising **economic cost of the coronavirus pandemic**.
- It has said that the global economy will **contract in 2020, followed by a pickup in 2021**.

RBI Announced Measures to Boost Liquidity in the Banking System

- The 'paramount objective' behind the measures is **keeping finance flowing in the lockdown** due to coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.
- The measures will provide a **total liquidity injection of Rs 3.74 lakh crore to the system** in the current scenario.

Forex Reserves Fall by \$12 Billion

- The Reserve Bank continued to supply dollars into the market to **stem fall in the rupee that fell by \$11.98 billion to \$469.909 billion**.
- The first decline in the country's reserve in almost six months was observed in the previous week, in which the **country's foreign exchange reserves fell by \$5.346 billion to \$481.89 billion**.

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Mega Merger of 10 PSBs - Effective from 1st April 2020

- Reserve Bank of India has notified with a circular that the mega-merger of 10 PSBs will be effective from the start of the new financial year i.e. 1st April 2020.
- After the amalgamation, the total number of Public Sector Banks in the country will come down to 12 banks.

ADB to Invest \$100 million in NIIF-to Support India's Private Equity Sector

- Asian Development Bank and National Investment and Infrastructure Fund signed an agreement for ADB to invest in NIIF funds of funds (FOF) with an aim to support India's private equity sector industry.
- ADB will be investing \$100 million in the NIIF's FOF which will ensure that actual money invested will be a few times more than USD 100 million.

INDEX AND RANKING

Bloomberg Billionaires Index

- Mukesh Ambani is no longer Asia's richest man, relinquishing the title to Jack Ma, co-founder and former executive chairman of Alibaba Group.
- Jack Ma has topped the list with a \$44.5 billion fortune.

APPOINTMENTS

Name of the Person	Designation
Ajay Bhushan Pandey	New Finance Secretary of Committee of the Cabinet
Former Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi	Rajya Sabha
Hirdesh Kumar	Chief Electoral Officer of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir Election Commission of India
Arundhati Bhattacharya	Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Salesforce India
Karan Bajwa	Google as Managing Director of Google Cloud in India
Rajeev Jain	Managing Director of Bajaj Finance
R Gandhi & Ananth Narayan	Additional Directors of the Yes Bank Board

IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme
3 rd March 2020	World Wildlife Day	Theme: "Sustaining all life on earth"
8 th March 2020	International Women's Day	Theme: 'An equal world is an enabled world'.
15 th March 2020	World Consumer Day	To raise global awareness about consumer rights and needs.
20 th March 2020	World Sparrow Day	Theme: "I Love Sparrow"
24 th March 2020	World Tuberculosis Day	Theme: 'It's time'

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Book	Author
"Chronicles of Change Champions"	Smriti ZubinIrani

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

Student Health Card Scheme

- The aim of this **Student Health Card (SHC) scheme** is to ensure the good health of every school going children.
- The step is taken to ensure **full medical coverage** of over 12 lakh students enrolled in **government schools from Class I to XII** in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Adivasi Mahila Sashaktikaran Yojana

- The **Adivasi Mahila Sashaktikaran Yojana** is an exclusive concessional scheme for the economic development of eligible **Scheduled Tribe Women** to enhance their standard of life by providing financial independence.
- Under the scheme, Scheduled Tribes women can **undertake loans for any income generation activity**.

CBDT named 3 Nodal Officers on Board VSV Scheme

- The three senior CBDT members namely, **Seema Patra, PK Dash and Prabhash Shankar** will act as nodal officers between the ministries allocated to them.
- The CBDT has directed field officers to **"escalate" the issue with these officers** in the event a public-sector undertaking (**PSUs**) expresses reservation over settling tax disputes under the scheme.

Ganga Aamantran Abhiyan

- The GAA has been launched by the **Ministry of Jal Shakti** and is organised under the **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)**.
- It is a pioneering and historic **exploratory open-water rafting and kayaking expedition** on the Ganga River.

Manipur Govt Announced Schemes for Sportspersons and Artists

- **Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh** has announced the biggest ever scheme for the **welfare of sportspersons and artists** of the State.
- The schemes announced would provide benefits to thousands of **sportspersons and artistes** of the State who have **brought laurels to the State and Country**.

Production Linked Incentive Scheme

- The scheme proposes **production linked incentives** to boost domestic manufacturing and attract large investments in mobile phone manufacturing and specified electronic components.
- An **incentive of 4% to 6% on incremental sales (over base year)** of goods manufactured in India, shall be extended under the scheme.

"Prime Minister Gareeb Kalyan Scheme

- The "Prime Minister Gareeb Kalyan Scheme" with a total outlay of Rs 1.70 lakh crore will benefit the **poor** specially migrant workers and rural and urban poor people.
- The Scheme will be in two silos - **one food related and one for cash transfer, to mitigate the hardships of the poor due to the corona virus lockdown.**

DEFENCE

RaIDer-X, Explosive Detection Device Unveiled

- **RaIDer-X, a new explosive detection device**, was unveiled at the **National Workshop on Explosive Detection (NWED-2020)** in **Pune** on 1st March 2020.
- RaIDer-X has been co-developed by **DRDO arm High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL), Pune and Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.**

Wings India 2020

- The **Wings India**, four-day **civil aviation business exhibition and air show**, is Asia's largest civil aviation biennial event.
- The event is being **organized by the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Airports Authority of India** along with the **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).**

Procurement of 83 Tejas Aircraft Approved by DAC

- **HAL Tejas** is an Indian single-engine, delta wing, multirole light fighter designed for the Indian Air Force and Indian Navy.
- **The Light Combat Aircraft Tejas** is designed by the **Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA)** under DRDO and **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).**

Indian Navy's Quarantine Camp at INS Vishwakarma

- The camps will serve the **Indian nationals who are evacuated from countries** that are affected by the **COVID-19.**
- The **Quarantine Camp at INS Vishwakarma** is fully equipped to accommodate nearly **200 personnel.**

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

NPCI Doubled UPI Transaction Limit to Rs 2 lakh

- The transaction limit will be doubled from the **next fiscal year** for payments through **Unified Payment Interface (UPI).**
- It will be beneficial for the **digital payment players** such as Paytm, Google Pay and PhonePe etc.

MNRE Removed Tariff Caps for Solar, Wind Power Auctions

- The removal of tariff caps was the longstanding industry demand of the industry, as it **slowed down the pace of adding renewable generation capacities.**
- The renewable energy generation was slowed to **8.6 Giga-watt (GW) in FY 19 from 11.3 GW and 11.8 GW in FY17 and FY18, respectively.**

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North Korea Fires Three Projectiles

- The projectiles were launched from the **coastal town of Sondok area in South Hamgyong province**.
- Earlier, North Korea fired **two short-range missiles** off the east coast into the sea on 2nd March after a three-month halt.

India: 5th Country to Isolate Covid-19 Virus Strain

- **11 strains of the Covid-19** have been isolated by the **National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune**.
- **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, the apex health research body in the country, has expanded its network of labs equipped to test COVID-19 to **65 from 51**.

Microsoft Launches Coronavirus Tracker

- The website provides **up-to-date infection statistics for each country** and related articles from a variety of publishers.
- The website aggregates data from the sources like the **World Health Organization (WHO)**, the **US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**, and the **European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)**.

Account Aggregator Framework

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has envisaged that, the ecosystem of AAF would be a **platform for financial services companies to reach out to the consumer to seek consent before using their personal data** to optimise their product offerings.
- **Cams Finserv, FinSec AA Solutions and Cookiejar Technologies** have so far received operating licences from the RBI.

New Sanitizer Developed by IHBT Scientists

- The Hand Sanitizer consists of **natural flavours, active tea constituents and alcohol content** as per the **guidelines of the World Health Organization (WHO)**.
- Chemicals like **parabens, triclosan, synthetic fragrance and phthalates** have not been used in this product.

Govt Allowed Dispensation for Utilizing Funds under MPLADS for COVID 19

- The **Members of Parliament (MP) Local Area Development Division** is entrusted with the responsibility of **implementation of MPLADS**.
- Under the scheme, each **MP** has the choice to **suggest to the District Collector** in his/her constituency, for works to the **tune of Rs.5 Crores per annum**.

IIT Gandhinagar Launched Project 'Isaac'

- The project is inspired by Sir Isaac Newton, who was similarly sent home by Trinity College, Cambridge, because of the **Great Plague of London in 1665**.
- Newton, then a **22-year-old college student discovered early calculus**, as well as his theories of optics and gravity.

Monthly One-Liner GK Digest: March 2020

Tech Giant Google to Give \$800+ million to Fight Against COVID-19

- Google CEO **Sunder Pichai** announced **\$800+ million commitment** to support small and medium-sized businesses (SMD), health organizations and government and health workers on the frontline of global pandemics.

SPORTS

68th All India Police Athletic Championship

- **Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports Kiren Rijju** declared the meet open at Basic Training Centre of Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).
- The **All India Police Athletic Championship-2019** is being conducted by the **Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)**.

1st Edition of Khelo India Women's Hockey League

- **First Phase:** 23rd March to 29th March 2020- at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, New Delhi.
- **Second Phase:** 13th July to 19th July 2020 – at SAI center Bengaluru.
- **Third Phase:** 22nd Nov to 29th Nov- at Kalinga Stadium Bhubaneswar.

2020 ITTF Challenger Plus Oman Open

- In the **semi-finals**, Achanta pulled off a seven-seat victory against **Russia's Kirill Skachkov**.
- In Oman open 2020, he has won the crown after a decade as his **last ITTF title was in in 2010 when he won Egypt Open**.

All England Championships 2020

- **Tai Tzu Ying** has won the title for the third time after beating **China's Chen Yufei** at **Birmingham, England**.
- In the **Men's singles**, **Denmark's Victor Axelsen** outclassed **Taiwan's Chou Tien-Chen**.

Olympics Games Tokyo 2020- POSTPONED by a Year

- Now the **Olympics Games Tokyo 2020** are rescheduled to be held from **23rd July 2021 to 8th August 2021**.
- **The decision was taken by keeping in view the health of athletes and everyone involved. Also, the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) has taken the decision to reschedule the Paralympic games from 24th Aug to 5th Sep 2021.**

SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES

35th Edition of AAHAR

- This five-day-long fair AAHAR is being **organized by India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO)** with support of the **Ministry of Food Processing Industries and Agriculture and Processed Food Products Development Authority**.
- The fair will feature a wide range of food products, machinery, and hospitality etc. from over **750 participants from India and overseas**.

Pragyan Conclave 2020

- The conclave brought together **cross-domain national and international experts** to deliberate on the complex subject of '**Changing Characteristics of Land Warfare and its Impact on the Military**'.
- It provided a platform to deliberate upon the emerging ideas, perspectives and narratives that define the '**New Age Warfare**'.

G20 Virtual Summit

- The member countries will discuss to **advance the coordinated response to the novel coronavirus pandemic in the meet**.
- **Saudi Arabia**, which currently holds the **G20 presidency**, called for the "virtual summit" to discuss its measures last week.

