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## An important message from Team Smartkeeda

Hi Folks! We hope you all are doing well. We would like to state here that this PDF is meant for preparing for the upcoming MockDrill 100 of March 2020 Month at Testzone. In this Current Affairs PDF we have added all the important Current Affairs information in form of 'Key-points' which are crucial if you want to score a high rank in Current Affairs Mocks at Testzone. Therefore, we urge you to go through each piece of information carefully and try to remember the facts and figures because the questions to be asked in the Current Affairs MockDrill will be based on the information given in the PDF only.

We hope you will make the best of use of this PDF and perform well in MockDrill Tests at Testzone.

All the best!

Regards

Team Smartkeeda

### स्मार्टकीड़ा टीम की ओर से एक महत्वपूर्ण सन्देश!

मित्रों! हम आशा करते हैं की आप सभी स्वस्थ और कुशल होंगे। इस सन्देश के माध्यम से हम आपसे यह कहना चाहते हैं की ये PDF मार्च माह में Testzone पर होने वाले MockDrill 100 में आपकी तैयारी को बेहतर करने के लिए उपलब्ध करायी जा रही है। इस PDF में हमने कुछ अति आवश्यक 'Key-Points' के माध्यम से आपको सम-सामयिकी (Current Affairs) सूचनाओं से अवगत कराया है और अगर आप MockDrill में अपनी योग्यता सिद्ध करना चाहते हैं तो आपके लिए हर सूचना को पढना, समझना और उसे याद रखना भी अति आवश्यक है क्योंकि MockDrill में शामिल किए गए प्रश्न PDF में दी गयी सूचना या जानकारी पर ही आधारित होंगे।

हम आशा करते हैं की आप इस PDF का भरपूर लाभ उठाते हुए आने वाले MockDrill Test में बेहतर अंक प्राप्त करेंगे।

आभार,

टीम स्मार्टकीड़ा

### 701. Ranks, Reports & Surveys

As per the 'World Population Prospects 2019' report, India's population reached 1.36 billion (136 crore) in mid 2019, which makes it the second most populous country in the world. [Click here for more details](#)

#### Key Points:

- 'World Population Prospects 2019' report – India's population reached 1.36 billion in mid 2019

### 702. Schemes & Initiatives

The Ministry of AYUSH has proposed following two models for operationalization of 12,500 AYUSH Health & Wellness Centres component of Ayushman Bharat in National AYUSH Mission (NAM) throughout the country – Upgradation of existing AYUSH dispensaries (10000) & Sub Health Centres (2500) [Click here for more details](#)

#### Key Points:

- The Ministry of AYUSH – proposed – 12,500 AYUSH Health & Wellness Centres in NAM
- Ayushman Bharat: Launched – 23 September 2018
- Minister of AYUSH – Shripad Naik | Constituency – North Goa

### 703. Banking & Economic Affairs

Private General Insurer, ICICI Lombard has launched an insurance cover 'Covid-19 Protection Cover' in a group insurance mode. Prices at Rs 149 covers sum insured of Rs 25,000 including value added benefits, ambulance assistance, tele-consultation as part of the offerings. The policy covers people between the age group of 18-75. [Click here for more details](#)

#### Key Points:

- ICICI Lombard has launched an insurance cover 'Covid-19 Protection Cover'
- ICICI Lombard: Hq – Mumbai | CEO – Bhargav Dasgupta

### 704. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

The Union Cabinet approved a MOU signed between India and Germany for technological cooperation in the railway sector. [Click here for more details](#)

#### Key Points:

- India and Germany signed MOU for technological cooperation in the railway sector
- Minister of Railway & Commerce – Piyush Goyal | Constituency – Maharashtra
- Germany – Berlin – Euro



### 705. Arts & Cultural Affairs

Shigmo festival parade showcasing folk art was held amid concerns over coronavirus Panaji, Goa. For over 30 years, this parade has been organised in the city. [Click here for more details](#)

#### Key Points:

- Shigmo festival – Goa
- Goa : Chief minister – Pramod Sawant | Governor – Satya Pal Malik

### 706. Appointments & Resignations

Maharashtra chief secretary Ajoy Mehta has been given three months extension in view of the outbreak of COVID-19 in the state. Mehta, who was set to complete his tenure on March 31, has been given extension till June 30. [Click here for more details](#)

#### Key Points:

- Ajoy Mehta – Maharashtra chief secretary – three months extension
- Maharashtra: CM – Uddhav Thackeray | Governor- Bhagat Singh Koshyari

### 707. Banking & Economic Affairs

The government raised the threshold for invoking insolvency under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code to Rs 1 crore from the current Rs 1 lakh under section 4 of IBC act 2016, with a view to prevent triggering of such proceedings against MSMEs. [Click here for more details](#)

#### Key Points:

- Govt – raised threshold for invoking insolvency under IBC from 1 lakh to 1 crore – under sec 4 of IBC act 2016

### 708. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

State Bank of India has entered into an agreement to acquire 6.825% stake in Zero Mass. As part of the deal, the Bank has sold its entire stake in A Little World to the Zero Mass. [Click here for more details](#)

#### Key Points:

- SBI has entered into an agreement to acquire 6.825% stake in Zero Mass
- SBI: Hq – Mumbai | Founded – 1 July 1955 | Chairperson – Rajnish Kumar



## 709. National & States Affairs

Chief Minister Conrad Sangma informed that Rs 2.5 crore has been allocated for the data driven state-wide program called Meghalaya's Outcome oriented Transformation in Health, Education and Rural Development (MOTHER). CM presented the budget for 2020-21 with a fiscal deficit of Rs 1,532 crore, which is around 3.53% of the Gross State Domestic Product and estimated the total receipts at Rs 17,375 crore. [Click here for more details](#)

### Key Points:

- Meghalaya CM allocated Rs 2.5 crore for MOTHER
- Meghalaya's budget for 2020-21 with a fiscal deficit of Rs 1,532 crore & estimated the total receipts at Rs 17,375 crore
- Meghalaya: CM - Conrad K Sangma | Governor- Tathagata Roy

## 710. Amount & Agreements

Sri Lanka has committed \$5 million for the SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) Covid-19 emergency Fund. [Click here for more details](#)

### Key Points:

- Sri Lanka – committed \$5 million for the SAARC Covid-19 emergency Fund
- SAARC: Hq – Kathmandu, Nepal | Secretary general – Esala Weerakoon
- Sri Lanka – Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – Sri Lankan rupee

## 711. Important Days & Dates

The International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members is observed annually on 25 March by the United Nations. [Click here for more details](#)

### Key Points:

- International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members – March 25

## 712. Science & Technology

Scientists from the Institute of Nano Science and Technology (INST), an autonomous institute under the Department of Science & Technology, have developed a starch-based 'hemostat' material that concentrates the natural clotting factors in blood by physically absorbing excess fluid. [Click here for more details](#)

### Key Points:

- Institute of Nano Science and Technology – developed a starch-based 'hemostat' material
- Minister of Science and Technology – Dr. Harsh Vardhan | Constituency – Chandni Chowk



### 713. Banking & Economic Affairs

Indian Bank has announced 5 emergency loans are for their corporate clients, MSMEs, SHGs, Retail borrowers & Pensioners to minimize the hardships faced by its customers during the country-wide lockdown. SAHAYA LOAN for Self Help Groups each member will be eligible to avail a soft loan of Rs 5000 which adds up to Rs 1 lakh per SHG. Loan duration would be for 36 months with 6 month moratorium. [Click here for more details](#)

#### Key Points:

- Indian Bank has announced 5 emergency loans
- SAHAYA LOAN for SHGs – Rs 5000 i.e., Rs 1 lakh per SHG – duration 36 months with 6 month moratorium
- Indian Bank: Hq – Chennai | CEO – Padmaja Chundururu | Tagline: “Your Own Bank”

### 714. Obituaries

Joseph E. Lowery, a veteran civil rights leader who helped the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. found the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and fought against racial discrimination died. He was 98. [Click here for more details](#)

#### Key Points:

- Joseph E. Lowery (USA) – passed away – a veteran civil rights leader

### 715. Defence Affairs

US Africa Command (AFRICOM) canceled annual military exercise African Lion. The annual African Lion military exercise held between US and Morocco became the latest casualty of the global novel coronavirus pandemic with this year's event being canceled. [Click here for more details](#)

#### Key Points:

- African Lion military exercise held between US and Morocco
- Morocco – Rabat – Dirham

### 716. National & States Affairs

Rajasthan police launched a RajCop Citizens app to enable individuals and company employees in the state take permission for venturing out in necessary conditions. [Click here for more details](#)

#### Key Points:

- Rajasthan police launched a RajCop Citizens app
- Rajasthan: CM - Ashok Gehlot | Governor – Kalraj Mishra

### 717. Awards, Rewards, Recognition & Prizes

The winners of Critics' Choice Film Awards 2020 have been announced. The awards honoured Best Film – Gully Boy, Best Actor (Male) – Ranveer Singh (Gully Boy) [Click here for more details](#)

#### Key Points:

- Critics' Choice Film Awards 2020 – Best Actor (Male) – Ranveer Singh (Gully Boy)

### 718. Banking & Economic Affairs

The Revenue Department said the provisions of the amended Indian Stamp Act, which was to come into force from April 1, will now be effective from July 1. To rationalise and harmonise the system of levying stamp duty and help curb tax evasion, the government had through Finance Act 2019 amended the Indian Stamp Act, 1899. Certain changes were to be effective from April 1, 2020. [Click here for more details](#)

#### Key Points:

- Revenue Department – postponed the implementation of the uniform stamp duty by 3 months to 1 July from 1 April
- Revenue secretary – Ajay Bhushan Pandey

### 719. National & States Affairs

The Punjab government imposed a curfew to stop the spread of coronavirus, making it the first state to take the drastic measure. [Click here for more details](#)

#### Key Points:

- Punjab govt imposed a curfew to stop the spread of coronavirus
- Punjab: CM - Captain Amarinder Singh | Governor- V. P. Singh Badnore

### 720. National & States Affairs

A total 35 GW grid connected solar power capacity has been installed in the country till February month. And additional capacity of more than 21 GW under various stages of implementation and 31 GW under various stage of bidding. [Click here for more details](#)

#### Key Points:

- 35 GW grid connected solar power capacity installed till February
- Target of installing 100 GW of grid connected solar power capacity – under National Solar Mission by 2022.
- Minister of New and Renewable Energy – R K Singh | Constituency - Arrah, Bihar



## 721. Schemes & Initiatives

Rs 20,466.94 crores of loans have been sanctioned under Stand Up India Scheme to over 91,000 accounts upto 10 March, 2020 since inception of the Scheme. This was stated by Shri Anurag Singh Thakur, Minister of State for Finance & Corporate Affairs, in a written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha. [Click here for more details](#)

### Key Points:

- The government has sanctioned a loan of Rs 20,466.94 crores to over 91,000 accounts till 10 March, 2020
- Minister of State for Finance & Corporate Affairs – Anurag Singh Thakur

## 722. Science & Technology

International Advanced Centre for Powder Metallurgy & New Materials (ARCI), an autonomous R&D Centre of Department of Science and Technology (DST), has developed “Ultrafast laser surface texturing technology”, which can improve the fuel efficiency of internal combustion engines. [Click here for more details](#)

### Key Points:

- ARCI developed “Ultrafast Laser Surface Texturing Technology”
- ARCI – located Hyderabad

## 723. Defence Affairs

“The Indian Navy and the French Navy for the first time have conducted a joint patrol from the Reunion Island in February month. The patrol was conducted by a P-8I aircraft with French Navy personnel onboard”. [Click here for more details](#)

### Key Points:

- India & France – 1st time conducted a joint patrol from the Reunion Island by a P-8I aircraft
- Chief of the Naval Staff – Admiral Karambir Singh
- France – Paris – Euros

## 724. National & States Affairs

Piyush Goyal-led Indian Railways focuses on world-class stations! The Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Limited (IRSDC) with support from Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation is developing a first-of-its-kind “Form Based Codes” for the development of railway land. [Click here for more details](#)

### Key Points:

- IRSDC + Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation – developing a first-of-its-kind “Form Based Codes”
- IRSDC:Hq – New Delhi

## 725. Banking & Economic Affairs

The RBI has advanced its Rs 25,000 crore for variable rate repo auction to March 26 from March 30 on a review of the rapidly evolving financial conditions and taking into account the impact of disruptions caused by Covid-19. [Click here for more details](#)

### Key Points:

- RBI has advanced its Rs 25,000 crore for variable rate repo auction
- RBI: Hq – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das | Founded – 1 April 1935

## 726. Science & Technology

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Centre for Near-Earth Object Studies (CNEOS) has identified 4 asteroids namely, 2020 FK, 2020 FS, 2020 DP4 & 2020 FF1 approaching the earth which follows Earth-intersecting orbits. [Click here for more details](#)

### Key Points:

- NASA's (CNEOS) identifies 4 asteroids namely, 2020 FK, 2020 FS, 2020 DP4 & 2020 FF1
- NASA: Hq – Washington, D.C., US | Founded – 1 October 1958 | Administrator – Jim Bridenstine

## 727. National & States Affairs

The armed forces spent Rs 26.12 crore as "legal expenses" from April 2019 to February 2020, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said. [Click here for more details](#)

### Key Points:

- Armed forces spent Rs 26.12 crore as "legal expenses" from April 2019 to February 2020
- Defence Minister – Rajnath Singh | Constituency - Lucknow

## 728. Science & Technology

As per the Science Magazine report, WHO's mega trial is called "Solidarity" of the 4 most promising therapies: Remdesivir; Chloroquine and Hydroxychloroquine; combination of Lopinavir and Ritonavir; combination of Lopinavir and Ritonavir plus interferon-beta. [Click here for more details](#)

### Key Points:

- WHO has initiated the main trial of 'Solidarity' promising drugs that may cure COVID-19.
- 4 promising therapies: Remdesivir; Chloroquine and Hydroxychloroquine; Lopinavir and Ritonavir; Lopinavir and Ritonavir plus interferon-beta.
- WHO: Hq – Geneva, Switzerland | Director General – Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

## 729. Banking & Economic Affairs

RBI has, for the first time, shared its Business Continuity Plan (BCP), an integral risk mitigation measure for critical operations such as ensuring zero disruptions in the national payments systems due to COVID-19. [Click here for more details](#)

### Key Points:

- RBI – shared its BCP to ensure zero disruptions in the national payments systems due to COVID-19
- BCP – Business Continuity Plan
- RBI: Hq – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das | Founded – 1 April 1935

## 730. Science & Technology

Amid the coronavirus outbreak, the government banned export of anti-malarial drug hydroxychloroquine, with immediate effect to ensure sufficient availability of the medicine in the domestic market. [Click here for more details](#)

### Key Points:

- Govt banned export of anti-malarial drug “Hydroxychloroquine”
- ICMR: Hq – New Delhi | Secretary & Director General – Dr. Balram Bhargava

## 731. Arts & Cultural Affairs

A competition titled “United against CORONA- Express through Art” is organised by The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and announced by Ministry of External Affairs. The event encourages submissions of artistic expressions to present their emotions, feelings, ideas and innovative thoughts on the covid-19. [Click here for more details](#)

### Key Points:

- “United against CORONA – Express through Art” is organised by ICCR
- ICCR: Hq – New Delhi | President – Vinay Sahasrabuddhe | DG – Dineshk Patnaik

## 732. Current GK

The reconstruction of totally dilapidated 430-feet long X10-feet wide bailey bridge named Daporijo bridge over Subansiri River at the entry point of Upper Subansiri district headquarters Daporijo that connects Silapathar of Assam has begun with commitment by Project Arunank of Border Roads Organisation (BRO). [Click here for more details](#)

### Key Points:

- Daporijo bridge – Arunachal Pradesh
- Arunachal Pradesh : CM – Pema Khandu | Governor – B. D. Mishra



### 733. Amount & Agreements

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed an agreement to lend up to \$60 million in Indian rupee equivalent to Aavas Financiers (Aavas), a housing finance company in India, to improve access to housing finance for lower-income borrowers in the country, particularly women. [Click here for more details](#)

#### Key Points:

- ADB signed an agreement to lend up to \$60 million to Aavas Financiers
- ADB: Hq – Mandaluyong, Philippines | President – Masatsugu Asakawa

### 734. Banking & Economic Affairs

RBI has reduced the capital requirements for payment aggregators to Rs. 15 crore from Rs. 100 crore proposed earlier. The apex bank said that PAs should achieve a net-worth of Rs 15 crore by March 31, 2021 and a net-worth of Rs 25 crore by the end of the third financial year, i.e., on or before March 31, 2023. The net-worth of Rs 25 crore shall be maintained at all times thereafter. [Click here for more details](#)

#### Key Points:

- Minimum Capital requirements for Payment Aggregators to Rs 15 crore from Rs 100 crore
- RBI: Hq – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das | Founded – 1 April 1935

### 735. Important Days & Dates

World Poetry Day is celebrated on 21 March, and was declared by UNESCO in 1999, "with the aim of supporting linguistic diversity through poetic expression and increasing the opportunity for endangered languages to be heard". [Click here for more details](#)

#### Key Points:

- World Poetry Day – Every Year on 21 March
- UNESCO: Hq – Paris, France | Head – Audrey Azoulay

### 736. Amount & Agreements

The United States announced \$174 million financial assistance to 64 countries including \$2.9 million to India to help them fight the coronavirus pandemic. [Click here for more details](#)

#### Key Points:

- The United States announced \$2.9 million financial assistance to India
- USA – Washington, D.C. – Dollar | President – Donald Trump

### 737. National & States Affairs

An advisory has been issued by Labour Minister Santosh Gangwar to all CMs, Lieutenant Governors of all the states/UT to provide financial aid to over 3.5 crore construction workers from Rs 52,000 crore construction cess available with them amid Covid-19 outbreak. [Click here for more details](#)

#### Key Points:

- Labour Minister – provide financial aid to over 3.5 crore construction workers from Rs 52,000 Cr construction cess
- Labour Minister – Santosh Gangwar | Constituency - Bareilly

### 738. National & States Affairs

Till March 13, 2020, rooftop solar power plants of an aggregate capacity of 1,922 MW have been installed in the country, of which 346 MW have been installed in the residential sector, Minister of New and Renewable Energy R K Singh said in the Rajya Sabha, citing ministry data. [Click here for more details](#)

#### Key Points:

- Till March 13, 2020 – Rooftop Solar Power Plants of an aggregate capacity of 1,922 MW
- Minister of Power and renewable energy - R K Singh | Constituency - Arrah (Bihar)

### 739. Amount & Agreements

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Japanese government funding agency, has signed agreements with the Indian government for three rail infrastructure projects, totalling Rs 15,295 crore. [Click here for more details](#)

#### Key Points:

- JICA and Gol – signed – agreements for three rail infrastructure projects Rs 15,295 crore
- JICA: Hq – Tokyo, Japan | President – Shinichi Kitaoka

### 740. Banking & Economic Affairs

Interest rate on public provident fund (PPF) scheme has been lowered to 7.1% for the upcoming June quarter of financial year 2020-21. This is the lowest interest rate offered on the popular small savings scheme since 1977. Till the March quarter of FY20, PPF accounts used to attract 7.9% interest. [Click here for more details](#)

#### Key Points:

- Interest rate on PPF scheme – 7.1% for the upcoming June quarter (lowest interest rate since 1977)
- PPF – savings-cum-tax-saving instrument in India, introduced by the National Savings Institute of the Ministry of Finance in 1968.



## 741. Banking & Economic Affairs

The Union Labour and Employment Ministry has notified amendment to the Employees' Provident Funds (EPF) Scheme to allow withdrawal of non-refundable advance by the members in the event of Covid-19 pandemic. The amended scheme Employees Provident Fund (Amendment) scheme, 2020, has come into force from March 28, 2020. [Click here for more details](#)

### Key Points:

- EPF (Amendment) scheme, 2020 – allow withdrawal of non-refundable advance
- EPFO: Hq – New Delhi | Central Provident Fund Commissioner – Sunil Barthwal | Founded – 4 March 1952

## 742. Schemes & Initiatives

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) launched a “Global Network Resiliency Platform” to help global networks under increasing strain and facing rising demand during the COVID-19 crisis to remain “safer, stronger and more connected”. [Click here for more details](#)

### Key Points:

- ITU launched “Global Network Resiliency Platform”
- International Telecommunication Union: Hq – Geneva, Switzerland | Head – Houlin Zhao

## 743. Schemes & Initiatives

The National Health Authority, responsible for the implementation of the Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, has decided to include the Corona test and treatment of the respiratory ailment in its packages and has sought permission from its governing board. [Click here for more details](#)

### Key Points:

- Corona test and treatment – covered under Ayushman Bharat Scheme
- Ayushman Bharat Scheme: Launched – 23 September 2018

## 744. Banking & Economic Affairs

The RBI is set to inject liquidity of Rs 30,000 crore through Open Market Operations to maintain financial stability in the system in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak. [Click here for more details](#)

### Key Points:

- RBI is set to inject liquidity of Rs 30,000 crore through Open Market Operations
- RBI: Hq – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das | Founded – 1 April 1935

## 745. Schemes & Initiatives

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting set up a dedicated Twitter handle for sharing news and updates about the novel coronavirus. The account is named #IndiaFightsCorona and uses the handle @CovidnewsbyMIB. [Click here for more details](#)

### Key Points:

- Ministry of Information and Broadcasting set up a Twitter handle “@CovidnewsbyMIB” for sharing news and updates about COVID-19
- Ministry of Information and Broadcasting – Prakash Javadekar | Constituency – Madhya Pradesh

## 746. Banking & Economic Affairs

The RBI has opened an emergency line of credit of around Rs. 60,000 crore to Yes Bank to meet any liquidity crisis in paying back its depositors as the bank resumes normal operations. The additional liquidity arsenal is in line with Section 17 (4) of the RBI Act. [Click here for more details](#)

### Key Points:

- RBI opened an emergency line of credit of around Rs. 60,000 crore to Yes Bank under Section 17 (4) of the RBI Act
- RBI: Hq – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das | Founded – 1 April 1935

## 747. Schemes & Initiatives

PM Narendra Modi announced the allocation of Rs 15,000 crore to strengthen the country's health infrastructure to combat Covid-19. [Click here for more details](#)

### Key Points:

- PM Narendra Modi announced the allocation of Rs 15,000 crore to strengthen health infrastructure

## 748. Important Days & Dates

The International Day of Forests was established on the 21st day of March, by resolution of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 2012. It is celebrated to raise awareness of the importance of all types of forests, and trees outside forests. [Click here for more details](#)

### Key Points:

- International Day of Forests – Every Year on 21 March
- The theme for 2020: “Forests and Biodiversity”.
- UNGA: Hq – New York, United States | President – Tijjani Muhammad-Bande

## 749. Banking & Economic Affairs

The RBI had put a six-month regulatory restriction on the Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank on September 23, 2019, after finding out certain financial irregularities, hiding and misreporting of loans given to real estate developer HDIL under Section 35A of the Banking Regulations Act, 1949. The RBI has extended regulatory restrictions on PMC Bank for three more months till June 22, 2020. [Click here for more details](#)

### Key Points:

- RBI has extended regulatory restrictions on PMC Bank for three more months till June 22, 2020.
- Regulatory restrictions on PMC Bank under Section 35A of the Banking Regulations Act, 1949
- RBI: Hq – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das | Founded – 1 April 1935
- PMC Bank: Hq – Mumbai | Founded – 1984

## 750. Ranks, Reports & Surveys

According to a report by SBI Research's Ecowrap, the country's economic growth is likely to fall sharply to 2.6 % in 2020-21 due to lockdown amid the coronavirus pandemic. [Click here for more details](#)

### Key Points:

- Ecowrap is research team of SBI
- In March GDP fall sharply to 2.6 % in 2020-21 due to lockdown (flexible News)

## 751. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

L&T Technology Services Ltd (LTTTS) has signed a multi-year MoU with IIT-Kanpur to collaborate on research in industrial and infrastructure cybersecurity. [Click here for more details](#)

### Key Points:

- L&T Technology Services signed MoU with IIT-Kanpur for research in cybersecurity programs

## 752. Banking & Economic Affairs

Invest India, India's national Investment Promotion & Facilitation Agency, under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has launched "The 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. [Click here for more details](#)

### Key Points:

- Invest India under the Ministry of Commerce has launched "The Invest India Business Immunity Platform"
- Minister of Commerce & Industry – Piyush Goyal | Constituency – Maharashtra



### 753. Banking & Economic Affairs

RBI unleashed Rs 3.74 lakh crore of liquidity on the Indian banking system to support financial markets hit by the spread of an unprecedented health emergency through targeted long-term repo operation (TLTRO), Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) and marginal standing facility (MSF). [Click here for more details](#)

#### Key Points:

- RBI injected Rs 3.74 lakh crore in Indian banking system to maintain financial stability during COVID-19
- RBI: Hq – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das | Founded – 1 April 1935

### 754. Sports & Games

The Tokyo Olympics which was scheduled to be held from July 24, 2020 has been postponed by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for the 1st time in its 124-year modern history. [Click here for more details](#)

#### Key Points:

- IOC – announced – Tokyo Olympics 1st edition to be postponed for the 1st time in its 124-year modern history.
- IOC:HQs – Lausanne, Switzerland | President – Thomas Bach

### 755. Banking & Economic Affairs

The NABARD has extended financial support up to Rs 42,313 crore towards building rural infrastructure in the ongoing fiscal year. [Click here for more details](#)

#### Key Points:

- NABARD – extended financial support up to Rs 42,313 crore – towards building rural infrastructure
- NABARD : Formation– July 12, 1982 | HQ– Mumbai | Chairman– Dr. Harsh Kumar Bhanwala

### 756. Current GK

EPIC Channel launched a two-part original docu-series Emerald Forest. Emerald Forest brings to fore the extraordinary efforts of a small team of dedicated forest officers who reintroduced tigers in Panna National Park in Madhya Pradesh. [Click here for more details](#)

#### Key Points:

- Panna National Park in Madhya Pradesh
- Madhya Pradesh : CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan | Governor – Lalji Tandon

### 757. Schemes & Initiatives

The Centre has released Rs 4,431 crore to clear pending wages under the rural job scheme MGNREGA and will pay all dues by April 10, officials said, a day after the government announced increase in wages under the programme. [Click here for more details](#)

#### Key Points:

- Centre has released Rs 4,431 crore to clear pending wages under scheme MGNREGA
- MNREGA – Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act | Launched – 2006

### 758. Banking & Economic Affairs

Yes Bank board was reconstituted with immediate effect with the appointment of eight members as per "Yes Bank Ltd Reconstruction Scheme 2020" notified by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India. [Click here for more details](#)

#### Key Points:

- Yes Bank reconstituted its BOD with 8 members as per 'Yes Bank Limited Reconstruction Scheme 2020'
- YES Bank:Hq – Mumbai | CEO – Prashant Kumar

### 759. Schemes & Initiatives

The Cabinet has approved three key schemes to boost electronics and components manufacturing exports and production in the country, with a total outlay of Rs 48,042.25 crore. The three schemes are: Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, Promotion of Manufacturing of Electronics Components and Semiconductors (SPECS), Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMC) 2.0 [Click here for more details](#)

#### Key Points:

- Three schemes – to boost electronics and components manufacturing exports and production – total outlay of Rs 48,042.25 crore
- Minister of Electronics & Information Technology – Ravi Shankar Prasad | Constituency – Patna Sahib

### 760. Acquisitions & Mergers

The schemes for the merger of ten state-run banks into four lenders from April 1. As per the scheme, Oriental Bank of Commerce and United Bank of India will be merged into Punjab National Bank; Syndicate Bank into Canara Bank; Allahabad Bank into Indian Bank; and Andhra and Corporation banks into Union Bank of India. [Click here for more details](#)

#### Key Points:

- Merger of ten state-run banks into four lenders from April 1,2020
- (OBC + United Bank + PNB) – PNB | (Syndicate + Canara) – Canara Bank
- (Allahabad + Indian) – Indian Bank | (Andhra + Corporation + Union Bank) – Union Bank



## 761. Amount & Agreements

The Government of Bangladesh, Nepal and Afghanistan have pledged to contribute \$1.5 million, \$1 million and \$1 million respectively to the SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) Corona Emergency Fund. [Click here for more details](#)

### Key Points:

- Bangladesh, Nepal and Afghanistan – contribute \$1.5 million, \$1 million and \$1 million respectively
- SAARC: Hq – Kathmandu, Nepal | Secretary general – Esala Weerakoon
- Bangladesh – Dhaka – Taka | Afghanistan – Kabul – Afghani | Nepal – Kathmandu – Nepalese Rupe

## 762. Important Days & Dates

On March 18, 2020, 219th Ordnance Factories Foundation Day was observed. Every year India observes March 18 as Ordnance Factory Day. There are 41 ordnance factories in the country. OFB is the world's largest government-operated production organisation, and the oldest organisation run by the Government of India. [Click here for more details](#)

### Key Points:

- 219th Ordnance Factory Day – On March 18, 2020
- The first Ordnance Factory was established in Kolkata in 1801. And now 41 ordnance factories
- Ordnance Factory Board:Hq – Kolkata

## 763. Banking & Economic Affairs

Mahabaleshwara MS, MD and CEO of Karnataka Bank, has said that the health of a bank is measured by referring to the Capital to Risk Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) and not the so-called 'M-Cap to Deposit Ratio'. [Click here for more details](#)

### Key Points:

- CRAR – Capital to Risk Weighted Assets Ratio
- CRAR is the ratio of a bank's capital in relation to its risk weighted assets and current liabilities.

## 764. Banking & Economic Affairs

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a Rs 50 lakh insurance cover per person for frontline health workers involved in managing the COVID-19 outbreak. The announcement was part of a slew of measures announced by the finance minister under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan package. [Click here for more details](#)

### Key Points:

- Finance minister – announced – A Rs 50 lakh insurance cover per person for health workers fighting Covid-19
- Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs – Nirmala Sitharaman | Constituency – Karnatka



## 765. Banking & Economic Affairs

The Board of Approval on Special Economic Zones (SEZs) has approved 101 cases of de-notification between April 1, 2008 and February 29, 2020. These de-notification approvals are subject to the refund of all duties and tax benefits availed by the SEZ private developers and on receipt of no-objection from the concerned state governments. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said. [Click here for more details](#)

### Key Points:

- Board of Approval on SEZs has approved 101 cases of de-notification
- Minister of Railway & Commerce – Piyush Goyal | Constituency – Maharashtra

## 766. Banking & Economic Affairs

The RBI said bank credit to registered NBFCs towards agriculture, MSEs and housing sector up to prescribed limits will be treated as priority sector loans during the next fiscal starting April 2020. As per the revised norms, on-lending by NBFCs for 'term lending' component under agriculture will be allowed up to Rs 10 lakh per borrower. [Click here for more details](#)

### Key Points:

- On-lending by NBFCs for 'term lending' – under agriculture will be allowed up to Rs 10 lakh per borrower
- NABARD : Formation– July 12, 1982 | HQ– Mumbai | Chairman– Dr. Harsh Kumar Bhanwala

## 767. Banking & Economic Affairs

The Reserve Bank of India has enhanced its variable rate term repo auction to be held to Rs 50,000 crore from Rs 25,000 crore. [Click here for more details](#)

### Key Points:

- RBI enhanced variable rate term repo auction to Rs 50,000 cr from Rs 25,000 cr
- RBI: Hq – Mumbai | Governor – Shaktikanta Das | Founded – 1 April 1935

## 768. MoUs, Collaborations & Partnerships

With the approval of the defence minister Rajnath Singh, the Ministry of Defence's Acquisition Wing inked the capital acquisition contract with Israel Weapons Industries. Indian Army will get 16479 Negev 7.62X51 mm Light Machine Guns (LMG) at cost of Rs 880 crore under the Fast Track Procedure (FTP). [Click here for more details](#)

### Key Points:

- Ministry of Defence's Acquisition Wing inked the capital acquisition contract with Israel Weapons Industries
- Indian Army will get 16479 Negev 7.62X51 mm LMG at cost of Rs 880 crore under Fast Track Procedure
- Defence Minister – Rajnath Singh | Constituency – Lucknow

## 769. Obituaries

Former India footballer Abdul Latif passed away in Guwahati. He was 73. [Click here for more details](#)

### Key Points:

- Abdul Latif (Purnia, Bihar) – passed away – India footballer

## 770. Banking & Economic Affairs

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade, DGFT in a notification said, the existing foreign trade policy 2015-20 which is valid up to March 31 this year is extended up to March 31, 2021. [Click here for more details](#)

### Key Points:

- The existing foreign trade policy 2015-20 extended up to March 31, 2021
- Directorate General of Foreign Trade comes under Ministry of Commerce and Industry



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