

March - 31

NATIONAL

LPG in India

- ❖ Saudi Arabia has assured India on uninterrupted LPG supply amidst growing threat of COVID-19.
- ❖ India is the second largest importer of LPG in the world.
- ❖ It fulfils half of its requirements from the middle east countries such as Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait.
- ❖ In the year 2018-19, the usage of LPG in the country increased by 6.9% as compared to the previous year.
- ❖ The imports increased by 15.9% as compared to the earlier year.
- ❖ In 2018-19, India consumed 24.9 million tonnes of LPG.
- ❖ The consumption has increased greatly after the introduction of Ujjwala Programme.

High-level panel to restore normalcy

- ❖ The Prime Minister Office constituted a high-level panel to restore normalcy after 21 days of normalcy.
- ❖ The high-level committee is to suggest measures to improve health-care, reduce miseries and put the economy back on track.
- ❖ The committee is to work under the chairmanship of P K Mishra, principal secretary of the Prime Minister.
- ❖ Another working group has been constituted under the leadership of Niti Aayog member V K Paul.
- ❖ The team is to suggest measures to keep the supply of medical equipment, medicines continuous and also ensure hospital availability.

National Executive Committee

- ❖ The Disaster Management Act, 2005 enjoins the Central Government to Constitute a National Executive Committee (NEC) to assist the National Disaster Management Authority.
- ❖ It is responsible for the preparation of the National Disaster Management Plan for the whole country and to ensure that it is “reviewed and updated annually”.
- ❖ The Home secretary is serving as the Chairperson of this committee.



ECONOMY

Mega Bank Consolidation Plan

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India is to implement a merger plan of 10 state-run banks into 4 larger banks from April 1, 2020.
- ❖ The RBI Act empowers the Government of India to make rulings on the functioning of RBI in matters of public interest.
- ❖ With this power, the Finance Minister has initiated the amalgamation plan and the plan has been approved by RBI.

NEXT-GEN BANKS

Figures in ₹ trillion

Merged entity	Total assets	Gross NPA	No. of branches	M-cap (Aug 30)
PNB+OBC+United Bank	12.0	1.1	11437	0.5
Canara+Syndicate Bank	10.0	0.6	10342	0.2
Union+Corporation+Andhra Bank	9.6	1.0	9609	0.3
Indian Bank+Allahabad Bank	5.3	0.4	6104	0.2

All figures, except market cap, are as of March 31, 2019. Figures have been rounded off to the nearest decimal
Source: Capitaline Compiled by BS Research Bureau

About

- ❖ According to the plan, the United Bank of India and Oriental Bank of Commerce are to be merged with Punjab National Bank.
- ❖ The Syndicate Bank is to be amalgamated with Canara Bank.
- ❖ The Allahabad Bank is to be amalgamated with Indian Bank.
- ❖ Also, Andhra Bank and Corporation Bank are to be amalgamated with Union Bank of India.

National Investment and Infrastructure Fund

- ❖ The Asian Development Bank announced that it is to invest 100 million USD in National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF).
- ❖ The National Investment and Infrastructure Funds were set up in 2015.
- ❖ The main purpose of the fund is to aid Greenfield and brownfield projects in the country.
- ❖ The NIIF makes it mandatory that the funds shall be invested in the areas such as transportation, energy, water, housing, waste management.
- ❖ There are three major funds under NIIF.

- ❖ It includes Master Fund, Fund of Funds and Strategic Investment Fund.



ENVIRONMENT

BS IV to BS VI

- ❖ With the Nation-wide Lock Down to contain the spread of Corona Virus, the Supreme Court extended transition from BS IV to BS VI by 10 more days.
- ❖ The BS VI standard emits five times lesser than that of BS IV standard.
- ❖ The major upgrade that is being brought in BS VI standard is in terms of fuel.
- ❖ A BS VI vehicle should use BS VI fuel.
- ❖ The BS VI fuel has five times lesser Sulphur.
- ❖ Also, the nitrogen oxide levels for BS VI petrol and diesel engines are to be brought down by 70% and 25%.
- ❖ The Bharat Stage Emission norms were brought in 2000 based on European Emission standards.
- ❖ The standards are set by the Central Pollution Control Board.

BS IV vs BS VI		
Vehicle	Sulphur content (part per million)	
	BS IV	BS VI
Diesel Vehicle	50	10
Petrol Vehicle	30	10

• Oxides of Nitrogen down by 68 per cent in BS VI norms
 • Particulate levels down by 82 per cent in BS VI norms

Earth Hour

- ❖ Earth Hour 2020 is scheduled for March 28, from 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm
- ❖ Earth Hour is a worldwide movement organized by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).
- ❖ The Earth Hour is held every year on the last Saturday of March
- ❖ It is held for one hour, from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m.
- ❖ It was started as a lights-off event in Sydney, Australia, in 2007.
- ❖ The event is held annually by encouraging individuals, communities, and businesses to turn off non-essential electric lights.
- ❖ The main aim of the marking Earth Hour is to call attention towards global warming, loss of biodiversity and climate change.



Himalayan Ibex

- ❖ A recent study by scientists of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) has proved that Himalayan Ibex is a distinct species from the Siberian Ibex.
- ❖ It is distributed in the trans-Himalayan ranges of Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ The study was done under a project funded through the National Mission on Himalayan Studies.
- ❖ The Project is implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- ❖ The latest genetic analysis provided first evidence to claim that Himalayan Ibex is genetically different from all other ranges of Siberian Ibex.



IMPORTANT DAYS

Rajasthan Day – March 30

- ❖ The state was earlier known as Rajputana.
- ❖ On March 30, 1949, princely states like Bikaner, Jaisalmer, Jaipur, and Jodhpur got merged with the Union of India and the state of Rajasthan came into existence.



Speciality

- ❖ It is popularly known as the 'Lands of Kings'.
- ❖ It is the largest Indian state going by the area and the seventh-largest state according to population.
- ❖ It has the Dilwara Temples, a Jain pilgrimage site at Rajasthan's only hill station, Mount Abu in the ancient Aravalli mountain range.

- ❖ The state of Rajasthan has the ruins of the Indus Valley Civilisation at Kalibanga and Balathal.
- ❖ It has Keoladeo National Park near Bharatpur, a World Heritage Site known for its birdlife.
- ❖ The state is also home to three national tiger reserves, the Ranthambore National Park in Sawai Madhopur, Sariska Tiger Reserve in Alwar and Mukundra Hill Tiger Reserve in Kota.

World Idly Day – March 30

- ❖ The World Idli Day was started by Eniyavan, a famous Idli caterer from Chennai.
- ❖ It only started in 2015.
- ❖ Although idli is an Indian staple food, some historians say that its origin is in the country of Indonesia.
- ❖ This country is known for its long tradition of fermenting foods.
- ❖ The tradition then went on to India in the form of steamed idli which was around 800 to 1200 CE.
- ❖ Some experts say that the term idli came from the word “iddalige” which is a food made from urad dal batter.
- ❖ This was mentioned in a Kannada work back in 920 AD.
- ❖ In addition, the Sanskrit Manasollasa from the 1130 AD mentions the term “Iddarika” which is a dish made from urad dal.
- ❖ During the 17th century, the Tamil people first mentioned the food as “Itali”.

