

Weekly One Liners 23rd to 29th of March 2020

All India Complete Lockdown for 21 Days

Indian Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has announced the complete lockdown of the entire nation, as part of government's stringent efforts to tackle coronavirus **disease Covid-19. The entire country under lockdown from 25 March 2020.** This lockdown will take place for 21 days. This is the second time in a week when he addressed the country on the fast-spreading disease with flu-like symptoms that has infected more than 3.5 lakh people and killed over 16,000.

Here are some key takeaways from his address to the nation:

- PM Modi has highlighted the threat posed by the Sars-Cov-2 virus, which causes Covid-19 disease, and appealed to people to practice social distancing and work from home.
- This measure was absolutely necessary to stop the transmission of COVID-19 virus.
- The need for maintaining 'social distancing' and appealed to the citizens to stay at home and follow health instructions to break the transmission chain. The coming 21 days are very important to us.
- According to health experts, at least 21 days time is very important to break the coronavirus infection cycle.
- Testing facilities related to corona, Personal Protective Equipments, Isolation Beds, ICU beds, ventilators, and the number of other necessary tools will be increased rapidly.
- The PM assured that the supply of essential commodities will not be disrupted.

21 Days Lockdown in India: List of essential services that will remain operational

In his address to the nation, India **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has announced the lockdown of the whole nation for **21 days with effect from 25th march 2020.** The decision of lock down has been taken by the Government of India as a preventive measure for the containment of **COVID-19 pandemic** in the country. During the lockdown period, population of the country will need some essential commodities as well services to live stable life.


But the question arises, **what are those commodities and services which will be provided to the population of the nation during the 21 days lockdown period?**

To assure people about the services, Ministry of Home Affairs has issued an official notification stating all the measures taken to fulfill the needs of the people during this lockdown period. These measures aims to contain the spread of COVID-19 pandemic in the country.

Here is the complete list of "essential services & commodities" available during India's 21 Day lockdown:

- Shops, including shops, dealing with food, groceries, fruits, vegetables, dairy & milk booths, meat & fish, animal fodder as well as their transportation, will be available during the lockdown period.
- Defence, Central Armed Police forces, Police, civil defence, fire and emergency services, home guards, prisons, treasuries, district administration, public utilities (such as petroleum, CNG, LPG, PNG) will be active during the lockdown period.
- Disaster Management, power generation and transmission units, water, sanitation, Post Offices, National Informatics Centre as well as Early Warning Agencies will remain functional.
- Hospitals and all related medical establishments along with their manufacturing and distribution units will be active across the 21 day period.
- Banks, insurance offices, ATMs, print & electronic media, cold storage & warehousing services, private security services will be available during the lockdown period.
- Delivery of essential goods including food, pharmaceuticals, medical equipment will be available through E-commerce.
- Telecommunication, internet, broadcasting and cable services, IT & IT enabled services to facilitate work from home.
- Manufacturing units of essential commodities will remain open.

12 Months Subscription



BANK

Useful for Bank & Insurance Exams

TEST PACK

- Fire, law and order and emergency services will remain active throughout the nation.
- Hotels, lodges & motels accommodating tourists and persons stranded due to lockdown.
- Establishments meant for quarantine facilities will remain operational.
- Congregation of not more than 20 persons will be permitted in the case of funerals.

Here is the complete list of services which are not available during India's 21 Day lockdown:

- Offices of the Government of India/State/Union Territory, its Autonomous/Subordinate Offices and Public relations shall remain closed during the lockdown period.
- Commercial & private establishments shall be closed down.
- Industrial establishments will remain closed.
- All transport services whether air, rail & road will remain suspended.
- All educational, training, research, coaching institutions etc, places of worship will remain closed.
- All social, political, academic, sports, entertainment, cultural, religious functions will remain prohibited.

To implement the above containment measures, Executive Magistrates will be deployed as Incident Commanders in the respective local jurisdictions. Any person violating the above containment measures will be liable to be proceeded against as per the provisions of Section 51-60 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005 along with the legal action under Section 188 of the IPC.

FM Nirmala Sitharaman announced Economic relief package during Lockdown

Finance minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** has announced a mega relief package of **1.7 lakh crore rupees** for the migrant workers and poor people affected by the lockdown amid COVID-19 outbreak. The scheme has been named **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Scheme**. This food security scheme will assist the economically weaker sections to bridge over the added challenge of lockdown and job loss during the worldwide outbreak of coronavirus.

Here are some important takeaways from Finance Minister Speech:

- PM Gareeb Kalyan Scheme will entail **Rs 1.7 lakh crore**. It'll include both cash transfer and food security. This scheme will be targeting **80 crore people**.
- The government provide insurance cover worth **Rs 50 lakh** for sanitation workers, **ASHA workers, doctors, nurses, paramedics just in case they have it as they're on the frontlines of the corona battle.**

- Over and above **5kg of rice/wheat** that's already given, another 5 kg per person are going to be given liberally to around 80 crore people through PDS. Besides, one kg of preferred and region-specific choice of the pulse will also be given.
- The first instalment of **PM Kisan scheme** for farmers of **Rs 2,000** will be given in the 1st week of April. Around 8.69 crore farmers will get immediate benefit out of it.
- The wages of **MGNREGA workers** has been increased from **Rs. 182 to Rs 202 per day**. This will benefit 5 crore families and will result in an additional **Rs 2,000 given per worker**. Social distancing norms must be followed at MGNREGA worksites during this period.
- An additional ex-gratia amount of **Rs 1,000** for old age and widows for next three months available in two instalments. It will benefit **3 crore widows and senior citizens**.
- **Women Jan Dhan account holders** will receive **Rs 500** in their accounts so that they can take care of their households. This will happen for the next 3 months. This will **benefit 20 crore women**.
- **Women Ujjawala scheme beneficiaries** will be given free cylinders for the **next 3 months**. This will benefit **8.3 crore BPL families**.
- **Under the Deen Dayal National Livelihood Mission**, the collateral-free loan will be given to, Women Self Help Groups up to Rs 20 lakh from Rs 10 lakh earlier. Impact on **7 crore holders through 63 lakh SHGs**.
- **Government of India** will pay the **EPF contribution** both of the employer and the employee put together 24% for the next three months. This is for those establishments with up to **100 employees, 90% of them earning less than Rs 15,000**.
- For the organised sector, **EPFO regulation** will be amended so that workers can draw up to **75%** for their contingency expenditure non-refundable advance or three months of wages in advance whichever is less. This will benefit 4.8 cr workers.
- The state government have been directed to use the welfare fund for building & construction labourers which has around **Rs 31,000 crore** to help those who are facing economic disruption because of the lockdown.
- Utilise the funds available under the district mineral fund for testing activities, **medical screening, providing health attention needed to fight the coronavirus pandemic**.
- The **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** lobby group, had sought a stimulus of **about 1%** of the GDP or **Rs 2 lakh crore**, has sought a three-month moratorium on all loans and said all repayment obligations should be suspended for this period.

RBI's 7th Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement for 2019-20

In view of the COVID-19 pandemic, the **Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** decided to **advance the Bi-monthly Monetary Policy meet** which was scheduled to be held on 31st March 2020 and the announcement was meant to be made on **3rd April**. The meeting was advanced to **24th, 26th and 27th March 2020**. During the seventh Bi-monthly Monetary Policy meet, the MPC analysed the current & evolving macroeconomic and financial conditions and has decided to take a accommodative stance and hence reduced the policy repo rate to revive growth as well as to mitigate the impact of COVID-19. With its decisions, MPC aims to keep inflation within the target and hence to preserve financial stability.

The key decisions taken in the 7th Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy Committee meeting are:

- The **repo rate** under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) has been reduced **by 75 basis points** from **5.15% to 4.40%**.
- The **reverse repo rate** under the LAF has been reduced by **90 basis points from 4.90% to 4.00%**.
- **The marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate have been reduced from 5.40% to 4.65%**.
- Apart from above, RBI has also decided to reduce the Cash reserve Ratio of all banks by **100 basis points from 4% to 3%** of Net Demand and Time Liabilities. This would be effective from 28th March 2020 for a period of one year. Also, all lending institutions have been allowed a moratorium period of 3 months for all term loans outstanding as on March 1, 2020.

What is Monetary policy?

Monetary Policy is the central bank's policy which uses the monetary instruments like Repo rate, Reverse repo rate, Liquidity Adjustment Facility and many others, to achieve the goals stated in the Act. In India, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has been given the responsibility of conducting monetary policy as mandated under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.

Objectives of monetary policy?

- The monetary policy has the prime objective of maintaining the price stability in India along with the objective of growth. Price stability is stated as a necessary precondition to achieve the sustainable growth.
- The Reserve Bank of India is also given the task of flexible inflation targeting framework along the Government of India as per the amendment in the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act, 1934 which was

done in May 2016. This is done once in every five years. Government of India has notified the 4 per cent Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation as the target for the period from August 5, 2016 to March 31, 2021 in the Official Gazette. The target is stated with the upper tolerance limit of 6 per cent and the lower tolerance limit of 2 per cent.

The Monetary Policy Framework:

The amendment in the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act, 1934 provides the Reserve Bank of India a legislative mandate to operate the monetary policy framework of the country. This framework aims to set the policy (repo) rate after the assessment of the current and evolving macroeconomic situation, and modulation of liquidity conditions to anchor money market rates at or around the repo rate.

What is the Composition of the Monetary Policy Committee?

The Central Government has constituted the six-member monetary policy committee (MPC) in September 2016, according to the Section 45ZB of the amended RBI Act, 1934.

The composition of the Monetary Policy Committee is as follows:

1. Governor of the Reserve Bank of India – Chairperson, ex officio: Shri Shaktikanta Das
2. Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, in charge of Monetary Policy– Member, ex officio: Dr. Michael Debabrata Patra
3. One officer of the Reserve Bank of India to be nominated by the Central Board – Member, ex officio: Dr. Janak Raj
4. Dr. Chetan Ghate, Professor, Indian Statistical Institute (ISI): Member
5. Dr. Pami Dua, Director, Delhi School of Economics: Member
6. Dr. Ravindra H. Dholakia, Professor, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad: Member.

Some important instruments of Monetary Policy:

The RBI's Monetary Policy has several direct and indirect instruments which is used for implementing the monetary policy. Some important instruments of Monetary Policy are as follows:

- **Repo Rate:** It is the (fixed) interest rate at which banks can borrow overnight liquidity from the Reserve Bank of India against the collateral of government and other approved securities under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF).
- **Reverse Repo Rate:** It is the (fixed) interest rate at which the Reserve Bank of India can absorb liquidity from banks on an overnight basis, against the collateral of eligible government securities under the LAF.
- **Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF):** The LAF has overnight as well as term repo auctions under it. The term repo helps in the development of the inter-bank term money market. This market sets the benchmarks for pricing of loans and deposits. This helps in improving the transmission of monetary policy. As per the evolving market conditions, the Reserve Bank of India also conducts variable interest rate reverse repo auctions.
- **Marginal Standing Facility (MSF):** MSF is a provision which enables the scheduled commercial banks to borrow additional amount of overnight money from the Reserve Bank of India. Bank can do this by dipping into their Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) portfolio up to a limit at a penal rate of interest. This helps the banks to sustain the unanticipated liquidity shocks faced by them.

Accommodative stance of RBI's Monetary Policy Statement:

Accommodative stance is taken by the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee to expand the overall money supply to boost the economy when the growth is slowing down.

Tokyo Olympics officially postponed until 2021

- The **International Olympic Committee** and **Tokyo Olympic** organizers agreed to move the Tokyo Games to **2021**. Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and the head of the International Olympic Committee agreed to postpone the Tokyo 2020 Games by a year in an extraordinary move, unprecedented in peacetime, as the world battles the coronavirus pandemic.
- It will mark the first time in history that the start of an Olympics will be delayed to another year. The Opening Ceremony will not be held on July 24 as scheduled, but on an undetermined 2021 date, due to the coronavirus pandemic. The IOC President and the Prime Minister of Japan have concluded that the Games of the XXXII Olympiad in Tokyo must be

rescheduled to a date beyond 2020 but not later than summer 2021, to safeguard the health of the athletes, everybody involved in the Olympic Games and the international community.

Reliance sets up India's 1st COVID-19 dedicated hospital in Mumbai

Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) has set up India's first **COVID-19** dedicated hospital in Mumbai. Reliance Foundation opens this Hospital in collaboration with the **Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC)** in Mumbai. This hospital is funded by Reliance Foundation, the COVID-19 facility includes a negative pressure room that helps in preventing cross-contamination and helps control infection.

Important facts of the Hospital:

- All beds are equipped with the required infrastructure, bio-medical equipment such as ventilators, pacemakers, dialysis machine and patient monitoring devices.
- The foundation has also offered to set up special medical facilities to quarantine travellers from notified countries and suspected cases through contact tracing to quickly augment additional facilities for isolation and treatment of infected patients.
- RIL has also built a fully-equipped isolation facility in Lodhivali, Maharashtra.
- Reliance Life Sciences is importing additional test kits and consumables for effective testing. Doctors and researchers are also working overtime to find a cure for this deadly virus.
- RIL is also helping authorities and working for effective testing of the virus. RIL has also announced initial support of Rs 5 crores to Maharashtra Chief Minister's Relief Fund to combat coronavirus spread.
- The company has deployed the combined strengths of Reliance Foundation, reliance Retail, Jio, Reliance Life Sciences, Reliance Industries and all 6 lakh members of the Reliance family on the action plan against COVID-19.
- The company is enhancing its production capacities to produce 100,000 face-masks per day and a large number of personal protective equipment for the nation's health workers to equip them further to fight coronavirus.
- Reliance Foundation also promised to provide free meals to people across various cities in partnership with NGOs to offer necessary livelihood relief in the current crisis situation.
- RIL's Jio is collaborating with Microsoft Teams to support social distancing and its groceries will remain open to provide essential items to people.

National Affairs

- India celebrates “**Shaheed Diwas**” annually on **23 March** to pay tribute to martyrs **Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev Thapar, and Shivaram Rajguru**. This day has a very important significance in the Indian freedom struggle.
- The Union Cabinet has approved Production Incentive Scheme for **Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing**. Government will invest **Rs 20 lakh crore in this sector to provide employment to 25 lakh people in next 5 years**. It has also approved financial assistance to the **Modified Electronics Manufacturing Clusters Scheme (EMC2.0)** for development of world class infrastructure through Electronics Manufacturing Clusters.
- The **United Kingdom** has been confirmed as the first co-chair of the Governing Council of **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)**.
- “**Mylab PathoDetect COVID-19 Qualitative PCR kit**” has become the first ‘**Made in India**’ COVID19 Test Kit to get the CDSCO approval. Mylab Discovery Solutions Pvt Ltd is a Pune-based molecular diagnostics company which has developed the first made-in-India diagnostic test kit for COVID-19.
- India’s biggest oil firm, **Indian Oil Corporation Limited** has started supplying BS-VI fuel across India. With this, Indian Oil Corporation Limited has become **1st company to begin supply of BS-VI fuel across its 28,000 petrol pumps**.
- The **Election Commission of India** has deferred the **Rajya Sabha elections** amid rising risk of rapidly spreading coronavirus pandemic. Elections to 18 seats of Rajya Sabha were scheduled to be held on **26 March 2020**.
- **Indian Institute of Technology Madras** is organising India’s first **Global Hyperloop Pod Competition** named as ‘**Indian Hyperloop Pod Competition**’ to increase awareness and enthusiasm about Hyperloop in India.

- Union Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** has announced the extension of statutory deadlines related to income tax to 30 June 2020. The Finance Ministry has decided to extend the **Income Tax Return (ITR) filing deadline** for the Fiscal Year 2019 from 31st March 2020 to 30th June 2020. The deadline for the linking of **Aadhaar & Pan** was supposed to end on 31st March 2020. **This deadline has been extended to 30 June 2020**.
- **Election Commission of India** has decided to permit usage of indelible ink on persons for stamping for home quarantine by health authorities insight of **COVID-19**. The Health Ministry may standardise the mark and therefore the location on the body where the mark has got to be applied in the order that it doesn’t are available the way of conducting elections. The authorities shall even be instructed to make sure that the ink shall not be used for the other purpose.
- **Ordnance Factory Board (OFB)** has designated 285 beds for isolation wards in handling **Coronavirus (COVID-19) cases**.
- Government of India banned the export of anti-malarial drug **Hydroxychloroquine** and formulations made up of it within the wake of **COVID-19 outbreak**.
- **India’s national Investment Promotion & Facilitation Agency**, the Invest India has launched “**The Invest India Business Immunity Platform**”. The Invest India Business Immunity Platform has been launched to assist businesses and investors in getting real-time updates on India’s active response to COVID-19.
- **Department of Science and Technology (DST)** has set up a **COVID-19 Task Force** for mapping of technologies from Research and Development labs, academic institutions, start-ups and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises. The Department of Science & Technology plays a pivotal role in the promotion of science & technology in the country.
- **The Union Ministry for Home Affairs (MHA)** has issued the **Standard Operating Procedure (SOPs)** to maintain the supply of essential goods. The Standard Operating Procedure (SOPs) have been issued by the MHA in order to relieve the difficulties faced by people during the 21-day nationwide lockdown to fight against the Coronavirus outbreak.
- The **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** has set up a **CII COVID Rehabilitation and Relief Fund (CRR) for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)** to tackle Covid-19. The CII COVID Rehabilitation and Relief Fund (CRR) will assist small enterprises or MSME in rehabilitation. The setting up of Relief Fund is expected to curtail the impact of Coronavirus on the MSME sector.

TEST SERIES
Bilingual
 Video Solutions

**SBI CLERK
 MAINS**

25+ TOTAL TESTS | eBOOKS

- The Government of India's flagship fitness movement "**Fit India**" has teamed up with Bollywood actress and fitness icon **Shilpa Shetty Kundra**. The tie-up will provide free access of the **Shilpa Shetty Kundra's** premium 21-Day Weight Loss Programme during the 21-day lockdown owing to Covid-19 pandemic.
- **Jana Small Finance Bank** has rolled out a **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** QR-based loan installment payment facility along with National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) for its customers. Initially the **UPI QR-based** loan installment payment facility will be only available to over **40 lakh customers** of the Jana Small Finance Bank.
- **The Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar (IITGN)** has launched '**Project Isaac**' to engage students in creative projects during the COVID-19 lockdown. The project aims to enhance the student's skills while they are confined in their homes.
- **Odisha government** has planned to set up two of the largest Covid-19 hospitals which will have a combined capacity of 1,000 beds and will be functional within a fortnight. With this, **Odisha** will be the first state in the country to set up such a large-scale hospital exclusively to **treat Covid-19 patients**.
- The **Sawai Man Singh (SMS) Government Hospital in Jaipur** is conducting the series of trials on a **humanoid robot** to provide services to the **COVID-19 patients**. It is aimed to keep the doctors and nursing staff at a safe distance to protect them against the dreaded coronavirus. It has been designed with a tray that can be used for carrying medicines, food and other objects to the assigned patients.
- **Goa** becomes the first Indian state to launch a **self-assessment tool for COVID-19**. The self-assessment tool called **Test Yourself Goa**. This tool helps people identify if they are infected by the virus without visiting a doctor or hospital. The Goa government has partnered with **Innovaccer**, a US-based healthcare data analytics company that developed the self-assessment platform.

States in the News

- **Uttarakhand government** has abolished reservation in **promotion in the state government jobs**.
- The **state government of Punjab** has imposed a curfew across the state with no relaxations. The Punjab government has taken this decision to stop the spread of coronavirus. With this, **Punjab has become the first state in India to impose a curfew across the state**.
- **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** was sworn in as **Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh**. He took oath for the fourth time as Chief Minister. He was sworn in by Governor Lalji Tandon at Raj Bhawan in Bhopal.
- **The Gujarat Police** is now equipped with **taser guns** as a part of their modernization drive to ensure public safety and security. By introducing the taser guns as part of police weapons, Gujarat becomes the first state in India.
- **Telugu New Year day 'Ugadi'** being celebrated today. The festival is being celebrated across the two Telugu states, **Telangana and Andhra Pradesh** to mark the beginning of the Hindu Lunar calendar.
- Odisha's Chief Minister **Naveen Patnaik** launched **Mo Jeeban programme in Odisha**. The "**Mo Jeeban**" programme was launched for the containment of COVID-19 pandemic.
- India's cleanest city, **Indore** has deployed drones to sanitize city areas against the coronavirus scare. Indore becomes the 1st city in India to use drones to sanitize the city. The Indore Municipal Corporation has hired two drones for that purpose.

International Affairs

- The world's largest streaming media service, **Netflix Inc (NFLX.O)** has announced the formation of **\$100 million fund**. The fund has been created to help workers on film and television productions that have been impacted due to the global coronavirus outbreak.
- **Canada** has become the first country in the world to withdraw from **Tokyo 2020 Olympics**. The decision has been taken in view of the coronavirus pandemic. The Canadian Olympic Committee announced that holding the Tokyo 2020 Olympics as per schedule would threaten the health of its athletes.
- Indian footballer **Sunil Chhetri** chosen for **FIFA campaign against Covid-19**. **FIFA and the World Health Organization (WHO)** have teamed up to combat the coronavirus by launching a new awareness campaign led by world-renowned footballers.
- **The International Monetary Fund** has launched a "**Tracker of Policies Governments are Taking in Response to COVID-19**". The policy tracker outlines the key economic responses taken by the government of various countries in order to contain the COVID-19 pandemic. The policy tracker has the updated data till March 24, 2020.

- The **United Nations Space Force** has launched an **Advanced Extremely High-Frequency satellite (AEHF-6)** for its military communications. With the launch of the satellite, the United States has begun its first National Security Mission. The **Lock Heed Martin AEHF-6 (Advanced Extremely High Frequency) satellite was launched on the Atlas V551 rocket from Cape Canaveral, Florida.**
- United Nations Secretary-General **António Guterres** launched a \$2 billion coordinated **global humanitarian response plan** to fight COVID-19 in 51 countries across South America, Africa, the Middle East and Asia.

Books and Authors


- A book entitled '**Messiah Modi: A Great Tale of Expectations**' penned by senior journalist & author **Tavleen Singh** has been released.
- Award-winning businesswoman **Savita Chhabra** has launched her first novel titled '**Legacy of Learning**'. **Savita Chhabra** is the chairperson at **Hygienic Research Institute Private Limited (HRIPL)**.
- Senior Journalist **Chander Suta Dogra** has launched a book titled "**Missing in Action: The Prisoners Who Never Came Back**". It is published by **Harpercollins**. At present, she works as a senior journalist in Outlook & has worked in The Hindu & Indian Express. The book addresses the missing Indian soldiers during the mission of 1965 & 1971 Indo- Pak wars & also attempts to find out what happened to them, hoping to open up a debate on how soldiers are often used as pawns by governments.

Banking/Economy/Business News

- The **State Bank of India** has launched an additional liquidity facility "**Covid-19 Emergency Credit Line (CECL)**". The facility has been launched by India's largest lender State Bank of India to meet any liquidity mismatch for its borrowers in order to tide over the current crisis situation.
- **Karur Vysya Bank** has launched India's 1st pre-paid card **Enkasu (My cash in Tamil)** in Karur, Tamil Nadu under its Quit cash movement. The card functions based on Near Field Communication Technology (NFC) in a semi closed-loop & the customers buying this card can make '**tap & go**' payments for even small purchases to merchants from an amount of Rs. 1 to doing away with the need for cash & small change.

- **Charges on cash withdrawal** from other bank ATMs and penalties for non-maintenance of minimum balance in bank savings accounts are waived for 3 months. This was announced by the minister of finance **Nirmala Sitharaman**. This has been done to make sure that individuals don't visit bank branches to avoid the spread of the coronavirus. Waiver of minimum balance in bank accounts for the subsequent three months. Applicable to all or any banks.
- **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** has decided to launch a special train '**Swavalamban Express**' on June 05, 2020, to empower budding entrepreneurs under its **mission Swavalamban**. It will construct an inter-connected small enterprise ecosystem that will include business aspirants, mentors, experts and experience at all.
- **ICICI Lombard** a private sector non-life insurance company has launched a 1 year-long "**COVID-19 Protection Cover**". This policy will pay 100% of the sum insured to the COVID-19 positive individual, irrespective of hospitalization expenses. The insurance policy is in group insurance mode. It will provide value-added benefits such as Health Assistance and CHAT/Virtual assistance, teleconsultation and ambulance assistance, as part of the offering.
- **Fitch Ratings** has reduced India's GDP growth rate to **5.1% for the fiscal year 2020-21**. Earlier, Fitch Ratings forecasted India's growth outlook at 5.6% which has been reduced now to **5.1%** for the fiscal year **2020-21**.
- The **Reserve Bank of India** has decided to conduct the variable **rate Repo** auctions as a preventive measure to bridge over any frictional liquidity requirements caused by COVID-19. As per the circular, the Reserve Bank of India will conduct fine-tuning variable rate Repo auctions for **Rs 1,00,000 crores in two tranches**.

12 Months Subscription



BANK

Useful for Bank & Insurance Exams

TEST PACK

- **Moody's** Investors Service reduced India's GDP growth in 2020 to **2.5 per cent** from the earlier estimate of **5.3 per cent**. The Coronavirus pandemic will cause unprecedented shock to the global economy.
- **CRISIL** has reduced India's **gross domestic product (GDP)** growth forecast for fiscal 2021 to **3.5 per cent from 5.2 per cent expected earlier**. The cut is due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Appointments/Resignations

- The Appointment Committee of the Cabinet approved the appointment of two Indian Revenue Service (IRS) **officers Krishan Mohan Prasad and Satish Kumar Gupta** as members of the **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) Board**.

Defence News

- **US Marines and UAE Emirati forces** conducted the biennial exercise, named **Native Fury** at Abu Dhabi. The biennial exercise, called Native Fury, shows the close ties between American forces and the United Arab Emirates, a federation of seven sheikhdoms on the Arabian Peninsula home to Abu Dhabi.
- Army Chief Gen **Manoj Mukund Naravane** has launched '**Operation Namaste**' to extend assistance to the govt in containing the spread of coronavirus and insulate the force from the pandemic.

Awards and Recognitions

- The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters named **Hillel Furstenberg** from Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel and **Gregory Margulis** from Yale University, the USA as winners of the **Abel Prize 2020**. They share the prize & the amount of Norwegian Krone 7.5 Million (USD 8.3400).
- Critically-acclaimed debut novelist **Ruchika Tomar** is the winner of the **2020 PEN/Hemingway Award** for Debut Novel, for "A Prayer for Travelers".
- Indian filmmaker **Zoya Akhtar** has been honoured with **IIFTC Tourism Impact Award 2020** for her outstanding contribution to world tourism through her cinema. She has promoted tourism through her films like 2011 'Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara' which was shot in Spain, and 2015 comedy-drama 'DilDhadakne Do' shot in Turkey. Asia's largest film tourism event, 8th India International Film Tourism Conclave (IIFTC) was held in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Summit and Conference

- Saudi Arabia's King **Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud** will chair the Extraordinary **Virtual G20 leaders' Summit**. The extraordinary Virtual Summit of G20 leaders will feature the participation of leaders across the globe including Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Important Days

- **World Water Day** observed globally on **22nd March** every year. This year, World Water Day 2020 theme: "**Water and Climate Change**".
- **World Meteorological Day** observed globally on **23rd March** every year. This year, World Water Day and World Meteorological Day share the same theme: "**Water and Climate Change**". The focus is on managing climate and water in a more coordinated and sustainable manner because they are inextricably linked.
- **World Tuberculosis (TB) Day** is observed globally on **24th March every year**. The **theme of World TB Day 2020: 'It's time'**.
- **International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims** is observed annually on **24th March** every year.
- **International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade** is observed annually on **25th March** every year. 2020 Theme: "**Confronting Slavery's Legacy of Racism Together**".
- The **International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members** is observed annually on **25 March** by the United Nations.
- **World Theatre Day** is observed globally on **27th March** every year. World Theatre Day was initiated in 1961 by the International Theatre Institute (ITI), France.

Obituaries

- Veteran director **Meenakshisundaram Ramasamy Viswanthan**, popularly known as Visu in the Tamil film industry has passed away.
- American music singer **Kenny Rogers** who was known around the world for his global hits such as "The Gambler", "Lady", "Lucille" and "Islands in the Stream", has passed away. In his six decade long career, he won three Grammys Awards.
- Legendary Indian **footballer PK Banerjee** passed away. He represented India in 36 official matches and sported the captain's armband in six of them, scored 19 goals for the country.

- Veteran star of 1950s and '60s Hindi movies **Nimmi** passed away. She was born as Nawab Banoo and was later known by her screen name 'Nimmi'.
- The co-creator of the "Asterix and Obelix" comics, **Albert Uderzo** passed away. Albert Uderzo produced Asterix in 1959 along with the fellow Frenchman and writer Rene Goscinny. "Asterix and Obelix" entertained its audience over the past 60 years.
- Veteran photographer & Padma Shri awardee **Nemai Ghosh** passed away.
- Indian-born international chef **Floyd Cardoz** passed away at 59. Cardoz tested positive for Covid-19 in the USA on March 18 and was being treated at the Mountainside Medical Centre in New Jersey.
- Padma Vibhushan award winning artist, architect, sculptor and writer **Satish Gujral** passed away.
- The chief of Brahmakumaris Sansthan, **Rajyogini Dadi Janki** passed away. The Government of India appointed her the brand ambassador of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan for her works in the field of maintaining cleanliness.

Miscellaneous News

- Actor **Priyanka Chopra** works jointly with the **World Health Organisation (WHO)** to spread awareness over COVID-19.
- Indian mountaineer **Satyarup Siddhanta** entered 'Limca Book of Records' (LBR) for his extraordinary achievements, as the first Indian to climb the highest volcanoes of each of the 7 continents.
- Google-owned video streaming giant "**YouTube**" has decided to reduce streaming quality for users in India until 31st March 2020. In order to reduce strain on Internet networks during the coronavirus pandemic, Youtube has decided to temporarily default High Definition (HD) and ultra-High Definition (HD) streaming to Standard Definition (SD) content. The above changes will be made by keeping the streaming to SD content at bitrates not higher than 480p on mobile networks.

- The **National Book Trust**, India has launched an initiative **#StayHomeIndiaWithBooks** to encourage people to read books during their stay at home. This initiative has been launched as a preventive measure to contain the spread of Covid-19.
- **All India Institute of Medical Sciences**, New Delhi will start **Tele-Consultation facility** for the non-Covid19 patients. The decision to start Tele-Consultation facility has been taken by AIIMS for its follow-up patients.
- The **U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** has introduced an AI bot called '**Clara**' to help people assess potential symptoms of COVID-19. The CDC has partnered up with **CDC Foundation and Microsoft Azure's Healthcare Bot** service to create Clara, the "coronavirus self-checker" the bot is currently only available in the US on the CDC website.
- **Abbott Laboratories**, United States is unveiling a coronavirus test which will tell if someone is infected within 5 minutes. This test is so small and portable it is often utilized in almost any health-care setting.
- **National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC)** concluded the acquisition of Centre's entire stake in two hydropower generating firms, **Tehri Hydro Power Complex (THDC)** India and **North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO)**, at Rs **11,500 crore**.

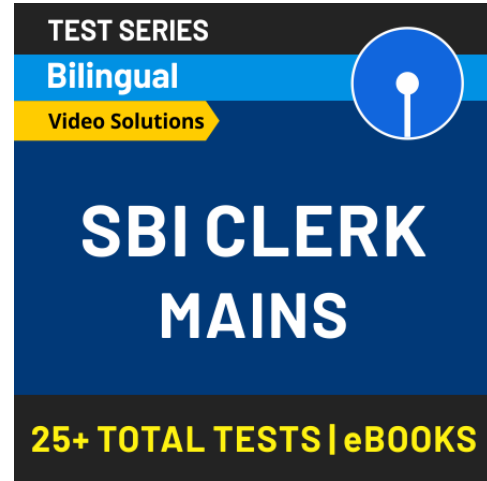
Static Takeaways

- Prime Minister of United Kingdom: Boris Johnson.
- Capital of the United Kingdom: London.
- The currency of the United Kingdom: UK Pound.
- Chairman of Indian Oil Corporation Limited: Sanjiv Singh.
- Chief Election Commissioner: Sunil Arora.
- Chairman of Rajya Sabha: M. Venkaiah Naidu.
- Director-General & Chairman of Ordnance Factories: Hari Mohan.
- Headquarters of Ordnance Factory Board: Kolkata, West Bengal.
- Director-General of ICMR: Balram Bhargava.
- Headquarters of ICMR: New Delhi.
- MD & CEO of Invest India: Deepak Bagla.
- Union Minister for Commerce and Industry: Piyush Goyal.
- Chairman & Managing Director of SIDBI: Mohammad Mustafa.
- Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance and Minister of State in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs: Anurag Singh Thakur.
- Uttarakhand Chief Minister: Trivendra Singh Rawat.
- Governor of Uttarakhand: Baby Rani Maurya.

TEST SERIES
Bilingual
 Video Solutions
**RBI ASSISTANT
 MAINS**
 25 Total Tests | eBooks

- Jim Corbett National Park is the oldest national park in India and was established in 1936 as Hailey National Park to protect the endangered Bengal tiger. It is located in Nainital district of Uttarakhand.
- Chief Minister of Punjab: Captain Amarinder Singh.
- Governor of Punjab: VP Singh Badnore.
- Governor of Madhya Pradesh: Lal Ji Tandon.
- Bandhavgarh National Park is in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh. This biodiverse park is known for its large population of royal Bengal tigers, especially in the central Tala zone.
- Chief Minister of Gujarat: Vijay Rupani; Governor of Gujarat: Acharya Dev Vrat.
- Gir Forest National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary, also known as Sasan Gir, is a forest and wildlife sanctuary near Talala Gir in Gujarat, India.
- The Sardar Sarovar Dam is a gravity dam on the Narmada river near Navagam, Gujarat.
- Governor of Andhra Pradesh: Biswabhusan Harichandan.
- Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh: Y. S. Jaganmohan Reddy.
- Capital of Andhra Pradesh: Amaravati.
- Capital of Telangana: Hyderabad.
- Governor of Telangana: Tamilsai Soundararajan.
- Chief Minister of Telangana: K. Chandrashekar Rao.
- Chief Minister of Odisha: Naveen Patnaik; Governor: Ganeshi Lal.
- Chief Executive Officer of Netflix: Reed Hastings.
- Prime Minister of Japan: Shinzo Abe; Capital of Japan: Tokyo.
- Currency of Japan: Japanese yen.
- President of FIFA: Gianni Infantino; Founded: 21 May 1904.
- Headquarters: Zurich, Switzerland.
- Managing Director of IMF: Kristalina Georgieva.
- Chairperson of SBI: Rajnish Kumar; Headquarters: Mumbai; Founded : 1 July 1955.
- Headquarters of Karur Vysya Bank: Karur, Tamil Nadu.
- MD & CEO of Karur Vysya Bank: P. R. Seshadri.
- Tagline of Karur Vysya Bank: Smart Way to Bank.
- Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance and Minister of State in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs: Anurag Singh Thakur.
- RBI 25th Governor: Shaktikant Das; Headquarters: Mumbai; Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata.
- Headquarters of ICICI Lombard: Mumbai.
- MD & CEO of ICICI Lombard: Bhargav Dasgupta.
- Headquarters of SIDBI: Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
- Chairman and MD of SIDBI: Mohammad Mustafa.
- President of UAE: Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan.
- Capital of UAE: Abu Dhabi; Currency: United Arab Emirates dirham.
- Capital of Norway: Oslo.
- Prime Minister of Norway: Erna Solberg.
- The currency of Norway: Norwegian Krone.
- The members of the G20 group are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Republic of Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union (EU)?.
- President of International Olympic Committee: Thomas Bach.
- Headquarters of International Olympic Committee: Lausanne, Switzerland.
- International Olympic Committee founded: 23 June 1894.
- The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) is an intergovernmental organization with its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.
- TB is a disease which in humans is usually caused by bacteria called Mycobacterium tuberculosis (M. tuberculosis).
- Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus is the WHO's Director-General.
- WHO Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.
- Secretary General of the United Nations: Antonio Guterres.
- The United Nations (UN) is an organization between countries established on 24 October 1945 to promote international cooperation.
- Reliance Industries Ltd Founder: Dhirubhai Hirachand Ambani.
- Reliance Industries Ltd Chief Executive Officer(CEO): Mukesh Dhirubhai Ambani.
- Reliance Industries Ltd Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- CEO of YouTube: Susan Wojcicki.
- Chairman of National Book Trust: Govind Prasad Sharma; Established: 1957.
- Director of All India Institute Of Medical Sciences, New Delhi: Dr Randeep Guleria.
- Chief Executive Officer of Microsoft: Satya Nadella.
- Microsoft Founded: April 4, 1975; Headquarters of Microsoft: Washington, United States.
- Union Minister of Home Affairs: Amit Shah.
- The Trump administration established the US Space Force as a separate military branch in December 2019.
- Gen. John "Jay" Raymond is the Space Force's first chief of space operations.
- President of Confederation of Indian Industry: Vikram S. Kirloskar.
- Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports: Kiren Rijju.
- Managing Director and CEO of Jana SFB: Ajay Kanwal.

- MD & CEO of National Payments Corporation of India: Dilip Asbe.
- Director of IIT-Gandhinagar: Prof Sudhir Jain.
- IIT-Gandhinagar founded: 2008.
- Moody's Corporation is an American business and financial services company.
- The Headquarters of Moody's is in New York, USA.
- 28th Chief of Army Staff: General Manoj Mukund Naravane.
- The motto of Indian Army: "Service Before Self".
- Headquarters of Indian Army: New Delhi.
- CM of Rajasthan: Ashok Gehlot.
- Capital of Rajasthan: Jaipur.
- Governor of Rajasthan: Kalraj Mishra.
- 24th October has been celebrated as United Nations Day since 1948.
- The United Nations is headquartered in New York City, United States.
- CEO of Crisil: Ashu Suyash.
- Crisil Chief Economist: Dharmakirti Joshi.
- Headquarters of Crisil: Mumbai.
- Headquarters of Abbott Laboratories: Chicago, Illinois, United States.
- CEO of Abbott Laboratories: Miles D. White.
- Headquarters of NTPC: New Delhi.
- Chairman & MD of NTPC: Gurdeep Singh.
- Chairperson of CBDT: Pramod Chandra Mody.
- Capital of Goa: Panaji
- Chief Minister of Goa: Pramod Sawant
- Governor of Goa: Satya Pal Malik



TEST SERIES
Bilingual
Video Solutions
SBI CLERK MAINS
25+ TOTAL TESTS | eBOOKS

