

LISAS'IAS

DAILY UPDATES (21, 22, 23 MARCH 2018)

NATIONAL

- On March 19, 2018, Karnataka State Government under Chief Minister Siddaramaiah (belonging to Congress Party) approved the separate religion status for the Lingayat community.
- On 20 March 2018, the 3 edition of National Conclave on Mines and Minerals was held in New Delhi.
- India's National Cultural Audiovisual Archives (NCAA) has been certified as the world's first Trusted Digital Repository as per ISO 16363:2012 standard, granted by Primary Trustworthy Digital Repository Authorisation Body Ltd. (PTAB), United Kingdom.
- Informal meeting of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) ministers was held in New Delhi on March 20, 2018.
- On 19 March 2018, India's Department of Space and the European Commission signed an agreement that will enable them to share earth observation data from each other's satellite.
- On March 20, 2018, Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), Dehradun and Technology Information, Forecasting & Assessment Council (TIFAC), New Delhi signed an MoU for providing livelihood opportunities and augment income of the forest based communities.
- On March 20, 2018, Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Shipping and Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the Inland ferry services in Vasco, Goa.
- Union Minister for Chemicals & Fertilizers, Ananthkumar has announced that Central Government has approved the setting up of a Plastic Park in Deoghar District of Jharkhand.
- On March 20, 2018, India Post paid a tribute to theoretical physicist, cosmologist and author Stephen Hawking by issuing a special cover on him.
- On March 20, 2018, Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) cabinet gave its in-principle approval for adopting the Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWBCIS) for horticulture crops such as apple and saffron in the state.
- NITI Aayog, Piramal Foundation ink agreement to improve health,

- education in Aspirational Districts.
- Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to conduct skill development training programmes for agriculture and allied sector.
 - On 20 March 2018, Telangana Chief Minister K.Chandrashekhar Rao mandated teaching Telugu as a compulsory subject in all the public and private schools of the Telangana for the academic year 2018-2019.
 - On 19 March 2018, Punjab government decided to impose a permanent ban on hookah bars in Punjab.
 - Union Cabinet gave 'in-principle' approval to inclusion of 2 communities – 'Parivara' and 'Talawara' – in the list of Scheduled Tribes (STs) in Karnataka.
 - Union Cabinet has approved the opening of 18 new Indian Missions in Africa over a four year period from 2018-2021 to implement commitments of India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-III).
 - Cabinet approves North-East Industrial Development Scheme (NEIDS) 2017.
 - Union Cabinet has approved the launch of a new Centrally Sponsored Ayushman Bharat - National Health Protection Mission (AB-NHPM), which was announced in Union Budget 2018.
 - Cabinet approves extension of term of Commission constituted to examine the issue of Sub-categorization of OBC
 - Union Cabinet has given approval for moving official amendments in 'Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2016', aimed at banning commercial surrogacy and allowing ethical surrogacy to needy infertile couples.
 - Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has allowed ITI Ltd to bring a Further Public Offer (FPO) for fresh equity shares in order to achieve 25 per cent Minimum Public Shareholding requirement of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), raise working capital for new projects and to reduce its debt obligations.
 - Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given its approval for continuation of Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) from April 1, 2017 to March 31, 2020.
 - Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given its approval for

Central Sector Scheme "Integrated Scheme for Development of Silk Industry" for the period 2017-18 to 2019-20.

- Cabinet approves closure of India Development Foundation of Overseas Indians.
- Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has stated that it has constituted a task force to review the Income Tax Act, 1961 and to draft a new Direct Tax Law which takes into consideration the prevailing economic scenario and economic needs of contemporary India.
- On 20 March 2018, Union Minister of Mines Narendra Singh Tomar launched a "sand mining framework" in order to help states to take action against illegal mining.
- On 21 March 2018, the jackfruit was declared as official fruit of Kerala.
- The Madhya Pradesh Animal Husbandry Department has inked a MoU with Bharat Financial Inclusion Ltd (BFIL) to launch 'Pashu Dhan Sanjeevani – 1962', an animal healthcare programme.
- The world's longest sandstone cave named 'Krem Puri' has been discovered in Meghalaya.
- On 21 March 2018, International Yoga Fest was inaugurated by

Union minister Jitendra Singh at Talkatora Stadium, New Delhi.

- On 21 March 2018, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) launched Free Wi-Fi Facility at Udwada Village, in Valsad District, Gujarat.
- On 20 March 2018, Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) celebrated its 6th Foundation Day in New Delhi.

INTERNATIONAL

- Union Cabinet has given its approval for revision of the Agreement between India and Qatar for the avoidance of double taxation and for the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income.
- Cabinet apprised of MoU between India and Guyana on cooperation in Renewable Energy.
- Union Cabinet has approved the formation of a wholly owned subsidiary company of Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd (TCIL) in the US for information communication and technology (ICT) related work.
- First G20 meeting of finance ministers and central bank governors under Presidency of Argentina was held on 19 and 20 March 2018 in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

- Gulf Shield 1 Joint drills, organised by Saudi Arabia's Defence Ministry, started in the eastern region of Saudi Arabia from March 18, 2018.
- As per 20th annual Quality of Living survey by Mercer, Austrian capital Vienna has been named the world's best city to live in for the ninth consecutive year.
- New Delhi has secured 22 rank in the world and 8 in Asia in the TripAdvisor's top 25 travellers choice of destinations list for 2018.

BUSINESS AND ECONOMY

- On March 19, 2018, US President Donald Trump signed an executive order making it illegal for US citizens to purchase any cryptocurrency issued by Venezuela.
- Bank of America has started rolling out Erica, its chatbot that can help customers check balances, remind about bills and answer bank-related questions.
- Indian Government-owned reinsurer, General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re) has received permission to commence operations of 'GIC Syndicate 1947' from Lloyd's of London from April 2018.
- In a bid to boost overseas sales in a surplus year of production, India Government has scrapped the 20 per cent sugar export duty.
- On 19 March 2018, IRCTC (Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation) announced its partnership with Ola Cabs, in order to provide a book taxi option in its app and website.
- On March 19, 2018, India and Hong Kong signed Agreement for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion.
- Online food ordering and delivery platform, Swiggy and India's largest private bank, ICICI Bank have partnered to roll out two innovative digital solutions to facilitate a convenient and hasslefree way for delivery partners to transfer funds to Swiggy.
- On 20 March 2018, Amazon.com Inc. surpassed Alphabet Inc. in terms of market value for the first time.
- On March 19, 2018, India handed over the 18th diesel-electric locomotive to Myanmar and thereby completed the first project under the current Indian line of credit (LoC) to Myanmar.
- On March 21, 2018, government-owned Indian Oil Corp (IOC) started doorstep delivery of diesel on a pilot basis in Pune and has thus become first company in India to provide such

service after receiving clearance from the Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO).

- Donald Trump Administration in US has decided to impose anti-dumping duty on the stainless steel flanges imported from China and India.
- Bank of India (BOI) has announced that it has closed down its operations of representative office in Yangon (Myanmar) with effect from January 19, 2018.
- Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX) has announced that it will commence futures trading in brass on March 26, 2018.
- On 21 March 2018, BHEL said that, it has signed a Technology Collaboration Agreement (TCA) with HLB Power, Republic of Korea.

SPORTS

- On 18 March 2018, the Paralympic Winter Games Pyeong Chang 2018 in South Korea, concluded with Team USA having its most successful performance in 16 years.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Bollywood actress Katrina Kaif has been named the brand ambassador of 'Educate Girls',

an international non-profit organisation.

- BSE (Bombay Stock Exchange) has appointed David Wright as a Public Interest Director on its board.
- On 19 March 2018, Nanda Bahadur Pun took charge as Nepal's vice president for a second term.
- On 19 March 2018, Bihar Governor Satya Pal Malik was given additional responsibility as Governor of Odisha.
- Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has given in-principle approval to National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) for design, development and certification of HansaNG, a next generation trainer aircraft of the two-seater Hansa-3 aircraft.
- On 20 March 2018, Sunil Sharma, a senior journalist, died due to heart attack in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh.
- On 19 March 2018, Kedarnath Singh, a popular Hindi poet passed away, after being ill for some time, in New Delhi.
- On 20 March 2018, C R Chandradath, a social activist, passed away at a private hospital in Kochi, Kerala.
- On 20 March 2018, International Day of Happiness was celebrated all over the world. Theme for International Day of

- Happiness 2018: "Share Happiness".
- On 20 March 2018, the Norwegian Academy of Sciences and Letters said that, Canadian mathematician Robert Langlands has been named the winner of the Abel Prize for 2018.
 - On 21 March 2018, Htin Kyaw, Myanmar's first democratically elected President, announced his retirement due to ill health.
 - China has announced that, it is constructing the world's fastest wind tunnel.
 - Hellenic Space Agency, Greece's first space agency was officially launched on March 19, 2018.
 - On 20 March 2018, Sudan, the last surviving northern white male rhinoceros of the world, died after suffering age related ailments at the Ol Pejeta Conservancy in Laikipia national park, Kenya.
 - On 19 March 2018, journalist and Pulitzer Prize winner Les Payne passed away at his residence in Harlem, United States.
 - On 20 March 2018, World Sparrow Day was celebrated all over the world. Theme for World Sparrow Day 2018: I love Sparrows.
 - On 21 March 2018, International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was observed all over the world.
 - On 21 March 2018, World Poetry Day was celebrated all over the world.
 - On 21 March 2018, International Day of Forests was observed all over the world. Theme for International Day of Forests 2018: Forests and Sustainable Cities.
 - On 21 March 2018, World Down syndrome Day (WDSD) was observed all over the world.
 - On March 21, 2018, Allahabad Bank stated that it has received approval from Union Ministry of Corporate Affairs for amalgamation of its fully-owned subsidiary All Bank Finance Ltd. (ABFL) with itself.
 - On 22 March 2018, the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile was successfully test fired from Pokhran test range in Rajasthan.
 - IRCTC has introduced billing through Point of Sale (POS) hand held machines in trains.
 - On 22 March 2018, Indian shooter Elavenil Valarivan won gold medal in the junior women's 10m air rifle event at the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Junior World Cup Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun in Sydney, Australia.
 - On 22 March 2018, World Water Day was celebrated all over the

world. Theme for World Water Day 2018: Nature for Water.

- On 20 March 2018, General Bipin Rawat, Chief of the Army Staff, released a book on

Paramveer Chakra Awardees named 'Paramveer Parwane'.
