

IMPORTANT DAYS

March 24 - World Tuberculosis Day

- The day is observed on 24th March every year to raise public awareness about the devastating health, social and economic consequences of TB, and to step up efforts to end the global epidemic.
- The date marks the day in 1882 when Dr Robert Koch announced that he had discovered the bacterium that causes TB. Tuberculosis is one of the top ten causes of death worldwide.
- India has renewed its commitments and intentions to end TB by 2025
- **2019 Theme - 'It's time'.**

March 25 - International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade

- International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade is a United Nations international observance designated in 2007 to be marked on 25 March every year.
- The day honours and remembers those who suffered and died as a consequence of the transatlantic slave trade, which has been called "the worst violation of human rights in history", in which over 400 years more than 15 million men, women and children were the victims.
- **2019 theme for the commemoration, "Remember Slavery: The Power of the Arts for Justice"**

NATIONAL

New Delhi

President leaves on three-nation visit

- President Ram Nath Kovind has left on a three-nation visit to Croatia, Bolivia and Chile.

INTERNATIONAL**Sri Lankan President hands over proposal to declare Tripitaka as UNESCO World Heritage**

- Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena handed over a proposal seeking to declare the Theravada Tripitaka, the sacred ure of Buddhists, as a UNESCO World Heritage.
- The Theravada Tripitaka was declared a National heritage of Sri Lanka by President in January this year.

Voting ends in Thailand's first general election

- In Thailand, counting is underway at over 90,000 polling stations after the voting came to an end in country's first general election since 2014 military coup.

PM orders top-level judicial inquiry into Christchurch mosque attacks

- New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern ordered an independent judicial inquiry into whether police and intelligence services could have prevented the Christchurch mosque attacks on March 15.

SCIENCE**India achieves 84 % reduction in TB deaths among HIV patients: UN**

- India has achieved an 84 per cent reduction in tuberculosis deaths among people living with HIV by 2017. According to the Joint United Nations Programme on the UNAIDS, it is the highest recorded decline among over 20 nations and it is also three years ahead of the 2020 deadline.
- World Health Organisation estimates show that globally, TB deaths among people living with HIV have fallen by 42 per cent since 2010.

BUSINESS & ECONOMY**RBI appoints five-member committee to deepen digital payments**

- The central bank of the country has appointed 5-member committee under the chairmanship of Nandan Nilekani to further deepen digital payments and enhance financial inclusion through Fintech.

RANKINGS & INDEXES**WEF's Global Energy Transition index**

76) India 1) Sweden 2) Switzerland 3) Norway

SUMMITS & CONFERENCES**FinTech Conclave 2019**

- NITI Aayog is organising a day-long FinTech Conclave at Dr. Ambedkar International Center, New Delhi. The objective is to shape India's continued ascendancy in FinTech, build the narrative for future strategy and policy efforts, and to deliberate steps for comprehensive financial inclusion.
- The Indian FinTech ecosystem is the third largest in the globe, attracting nearly USD 6 billion in investments since 2014.

SCHEMES**Minimum basic income guarantee scheme**

- Congress party promises that country's 20 per cent, most poor families will get 72 thousand rupees yearly under minimum basic income guarantee scheme.

MOU, AGREEMENTS & CABINET APPROVALS**Italy, China ink new 'Silk Road' protocol**

- Italy has signed a non-binding protocol with China to take part in Beijing's new Silk Road of transport and trade links stretching from Asia to Europe. Italy became the first G7 country to sign up for the project.

Oman signs agreement allowing United States military to use its ports

- Oman has signed an agreement with the United States that allow American ships and warplanes to take advantage of his ports and airports. The framework agreement is aimed at bolstering Omani-American military relations.
- Duqm port is located in southern Oman on the Arabian Sea and around 500 kilometres from the Strait of Hormuz. At the mouth of the Gulf, the strait is crucial to global energy supplies.

DEFENCE**IAF inducts first four heavy-lift Chinook helicopters**

- Indian Air Force (IAF) formally inducted the four heavy-lift Chinook helicopters. Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa announced the induction at a ceremony held at Air Force base in Chandigarh.
- The Chinook helicopter has fully integrated digital cockpit management system and is capable of transporting fully-equipped infantry soldiers for specialised operations.

SPORTS**Sultan Azlan Shah Cup**

- In Men's Hockey, a second round-robin match between India and South Korea ended in a draw with a score of one goal each, in the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup at in the Malaysian city of Ipoh.

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