

15th & 16th March 2020 Current Affairs

EXAMSDAILY

National Affairs

Roro ferry service between Mumbai and Mandwa launched by Mansukh Mandaviya

A roll on-roll off (Roro)-cum-passenger ferry service, between Mumbai and Mandwa near Alibaug, was launched on Sunday in the presence of Union Minister of State for Shipping Mansukh Mandaviya.

- The service reduces travel time (from 3-4 hours to just one hour), vehicular emission and traffic on the road.
- Around 15 lakh passengers commute annually by catamarans and launches from Gateway of India to Mandwa.

International Affairs

Saudi African & Arab-African Summits Postponed Due To Coronavirus

Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced the postponement of the Saudi African & Arab-African summits, scheduled to be hosted by the Kingdom in the first quarter of 2020. Postponement was done as a precaution in view of the spread of COVID-19.

About Saudi Arabia:

- Capital- Riyadh
- Currency- Riyal.
- Prime Minister-Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

State Affairs

Uttarakhand

Phool Dei festival was celebrated in Uttarakhand

Uttarakhand Chief Minister (CM) Trivendra Singh Rawat celebrated the traditional harvest festival "Phool Dei". The festival also showcases the inner bonding between the communities who all are residing in the hills.

It is the harvest festival of Uttarakhand that is celebrated in the month of Chaitra (March- April) in the Hindu Calendar.

About Uttarakhand:

- Capital- Dehradun (Winter capital), Gairsain (Summer capital).
- Governor- Baby Rani Maurya.

Manipur

Manipur CM announces scheme's to encourage athletes & artists

Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh has announced the biggest ever scheme for the welfare of sportspersons and artists of the State. 'Chief Minister's Akhannaba Sanaroising gi Tengbang (CMAST)' and Chief Minister Artist Sing gi Tengbang (CMAT)' scheme would provide benefits to thousands of sportspersons and artistes of the State who have brought laurels to the State and Country.

- Under the CMAST Scheme, a suitable employment in government services will be provided to sports persons, who have won medals in notified disciplines in selected International Sports events.
- The scheme would also support the sports persons on purchasing of costly sports items.

About Manipur:

- Capital - Imphal
- Governor - Najma Heptulla.

Business

HIL India Limited launched Customer Payment Portal

HIL (India) Limited, in association with Union Bank of India, launched "Customer Payment Portal" in New Delhi. It was launched by Dr. S.P. Mohanty, Chairman, and Managing Director, Shri. Anjan Banerjee, Director Finance) of HIL (India) Limited; and Shri R. K. Jaglan, Head, Government Business Department, Shri G. K. Sudhakar Rao, Regional Head Delhi South of Union Bank of India.

The portal collects the payment from its customers of HIL through various online modes for faster and smoother collection of dues.

Appointments & Resignations

Shardul Thakur appointed as brand ambassador of Tata Power

Indian cricketer Shardul Thakur appointed as the brand ambassador of Tata Power, the largest power generation company in India which aims to provide uninterrupted power supply from its various plants located across India.

This is his 1st major commercial endorsement & the campaign featuring him does have a significant presence in digital, radio & outdoors.

About Tata Power:

- Headquarters- Mumbai. India
- Chief Executive Officer (CEO) & Managing Director(MD)- Praveer Sinha

Justice Bansi Lal Bhat appointed as officiating chairperson of NCLAT

The government has appointed Justice Bansi Lal Bhat as the officiating chairperson of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT).

- He will replace the previous Chairperson Justice Sudhansu Jyoti Mukhopadhaya, who recently retired.
- Justice Bansi Lal Bhat is a former judge of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court and he is appointed for a period of three months with effect from 15.03.2020 or until a regular Chairperson is appointed or until further orders.

Prashant Kumar appointed as new CEO of Yes Bank

The central government has appointed former SBI banker Prashant Kumar as the new Chief Executive Officer of the financially troubled Yes Bank.

- Apart from Kumar, Sunil Mehta, former Non-Executive Chairman of Punjab National Bank will take over as the Non-Executive Chairman of Yes Bank. Other Board members include Mahesh Krishnamurthy and Atul Bheda, both as Non-Executive Directors.

About Yes Bank:

- Headquarters of Yes Bank: Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Yes Bank established: 2004.

Honors & Awards**India's first culinary arts museum at WGSMA enters Limca Book of Records**

India's First Living Culinary Arts Museum' founded by eminent Chef Vikas Khanna at Welcome Group Graduate School of Hotel Management (WGSMA) entered the Limca Book of Records.

- The museum was opened in April 2018, spread approximately over 25,000 sq ft and is shaped in the form of a giant pot similar to the ones found in Harappa.

Sports Affairs**Achanta Sharath Kamal wins men's singles title in Oman Open**

Ace Indian paddler of Table Tennis, Achanta Sharath Kamal wins the ITTF Challenger Plus Oman Open men's singles title. He beat top-seeded Marcos Freitas of Portugal 4-2 in the final played in Muscat.

It was in 2010, Sharath bagged a title last time when he won the Egypt Open. Since then he made two semi-final appearances (Morocco Open in 2011 and India Open in 2017) but couldn't manage to get through it.

About Oman:

- Capital: Muscat;
- Currency: Omani rial

Taiwan's Tai Tzu Ying clinches her third women's singles title of All England Championships

Taiwan's Tai Tzu Ying clinched her third women's singles title in four years with a dominant victory over defending champion Chen Yu Fei at the All England Championships in Birmingham.

- In the men's singles, Denmark's Victor Axelsen outclassed Taiwan's Chou Tien-Chen.
- Ace shuttler PV Sindhu lost in the quarterfinal match by Japan's Nozomi Okuhara

Important Days**World Consumer Rights Day is observed on 15th March**

The consumer movement marks 15th March with World Consumer Rights Day every year, as a means of raising global awareness about consumer rights and needs.

- Theme of World Consumer Rights Day 2020: "The Sustainable Consumer".
- This World Consumers Rights Day highlights what consumers want and need from a connected world. This year over 100 members in over 90 countries are coming together to mark World Consumer Rights Day.

National Vaccination Day: 16th March

Every year on the 16th of March, India observes National Vaccination Day. The day is also known as National Immunization Day, and the reason for 16th March to be the date this day is observed is the fact that on this very day in the year 1995, the first dose of an oral vaccine against polio was given in India.

- The prime purpose behind the celebration of National Vaccination Day is to make all people aware of arming against polio and eradicating it completely from the world.

Important Points:

- World Immunization Week 2020 celebrated in the last week of April (24 to 30 April).
- The theme of World Immunization Week 2020: Vaccines Work for All.

Obituaries**Czech javelin champion Dana Zatopkova passes away**

Dana Zatopkova (97) who was an Olympic Javelin Champion passes away.

- She won gold in the Helsinki Olympics in 1952 and Olympic silver in Rome in 1960.
- In 1958, she set the world record of 55.73 meters at the age of 35.
- She served as a coach in 1960 and retired from the role in 1980.