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## History of 9th March

- ◆ **1915** : India's famous Hindi economist Dr. Nagendra was born.
- ◆ **1860** : Japan appointed its ambassador to America for the first time.
- ◆ **1776** : Economist Adam Smith's famous book 'The Wealth of Nations' was published.
- ◆ **1968** : India's famous litterateur, poet, writer, anonymous writer and journalist Harishankar Sharma passed away.

## Current Affairs Related to 9th March

- ◆ **Chhattisgarh-based Coal India's subsidiary South Eastern Coalfields Limited's Gevra** mine is set to become Asia's largest coal mine. Environmental clearance has been granted to increase the production capacity of this mine from the existing 52.5 million tonnes to 70 million tonnes per annum. This has been made possible by the Coal Ministry's hard efforts in coordination with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in obtaining environmental clearance for the production of 7 crore tonnes in record time.
- ◆ **BSF delegation is participating in the 54th DG level BGB BSF Border Conference in Dhaka.** The Border Security Force delegation has nine members. It is headed by Director General Nitin Agarwal. The conference is being held at the Border Guard Bangladesh Headquarters in Dhaka till March 9. The Indian delegation was welcomed by Major General Mohammad Ashrafuzzaman Siddiqui, DG Border Guard Bangladesh, at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka....
- ◆ **Railways and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnav launched NITI Aayog's NITI for States Platform.** It is a cross sectoral knowledge platform. It is designed to be a digital public infrastructure for good governance and policy. He also inaugurated the India Strategy Cell in NITI Aayog. This will enable effective decision making. The platform includes a multi-regional live repository of 7500 best practices, 5000 policy documents and 350 policy publications.
- ◆ **According to RBI, 30 banks are enabling customers to use the Udgam platform** to view their unclaimed funds or accounts. RBI has said that the onboarding process is now underway for the remaining banks. In value terms, 30 banks account for about 90% of the unclaimed deposits in RBI's DEA fund. This makes it easier for registered customers to centrally search unclaimed deposits and accounts from multiple banks at one place.
- ◆ **There have been progressive amendments in the eligibility criteria for athletes applying** for government jobs as per the Department of Personnel and Training and Ministry of Sports. According to Union Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur, this step makes the medal winners of Youth, University, Para and Winter Games of Khelo India Games eligible for government jobs. Those who have achieved success in School Games Federation of India will also remain eligible for these posts.
- ◆ **To enhance bilateral cooperation, External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar co-chaired** the 10th India-South Korea Joint Commission Meeting in Seoul along with Tae Yul. They discussed bilateral relations and issues related to cooperation in the fields of defence, science and technology trade and business. They also discussed ways to increase people-to-people exchanges and cultural cooperation.
- ◆ **Women in Business and Law 2024 report has been released by the World Bank Group.** According to this report, legal rights for women around the world are much lower than initially thought. Women have less than two-thirds or 64 percent of the rights enjoyed by men. Earlier it was estimated that women had 77 percent of the rights enjoyed by men.
- ◆ **The latest Employment Unemployment Indicators report was released by the Office** for National Statistics. The report showed that India's unemployment rate is expected to decline from 3.6% last year to 3.1% in 2023, reflecting continued improvements in labor markets.
- ◆ **Vaishna Pichai from Tamil Nadu won the second prize and Kanishka Sharma from Rajasthan won the third prize.** The National Youth Parliament 2024 was organized on the theme of Young Voices: Engage and Empower for Nation Transformation.



## National & International Current Affairs

### 1. Who recently launched India's first government-owned OTT platform?

- (A) Kerala (B) Tamil Nadu  
(C) Odisha (D) Rajasthan

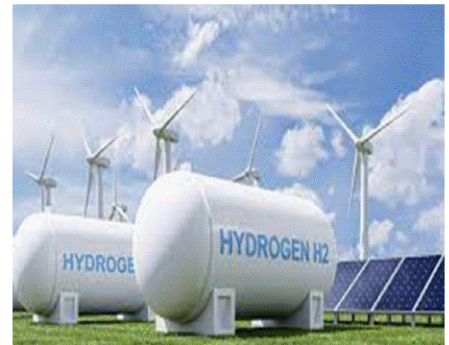
**(A)** Kerala launches India's first government-owned OTT platform CSpace. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan described it as a decisive step in the forward journey of Malayalam cinema. Pinarayi Vijayan said that the main objective of private sector OTT platforms is to make profits. Cspace is all set to make its mark as a medium that brings home quality films.



### 2. Which state government has recently approved the green hydrogen policy?

- (A) Madhya Pradesh (B) Telangana  
(C) Uttar Pradesh (D) Maharashtra

**(C)** Recently, Uttar Pradesh Government has approved the Green Hydrogen Policy to set up two units of 800 MW each at Anpara. These units will be established with the help of NTPC at a cost of Rs 8624 crore. The policy aims to produce 1 million metric tonnes of green hydrogen in the next four years.



### 3. Who has recently launched e-Kisan Upaj Nidhi to ease the storage facilities of farmers?

- (A) Narendra Modi (B) Piyush Goyal  
(C) Amit Shah (D) Dr. S. Jaishankar

**(B)** With the help of technology, e-Kisan Upaj Nidhi will make the storage system of farmers easier. This will also help farmers to get fair price for their produce. Security deposit charges on WDRA registered warehouses will soon be reduced from 3% to 1%. The e-Kisan Upaj Nidhi with no collateral, additional security deposit policy will prevent farmers from selling their produce at cheaper rates.



### 4. What percentage of stake will the government sell in NLC India through Offer for Sale?

- (A) 4% (B) 5%  
(C) 6% (D) 7%

**(D)** The government will sell 7% stake in state-run lignite producer NLC India, including a green shoe option of 2%, through the offer for sale route. A green shoe option is a provision in the IPO underwriting agreement that gives the underwriter the right to sell more shares than originally planned. Even if the government sells 7% stake at the floor price, it will get around Rs 2058 crore.



### 5. According to the recent data of the Ministry of Civil Aviation, by what percent has the average daily domestic traffic increased?

- (A) 2.9% (B) 3.78%  
(C) 4.98% (D) 5.66%

**(B)** Average daily domestic air traffic has increased by 3.78%. About 439,464 passengers traveled by air in February. According to the data, average daily international air traffic declined by 3.07 percent MoM to 205,946 passengers in February. Four of the six major vehicles recorded a load factor of more than 90 percent in February.





6. Recently the government has increased the minimum age limit for postal ballot to how many years?

- (A) 55 years (B) 65 years  
(C) 75 years (D) 85 years

(D) The government has increased the minimum age limit for postal ballot to 85 years. The minimum age for postal ballot for the upcoming Lok Sabha and State Assembly elections will be 85 years. The government has amended the rules to increase the eligibility age limit from 80 years to 85 years. The Union Law Ministry amended the Election Conduct Rules-1961 to change the age limit of postal ballots.



7. Which state government has recently waived the electricity bill of private tube wells of farmers?

- (A) Bihar (B) Uttar Pradesh  
(C) Odisha (D) Karnataka

(B) Yogi cabinet of UP has given big relief to 1.5 crore farmers of Uttar Pradesh. Electricity bills of private tube wells have been waived off. The system of free electricity to tube wells will be considered applicable from April 1, 2023. Now farmers in rural areas will get free electricity on private tube well connections.



8. Who has recently been appointed as the non-executive chairman of Bank of India?

- (A) MR Kumar (B) Sanjay Pandey  
(C) Atul Karwala (D) None of these

(A) Recently, Bank of India announced the appointment of former LIC veteran MR Kumar as its non-executive employee and Rajeev Mishra as executive director. Kumar, a science graduate from Madras University, also serves on the board of Ambuja Graduates. Joined Life Insurance Corporation in the year 1983 and remained the head from the year 2019 to March 2023.



9. Which state government has recently announced Indira Gandhi Pyari Behen Sukh Samman Nidhi Scheme?

- (A) Karnataka (B) Andhra Pradesh  
(C) Telangana (D) Himachal Pradesh

(D) Recently, Chief Minister Sukhwinder Sukhu unveiled Indira Gandhi Pyari Behna Sukh Samman Nidhi Yojana, a scheme designed to provide financial assistance to women in the age group of 18 to 60 years. Under this scheme, eligible women will get a monthly stipend of Rs 1500, which will be equivalent to an annual expenditure of Rs 800 crore.



10. Which state government will recently launch Widow Remarriage Promotion Scheme?

- (A) Jharkhand (B) Haryana  
(C) Punjab (D) Rajasthan

(A) Recently, Jharkhand State Government will start Widow Remarriage Promotion Scheme. For most farmers, family and society do not take initiative in this regard and women hesitate in taking such decisions for themselves. Therefore, this scheme is highly commendable and will also help in changing social attitudes.

