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History of 16th March

- ◆ **1846** : According to Amritsar, the suzerainty of Kashmir was placed under the Hindu king Gulab Singh of Jammu.
- ◆ **1901** : Freedom fighter Potti Sriramulu, Gandhiji's assistant, was born.
- ◆ **2008** : Pervez Musharraf signed the death warrant of Sarabjit Singh, an Indian citizen on death row in Pakistan.
- ◆ **1955** : Famous Hindi writer Vijayanand Tripitaka passed away.

Current Affairs Related to 16th March

- ◆ This scheme has been announced to accelerate the adoption of electronic vehicles in India. A total outlay of Rs 500 crore will be implemented under the scheme for 4 months. This scheme will be applicable from April 1 to July. Only electric two-wheelers and electric three-wheelers will be eligible under the scheme. Registered e-rickshaws, e-karts and L5 automobiles will also be eligible. Apart from this, if a conventional engine is installed in it, then its engine capacity is more than 25 cc. When equipped with electric motor, its motor power is more than 0.25 kW.
- ◆ The government has extended the service tenure of Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra by six months. Kwatra is a 1988 batch Indian Foreign Service officer. After extension of tenure, he will remain in office till 31 October 2024 or till further orders, whichever is earlier. He was to retire on 30 April 2024. He was appointed Foreign Secretary in April 2022. He took office as the 34th Foreign Secretary of India on 1 May 2022. He replaced Harshvardhan Shringla.
- ◆ Naval Exercise Cutlass Express-24 was conducted at Port Victoria, Seychelles. Indian Navy participated in naval exercise Cutlass Express with INS Tir. The Indian Navy actively participated in the exercise along with 16 friendly foreign countries. Training in theoretical and practical aspects of visit board search and seizure operations, diving operations, and maritime interdiction operations were part of this exercise. During the exercise, Indian divers participated in joint diving operations with divers from the US and Seychelles.
- ◆ The Cabinet has approved the Inter-Governmental Framework Agreement between India and the United Arab Emirates. This agreement is on cooperation for the empowerment and operation of the India Middle East Europe Economic Corridor. IGFA aims to further enhance and strengthen bilateral relations between India and the UAE in the ports, maritime and logistics sectors.
- ◆ The Cabinet has approved the signing of the agreement between India and Bhutan in the field of food security. This agreement is between Bhutan Food and Drug Authority, Ministry of Health, Royal Government of Bhutan and Food Safety and Standards Authority of India. This agreement relates to cooperation in the areas of food security. The signing of the agreement will ease trade between the two countries. When exporting products to India, a health certificate will be issued by BFDA as evidence of compliance with the requirements laid down by FSSAI.
- ◆ A \$181 million loan agreement has been signed between India and the Asian Development Bank to improve urban liveability and mobility in Ahmedabad. The loan agreement will fund development in areas transitioning from rural to urban areas, called peri-urban areas. The project aims to make peri-urban areas of Ahmedabad livable, environmentally sustainable and efficient with strong physical and social infrastructure.
- ◆ The 12th meeting of the India-Italy Military Cooperation Group was held in New Delhi. Both sides discussed new initiatives to enhance defense cooperation and military-to-military level exchanges between the two countries. A two-day discussion took place between the Directorate of International Defense Cooperation, Headquarters Integrated Defense Staff and the Military Policy and Planning Division of the Italian Defense General Staff. India and Italy have elevated their bilateral relations to the level of strategic partnership.
- ◆ India's first automobile in-plant railway siding project of Maruti Suzuki was inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi at Hansalpur in Mehsana district of Gujarat. During his Gujarat visit, PM Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of railway projects worth Rs 85,000 crore. This project has been developed by a special purpose vehicle, Bahucharaji Rail Corporation Limited.

National & International Current Affairs

1. When is National Immunization Day celebrated every year?
 (A) 15th March (B) 16th March
 (C) 17th March (D) 18th March
(B) National Immunization Day is celebrated every year on 16 March in India. Which is also known as National Immunization Day. It was first observed on 16 March 1995 when the first dose of oral Oxyfor vaccine was given. This is an effort to raise awareness for the Universal Spectrum from planet Earth.
2. Recently, how many million dollar loan was signed by the Government of India and ADB?
 (A) 181 million dollars (B) 195 million dollars
 (C) 251 million dollars (D) 281 million dollars
(A) India and the Asian Development Bank have signed a \$181 million loan to sub-urban areas around Mysore city in Gujarat. Its objective is to improve the physical and social spaces in the suburban areas, promote economic vibrancy and establish them as attractive investment destinations.
3. With whom has SBI recently partnered for its transaction banking platform?
 (A) Meta (B) Rogerpay
 (C) OrionPro (D) None of these
(C) OrionPro Solutions has entered into a landmark deal with State Bank of India for the licensing, implementation and support of its state-of-the-art cash management and transaction banking platform PayBank. This prestigious contract, worth approximately Rs 100 crore, involves phased delivery of iCashpor+ licenses and implementation over 12 months followed by a maintenance and support period of 6 years.
4. Recently the Chief Minister of which state It has been announced that it will not be CAA implemented.
 (A) Jharkhand (B) Tamil Nadu
 (C) Karnataka (D) Chhattisgarh
(B) Recently, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin announced the citizenship law, which was notified by the Union Home Ministry, would not be implemented in the state. The decision comes amid allegations against the minorities and Sri Lankan Tamils living in the camps.
5. Where was the Khelo India Rising Talent Identification Program inaugurated recently?
 (A) Chandigarh (B) Jaipur
 (C) New Delhi (D) None of these
(A) Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Shri Anurag Singh Thakur inaugurated a unique talent search program named Kirti in Chandigarh. Olympic and World Javelin Throw Champion, Neeraj Chopra has appreciated the initiative of the Union Sports Ministry in launching the Khelo India Rising Talent Identification Programme.



6. Recently India has signed an agreement with which country to establish a Joint Economic and Trade Committee?

- (A) Dominican Republic (B) Malaysia
(C) Singapore (D) None of these

(A) India signed Protocol for the establishment of a Joint Economic and Trade Committee for trade and commerce with the Dominican Republic. This agreement is an important step to strengthen the existing economic and commercial relations. It is noteworthy that the first meeting of India Dominican Republic JETCO will be held soon.



7. Who has recently won the Promising Investor of the Year award?

- (A) Utkal Singh (B) Yashveer Mishra
(C) Sachin Salunkhe (D) None of these

(C) Recently Sachin Salunkhe won the Promising Investor of the Year award. Rajasthan's potential for tourism and investment was showcased at the Wow Talk event organized by the Government of Rajasthan in Mumbai. Sachin Salunkhe, known for his investments in 104 companies, received the Promising Investor of the Year 2024 award from the CM of Rajasthan.



8. In which state has India's first Automobile in Plant Railway Siding Project been inaugurated recently?

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

(B) India's first Automobile in Plant Railway Siding has recently been inaugurated at Suzuki Motor's Gujarat Manufacturing Facility. The new in-plant siding at SMG aims to reduce the carbon footprint of logistics, thereby reducing fossil fuel consumption and reducing road congestion.



9. Recently Brijesh Kumar Singh has been appointed the executive director of which bank?

- (A) Indian Bank (B) HDFC Bank
(C) BOB (D) ICICI Bank

(A) Recently, the Central Government has appointed Brajesh Kumar Singh, Chief General Manager of Bank of Baroda, as the Executive Director of Indian Bank for three years through notification no. Singh, an agriculture graduate from Allahabad Agricultural Institute, has over 28 years of experience in the banking sector.



10. Where has the historic all-women maritime surveillance mission been organized recently?

- (A) Gujarat (B) Rajasthan
(C) Andaman and Nicobar (D) None of these

(C) Recently, on the occasion of 40th anniversary of INSC 318, Andaman and Nicobar Command achieved a significant milestone by conducting its first all-female maritime observation mission. This historical institution provides narratives towards gender equality and the equal role of women in tourism and national defence.

