

Weekly Current Affairs

30 March-5 April 2020

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NATIONAL NEWS

1. PMO sets up high-level panels to deal with situation post lockdown; restore normalcy

- The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) constituted 10 different high-level committees to suggest measures to ramp up healthcare, put the economy back on track, reduce pain and misery of people as quickly as possible post 21-day lockdown imposed to contain the coronavirus pandemic.
- These committees looking after various aspects will work under the overall guidance of P K Mishra, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister. The initiative is being viewed as a proactive step by the government to deal with multiple challenges, which the outbreak of pandemic COVID-19 has posed and made the country to deal with emergency situations.
- Each group will have about 6 members with one officer from the PMO and Cabinet Secretariat so that there is full coordination and suggestions accepted are implemented without any delay. Each group has been given an upper time limit of a week to come out with measures on the specified sector.

2. Nagaland CM launches Self Declaration COVID-19 App

- Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio launched the Self Declaration COVID-19 Nagaland App at Kohima.
- The app will be mandatory for any person who entered Nagaland after March 6.
- He added that the app is crucial for tracking and surveillance of high-risk cases.

3. Chennai Port Trust Acquires 67% Stake in Kamarajar Port

- Chennai Port Trust has acquired from the Centre 67% stake in Kamarajar Port Ltd for INR 2,383 crore making the latter its wholly-owned subsidiary. This agreement comes into force with immediate effect.
- Both ports would operate as different entities for the betterment of Exim trade KPL as corporate firm and ChPT as trust. Chennai Port Trust will continue to handle clean cargo such as containers, cars, liquid cargo, cruise and passenger traffic, while KPL will create additional capacity for all other types of bulk, dry and liquid cargo.
- Kamarajar Port Limited, formerly Ennore Port, is located on the Coromandel Coast in Tamil Nadu, it is the 12th major port of India, and the first port in India which is a public company.

4. Nirmala Sitharaman participates in 2nd virtual G20 meeting of Finance Ministers

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman participated in the 2nd Extraordinary G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting under the Saudi Arabian Presidency. The meeting was called to discuss the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the global economy and coordinate efforts in response to this global challenge.
- The Finance Minister appreciated the Saudi Presidency for organizing these meetings which provide opportunity to all G20 members to not only share their individual experiences but also to work in better coordination.

5. Govt extends existing foreign trade policy (2015-20) for one year till March 2021

- The Government extended the existing foreign trade policy (2015-20) for one year till March 2021 amid coronavirus outbreak and the lockdown. The existing foreign trade policy 2015-20 which is valid up to March 31 this year is extended up to March 31, 2021.
- Various other changes are also made extending the date of exemptions by one year and extending validity of DFIA and EPCG authorisations for import purposes.
- Exports during April-February this fiscal dipped by 1.5 per cent to 292.91 billion dollars.
- Imports during the period declined by 7.30 per cent to 436 billion dollars, leaving a trade deficit of 143.12 billion dollars.

6. COVID 19: Jharkhand Government launched PRAGYAAM app to issue e-passes for essential deliveries

- The Jharkhand Government launched a mobile application (app) PRAGYAAM to issue e-passes to everyone associated with the delivery of essential services during the national lockdown to combat COVID-19 (Coronavirus). The android platform based app can be downloaded from Google Playstore & has been designed locally.
- Through this app District Transport Officers issues e-passes to vehicles through online mode after verification of the documents uploaded through the app.
- The passes will be issued to those involved in the regular supply services, medical, banking & other necessary services.
- The higher officials can also verify the status of the e-passes on the app and other details, including mobile number and identity card of the person engaged in such duties to curb the chances of fake e-passes.

7. Dr Jitendra Singh released National Corona Survey conducted in 410 districts

- Dr Jitendra Singh, Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions released the COVID- 19 National Preparedness Survey 2020. The survey will serve as a benchmark for policymakers at National and State levels.
- Objectives of the Survey: To develop a comparative analysis of COVID- 19 preparedness across States, to access enabling factors in making institutional/ logistics/ hospital preparedness etc., and also to identify the process-related deficiencies, in combating COVID-19 in all the districts of India.
- The survey was conducted with responses from 410 civil servants who are providing field level leadership. District Collectors & IAS (Indian Administrative Service) officers of (2014- 2018) batches who have served as Assistant Secretaries in GOI (Government of India) participated in the survey.

8. Government extends tenure of NCLT acting President for another 3 months

- On April 2, 2020 The government extended the tenure of National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) acting President Bethala Shanta Vijaya (B.S.V.) Prakash Kumar for another 3 months (with effect from 5th April, 2020) or till the joining of new President, whichever is earlier.
- Earlier he was appointed as the acting President for 3 months from January 5 after the retirement of NCLT president Justice Mahesh Mittal (M.M.) Kumar.
- He previously served as a Judicial Member of the NCLT's Madras bench.

9. Minister of State Human Resource Development launches 'Hack the Crisis-India' hackathon

- Minister of State Human Resource Development and IT Sanjay Dhotre launched 'Hack the Crisis - India', an Online Hackathon to find working solutions for overcoming COVID-19 pandemic.
- This hackathon is part of a global initiative and is being organised by 'Hack A Cause - India' and 'FICCI Ladies Organization Pune' and supported by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- The aim of this hackathon is to strengthen the fight against COVID-19.

10. CBSE introduces 'Applied Mathematics' as a new academic elective from 2020-21

- The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has introduced 'Applied Mathematics' as a new academic elective from the current academic year (2020-2021) for class XI.
- The Applied Mathematics course is designed to enhance the knowledge and skills of Mathematics that are required to be successful in different fields of their future career.
- The approach of Applied Mathematics subjects will be practical, and the students are expected to learn through practical applications of Mathematics in different disciplines.
- Those students who have passed Basic Mathematics in class X are now allowed to offer the new academic elective Applied Mathematics at Senior Secondary Level.

International News & Foreign Affairs

1. North Macedonia becomes NATO's 30th member

- North Macedonia officially became the 30th member of the NATO military alliance.
- North Macedonia's flag will be raised alongside those of the other 29 member countries at NATO headquarters in Brussels.
- North Macedonia previously was known as Macedonia, a name it shared with a Greek province.
- This membership comes after North Macedonia's 2017 deal with Athens, the country changed its name and Greece agreed to drop objections to its NATO and eventual EU membership.

2. German state finance minister commits suicide after 'virus crisis worries'

- Thomas Schaefer, the Finance Minister of Germany's Hesse state, had committed suicide.
- He was reportedly concerned over the coronavirus pandemic, and how to deal with the economic fallout from the crisis. Hesse is the German state which is home to Frankfurt, considered to be the financial capital of Germany.
- Schaefer belonged to Angela Merkel's center-right Christian Democrats (CDU).

3. Panama govt permits cruise ship with Coronavirus infected people through its canal

- Panama's government has given permission to a cruise ship on which four passengers have died during travel through its canal.
- Earlier, the Panama Government had denied access to the Panama canal over Coronavirus fears.
- It decided to allow the ship to pass on humanitarian ground but stressed that no passenger nor member of crew can disembark on Panamanian soil.
- The Panama Canal is an artificial 82 km waterway in Panama that connects the Atlantic Ocean with the Pacific Ocean.

4. UN report states India, China will stay away from world recession

- The United Nations Trade report titled "The COVID-19 Shock to Developing Countries: Towards a whatever it takes program" stated that the world economy will go into recession in 2020 with a predicted loss of trillions of dollars of global income due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- It also predicted serious problems for developing countries with the likely exception of India and China.

5. Princess Maria Teresa of Spain becomes first royal person to die from COVID-19

- Spanish Princess Maria Teresa of Bourbon-Parma has become the first royal to pass away due to Covid-19 complications. The 86-year-old was a cousin of Spain's King Felipe VI.
- Princess Teresa's death comes weeks after King Felipe VI of Spain tested negative for the virus.
- She was known for her outspoken views and activist work, which led to her nickname the "Red Princess."
- Meanwhile, Prince Charles became the first British royal to be tested positive for the coronavirus, earlier this week.

6. Saudi Arabia imposes 24-hour curfew in holy cities of Makkah and Madina

- Saudi Arabia has announced imposing of 24-hour curfew in the holy cities of Makkah and Madina until further notice.
- The decision was taken to supplement the Kingdom's efforts to confront Coronavirus pandemic and in the interest of public health.
- The Royal order also prohibited the practice of any commercial activities within the residential neighborhoods of the cities of Makkah and Madinah, except for pharmacies and food supply stores, gas stations and banking services

New Appointments and Person in News

1. BP Kanungo reappointed as RBI's deputy governor

- BP Kanungo was reappointed as the Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India. His reappointment came after the Appointments Committee of Cabinet approved Kanungo's term extension for a period of one year with effect from March 27.
- Kanungo's tenure was to end on April 3. Kanungo was the executive director of RBI before he took charge as the deputy governor back in April 2017. He oversees departments like currency management, payments and settlement, foreign exchange, internal debt management.
- NS Vishwanathan, MK Jain and Michael Patra also hold the position of deputy governor of RBI apart from Kanungo. The RBI, headed by Governor Shaktikanta Das, can have a maximum of four deputy governors.

2. D. Lakshminarayanan appointed as MD of Sundaram Home Finance

- On March 31, 2020, D. Lakshminarayanan, a whole-time director of Sundaram Finance Limited, was appointed as the MD (Managing Director) of its wholly-owned home finance subsidiary, Sundaram Home Finance. He will take charge on April 1, 2020 and will replace Srinivas Acharya.
- Srinivas Acharya has been the company's MD since 2010 & has been part of the Sundaram Finance Group for almost 4 decades.
- The company had posted a total income of Rs 1006 crore and a net profit of Rs 145 crore for the financial year 2019.

3. Paytm Money Founder MD Pravin Jadhav resigns

- On April 2, 2020, Pravin Jadhav, Founder MD (Managing Director) and CEO (Chief Executive Officer) of Paytm Money, resigned due to the issues related to employee stock options (ESOPs), annual salary and remuneration.
- Jadhav appointed as MD & CEO of Paytm money in September 2019. He joined Paytm as a Consultant in June 2017. He also served as chief products & growth officers with Servify and Free Charge.
- Paytm (Pay through mobile) money is part of Paytm One 97 Communications' growing consumer ecosystem, alongside Paytm, Paytm Mall and Paytm Payments Bank

BANKING

1. ADB to invest \$100 million in NIIF fund of funds

- Asian Development Bank (ADB) will invest \$100 million into the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) of India Fund of Funds.
- With ADB's investment into the NIIF platform, the FoF has now secured \$700 million in commitments.
- ADB will now join the Government of India (GOI) and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) as an investor in the Fund.
- NIIF is India's first sovereign wealth fund that was set up by the Government of India in February 2015.

2. EPF (Amendment) scheme, 2020 comes into force; withdrawal of non-refundable advance allowed

- On March 28, 2020, the Employees Provident Fund (Amendment) scheme, 2020, has come into force by amending Employees Provident Funds (EPF) Scheme 1952. A sub-para(3) under para 68L has been added in the EPF scheme, 1952. This amendment has been made by the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
- This amendment allows the withdrawal of non-refundable advance by EPF members in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic in the country. This non-refundable withdrawal should not exceed the basic wages and dearness allowance (DA) for three months or up to 75% of the amounts standing to the credit of their EPF account, whichever is less.

- EPFO has directed its field officers for quick processing of applications received from EPF members as a relief measure for helping them to tackle the COVID-19 outbreak.

3. Merger of 10 state-run banks into 4 to come into force from April 1: RBI

- The megabank consolidation plan is all set to come into force from April 1, 2020. The branches of merging banks will operate as of the banks in which these have been amalgamated. Also, the customers of merging banks will be treated as customers of the banks in which these banks have been merged with effect from April 1, 2020.
- The government on March 4 had notified the amalgamation schemes for 10 state-owned banks into four as part of its consolidation plan to create bigger size stronger banks in the public sector.
- As per the scheme, Oriental Bank of Commerce and United Bank of India will be merged into Punjab National Bank; Syndicate Bank into Canara Bank; Allahabad Bank into Indian Bank; and Andhra Bank and Corporation Bank into Union Bank of India.

4. PNB releases new logo ahead of merger with UBI & OBC on April 1, 2020

- The Punjab National Bank (PNB) has launched a new logo before the mega-merger of the bank with the United Bank of India (UBI) and the Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC) comes into force from 1 April 2020. The new logo will have signages of all the 3 banks.
- With the merger, PNB will be the 2nd largest bank in the country with a total business and size of Rs 17.94 lakh crore. Currently, the State Bank of India (SBI) is the largest bank in the country, whose total business is about 52 lakh crore rupees.

5. Ind-Ra (India Ratings & Research) trims India's GDP forecast to 3.6% from 5.5% for FY21

- India Ratings & Research (Ind-Ra), the Indian subsidiary of Fitch Group, has lowered India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth estimates for the financial year 2020-21 (FY21) to 3.6 % from 5.5% due to concerns over the coronavirus (COVID- 19).
- The rating agency believes that a full or partial lockdown will go away in late April 14, 2020 and economic activity will only slowly derail after May. The agency estimates the growth rate to be 2.3 % in the June quarter, which is lower than the agency's 4.7 % GDP estimate for the current fiscal FY-20.
- The growth rate in the first half of the FY-21 is expected to be 2.8 %, which is much lower than the 5.3 % growth in the year-ago period. The growth rate may improve to 4.3 % in the second quarter of the next financial year, which is higher than the 4.2 % estimate for the second half of FY 2020.

6. World Bank offers \$1bn for proposed India project to battle with COVID-19

- The World Bank has offered \$1 billion to the Indian government for a proposed India COVID-19 emergency response and health systems preparedness project. This four-year project aims to develop the preparedness of India's health care systems in the time of the pandemic.
- The idea of the project will be to respond and mitigate the Covid-19 threat and strengthen national systems for public health preparedness in India.
- The World Bank funding is from its Covid-19 fast-track facility where both the entities (World Bank and the government of India) will work on following the best international practice.

7. Australia's IAG sold its 26% stake in SBI General Insurance for \$310 mn

- On March 30, 2020, Insurance Australia General (IAG) has sold its entire 26% stake in the SBI (State Bank of India) General Insurance Co Ltd for USD 310 million (about Rs 2,325 crore) to Napean Opportunities LLP (an affiliate of Premji invest) and WP Honey Wheat Investment Ltd (Warburg Pincus Group).
- As a result, IAG earned a net profit on the sale of its stake in SBI General Insurance for approximately USD 310 million in the second half of FY20. IAG's regulatory capital position also increased by nearly USD 450 million.
- Importantly, Napean Opportunities LLP has acquired 16.01% interest whereas WP Honey Wheat Investment Ltd acquired a 9.99% interest.

9. SBI lists green bonds of USD 100 million on India INX

- On April 2, 2020 the State Bank of India (SBI) has listed green bonds of USD 100 million (about Rs 750 crore) under its USD 10 billion global medium-term note program on India International Exchange Limited's (INX) Global Securities Market Green Platform (GSM).
- SBI has adopted the green bond framework with the objective of creating a positive impact on the environment & this transaction is considered as part of the sustainability journey.
- The funds raised by green bonds are used to finance green projects that do not discharge toxic elements.

Awards and Books

1. Mirza Waheed and Santanu Das wins The Hindu Prize 2019

- The Hindu prize (annual) 2019 is awarded to Mirza Waheed's Tell Her Everything (Fiction)-2019 and Santanu Das's India, Empire, and First World War Culture: Writings, Images and Songs (Non-Fiction)-2018.
- Mirza Waheed's novel talks about human ethics, noble love & the corrosive nature of companionship & are published by Westland Publications Limited (Context). He also has written 2 other novels namely: The Collaborator(2012), The Book of Gold Leaves(2014) & also is a journalist.
- Santanu Das' book retrieves the intellectual worlds of militants, non-combatants and civilians from India, who were not divided in World War I, is published by Cambridge University Press. He also has written Touch and Intimacy in First World War Literature(2006). The prize was founded in 2010 to honor writers who have spent the rest of their lives mining the human spirit with their words & ideas.

2. Shokoofeh Azar authored a book titled- "The Enlightenment of The Greengage Tree"

- Shokoofeh Azar's The Enlightenment of The Greengage Tree was originally published in 2017 by ReadHowYouWant.com, Limited & has been reprinted by Europa Editions in January 2020.
- The book has been named(among 13) in the longlist of Booker Prizes (annual) 2020 for a £50,000 (USD 98,000) prize, which is shared between the author & translator of the winning book.

Science Tech & Defence

1. Rajasthan police launched a mobile app named "RajCop citizens app"

- Rajasthan police launched a mobile app called "RajCop citizens app" to enable individuals and company employees in the state take permission for venturing out in necessary conditions which were developed by Data Ingenious Global Limited.
- The RajCop citizen's app has been launched on Android Play Store in English but every day it will be modified to suit the need of people especially those at the bottom of the pyramid, Sharat Kaviraj, DIG, State Crime Record Bureau,

2. Tata Power commissioned Shuakhevi 178 mw-hydropower project in Georgia

- Tata Power Company's joint venture (JV) with Norway's Clean Energy Invest (CEI), and International Financial Corporation (IFC) began its commercial operation of a 178 megawatt (MW) hydropower project (HPP) in Georgia.
- The commercial operation of the Shuakhevi HPP is an important milestone for Tata Power and its partners. The success of the 178 MW Shuakhevi HPP cascades are crucial for the integrity, security and independence of energy in Georgia," Praveer Sinha, CEO, and Managing Director, Tata Power, said

3. Government sanctions Rs 10-crore special funds for CRPF; “madadgaar” helpline expanded

- The Union Home Ministry has granted a special Rs 10-crore fund to the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), enabling it to undertake relief works for those affected by the coronavirus pandemic. The sanction for financial year 2019-20 has been made under the 'civic action programme' head to the country's largest CAPF that has about 3.25 lakh personnel in its ranks.
- The 'madadgaar' helpline number of CRPF, '14411' has received about 2,500 calls and got over 2.5 lakh impressions on its various social media platforms where people sought help in the wake of the viral disease outbreak and the subsequent lockdown imposed in the country from March 25.
- The helpline will now work in close coordination with other CAPFs and state authorities to help the needy. Launched in July, 2017, the helpline has recently floated a new WhatsApp number 7082814411- for the public.

4. BharatPe, ICICI Lombard launch COVID-19 insurance product for shopkeepers

- Amidst the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, BharatPe has partnered with ICICI Lombard to roll out 'COVID-19 Protection Insurance Cover' for shopkeepers. On diagnosis of COVID-19 (positive) this policy will pay 100 per cent of the sum insured, irrespective of hospitalisation expenses.
- It is also a 'first of its kind' sachet product by ICICI Lombard that will cover merchants.
- The health cover is priced at a premium starting at a nominal amount of Rs 199 and provides a sum insured for Rs 25,000 and value-added benefits.
- The benefit of the COVID-19 Insurance Protection Cover is the coverage across the age group of 18 to 65 years.

5. NCC volunteer cadets to fight COVID-19 under 'Exercise NCC Yogdan'

- National Cadet Corps (NCC) has offered its volunteer cadets to assist the civilian authorities to fight COVID-19 under 'Exercise NCC Yogdan'.
- It has issued guidelines for the temporary employment of its cadets to enhance the operations of various organizations involved in relief efforts & fighting the pandemic.
- The tasks for NCC cadets include- manning of a helpline, call centres; distribution of relief materials, medicines, food, essential commodities; community assistance; data management and queue & traffic management.

6. PhonePe Launched India's first hospitalization insurance “Coronacare” for Covid-19 treatment

- The accelerated pace of coronavirus is affecting mankind adversely despite government efforts for curbing the situation. It is posing an additional financial burden on individuals or families to get hospitalization treatment for COVID-19.
- To provide support for such cases, Digital payments company PhonePe has launched India's first COVID-19 hospitalization insurance policy called Corona Care in collaboration with Bajaj Allianz General Insurance for people who have been infected and hospitalized for COVID-19 treatment.
- The policy will provide an insurance cover of 50,000 on a one-time payment of Rs 156 for people who are under 55 years of age.
- The insured person will be eligible for the claim only if he/she is diagnosed with COVID-19 after 15 days from the date of purchase of this insurance.

Sports

1. FIFA Under-17 Women's World Cup scheduled in November, postponed

- The FIFA Under-17 Women's World Cup, which was scheduled to be played in India between November 2nd and 21st, has been postponed due to the Coronavirus pandemic.
- The new dates for the tournament will be identified later.

- The working group also postponed FIFA Under-20 Women's World Cup which was scheduled between August and September in Panama and Costa Rica.
- The Under-17 Women's World Cup was scheduled to be played in India across five host cities - Navi Mumbai, Guwahati, Ahmedabad, Kolkata and Bhubaneswar.

2. China to host Asian Youth Games in 2021

- Epicentre of the COVID-19 pandemic before it gripped Europe and the USA, China will host the third edition of the Asian Youth Games in Shantou in November next year.
- The Chinese city of Wuhan was the epicenter of the pandemic that is still sweeping across the world with Western Europe and USA being the worst hit currently.
- The pandemic has led to the postponement of the Tokyo Olympics to 2021 and brought sports events to a halt.
- The OCA(Olympic Council of Asia) has decided to hold the Asian Youth Games from November 20 to 28.

Obituaries

1.IAF veteran Air Vice Marshal (retd) Chandan Singh Rathore passed away

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi consoled the demise of former Air Vice Marshal Chandan Singh Rathore. Maha Vir Chakra (MVC) Recipient, Rathore had distinguished himself as a young air warrior during the Sino-India 1962 war and the 1971 Indo-Pak war.
- During the war with Pakistan, Rathore was at the forefront of air operations conducted for the liberation of Bangladesh.
- Rathore was also responsible for the planning and execution of the special helicopter operations to airlift two companies of troops of the Sylhet area in Bangladesh.

2.Nobel laureate Phillip Anderson passed away at the age of 96

- Philip Warren Anderson, a Nobel Prize-winning physicist who expanded the world's understanding of magnetism, superconductivity and the structure of matter, passed away at the age of 96 in Princeton, New Jersey, US (United States). He was born on December 13, 1923, in Indianapolis, Indiana, US.
- The American theoretical physicist graduated from Harvard University in 1949 & then worked for Bell Telephone Laboratories until he began teaching at Princeton and the University of Cambridge.
- Anderson received Nobel Prize in Physics in 1977, along with Nevill Francis Mott of Britain & the American John Hasbrouck van Vleck, for their contribution on fundamental theoretical investigations of the electronic structure of magnetic and disordered systems.

3. Prominent virologist Gita Ramjee dies from coronavirus

- World-renowned virologist Gita Ramjee, aged nearly 50 years, passed away in Johannesburg, South Africa, due to Coronavirus. She was the stellar vaccine scientist and an HIV (Human immunodeficiency virus) prevention research leader.
- She served as the Clinical Trials Unit Principal Investigator and Unit Director of the HIV Prevention Research Unit of the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC) offices in Durban.
- In 2018, Ramjee was presented with the Outstanding Female Scientist Award in Lisbon by the European Development Clinical Trials Partnerships (EDCTP) for her lifetime contribution in finding new HIV prevention methods.

4. Bhai Nirmal Singh, Padma Shri Recipient and Former 'Hazoori Raagi', Dies After Testing Positive for COVID-19

- Bhai Nirmal Singh Khalsa, Padma Shri awardee and former "Hazoori Raagi" at the Golden Temple, passed away at the age of 62 in Amritsar, Punjab. He was born on April 12, 1952, in Ferozepur, Punjab.
- He has the knowledge of all 31 "raags" in the Gurbani of the Guru Granth Sahib (Sikh Holy Book).

- In 2009, Singh received the Padma Shri award from the Government of India for his contribution of services in the field of arts and he was the first Hazoori Raagi to receive the award.

Important Days

1. Rajasthan statehood day observed on 30 March

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi greeted Rajasthan on the state day and wished the progress of the people will continue.
- Rajasthan, the largest Indian state by area, was established on this day in 1949.
- The state was formed on 30 March, when Rajputana, the name adopted by the British Raj for its dependencies in the region, was merged into the Dominion of India.

2. Utkal Dibasa / Odisha divas is celebrated every year on April 1

- Every year on April 1, Odisha celebrates Utkal Dibasa to mark the day the state was born as a separate entity on linguistic basis.
- This year marks the 83rd Utkal Dibasa, or the foundation day of Odisha. Odisha was born as a separate state on April 1, 1936, on linguistic basis.
- The state was carved out of the combined Bengal-Bihar-Orissa province.

3. International Mine Awareness Day observed on 04 April

- International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action is observed on April 4 each year.
- This day aims to raise awareness about landmines and progress toward their eradication.

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