

## **March 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup> news:**

### **National:**

#### **Laqshya launched**

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched LaQshya program aimed at improving quality of maternity care in labor room and maternity Operation. It is being implemented to 'fast-track' interventions for achieving tangible results. Key Facts The program aims to improve quality of care for pregnant. It is implemented at all Medical College Hospitals, District Hospitals and First Referral Unit (FRU) and Community Health Center (CHCs).

#### **Haryana Assembly nod death penalty for child rape**

The Haryana Assembly on 15<sup>th</sup> March unanimously passed a Bill which provides for death penalty to those found guilty of raping girls aged 12 years or less.

After Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, Haryana has become the third State where the Assembly has approved the provision of capital punishment for such sexual offenders

### **Bilateral:**

#### **India and ADB Signed \$120 Million Loan To Improve Rail Infrastructure**

India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$120 million loan agreement for completion of works for double-tracking and electrification of railways tracks along high-density corridors to improve the operational efficiency of Indian railways. The tranche 3 loan is part of the \$500 million multi-tranche financing facility for Railway Sector Investment Program approved by the ADB Board in 2011. ADB loan has a 20-year term, including a grace period of 5 years, an annual interest rate determined in accordance with ADB's London interbank offered rate (LIBOR)-based lending facility

#### **Health Ministry And WHO Signed Agreement For Enhanced Cooperation For Healthcare**

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General of WHO met J.P. Nadda, Union Health and Family Welfare Minister in New Delhi. They discussed perspectives on national, regional and global public health program. To strengthen collaborative work between India and WHO in achieving improved health outcomes, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and World Health Organization (WHO) signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA).

### **Economy:**

#### **NITI Aayog Released SATH-E Roadmaps**

NITI Aayog released comprehensive roadmaps and detailed timelines for its initiative 'Sustainable Action for Transforming Human Capital in Education (SATH-E)' project. Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog released the forward-looking blueprints. These roadmaps, which operate between 2018 to 2020, lay out detailed

interventions which will be taken by the three participating States- Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha – aiming to become 'Role Model States' in school education.

### **More time given for FRDI bill**

The introduction of the Financial Resolution and Deposit Insurance Bill in Parliament will get delayed with the joint parliamentary panel looking into the proposed legislation getting an extension of time to submit its report on the matter.

This is the second occasion that the committee has been given additional time after an extension was granted in December last year.

The Lok Sabha on 16<sup>th</sup> March gave its nod to a motion to grant the Joint Committee on the FRDI Bill time up to the last day of the Monsoon Session 2018 for submitting the report.

The approval for the motion seeking more time for submission of the report was granted by a voice vote amid noisy protests in the House.

In December, the joint committee was given time till the last day of the ongoing Budget Session. The bill proposes to create a framework for overseeing of financial institutions such as banks, insurance companies, non-banking financial services (NBFC) companies and stock exchanges in case of insolvency.

The so-called "bail-in" clause in the draft legislation has been commented upon by experts who have expressed apprehension about potential harm to the deposits in the form of savings accounts.

Currently, only the deposits of up to Rs 100,000 are protected under the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Act that is sought to be repealed by the bill

### **Science and Technology:**

#### **Indias first cloned Assamese buffalo born**

The Central Institute for Research on Buffaloes (CIRB) claimed that India's first cloned Assamese buffalo male calf named Sach-Gaurav was born in Hisar, Haryana. It was born to Murrah buffalo, at Hi-Tech Sach Dairy Farm, 100 km from cloning laboratory, making it first buffalo calf to be born.

### **Environment:**

#### **India @ 78 in transition index**

India ranked at 78th, lower than its emerging market peers like Brazil and China, among 114 countries on the World Economic Forum's (WEF) energy transition index. The list was topped by Sweden.

The report titled 'Fostering Effective Energy Transition' ranks countries on how well they are able to balance energy security and access to environmental sustainability and affordability. Norway stood in second place, followed by Switzerland and Finland in third and fourth places respectively

## **Sports:**

### **Nepal gains ODI status**

Nepal has gained ODI status for the first time in their history after defeating Papua New Guinea by six wickets in the Cricket World Cup Qualifier play-off in Harare.

### **India wins Nidahas Trophy**

India beat Bangladesh by four wickets to win the Nidahas Cricket Trophy final in Colombo on 18<sup>th</sup> March. In a nail biting final, the visitors clinched the T20 Tri-series title with Dinesh Karthik's last-ball six. Dinesh Karthik was named man of the match for his great knock scoring 29 off just eight balls.

### **Ranji Champions Vidarbha Clinch Maiden title**

In Cricket, Reigning Ranji Trophy champions Vidarbha have lifted their maiden Irani Trophy. On the final day of the match in Nagpur on 18<sup>th</sup> March, they beat Rest of India by virtue of their massive first innings lead. The hosts had posted a total of 800 in their first innings and then bowled out Rest of India for 390 on the final day on 18<sup>th</sup> March. Rest of India had resumed the day at their first innings score of 236 for 6. The match was called off at the start of the mandatory overs with Vidarbha scoring 79 for no loss in their second innings.

## **Awards:**

### **Award for Film 'Halkaa' at Montreal Fest**

Indian filmmaker Nila Madhab Panda's "Halkaa", which had its world premiere at the 21st Festival International du Film Pour Enfants de Montreal Film (FIFEM) bagged the Grand Prix de Montreal at the gala. The film is a take on a slum child's heroism, aspirations, and dreams.

## **Persons in news:**

**Xi Jinping:** China's Parliament on 17<sup>th</sup> March unanimously elected Xi Jinping as President for a second consecutive term, paving the way for a new leadership line-up that includes his trusted ally Wang Qishan as Vice-President.

Lawmakers also unanimously elected Li Zhanshu, Mr. Xi's former chief of staff, as the next chairman of the NPC. The post becomes especially relevant as the burden of passing new legislation is expected to mount, in tune with President Xi's focus on "rule of law" as the template for China's governance in the new era.

The reforms also include setting up a new immigration agency, as well as a merger of China's banking and insurance regulators under a China banking and insurance regulatory commission.

**Vladimir Putin:** Russian President Vladimir Putin stormed to victory in presidential election, giving him another six years in power. Putin, who has ruled Russia for almost two decades, won more than 75% of the vote according to preliminary results.

He is well ahead of his nearest rival Communist Party candidate Pavel Grudinin at 13.2%. But opposition cried foul alleging ballot stuffing and other cases of fraud. The Kremlin pushed for high turnout to give greater legitimacy to Putin's historic fourth term. About 107 million Russians were eligible to cast ballots and turnout was 60% before polls closed in Moscow.