

March 3rd and 4th news:

National:

BJP triumphs in Northeast

Consolidating its position as a dominant force in the Northeast, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on 3rd March demolished the Left in Tripura, winning a two-third majority with ally IPFT and ending 25 years of uninterrupted rule of the CPI(M)-led Left Front.

The BJP also looks set to form a government in Nagaland. In Nagaland, the BJP-NDPP alliance failed to secure a majority with the state throwing up a hung Assembly, but the party's participation in the future government looks certain.

The ruling NPF, which emerged as the single largest party in Nagaland, extended its invitation to the BJP join the new dispensation, though the BJP-NDPP combination may be able to form a government with the help from smaller parties like NPP, JD(U) and an independent.

In Meghalaya, Congress party emerged as the single largest party with 21 seats, nine seats short of a simple majority.

All three states – Tripura, Nagaland, and Meghalaya – have 60-member assemblies but polling in each state was held for 59 seats each due to different reasons

States-Results

- Tripura- BJP (43), Left (16)
- Meghalaya -INC-(21), NPP-(19), BJP (2)
- Nagaland-NDPP+BJP (29), NPF-29, Other-2,INC-0

Bilateral:

India, Bangladesh, Russia sign pact for Rooppur atomic plant

Indian companies can now participate in construction and installation works in the "non-critical" category for the Rooppur nuclear power plant in Bangladesh

The Rooppur project is the first initiative under an Indo-Russian deal to undertake atomic energy projects in third countries. This will also be the first time Indian companies will be able to participate in a nuclear power project abroad.

According to Rosatom (The State Atomic Energy Corporation, Russia) India, Bangladesh and Russia signed an agreement to this effect. The Memorandum of Understanding, signed in Moscow, sets a framework for interaction of Russian contractor, and Indian and Bangladeshi experts in the implementation of works related to the project.

India, Vietnam sign three agreements

Strategic partners India and Vietnam on 3rd March signed three agreements including one in the field of civil nuclear energy following the talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Vietnamese President Tran Dai Quang.

The other two pacts were in the field of agriculture and trade and economic cooperation. In addition, during their delegation level talks the two leaders also discussed ways to enhance collaboration and cooperation in the field of oil-natural gas exploration, defence and security.

Economy:

Public sector banks to consolidate 35 overseas operations

The union government asked Public Sector Banks (PSBs) to consolidate 35 overseas operations.

Financial Services Secretary Rajiv Kumar said in a tweet that 69 overseas operations have also been identified for further examination.

The Expressing government's commitment to clean and responsible banking, Mr Kumar said, the overseas operations of the state-owned banks will be rationalized.

The move comes in the wake of the recent Punjab National Bank scam in which Nirav Modi allegedly cheated the bank in connivance with PNB staff and officials of overseas branches of other state-owned banks.

Environment

Worlds Largest Solar Park 'Shakti Sthala' Launched In Karnataka

The **Karnataka** government inaugurated the first phase of a 2,000 megawatts (MW) solar park in the drought-prone district, Tumkur. The first phase of the Rs16,500 crore park called "Shakti Sthala" will generate 600MW, while the balance 1,400MW is expected to be commissioned by the end of 2018. The solar project is the largest in the world, is spread over 13,000 acres and five villages. It is part of the "Karnataka Solar Policy 2014-2021" which aims to decrease dependence on traditional power sources and move to environmentally friendly ones to meet the growing power needs of the state. The park ties in with the center's scheme to generate 100 gigawatts (GW) of solar power by 2020

Sports:

Navjot kaur victory

Navjot Kaur produced a dominating performance in the final of the women's 65 kg freestyle category to clinch the gold medal in what was a day to remember for Indian wrestling at the Asian Wrestling Championships in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. With Sakshi Malik winning the bronze medal in the 62 kg category, India's medal tally stood at one gold, one silver and four bronze medals on 2nd March

India beat Pakistan to win Snooker Team World Cup

India has won the inaugural IBSF Snooker Team World Cup title. The Indian combine of Pankaj Advani and Manan Chandra defeated Pakistan in the best-of-five final played in Doha

Awards:

Shatrughan Sinha: Actor-politician Shatrughan Sinha has been honoured with a lifetime achievement award for his contribution to the fields of arts and politics.

The annual Political and Public Life Awards instituted by Britain's Asian Voice weekly newspaper was presented at a ceremony in the UK's Parliament complex in London

Sinha, who started his career as an actor in late 1960s, has to his credit over 225 Hindi feature films besides several in other Indian languages.

Persons in news:

Armen Sarkisian: Armenian lawmakers elected **Armen Sarkisian** as the new president of Armenia. He will succeed Serzh Sarkisian. Armen Sarkisian was the ambassador to the United Kingdom. He will assume presidential duties after his predecessor steps down in April 2018.

The political shift comes after President Sarkisian in 2015 initiated controversial constitutional amendments to turn the impoverished Moscow-allied country into a parliamentary republic with a powerful Prime Minister