

# Programme Information Highlights

## March 2016



### Happening this month...

#### Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March

US Presidential Election – Super Tuesday

Super Tuesday is the day when the greatest number of states hold political primary elections, caucuses and conventions to determine their candidates for President.

#### Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March

Announcement of new IMF chief expected

The appointment of current Managing Director Christine Lagarde expires on July 5<sup>th</sup> 2016.

#### Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March – Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March

New Zealand flag referendum

New Zealanders vote on a new design for their country's flag. The final result will be declared on 30<sup>th</sup> March.

#### Monday 7<sup>th</sup> - Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March

Chinese National People's Congress

China's annual National People's Congress in Beijing's Great Hall of the People is the only full session of the Congress, when some 3,000 delegates come from across China to meet.

#### Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March

State visit to the UK by the King and Queen of Spain

King Felipe VI and Queen Letizia of Spain will stay at Windsor Castle. The last State Visit from Spain was by King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia in 1986.

#### Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March

Full Solar Eclipse

A total solar eclipse will be visible from Sumatra, Borneo, Sulawesi and from locations in the Pacific ocean. The eclipse will begin at 23:20 UTC on March 8 with the maximum point of the eclipse occurring at 02:00 UTC on March 9.



ANTALYA, TURKEY: A view of the full solar eclipse seen 29 March 2006 in Antalya, Southern coast of Turkey. Total solar eclipses occur when the Moon comes between the Earth and the Sun, completely obscuring the solar disk for a few minutes. AFP PHOTO/CEM TURKEL (Photo credit should read CEM TURKEL/AFP/Getty Images)

#### Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March

5th Anniversary of Japan Earthquake, Tsunami and Fukushima nuclear disaster

On this day in 2011 one of the most powerful earthquakes ever recorded struck off the coast of North Eastern Japan, triggering a huge tsunami. Almost 16,000 people died and more than 2,500 are still listed as missing. The Fukushima Daiichi plant suffered a series of meltdowns following the massive earthquake and tsunami. It was the worst nuclear disaster since the 1986 accident at Chernobyl in Ukraine.

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## Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March

Syria conflict started 5 years ago

Over 250,000 Syrians have lost their lives in five years of armed conflict, which began with anti-government protests before escalating into a full-scale civil war. 11 million others have been forced from their homes.

## Thursday 17<sup>th</sup>– Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March

IAAF Indoor World Championships, Portland, OR, USA

Nearly 700 athletes from 154 federations will compete in the 16th edition of the championships - the largest ever to be held in North America.

## Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March

WWF Earth Hour

Earth Hour is an annual global celebration where people switch off their lights for one hour to show they care about the future of the planet.

## Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March

Ten years since the first tweet was sent

On the 21<sup>st</sup> March 2006 Twitter founder and CEO Jack Dorsey sent the first ever tweet: 'just setting up my twttr'. Twitter now has over 300 million users.

## Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March

Easter Sunday

Easter is the most important festival in the Christian calendar when Christians around the world celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ, three days after he was executed.

## Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March

Myanmar – new President takes office

Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) won a landslide victory in November and so will control the next parliament and choose the next president. According to the constitution Ms Suu Kyi cannot be President but she has said that she will be 'above' the president.



Aung San Suu Kyi speaks onstage during a campaign rally for the National League for Democracy in Yangon on November 1, 2015. AFP PHOTO / Ye Aung THU (Photo credit should read Ye Aung Thu/AFP/Getty Images)