

SSC & Railways

Weekly Current Affairs
(22-31 Jan)



Weekly One Liner Updates 22-31st January 2019

Dear readers,

Weekly One Liner Updates is a collection of important news and events that occurred in the **fourth week** (22-31) of **January 2019**. This file is important for, **SSC & Railways** exams.

Important News - India

1. The largest defence exercise coordinated by Indian Navy ___ **'Sea Vigil'**.

Note:

- It has begun in entire 7516.6 km coastline and exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of India.
- It's a build-up towards the major theatre-level tri-service exercise TROPEX conducted by the Navy.
- Sea Vigil and TROPEX together will cover the entire spectrum of maritime security including the transition from peace to conflict.

2. India Steel 2019 Exhibition and Conference held in _____ **Mumbai**.

Note:

- The event provided an opportunity for all the stakeholders to deliberate and identify ways to contribute toward building a robust roadmap for the further growth of the steel sector.
- Around 10 thousand business visitors both from India and abroad are expected to visit.
- The event organized by the Ministry of Steel will help chart out the future growth path of the steel industry.

3. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose museum at Red Fort (in Delhi) to mark the leader's _____ **122nd birth anniversary**.

Note:

- The museum showcases various artefacts related to Subhash Chandra Bose and Indian National Army.
- The Prime Minister also visited the Yaad-e-Jallian Museum, which provides an authentic account of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre (held on 13th April 1919).
- The museum also showcases the heroism, valour and sacrifices made by Indian soldiers during the World War-I.

4. AYUSH Minister Shripad Naik has inaugurated the 2nd World Integrated Medicine Forum 2019 in _____ **Goa**.

Note:

- The organizers of the forum are the Central Council for Research in Homeopathy, under the Ministry of AYUSH.
- The regulation of homoeopathic medicinal products is highly variable worldwide.
- The forum will explore and illustrate the potential benefits and pitfalls of bilateral and multilateral collaboration and advance global cooperation on a synergistic basis.

5. As per Crisil report, state has been ranked the top state in terms of GSDP (Gross State Domestic Product) growth in financial year 2017-18 ___ **Bihar**.

Note:

- Bihar has been ranked the top state in terms of GSDP (Gross State Domestic Product) growth in financial year 2017-18,
- The state has topped the list by clocking 11.3 percent GSDP growth in fiscal 2018. It was ranked at eighth spot in fiscal 2017 with 9.9 percent GSDP growth.
- The second spot has been secured by Andhra Pradesh, whose GSDP growth in FY18 jumped to 11.2 percent. Gujarat listed third with growth of 11.1 percent.

6. The Centre is looking at allowing non-resident Indians to subscribe to municipal bonds issued by various urban local bodies, especially for ___ **'Swachh Bharat' projects**.

Note:

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs is currently looking at letting a part of these bonds be issued for subscription by overseas Indians, specifically for Swachh Bharat activities," according to Manoj Bharti, Additional Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs.



- Municipal bonds are debt obligations issued by municipal bodies and municipal corporates to fund day-to-day needs and to finance.
7. 15th Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas concludes in ___ **Varanasi**.
- Note:**
- The theme of PBD Convention 2019 was "Role of Indian Diaspora in building New India".
 - They will then proceed to Delhi on 25th January and witness the Republic Day Parade at New Delhi on 26th January.
8. Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba today commissioned the new Naval Air Base 'INS Kohassa' at ___ **Diglipur**.
- Note:**
- The new airbase, named 'INS Kohassa' at Diglipur, will be used to handle operations of helicopters and small aircraft like the Dornier.
 - The airport at Diglipur will be utilized for both Defence and civil aircraft.
9. South Africa President was the Chief Guest at the Republic Day Parade 2019___ **Cyril Ramaphosa**.
- Note:**
- He is the second President of South Africa after Nelson Mandela to be the Chief Guest at the parade.
 - In 2018, leaders from the 10 ASEAN nations – Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, and Brunei – were the chief guests at Republic Day celebration.
10. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a 'Yojana' under which a group of Indian diaspora will be taken on a government-sponsored tour of religious places in India twice a year___ Pravasi Teerth Darshan Yojana'.
- Note:**
- Prime Minister Modi also inaugurated the Centers of Excellence at Deen Dayal Hastkala Sankul in Varanasi.
 - He also released two books – 'Kashi: The Universe of Crafts and Textiles' and 'Indian Textiles: History, Splendour, Grandeur'.
11. Beating Retreat ceremony held at the historic ___ **Vijay Chowk, New Delhi**.
- Note:**
- This year, 15 Military Bands, 15 Pipes and Drums Bands from Regimental Centres and Battalions are participating in Beating the Retreat ceremony.
 - The 'Beating Retreat' ceremony is held here every year on 29th January, marking the culmination of the four-day-long Republic Day celebrations.
 - The ceremony traces its origins to the early 1950s when Major Roberts of the Indian Army developed the unique ceremony of display by the massed bands.
12. Who has partnered with French company Be-Bound to offer data connectivity through SMS in areas where there is no Internet connectivity or signal breaks___ **BSNL**.
- Note:**
- Both the companies signed a business partnership agreement to jointly market the service in India.
 - The technology will be embedded in mobile apps. The app will send a command to Be-Bound server in case it does not get data connectivity for SMS-based connectivity.
 - "Be-Bound server will facilitate SMS connectivity after getting a command from the app
13. Director General of Ministry of Tourism Shri Satyaajeet Rajan has inaugurated the six-day cultural extravaganza Bharat Parv (4th edition) in ___ **Delhi**.
- Note:**
- The objective of the event is to generate a patriotic mood, promote the rich cultural diversity of the country and to ensure wider participation of the general public.
 - The Bharat Parvis also hosting Theme State Pavilions where each State showcases its strength along with its tourism products.
14. Ministry of Defence has launched a mobile app with the intent of making available the highlights of the Republic Day event New Delhi_ RDP India 2019'.
- Note:**



- It is a new initiative in sync with the Digital India campaign of the Government.
- It also includes details of the tableaux presented by different States and Ministries, children cultural performances, fly past and names of recipients of Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2019.

15. The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Ropar has developed an Android app____ **Roshni**.

Note:

- It would help the Visually Impaired to recognise currency notes in Chandigarh.
- The Roshni app can recognise both old and new notes and gives audio information as to which note you are holding in your hands.

16. India's fastest indigenous train which will run from Delhi to Varanasi has been named as____ '**Vande Bharat Express**'.

Note:

- It is a train built completely in India by Indian engineers in a span of 18 months and it is an example that it is possible to make world-class trains under Make in India.
- The 16-coach train has been built by the Integral Coach Factory, Chennai and cover the distance in 8 hours.
- The train will be fully air-conditioned and will stop at Kanpur and Allahabad.

17. The HRD Ministry has signed an agreement with Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) for India's Participation in _____ **Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2021**.

Note:

- The student assessment by PISA will ensure learning outcome through education.

States News

1. The state Government has announced a hike of Rs 200 per month in the social security pension under Madhu Babu Pension Yojana (MBPY) ____ **Odisha**.

Note:

- It will come into effect from 15th February 2019.
- The Madhu Babu Pension Yojana (MBPY) is a pension scheme under the Department of Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities for the disabled, old age persons in the state of Odisha.
- The Scheme was instituted by merging the two pension schemes i.e. namely, Revised Old Age Pension Rules, 1989 and Disability Pension Rules, 1985.

2. In Assam, Railway Protection Force (RPF) Women Squad launched in Guwahati ____**JOYMATI BAHINI**.

Note:

- The Objective of the Joymati Bahini is to strengthen women security around Guwahati region within railway premises and trains.

3. The Union Minister Nitin Gadkari laid the foundation stones of 6 Namami Gange projects in ____**Agra and Mathura**.

Note:

- Rehabilitation of sewerage infrastructure and augmentation/ upgradation of STP at Vrindavan at a sanctioned cost of 33.82 crore rupees.
- The projects in Agra include comprehensive Sewerage Scheme for the city with 'One-City-One-Operator' approach on Hybrid Annuity Mode for creating new STPs of 176 MLD, upgradation, rehabilitation of old plants and O&M for 15 years.

4. Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister 'Pema Khandu' has declared Pakke Paga Hornbill Festival (PPHF) as the 'State Festival' at____ **Seijosa, East Kameng**.

Note:

- Arunachal Pradesh Forest Department will fund the festival from 2020 and permanent infrastructure will be constructed for the festival ground.
- The PPHF festival was celebrated first time in 2015 to recognize the role played by the resident Nyishi tribe in conserving hornbills in the Pakke Tiger Reserve (PTR).

5. Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari dedicated to the nation Kerrian Gandyal bridge in ____**Jammu and Kashmir**.

Note:

- The 1.2 km long bridge has been constructed over river Ravi in Kathua district at a cost of rupees 158.84 crore.



- This will reduce the distance between the two cities from 45 kms to 8.6 kms and benefit over 2,20,000 people living on the two sides – Kathua (Jammu) and Pathankot (Punjab).
6. The state Government has announced “Jiban Sampark” project for the welfare of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups at the annual Adivasi Mela-2019___ **Odisha**.
- Note:**
- The Jiban Sampark Project undertaken in association with UNICEF to generate awareness among Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) in Odisha.
 - The focus areas of Jiban Sampark Project are skill development, empowering communities, cooperation and innovation among the groups.
7. The state govt. has partnered with private sector lender YES Bank to onboard fair price shops (FPS) as Business Correspondent Agents___ **Maharashtra**.
- Note:**
- “YES Bank will onboard close to 40 percent of all fair price shops in Maharashtra, spanning 12 districts such as Palghar, Thane, Pune, Kolhapur, Latur.
8. Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for All India Institutes of Medical Sciences, (AIIMS) at ___**Madurai**.
- Note:**
- Mr Modi also dedicated a dozen Post Office Pass Port Seva Kendras to the nation.
 - In Kerala, Mr Modi unveiled a plaque to dedicate to the nation an integrated refinery expansion complex of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited and laid the foundation stone for a petrochemical complex in Kochi.
9. Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has inaugurated four-lane setu in Panaji, Goa __**Atal Setu**.
- Note:**
- This is the third bridge across Mandovi River.
 - This bridge would overcome the bottlenecks and curb traffic jams at Panaji Circle and Panaji entrance.
10. The state Government has obtained the permission to develop the Tulip garden___ **Uttarakhand**.
- Note:**
- It will be the second Tulip garden (first in Srinagar, J&K) in the country.
 - It will be developed by ONGC (Oil and Natural Gas Corporation), under its CSR program in over 50 hectares of forest land near Chandak hilltop in Pithoragarh district at a cost of Rs. 50 cr.
11. Nagaland Chief Minister Mr Neiphiu Rio has inaugurated the state’s first Astro Turf Football Pitch at Indira Gandhi Stadium in ___**Kohima**.
- Note:**
- The Astroturf has been installed under norms of FIFA.
 - It will begin the process of sports development regarding football in Nagaland.
12. Ministry of Textiles Smriti Zubin Irani has presided the National Conclave on Technical Textiles in___ **Mumbai**.
- Note:**
- Technical textiles are textile material and products manufactured primarily for technical performance and functional properties.
 - The event will also be a curtain raiser for TechnoTex 2019.
13. The state government has decided to form a 'State Tiger Protection Force' to save the Big Cat population in the State___ **Telangana**.
- Note:**
- The STPF armed (112-member) will be headed by an Assistant Conservator of Forests to protect tiger population in Amarabad and Kawal Tiger Reserves.

Important News – World

1. Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro announced that the country has cut off diplomatic relations with the___ **United States**.



Note:

- The United States has rejected Maduro's move to break diplomatic ties, saying it did not think he had the authority to cut ties and it would conduct relations with a government led by opposition leader Juan Guaido.
 - The European Union has called for the immediate start of the political process in the South American nation.
2. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched a students' satellite Kalamsat and an imaging satellite Microsat-R from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in ____ **Sriharikota**.

Note:

- Kalamsat is a payload developed by students and Chennai based Space Kidz India for the first time.
 - The Microsat-R satellite is meant for the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) purposes.
3. Indian Africa Field Training Exercise (IAFTX)-2019 is scheduled to be conducted at Aundh Military Station and College of Military Engineering ____ **Pune**.

Note:

- The joint training exercise is being conducted with more than a dozen African countries & India. It aims at synergizing humanitarian mine action and joint peace operations.
 - The IAFTX-2019 is a positive step towards growing political and military ties with the member nations of the African continent and will boost the already strong strategic cooperation between the countries.
4. The Union Cabinet has approved the signing Memorandum of Understanding between India and Kuwait for cooperation on the Recruitment of ____ **Domestic Workers**.

Note:

- The MOU provides a structured framework for cooperation on domestic workers related matters and provides strengthened safeguards for Indian domestic workers including female workers deployed in Kuwait.
 - The MOU is initially valid for a period of five years and incorporates provision for automatic renewal.
 - Around 3,00,000 Indian domestic workers deployed in Kuwait would be major beneficiaries. This includes around 90,000 female domestic workers.
5. The Oxford Dictionaries has announced the Hindi Word of the Year 2018 ____ **Nari Shakti**.

Note:

- The word was selected by the Oxford Dictionaries (India) with help of a panel of language experts.
 - Nari Shakti (derived from Sanskrit), broken down, the word 'nari' means women and 'shakti' means power.
6. Pakistan Govt. has declared the "national drink" of the country ____ **sugarcane juice**.

Note:

- According to the Twitter poll, 7,616 people or 81% cast their votes favouring sugarcane juice, 15% voted for orange juice while 4% chose carrot.
- People were asked to decide on the country's national drink with two other options (orange and carrot).

Honor & Awards

1. US based Indian poet has been awarded the "Woman's Voice Award" at the Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival (AKLF) ____ **Ranjani Murali**.

Note:

- The Objective of the award is to recognize and encourage creative writing by women in India.
 - Ranjani's first book "Blind Screens" was published in July 2017.
 - Her second book "Clearly you are ESL" won the Great Indian Poetry Collectives (GIPCs) Editor's Choice award.
 - The award carries a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh apart from a citation.
2. Member of Parliament (MP) Lok Sabha has been bestowed with Sansad Ratna Award for his distinguished performance as a parliamentarian under Jury Committee Special Award category ____ **Anurag Thakur**.

Note:

- He has become the first BJP MP to receive the Jury Committee award.
- In 2010, the Sansad Ratna Awards were set up after a suggestion from former President Dr A. P. J Abdul Kalam.
- The idea was to honour parliamentarians who perform.



3. Noted Gujarati poet Sitanshu Yashashchandra has been awarded Saraswati Samman, 2017, for his poetry collection in Gujarati named ____ **Vakhar**.
- Note:**
- The award comprises of a citation and a plaque apart from award money of 15 lakh rupees.
 - Yashashchandra, recipient of the Padmashri in 2006, is known for seamlessly blending history with poetry.
 - He has explored politics of the times, the larger and more immediate human conditions in his award-winning work "Vakhar"
4. India-set short film gets Oscars nomination ____ **Period. End of Sentence**".
- Note:**
- Award-winning filmmaker Rayka Zehtabchi has directed the short film, which has been produced by Guneet Monga's Sikhya Entertainment.
 - The documentary feature is set in Hapur village outside Delhi, where women lead a quiet revolution as they fight against the deeply rooted stigma of menstruation.
5. Who conferred with Ashok Chakra __ **Lance Naik Nazir Ahmad Wani**.
- Note:**
- Lance Naik Wani (38-years) laid down his life during an anti-terror operation at Shopian in Kashmir in November last year, will be conferred with the Ashoka Chakra, India's highest peacetime gallantry award.
 - Ashok Chakra is the highest peacetime military decoration for valour, courageous action or self-sacrifice away from the battlefield.
6. Who has become India's only port to get listed among the top 30 global container ports __ **Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT)**.
- Note:**
- "The JNPT, India's premier container port got listed amongst the top 30 container ports globally, as per the latest Lloyds Report.
 - According to the shipping ministry, JNPT notched up five spots, to be 28th on the list, compared to its previous ranking.
 - It is located Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra.
7. Pranab Mukherjee (Former president), Nanaji Deshmukh (Bharatiya Jana Sangh leader) and Bhupen Hazarika (singer) were conferred the country's highest civilian award ____ **Bharat Ratna**.
- Note:**
- In an official statement, the government said Deshmukh and Hazarika have conferred the award posthumously.
 - Pranab Mukherjee, fondly known as 'Pranab Da', was the president between 2012 and 2017.
 - The Bharat Ratna has been conferred after a gap of four years.
 - This year 112 recipients have been selected for the prestigious awards. This includes 4 Padma Vibhushan, 14 Padma Bhushan and 94 Padma Shri awards.
8. The Union government has instituted an annual award titled ____ **Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar**.
- Note:**
- It will be announced every year on 23rd January, the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.
 - The Award carries a certificate and a cash prize of 51 lakh rupees.
9. Who has been awarded the best Miniratna PSU (public sector undertaking) in strategic performance (Financial Category) __ **Numaligarh Refinery Limited' (NRL)**.
- Note:**
- The award was presented to S K Barua (MD of NRL) by Member of Parliament Manoj Tiwari and Poonam Dhillon at an award function held in New Delhi.
 - The company was awarded for its efforts in the country's growth and strategic performance.
10. Assam Government has given the Republic Day Journalism Award 2019 to Veteran journalist) ____ **Dhirendra Nath Chakraborty**.



Note:

- Chakraborty has been honoured for his lifelong contribution to journalism in the state.
- The award comprises Rupees one lakh in cash, a citation, the Assamese 'xoraai' (the bell metal memento presented as an honour), 'jaapi' (headgear) and an angavastra.

11. Railway zone has bagged the number one position for cleanliness in all the 17 railway zones in the country __**Southern Railway zone.**

Note:

- This achievement was under the category of other than Premium Category trains in the recent Trains Cleanliness Survey conducted by IRCTC on all India level.

Banking & Financial Awareness

1. The central banks of the UAE and Saudi Arabia have launched a common digital currency called __**Aber.**

Note:

- It will be used in financial settlements between the two countries through Blockchains and Distributed Ledgers technologies.
- It will establish an additional means for the central financial transfer systems of the two countries and enable banks to directly deal with each other in conducting financial remittances.

2. As per International Monetary Fund (IMF) report, India will grow this year at ____**7.5%.**

Note:

- The IMF attributed the pick up to lower oil prices and a slower pace of monetary tightening.
- Earlier, Price water house Cooper's Global Economy Watch said that India is likely to surpass the United Kingdom in the world's largest economy rankings this year.

3. The Reserve Bank Of India has approved the appointment of V Vaidyanathan as Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of __**IDFC First Bank.**

Note:

- In December 2018, IDFC Bank and non-banking financial company Capital First completed their merger, creating a combined loan asset book of Rs 1.03 lakh crore for the merged entity IDFC First Bank.

4. According to Nepal's central bank circular, Indian currency of denominations cannot be carried and used for trading __**Rs. 200, Rs.500 and Rs. 2,000.**

Note:

- Under the new regulation, Nepali citizens cannot carry these denominations to countries other than India.
- Indian notes of Rs 100 or below, are allowed for trading and conversion.
- The Indian government introduced new banknotes of Rs 2,000, Rs 500 and Rs 200 denominations after the demonetisation of old notes worth Rs 500 and 1,000 in 2016.

5. The Union Cabinet approved the creation of a national bench of the Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) located in __**New Delhi.**

Note:

- The GSTAT will be presided over by its president and will consist of one Technical Member (Centre) and one Technical Member (State).
- The creation of GSTAT's national bench will cost one-time expenditure of Rs 92.50 lakh while the recurring expenditure will 6.86 crore per year.

6. Agyey Kumar Azad joins Punjab National Bank (PNB) as a new __**Executive Director.**

Note:

- At present, PNB has two Executive Directors.
- The other existing Executive Director is LV Prabhakar.

7. RBI has decided to conduct purchase of government securities under Open Market Operations (OMOs) in February for an aggregate amount of __**Rs 375 billion.**



Note:

- Three auctions of Rs 125 billion each during the 2nd, 3rd and 4th week of February 2019 (no auction during the first week).
- RBI has been monitoring the evolving liquidity conditions and durable liquidity requirements of the system.
- An open market operation (OMO) is an activity by a central bank to give (or take) liquidity in its currency to (or from) a bank or a group of banks.

8. India's rank on the Global Talent Competitive Index (GTCL) 2019 ____ **80th positions.**

Note:

- The index is released by INSEAD business school in partnership with Tata Communications and Adecco Group.
- China emerged as the best performer among the BRICS countries, with an overall position of 45th.
- Switzerland topped the index which is followed by Singapore and the US.
- Last year in 2018, India was ranked at 81st.

9. Who has appointed as the MD & CEO of private sector lender Yes Bank ____ **Ravneet Gill.**

Note:

- Currently, Gill is the India chief of foreign lender Deutsche Bank.
- He will replace present MD & CEO of Yes Bank Rana Kapoor whose term ends on January 31.
- Gill, joined Deutsche Bank in 1991 and became its India CEO in July 2012.

10. According to the UN's World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) 2019, India's GDP growth is expected to accelerate in 2019-20 ____ **7.6 %.**

Note:

- The growth rate may come down to 7.4 percent a year later.
- India will continue to remain the world's fastest-growing large economy in 2019 as well as in 2020, much ahead of China.

11. According to the Crisil Ratings, India's growth rate is likely to inch up in 2019-20 ____ **7.3 %.**

Note:

- India is expected to clock a growth rate of 7.2 percent in the current financial year, up from 6.7 percent in 2017-18.
- "In fiscal 2020, Crisil expects GDP to grow 7.3 percent on assumptions- normal rains, oil prices lower than 2018, stable political outcome," the rating agency said in its 'India Outlook FY20'.

12. Private sector Lakshmi Vilas Bank has reappointed managing director ____ **Parthasarathi Mukherjee.**

Note:

- He will hold the position another two years from January 25.
- Mukherjee joined the bank for three years and had brought positive changes initially before the piling up bad loans hit profitability.

13. Goods and Services Tax (GST) on Haj has been reduced from 18% to ____ **5%.**

Note:

- This will significantly lower the air fare thus saving Haj pilgrims' 113 crore rupees this year.
- First time since the independence, 2,340 women from India will go on 2019 Haj without Mehram.

Important Dates

1. The National girl child day is celebrated every year on ____ **24th January.**

Note:

- The theme this year is 'Empowering Girls for a Brighter Tomorrow'.
- The Women and Child Development Ministry has organized an event in Delhi to observe the anniversary of 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' scheme. Women and Child Development Minister Maneka Gandhi will be the Chief Guest.
- This mission raises awareness among people all over the country about the importance of girl's promotion.



2. The 'Anti-Leprosy Day' observed every year on the Martyrdom Day of ___ **Mahatma Gandhi**.

Note:

- A campaign Leprosy Awareness Campaign 'Sparsh' has been organized in all the Gram Sabhas throughout the country by the Central Leprosy Division of the Health Ministry.
- The campaign carries the important information about the disease to help affected people.

3. Uttar Pradesh is celebrating its 69th foundation day ___ **24th January**.

Note:

- To celebrate the occasion the main function was organized at Awadh Shilp Gram in Lucknow.
- Uttar Pradesh was earlier known as United Province but through a Gazette notification, it got its name of Uttar Pradesh on January 24, 1950.

4. India is celebrating National Voters Day across the country__ **25th January**.

Note:

- This year, India marks the 9th edition of the National Voters Day.
- The Indian Election Commission was set up on January 25, 1950. Therefore, since 2011, it has been decided to celebrate National Voters Day on this day.

5. Himachal Pradesh is celebrating its 49th Statehood Day___25th Jan,

Note:

- On 18 December 1970 the State of Himachal Pradesh Act was passed by Parliament and the new state came into being on 25 January 1971 making it the 18th state of India.
- S. Parmar became the state's first chief minister.

Obituaries

1. Renowned Lingayat seer popularly known as 'walking God' passes away at Tumakuru, Karnataka___ **Shivakumar Swami**.

Note:

- Shivakumara Swami was born on 1st April 1907 in Veerapura village of Ramanagara, Karnataka.
- Shivakumar Swami supervised the growth of Siddaganga by expanding the number of educational institutions of the Mutt from 4 (in 1940) to over 70 at present in Karnataka.

2. Former India hockey player passed away recently___ **Raghubir Singh Bhola**.

Note:

- Bhola represented India in the **1956 Melbourne** (winning gold) and **1960 Rome Olympics** (winning silver medals), respectively for the country.
- He was two-time Olympic medallist, Arjuna awardee and a passionate field hockey player.

3. Senior journalist passed away at his residence in Kochi___ **Gopinath Kochattil**.

Note:

- He authored 'Njaan Kanda Europe' one of the earliest travelogues in Malayalam.
- Kochattil worked for several publications including Patriot, Morning Post, Hong Kong Standard, South China Morning Post and Deccan Herald.
- He served as the executive director of the online wing of Kerala Kaumudi.

4. Legendary Hindi writer passed away in Delhi__ **Krishna Sobti**.

Note:

- Sobti began her writings in poetry and then went on to write fiction which won her several awards.
- Sobti was awarded the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1980 and the Jnanpith award in 2017 for her contribution to Indian literature.
- Sobti has also received the Shiromani Award in 1981 and Hindi Academy Award in 1982.
- In 2018, she released her autobiographical novel — 'Gujarat Pakistan se Gujarat Hindustan'.



5. The Pulitzer Prize-winning writer who penned thousands of columns for The New York Times, passed away __ **Russell Baker**.

Note:

- Russell Baker won the Pulitzer Prize for commentary in 1979.
- It was the first Pulitzer for commentary awarded to a humorist.

6. Oscar-winning French composer passed away __ **Michel Legrand**.

Note:

- Legrand wrote over 200 film and TV scores, as well as songs (Known for his often jazz-tinged music).
- Michel Legrand won three Oscars and five Grammys during a career spanning more than half a century.
- In 1969, he won the first Oscar for the song 'The Windmills of Your Mind' from the film 'The Thomas Crown Affair'.
- This was followed with Oscars for his music for 'Summer of '42' (in 1972) and for 'Yentl' (in 1984).

7. Former Defence Minister passed away in New Delhi __ **George Fernandes**.

Note:

- Mr Fernandes also served as Union Minister for Railways, Communications and Industry.
- He was elected to the Lok Sabha nine times and once to the Rajya Sabha.
- As President of the All India Railwaymen's Federation, he led the Railway strike involving 1.5 million workers(in 1974), resulting in thousands being sent to jail.

New Appointments

1. Who has been sworn in as President of Madagascar at the capital city of Antananarivo __ **Andry Rajoelina**.

Note:

- High Constitutional Court had declared him as the winner with 55.66% of the votes.
- The oath-taking ceremony was attended by a delegation from 35 countries and international organizations.
- It is the first time in the history of the country since its independence that a democratic power transfer and a peaceful power transition took place between two elected Presidents.

2. Who has been appointed as the interim finance minister, with Arun Jaitley undergoing surgery in the US __ **Piyush Goyal**.

Note:

- Currently the minister for railways and coal, Goyal will also be interim minister for corporate affairs, the government said.
- Arun Jaitley will remain a minister without portfolio.

3. Who has been named as the Malaysia's new king __ **Sultan Abdullah**.

Note:

- The leaders of Malaysia's royal houses, known as the Conference of Rulers, elected the 59-year-old Sultan Abdullah to a five-year term under a system of rotational monarchy that is unique to Malaysia.

4. Christophe Joseph Marie Dabiré has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of __ **Burkina Faso**.

Note:

- Dabiré, a former commissioner representing Burkina Faso at the West African Economic and Monetary Union, served as a minister under former president Blaise Compaoré, with Roch Marc Christian Kaboré as prime minister between 1994 to 1996.

5. Who has been appointed as the Regional Director of World Health Organization (WHO) South-East Asia __ **Poonam Khetrpal Singh**.

Note:

- She is the first woman to become regional director of WHO South-East Asia Region.
- Dr Khetrpal Singh started her fiveyear term as Regional Director on 1 February 2014.



Sports News

1. French sailor has won the round-the-world yacht race after 212 days alone at sea without modern instruments ___ **Jean-Luc Van Den Heede**.
Note:
 - He became the oldest to complete the 30,000-mile Golden Globe race.
 - The race involves solo sailors navigating with a sextant and paper maps and communicating only occasionally with the outside world via short-wave radio.
2. The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced the men's Test and ODI teams of the year ___ **Virat Kohli**.
Note:
 - Virat Kohli (30-years) has become the first player to win the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for ICC Cricketer of the Year, as well as the ICC Men's Test Player of the Year and the ICC ODI Player of the Year awards.
 - Kohli has also been named the captain of ICC's Test and ODI teams of 2018 for a fabulous run in international cricket.
3. Who has announced a bonus of 20 lakh rupees each for the senior selection committee members following India's maiden Test series win in Australia ___ **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)**.
Note:
 - Virat Kohli led India to a historic 2-1 win in the four-Test series before capping the Australian tour with a maiden 2-1 triumph in the ODI series.
 - Earlier, The BCCI had announced cash awards of 15 lakh rupees per match for each of the playing eleven that featured in India's maiden Test series win on Australian soil.
 - The Indian board had also announced cash awards for all the reserve players, as well as the members of the support staff.
4. Who has become the fastest Indian bowler to claim 100 ODI wickets ___ **Mohammed Shami**.
Note:
 - Mohammed Shami has become the fastest Indian bowler to claim 100 ODI wickets (in the 56th match), during the ODI match against New Zealand at Napier.
 - Earlier, India's record held by Irfan Pathan (in 59th matches) in 2006.
 - Currently, the World record held by the Rashid Khan (Afghanistan leg-spinner), reached the mark in just 44 ODI games.
5. The ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2020 event will take place later in the year from ___ **18 October to 15th November**.
Note:
 - The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced fixtures for the ICC T20 World Cup 2020 (Australia) in 2020.
 - The Indian men's cricket team is in Group 2, which also includes England, South Africa, Afghanistan and two qualifiers.
6. The ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2020 women's event will take place from ___ **21st February to 8 March**.
Note:
 - This edition marks the first occasion when the men and women tournaments will be held as standalone events in the same year and in the same country.
 - India women are in Group A along with Australia, Sri Lanka, New Zealand and Qualifier 1.
7. Former South Africa all-rounder has announced his immediate retirement from all forms of cricket ___ **Johan Botha**.
Note:
 - Botha played for South Africa in five Test matches, 78 one-day internationals and 40 T20 Internationals from 2005 to 2012.
 - Botha captained the Proteas in 10 ODIs and took the team to the No. 1 ranking after they defeated Australia 4-1 in Australia in 2009.
8. India's Ace shuttler won the Indonesia Masters women's singles title ___ **Saina Nehwal**.
Note:
 - Carolina Marin (Spain) limped out of the final due to a leg injury.



- Anders Antonsen (Denmark) has won his first ever Indonesia Masters after defeating world number one Kento Momota (Japan) to claim the 2019 Indonesia Masters title.
- The DAIHATSU Indonesia Masters 2019 is a badminton tournament that takes place at the Istora Gelora Bung Karno in Indonesia and has a total purse of USD 350,000.

9. India's Kartik Sharma has won the New South Wales men's Amateur Golf Championship in ___**Australia**.

Note:

- Kartik (from Gurgaon) win over Australia's Nathan Barberie in the scheduled 36-hole final to emerge as champion.
- He had been selected to represent Indian Golf Union for three events in Australia.

10. Indian cricketer has been suspended from bowling in International Cricket by the International Cricket Council (ICC)_**Ambati Rayudu**.

Note:

- According to ICC, the suspension will remain in place until he is tested and can demonstrate he is able to bowl with legal action.

11. Serbian professional tennis player has won the 7th Australian Open Men's Singles title at Melbourne___ **Novak Djokovic**

Note:

- He defeated Nadal 6-3, 6-2, 6-3 in a largely one-sided match.
- The 2019 Australian Open (107th edition) was a Grand Slam tennis tournament that took place at Melbourne Park (Australia) from 14th to 27th January 2019.

List of winners of Australian Open 2019:

S.No.	Category	Winner	Runner Up
1	Men's Singles	Novak Djokovic (Serbia)	Rafael Nadal (Spain)
2	Women's Singles	Naomi Osaka (Japan)	Petra Kvitova (Czech Republic)
3	Men's Doubles	Pierre-Hugues Herbert (France) & Nicolas Mahut (France)	Henri Kontinen (Finland) & John Peers (Australia)
4	Women's Doubles	Samantha Stosur (Australia) & Zhang Shuai (China)	Tímea Babos (Hungary) & Kristina Mladenovic (France)
5	Mixed Doubles	Barbora Krejčíková (Czech Republic) & Rajeev Ram (United States)	Astra Sharma (Australia) & John-Patrick Smith (Australia)

-----0-----





SSC CGL/CPO/ & RRB GRP. D /ALP/ TECHNICIAN &RPF SI/CONST. & STATE EXAMS 2018

- Based on latest exam pattern
- Available in Hindi & English
- All India Rank & Performance analysis
- Based on latest pattern
- Detailed explanation of Solutions
- Available on Desktop & Mobile

