

SSC & Railways Weekly Current Affairs

(15-31 March)

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Weekly One Liner Updates 15-31st March 2019

Dear readers,

Weekly One Liner Updates is a collection of important news and events that occurred in the **two weeks** (15-31st) of **March 2019**. This file is important for, **SSC & Railways** exams.

Important News - India

1. The latest entrant in the list of agricultural produce with a GI (geographical indication) tag ____Arecanut (supari or betel nut).

Note:

- The Registrar of Geographical Indications, Government of India, accorded a GI tag, 'Sirsi Supari', to areca nut grown in Sirsi, Siddpaur of Uttara Kannada district in Karnataka.
- > The World Intellectual Property Organisation defines GI as a search sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities due to that origin.
- 2. Ministry has partnered with Microsoft India to use the platform Project Sangam of Microsoft on its Swachh Bharat e-Learning Portal_ Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) Ministry.

Note:

- MoHUA has trained more than 110,000 municipal functionaries on best sanitation practices across 4,000 plus cities in India.
- With this partnership, the MoHUA has increased the features on the Swachh Bharat e-Learning Portal.
- 3. Who will adopt Amazon Web Services (AWS) Educate programme to help students gain cloud computing skills including hands-on experience in artificial intelligence (AI) Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur. Note:
 - > The AWS Educate programme is Amazons global initiative to provide students and educators with resources needed to accelerate cloud-related learning and to help power the workforce of tomorrow.
 - The programme offers a robust set of no-cost tools, resources and AWS Promotional Credits for students and educators to boost their cloud skills and experience.
- 4. India and Sri Lanka conducted a joint exercise in Sri Lanka for the year 2018-19_____Mitra Shakti.

Note:

- > It is conducted annually as part of military diplomacy and interaction between armies of two nations.
- The exercise will involve tactical level operations in an international counter-terrorism environment under United Nations mandate.
- 5. According to Airports Council International (ACI) report, India's Airport became the world's 12th busiest airport ____ Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) Delhi.

Note:

- > The preliminary world airport traffic rankings for 2018 has been released by the Airports Council International (ACI).
- The IGI airport saw 6.9 crore domestic and international flyers in 2018, which is 10.2% points higher than the combined passengers of 2017.
- ACI's World Airport Traffic Forecasts also predicts that India will represent the third largest aviation market, in terms of passenger throughput, after the US and China by 2020.

6. Artificial Intelligence, Early Childhood Care Education (ECCE) and Yoga to be part of the curriculum for 2019-20 session in _____ CBSE.

Note:

- > The CBSE is set to introduce Artificial Intelligence (AI), and Yoga as skill subjects in the school curriculum for the upcoming academic session.
- > The CBSE is introducing artificial intelligence as an optional 6th subject at Class IX from the session 2019-2020 onwards.
- 7. India's Wing Commander has gone back to his squadron in Srinagar____ Abhinandan Varthaman.

Note:

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- > Abhinandan Varthaman was captured by Pakistan last month and returned to India two days later.
- The IAF pilot went on leave around 12 days ago after security agencies completed a nearly two-week debriefing after his return from Pakistan.
- After his four-week sick leave period, a medical board will review his fitness to help the IAF top brass decide whether he can return to fighter cockpit as desired by him.
- 8. India conducted its first anti-satellite (ASAT) missile test successfully destroying a low earth orbit satellite in space by using a missile which covered distance of _____300 km.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared the test, called 'Mission Shakti', successful in a specially televised announcement.
- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) developed Ballistic Missile, Defence Interceptor Missile successfully engaged an Indian orbiting target satellite in Low Earth Orbit (LEO) in a Hit to Kill mode from Dr A P J Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha.
- With this, India is only the fourth country to acquire such a specialized and modern capability after the US, Russia and China.
- 9. Who has prohibited imparting distance degree programmes in agriculture____University Grants Commission (UGC). Note:
 - > The decision was taken by the **higher education** regulator.
 - > A degree programme in **agriculture** is technical in nature as it requires practical or laboratory courses.
 - > The **Union agriculture ministry** had referred the matter to the commission.
 - As per UGC Open and Distance Learning Regulations, 2017, professional programmes (like medicine, engineering, architecture, nursing, dental, pharmacy and physiotherapy) are not permitted to be offered in distance mode.
- 10. Former Vice President of India Hamid Ansari has launched Navin Chawla's (former Chief Election Commissioner of India) new

book titled _____Every Vote Counts.

Note:

- This book is about how the electoral machinery works in India.
- > The book explains about India is on the cusp of change, and with its parliamentary elections coming up.
- 11. Who has become the first Indian low-cost airline to join International Air Transport Association (IATA) ____ SpiceJet.

Note:

- SpiceJet has joined global airlines' grouping International Air Transport Association (IATA) as a member, becoming the first Indian low-cost carrier to get the membership.
- > The IATA represents more than 290 airlines, including Air India, Jet Airways and Vistara.
- > The IATA membership is significant on account of SpiceJet's plans for rapidly expanding its international footprint.
- SpiceJet is the first Indian low-cost carrier to be an IATA member and fifth member of IATA in India.
- **12.** Indian Air Force participated in Langkawi International Maritime Aero Expo in Malaysia ____LIMA 2019.

Note:

- Indian Air Force is participating in the Expo for the first time and it will showcase its indigenously developed LCA fighter aircraft.
- It will provide an opportunity to air-warriors to interact with their Royal Malaysian Air Force counterparts and foster close relationship between the two services.
- > This will also serve as a foundation for any future interaction with the Malaysian Air Force.
- 13. Who has presented its report on the sample size of Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) slip counting to the Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora Indian Statistical Institute.

Note:

- According to the commission, it had engaged the Indian Statistical Institute to systematically analyze and scientifically examine the issue of VVPAT Slip verification with an electronic count of the Electronic Voting Machines.
- **14.** The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has launched a new podcast app _____Shiksha Vani.

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Note:

- > This app will disseminate crucial information to students and parents in a timely manner.
- According to CBSE, its first episode, on the evaluation process of Class 10 and 12 board examinations, has been released on the platform.

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> As the examinations proceed, the episode helps students understand how their completed papers will be evaluated.

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- 15. Mr. N.K. Singh (Chairman-15th Finance Commission of India) has launched the book ____Indian Fiscal Federalism.
 Note:
 - The book has been written by Dr. Y. V. Reddy (former RBI Governor) and Chairman of the 14th Finance Commission of India along with Dr. G. R. Reddy, Advisor (Finance) to the Government of Telangana.
- 16. Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Sunil Lanba has inaugurated the Indian Navy's Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Training Facility

(NBCTF) at____ INS Shivaji.

Note:

- > It will help train personnel of naval ships fitted with nuclear, biological and chemical detection and protection systems.
- 17. The Pakistan government has approved a proposal to establish a corridor to visit Sharda Peeth in _____ Pakistan-occupied

Kashmir (PoK).

Note:

- Sharda Peeth is an ancient Hindu temple and cultural site in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.
- It will be the second religious tract after Kartarpur corridor in Pakistan-controlled territory that will connect the two neighbouring nations.
- Former RBI Governor's Mr. Rajan launched his book _____The Third Pillar How Markets and the State leave the Community Behind.

Note:

- The Third Pillar is an important contribution to understanding why, a decade after the crisis, the world's politics and economics remain so brittle.
- > Mr Rajan was the 23rd Governor of the Reserve Bank of India between September 2013 and September 2016.
- 19. Who developed an Artificial Intelligence-based electronic hardware system to detect malaria, tuberculosis, an intestinal parasite, and cervical cancer in milliseconds Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Delhi. Note:
 - The IITD researchers have demonstrated a proof-of-concept (PoC) low-power rapid AI hardware implementation-based microscopy diagnostic support system for four different diseases: Malaria, Tuberculosis, Cervical Cancer and Intestinal Parasite Infection.
 - According to researchers, their system can be used for healthcare access in resource-constrained areas with limited access to human specialists.
 - The work was showcased at Rashtrapati Bhawan and received the prestigious Gandhian Young Technology Innovation Award (GYTI) in 2018.

Important News - World

1. The United States Special Forces Group stationed in Japan involved in a joint exercise with India's National Security Guard (NSG) in __Hyderabad.

Note:

- > The US forces are from the 1st Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group stationed out of Okinawa in Japan.
- The overall aim of the program was to enhance professionalism and the ability to operate together during times of crisis.
- 2. Google's instant messaging mobile app finally shutting down_ Allo.

Note:

- The 'Allo app' uses phone numbers as identifiers, and allows users to exchange messages, files, voice notes and images.
- Google Allo (launched in 2016) was an instant messaging mobile app by Google for the Android and iOS mobile operating systems, with a web client available on Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, and Opera.
- 3. The first BRICS Sherpa meeting under the Presidency of Brazil concluded in ____Brazil.

Note:

- Secretary, Economic Relations in the Ministry of External Affairs, T S Tirumurti led the Indian delegation at the two-day meeting.
- During the meeting, India conveyed its support for the priority areas set out by Brazil, particularly to take forward BRICS cooperation on counter-terrorism in a meaningful and concrete manner with BRICS member countries.

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- 4. According to the UN and government officials, 'Cyclone' has affected more than 1.5 million people in the three southern
- African countries Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi___ Idai.





- Cyclone Idai' killed nearly 150 people, left hundreds more missing and stranded tens of thousands who are cut off from roads and telephones in mainly poor, rural areas
- Hardest hit is Mozambique's central port city of Beira where the airport is closed, electricity is out and many homes have been destroyed.
- 5. The Indian Army began a 10-day military exercise with armed forces of 17 African nations at Aundh Military Station, Pune___AFINDEX-19.

Note:

- A fly past by a set of Advanced Light Helicopters and Cheetah Helicopter of the Indian Army carrying the flags of United Nations, India and the AFINDEX was the highlight of the opening ceremony.
- > The exercise will focus on the exchange of best practices between the participating nations, team building and tactical level operations in the conduct of the UN-mandated tasks.
- **6.** A Pune-based IT firm is developing software for the world's largest ground-based telescope 'Thirty Metre Telescope (TMT)', likely to come up in_____ **Hawaii**.

Note:

- The telescope is being constructed jointly by India, US, China, Japan and Canada and is likely to become operational in the mid-2020s.
- > India is building the telescope's complex optical structure, called the Segment Support Assembly (SSA).
- 7. Indian Coast Guard Ship has become the first-ever Coast Guard ship to visit Sabang, Indonesia_Vijit. Note:
 - > This visit of the coast guard ship follows from the first-ever-visit of Naval Ship INS Sumitra to Sabang in July 2018.
 - Vijit's visit also highlights strengthening cooperation in the area of maritime security and safety between New Delhi and Jakarta.
- 8. The 3rd edition of Namaste Thailand festival was held in _____New Delhi.

Note:

- > The festival aimed at strengthening bilateral ties and increasing cultural exchange between India and Thailand.
- 9. Kazakhstan has renamed its capital Astana to ____Nursultan.

Note:

- Mr Tokayev was sworn in as president some 24 hours after Mr Nazarbayev's surprise resignation.
- **10.** The world's largest e-waste recycling plant has been opened in _____**Dubai.**

Note:

- It will recycle Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE), IT asset disposition (ITAD), refrigerant gas and specialized waste.
- The processing capacity of this recycling hub is 100,000 tones total integrated waste (per year), of which 39,000 tonnes is e-waste.
- > The facility can process the **entire range of WEEE** from consumer and industrial to commercial and military.
- **11.** Indian Navy's **frontline corvette** reached Malaysian archipelago Langkawi____ **INS Kadmatt.**

Note:

- > It will participate in the 15th edition of Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition, LIMA-19.
- INS Kadmatt is an indigenous stealth anti-submarine warfare corvette and was commissioned into the Indian Navy in January 2016.
- > The ship is fitted with state-of-the-art weapons, sensors and machinery.
- **12.** Google unveiled a video-game streaming platform _____Stadia.

Note:

- The platform will store a game-playing session in the cloud and lets players jump across devices operating on Google's Chrome browser and Chrome OS, such as Pixel phones and Chromebooks.
- ➢ Google made the announcement at the Game Developers Conference in San Francisco.

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13. Who has signed a non-binding protocol with China to take part in Beijing's new Silk Road of transport and trade links stretching from Asia to _____Italy.

Note:

- > Italy became the first G7 country to sign up for the project.
- Chinese President Xi Jinping and Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte both attended a ceremony in Rome for the signing of 29 Memoranda of Understanding (MoU), which Italian media said were worth 5.6 to 8 billion US Dollars.





Sri Lankan President handed over a proposal seeking to declare the Theravada Tripitaka as a UNESCO World Heritage_____
 Maithripala Sirisena.

Note:

- The Theravada Tripitaka (sacred scripture of Buddhists) was declared as a National heritage of Sri Lanka by President in January this year.
- Buddha's preaching was propagated through word to mouth for generations till the Tripitaka was finally written down in Sri Lanka about 100 years BC.
- **15.** India-African Union sign MoU on strengthening cooperation in the _____**Healthcare sector.**

Note:

- An agreement has been signed between India and the African Union to establish an India-Africa health sciences collaborative platform.
- **16.** Who has signed an agreement with the United States that allow American ships and warplanes to take advantage of his ports and airport ____Oman.

Note:

- The agreement will allow the US forces to take advantage from the facilities offered at some of the Sultanate's ports and airports during visits of the US military vessels and aircraft, particularly in the port of Duqm.
- > Duqm port is in southern Oman on the Arabian Sea and around 500 kilometres from the Strait of Hormuz.
- Prime Minister of Nepal KP Sharma Oli has inaugurated "Nepal Investment Summit 2019" at 'Hotel Soaltee' in ____ Kathmandu. Note:
 - Over 600 investors (265 from China, 120 from India) and delegates from 40 countries including India are participating in the two-day summit.
 - > The main objective of the event is to project Nepal as a favourable investment destination.
- **18.** India and Bangladesh have started a cruise service that would take passengers through the Sunderbans to____ Dhaka.

Note:

- > The objective of the move to strengthen inland waterway routes between the two countries.
- The MEA (External Affairs Ministry) official said, as the movement of goods starts using inland waterways, so goods from India can go in the cheapest possible form up to Narayanganj and Dhaka in Bangladesh.
- 19. Israeli researchers have discovered the world's longest salt cave named _____Malham.

Note:

- The cave stretches for over 10-kilo meters (6.25 miles), through Mount Sodom (Israel's largest mountain) and spills out to the southwest corner of the adjacent Dead Sea.
- > It was mapped out over two years by cavers from nine countries, led by the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.
- > In 2006, researchers mapped over six-kilometres of the N3 cave in southern Iran's Qeshm island.

Important News - States

1. Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu attended the 16th Convocation of Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR) in _____ Mumbai.

Note:

- > The Institute focuses on research on developmental issues from a multi-disciplinary point of view.
- Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai is an autonomous advanced research institution established by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in 1987, on its golden jubilee.
- 2. India's Integral Coach Factory became the World's largest rail coach manufacturer _____Chennai.

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Note:

- Indian Railways Integral Coach Factory (ICF) of Chennai has surpassed the top Chinese manufacturers after creating a 40% record increase in its production.
- Now, Indian Railway's oldest and premier coach manufacturing unit becomes the single largest rail coach manufacturer in the world.

Honor & Awards

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 The President Kovind conferred three Kirti Chakras and fifteen Shaurya Chakras to Armed Forces at the Defence Investiture Ceremony at _____Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Note:

- Two Kirti Chakras (Ysepoyvrahma Pal Singh & Rajendra Kumar Nain) and one Shaurya Chakra (Dhanawadera vindrababan) were given posthumously.
- The President also conferred fifteen Param VishishtSeva Medals, one Uttam Yudh Seva Medals and twenty-five AtiVishisht Seva Medals to senior officers of the Armed Forces for distinguished service of an exceptional order.
- 2. The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the Festival of Innovation and Entrepreneurship (FINE) in

____Gandhinagar.

Note:

- The aim of this festival of innovation and entrepreneurship is to provide a platform for new innovators for building linkages with potential stakeholders.
- Prakash Singh Raghuvanshi (Uttar Pradesh) has been awarded lifetime achievement award for his innovations in new varieties of agriculture crops.
- The first prize in Veterinary, Herbal medication for coccidiosis was presented to Periyasami Ramasami of Salem, Tamil Nadu.
- **3.** According to the World Economic Forum (WEF), Who has been recognized as the Young Global Leader_ Nara Lokesh (Andhra Pradesh IT minister).

Note:

- The list has 127 of the world's most promising social activists, business leaders, public servants, artists and technologists under the age of 40.
- The individuals are expected to take part in the five year-programme that will help them to identify new ways to learn new ideas.
- **4.** Who won the first prize of DD Mahila Kisan Award____ **Swati Shingade**.

Note:

- Swati Shingade of Pune, Maharashtra has bagged the first prize of DD Mahila Kisan Award for 2018-19.
- The award was presented by Prasar Bharati Chairman A. Surya Prakash to Ms Shingade at a grand finale event organised by DD Kisan Channel in New Delhi.
- **20.** Former PM Manmohan Singh presented the **Business Line Changemaker Of The Year award** for successfully introducing the Goods and Services Tax (GST)___**Arun Jaitley.**

Note:

- > Jaitley received the award on behalf of the GST Council.
- The award was also presented to the petitioners against Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code, which criminalised homosexuality.
- 5. Water purifier company has been bestowed with the Best Domestic Water Purifier Award 2018-19 for its RO+UV+UF technology at the Water Digest Water Awards Kent RO Systems Pvt. Ltd. Note:
 - Water Digest Water Awards backed by the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation and UNESCO.
 - Kent has become the first choice when people think of a water purifier and winning awards like these just reflect on the kind of quality that we intend to provide to our users.
- 6. Who won the Commonwealth Youth Award for The Asian Region____Padmanaban Gopalan. Note:
 - Mr. Gopalan was named the winner of the Commonwealth Youth Award for the Asian region worth 3,000 Pounds at a ceremony at the Commonwealth Secretariat in London.
- 7. Who has topped in the new Mercer Quality of Living Survey___ Vienna. Note:
 - > Thirteen out of the world's 20 best places to live are in Europe.
 - Zurich, Switzerland's biggest city, came in second place for overall quality of living, followed by Auckland, Munich and Vancouver in joint third place.
 - Luxembourg was named as the safest city in the world, followed by Helsinki in Finland and the Swiss cities of Basel, Bern and Zurich.
- 8. An Indian journalist, author and chief of The Wire received the prestigious Windham-Campbell Literature prize for non-fiction category_ Raghu Karnad.

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- > He is the son of Girish Karnad(actor, film director, Kannada writer).
- He won the award for his debut book, 'Farthest Field: An Indian story of Second World War' published in the year 2015.
- 9. University of Texas professor has become the first woman to win the Abel Prize____ Karen Uhlenbeck.

Note:

- She was awarded for the impact of her work on "analysis, geometry and mathematical physics".
- > Modelled after the Nobel Prize, the Abel Prize is presented by the King of Norway and carries cash award USD 700,000.
- **10.** A Social entrepreneur from India is among 16 persons selected by Yale University as the 2019 World Fellows ____Neha Upadhyaya.

Note:

- Neha Upadhyaya founded GUNA Organics in 2014 that provides ethically-sourced organic food products grown by rural female Indian farmers.
- Upadhyaya's work has also focused on working with children suffering from various health issues including diabetes, autism, and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).
- She has been the recipient of Future Leaders Connect (2018) and Social Impact India (2017) awarded by the British Council.
- **11.** Kenyan teacher has won the Varkey Foundation Global Teacher Prize 2019 during a ceremony in Dubai____ Peter Tabic.

Note:

- Mr. Tabichi is a maths & physics teacher at Keriko Secondary School in Pwani Village, in a remote part of Kenya's Rift Valley.
- > He donates most of his salary (80% of his monthly income) to help poorer students.
- **12.** Who has announced **15 winners** of the 60th Annual Academy Awards______ Lalit Kala Academy.

Note:

- All the awardees will be honoured with a plaque, a shawl and a prize money of Rs 1 lakh at the 60th National Exhibition of Art at the National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA) and Sir JJ School of Art.
- The Lalit Kala Akademi is India's national academy of fine arts based in Delhi and established in 1954 by Government of India promote and propagate an understanding of Indian art, in and outside the country
- **13.** According to Electoral Commission of the Indian Ocean archipelago, Comoros President was re-elected ____ **Azali Assoumani.**
- 14. President Ram Nath Kovind was honoured with Croatia's highest civilian award _____Grand Order of the King of Tomislav.

Note:

- The civilian order is awarded to heads of state for their important contribution towards the development of state relations between Croatia and their respective countries.
- > The Grand Order of King Tomislav with Sash and Great Morning Star is the highest state order of Croatia.
- It is named after King Tomislav of Croatia.
- **15.** Nobel Prize-winning economist has been awarded the prestigious Bodley Medal____ **Amartya Sen.**

Note:

- The Medal is awarded to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the fields in which the Bodleian is active, including literature, culture, science and communication.
- Amartya Sen was born in a Hindu family in Bengal, British India, in the district of Manikganj (modern-day Bangladesh).
- > He is the Thomas W. Lamont University Professor at Harvard University and member of faculty at Harvard Law School.

Banking & Financial Awareness

As per RBI notification, the bank has been categorized as 'a private sector lender' following the acquisition of majority stake by Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) ____ IDBI Bank.

Note:

- Earlier (In January 2019), LIC completed the process of picking up a controlling 51% stake in the nearly crippled IDBI Bank.
- > IDBI Bank has been categorized as a 'private sector bank' with effect from 21st January 2019.





- IDBI Bank has been under the prompt corrective action framework of RBI that bans it from corporate lending and branch expansions, salary hikes and other regular activities.
- 2. Aviva Life Insurance has announced to launch a specially designed mentorship program to empower the female workforce___Wings.

- > The program is an initiative of the SHE division of the company, for mentoring all the women employees.
- Aviva Life Insurance is a joint venture between Dabur Invest and Aviva International Holdings, a UK-based insurance group, whose association with India goes back to 1834.
- **3.** The bank has launched the YONO Cash service for its customers which will allow them to withdraw cash from ATMs without their debit cards___ **The State Bank of India.**

Note:

- A part of SBI's digital banking platform, You Only Need One (YONO), the cardless cash withdrawal service will be available across 16,500 ATMs of the bank in the country.
- > Such SBI ATMs will be called YONO Cash Point.
- The banks continue to be in the Reserve Bank of India's list of Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) for 2018_ SBI, ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank.

Note:

- The Reserve Bank of India released the list of Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) on 14th March 2019.
- As per the notification, SBI, ICICI Bank, and HDFC Bank continue to be identified as Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs), under the same bucketing structure as last year.
- 5. The bank has proposed to sell its stake in PNB Metlife India to private equity player Oman India Joint Investment Fund II for Rs. 185 crores____Jammu and Kashmir Bank.
 - According to the J&K Bank, bank has executed share purchase agreement with Oman India Joint Investment Fund II for sale of 4.1 crore shares of PNB MetLife India Insurance Company Ltd.
 - > Jammu and Kashmir Bank holds 5 per cent stake in the insurance venture.
- According to the ratings firm Icra; fresh NPAs in the banking sector in FY'20 are expected to 1.9 to _____ 2.4%. Note:
 - Icra expects gross NPAs of the banking sector to 8.3 lakh crore or 7.9 per cent for March 2020, as compared to estimated 9.2 per cent as of March 2019.
 - Icra has revised the ratings outlook of four public sector banks from negative to stable including, Bank of India, Bank of Maharashtra, Punjab National Bank and Oriental Bank of Commerce.
 - > It revised upward, the outlook for IDBI Bank from negative to 'Rating watch with developing implications'.
 - > While the outlook for Punjab and Sind Bank was lowered from stable to negative.
- 7. The 14th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnerships held in ____ New Delhi.

Note:

More than 31 ministers from 21 African countries and business delegates from 37 countries are participate ting in the event.

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- > The discussion revolved around two key themes: digital infrastructure and digital skills.
- 8. Who had received no objection from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for the proposed acquisition of Gruh Finance_

Bandhan Bank

Note:

- > As per agreement, Bandhan Bank must transfer 14.9% stake to HDFC for merging Gruh with itself.
- > Gruh Finance was taken over in January by Kolkata-based Bandhan Bank in a share-swap deal.
- India's central banking institution has slapped a penalty of Rs 2 crores on Punjab National Bank (PNB) for non-compliance of regulatory directions about 'SWIFT' operations _____ Reserve Bank of India.

Note:





- 'SWIFT' is a global messaging software used for sharing information on inter-bank transactions by financial entities.
- Earlier this year, the Reserve Bank had imposed penalties worth Rs 71 crore on 36 public, private and foreign banks for non-compliance with various directions on time-bound implementation and strengthening of SWIFT operations.
- A public Sector bank has signed a pact with the Bank of China (BoC) to boost business opportunities _____State Bank Of India.
 Note:
 - > Through this pact, both SBI and BoC will gain direct access to their respective markets of operation.
 - > Both banks' clients will be able to use the vast combined network to expand their businesses abroad.
 - According to SBI, it has a branch in Shanghai and BoC is opening its branch in Mumbai.

- The report was released by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network for the United Nations on March 20 which was declared as World Happiness Day by the UN General Assembly in 2012.
- > Indian figures at 140th place (seven spots down from last year) on this year's UN World Happiness Report.
- The report ranks countries on six key variables that support well-being: income, freedom, trust, healthy life expectancy, social support and generosity.
- 12. According to Credit rating agency 'Fitch', India's economic growth forecast for the next financial year_____6.8%.

Note:

- Fitch Ratings cut India's FY19 GDP growth forecast to 7.2% from 7.8% on December 6.
- The rating agency has also cut growth forecasts for FY20 and FY21 to 7% from 7.3% and 7.1 per cent from 7.3%, respectively.
- Fitch Ratings Inc. is one of the big three credit rating agencies (other two -Moody's and Standard & Poor's).
- It is one of the three nationally recognized statistical rating organizations (NRSRO) designated by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission in 1975.
- **13.** ICICI Bank has launched two instant home loan products up to _____Rs. 1 crore.

Note:

- > The instantaneous home loan facility enables customers to get final sanction letter for new home loans as well as for a top-up the loan in a fully-digital way.
- 'Instant Home Loan' enables pre-approved salaried customers of the bank to avail loans up to Rs 1 crore for a tenure of up to 30 years using internet banking facility.
- 14. The Reserve bank of India (RBI) has appointed a 5-member committee to further deepen digital payments and enhance financial inclusion through Fintech____Nandan Nilekani.

Note:

- > The RBI has requested the committee to give recommendations in 3 months in this regard.
- Financial technology, often shortened to Fintech, is computer programs and a new technology innovation that aims to compete with traditional financial methods in the delivery of financial services.
- 15. The Union Government has decided to infuse around 5,042 crore rupees into _____Bank of Baroda (BoB)

Note:

- In September 2019, the 'Alternative Mechanism' (AM) headed by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley had decided to merge Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank with Bank of Baroda.
- After the entity formed by the merger of BoB, Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank will be second the third biggest in the Indian banking sector, by virtue of assets and businesses
- **16.** Bank of Baroda (BoB) has signed an MoU with agriculture services companies to develop an agriculture digital platform

_____Baroda Kisan.

Note:

> The initiative is being executed by ITCoE of Bank of Baroda, in partnership with IBM India.





Bank of Baroda (BoB) has signed the agreement with Skymet Weather Services, Weather Risk Management Services, BigHaat, Agrostar India, EM3 Agri Services, and Poorti Agri Services.

Obituaries

1. Goa Chief Minister passed away in Panaji after a prolonged illness___ **Manohar Parrikar.**

Note:

- > Mr. Parrikar was diagnosed with a pancreatic ailment in February last year.
- Since then, he received treatment at various hospitals across Mumbai, New Delhi, Goa and the US.
- He served as Chief Minister of the state during October 2000 to February 2005; and March 2012 to November 2014.
- 2. Veteran Bengali actor passed away __ Chinmoy Roy.

Note:

- > He was born on January 16, 1940 in Kumilla district in now in Bangladesh.
- He was famous for his comic roles in Bengali movies, though his versatility has allowed him to play a variety of roles.
- 3. Former Member of Parliament and State minister passed away in Kadapa_ Y.S. Vivekananda Reddy.

Note:

- He was the younger brother of former Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy (YSR) and uncle of YSR Congress Party president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy.
- He won Pulivendula assembly constituency twice (in 1989 and 1994) and represented Kadapa Lok Sabha in the parliament twice
- 4. Senior journalist and environmental activist passed away in Mumbai after a brief illness___Darryl D'Monte.
 - Note:
 - > He served as the resident editor of Mumbai editions of The Times of India and The Indian Express.
 - He was the founder-president of the International Federation of Environmental Journalists (IFEJ) in Dresden, Germany, in 1993.
- 5. Former White House economist and Princeton University professor passed away_ Alan Krueger. Note:
 - Mr. Krueger served as chief economist at the Department of Labor under President Bill Clinton and chair of the Council of Economic Advisers from 2011 to 2013 under former President Barack Obama.
- 6. Sitting AIADMK MLA from Sulur constituency, passed away due to cardiac arrest _____R Kanagaraj.

Note:

- > He was first-time MLA (AIADMK)from Sulur constituency.
- > Several leaders have offered their condolences to his family for his demise.
- 7. Renowned Malayalam writer and poet passed away at a private hospital in Thrissur, Kerala___ Ashita.

Note:

- Ashita has been the recipient of several awards including the prestigious Edaserri Award (1986) and the Lalithambika Antharjanam Award (1994).
- > She did her graduation and post-graduation in English Literature from Maharaja's College, Ernakulam.

8. The legendary singer-songwriter passed away _____Scott Walker.

- Note:
 - Scott Walker shot to fame in the mid-'60s as the frontman of The Walker Brothers (Scott Walker, John Maus, Gary Leeds).
 - > The Ohio-born Walker is known for his baritone voice within the world of experimental music.

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9. Karnataka Municipalities Minister passed away in hospital____C S Shivalli.

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- Shivalli was elected thrice from Kundgol constituency in Dharwad district.
- He won his first election as an independent candidate in 1999.

10. Renowned South Asian singer, Shahnaz Rahmatullah passed away after suffering a heart attack in Dhaka____ Shahnaz Rahmatullah.

Note:

- Her professional experience began at the age of 11, as a playback singer of Notun Shur (1963), and appeared on television from 1964.
- She was awarded the National Film Awards (best female singer) in 1990 and Ekushey Padak(in 1992).
- 11. Pioneering Soviet-era cosmonaut passed away ____ Valery Bykovsky.

Note:

- Valery Bykovsky was the **11th person** to venture into space and who held the unbroken record for the longest solo spaceflight.
- > Bykovsky was one of 20 Soviet military pilots in the first group picked to prepare for space.
- > He first flew to space in June 1963 as a member of the Vostok-5 crew.
- He left the cosmonaut corps in 1982 and later worked in several roles at the Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center at Star City near Moscow.

Important Days

- 1. The World Consumer Rights Day is celebrated globally on ____15th March. Note:
 - > The theme for this year is 'Trusted Smart Products'.
 - The first World Consumer Rights Day was observed in 1983 and become an important occasion for mobilizing citizen action.
- 2. The world sleep day 2019 observed on ____15th March.

Note:

- The day celebrate healthy sleep and draw attention towards its related issues including medicine, education and social aspects.
- > The theme for this year is 'Healthy Sleep, Healthy Aging'.
- > The day is observed annually on the Friday before the March Equinox on the Earth.
- 3. The 'International Day of Happiness' is celebrated throughout the world on the ____20th March.

Note:

- > The day was founded by United Nations adviser 'Jayme Illien' on June 28, 2012.
- **4.** The United Nations General Assembly designated the International Day of Forests to celebrate and raise awareness of the importance of all types of forests_**21st March**.

Note:

- This global celebration of forests provides a platform to raise awareness of the importance of all types of woodlands, trees, and celebrate the ways in which they sustain and protect us.
- 5. The World Down Syndrome Day (WDSD), (Schrage Day), is celebrated on___21st March.

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Note:

The day raise public awareness for the rights, inclusion and wellbeing of people with Down syndrome.

6. The World Poetry Day is observed every year on **____21st March**.

- Note:
 - > The day promote the reading, writing, publishing, and teaching of poetry throughout the world.
 - A decision to proclaim 21st March as World Poetry Day was adopted during UNESCO's 30th session held in Paris in 1999.
- The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is observed annually on____ 21st March. Note:
 - > The theme of 2019 is Mitigating and countering rising nationalist populism and extreme supremacist ideologies.
 - The United Nations General Assembly called for the day in 1966 to encourage people to remember their obligation and determination to combat racial discrimination.

ATTEMPT MOCK



8. The World Water Day is observed every year on _____22nd March.

Note:

- > The theme of this year is 'Leaving no one behind'.
- This is an adaptation of the central promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: as sustainable development progresses, everyone must benefit.
- 9. Parsis in India & abroad celebrated their New year's with great enthusiasm____Navroz.
 - Note:
 - Nowruz is the day of the vernal equinox and marks the beginning of spring in the Northern Hemisphere.
 - > It marks the first day of the first month (Farvardin) in the Iranian calendar.
- **10.** The Bihar state has celebrated 107th foundation day on _____ **22nd March.**

Note:

- Bihar Diwas (Bihar Day) is observed every year on March 22, marking the formation of the state of Bihar.
- > It was on this day when the British carved out the state from Bengal Presidency in 1912.
- 11. The International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade is observed every year on 25th March.

Note:

- > The theme of 2019 is "Remember Slavery: The Power of the Arts for Justice".
- 12. The United Nations' (UN) World Meteorological Day is annually held on _____ 23rd March.

Note:

- ▶ The theme of WMD 2019 is 'The Sun, the Earth and the Weather'.
- **13.** The "World Tuberculosis Day" observed every year on ____**24th March.**

Note:

- > The theme for World Tuberculosis Day 2019 is " It's time".
- > Tuberculosis (TB) is an infectious disease caused by the bacterium Mycobacterium tuberculosis (MTB).
- 14. The International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members is marked each year on ____ 25th March.

Note:

- The International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members has taken on even greater importance in recent years, as attacks against the United Nations intensify.
- **15.** The World Theatre Day (WTD) is observed globally every year on _____**27th March.**

Note:

- World Theatre Day was created in 1961 by an international non-governmental organization International Theatre Institute (ITI), France.
- > ITI was founded in 1948 by UNESCO and the international theatre community.

New Appointments

1. The Supreme Court (SC) has appointed senior advocate as a mediator for resolving various disputes related to cricket administration in the country___ P S Narasimha.

Note:

- Narasimha is assisting the apex court as an amicus curiae in the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) matter.
- According to the SC bench, the game must go on, asking Narasimha to act as a mediator in the cricket administration disputes.
- 2. Former Supreme Court Judge will India's first Lokpal _ Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose.

Note:

- Congress leader in the Lok Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, who is part of the committee, did not attend the meeting.
- ▶ His was among the top 10 names shortlisted by the Lokpal Search Committee.
- > Jutice Ghose's appointment has come nearly five years after the Lokpal Act was notified on January 16, 2014.
- The law provides for a Lokpal at the Centre and Lokayuktas in states to probe cases of corruption against public servants.



АТТЕМРТ МОСК



The Centre has constituted an expert committee to "revisit the criteria" for determining the "creamy layer" for OBCs which was laid down in 1993____ BP Sharma (GOI secretary).

Note:

- The committee will "revisit the criteria evolved by the Prasad committee" and give recommendations for "redefining, simplifying and streamlining the concept of creamy layer" while keeping in view the SC's observations in Indira Sawhney case.
- 4. Who will head the National Mission on Transformative Mobility and Battery Storage, which is being set up to promote clean and sustainable mobility initiatives in the country_ Amitabh Kant(Niti Aayog CEO).
- **5.** BJP leader was sworn-in as the new Chief Minister (11th) of Goa state_ **Pramod Sawant.**

Note:

- > Goa Governor Mridula Sinha administered the oath of office and secrecy to Mr. Sawant.
- > He succeeded Manohar Parrikar, who died on Sunday after a prolonged battle with advanced pancreatic cancer.
- 6. Who has been appointed as the Ambassador of India to the Republic of Uzbekistan ____Santosh Jha.

Note:

- > Currently, Mr Santosh Jha is the Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of India, Washington.
- An ambassador is usually accredited to another sovereign state as the resident representative of their own government-appointed for a special and often temporary diplomatic assignment.
- Kazakhstan President has announced his resignation after nearly 30 years in power___ Nursultan Nazarbayev.
 Note:
 - > Mr Nazarbayev had ruled the country since it emerged from the collapse of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s.
 - The President of the Republic of Kazakhstan is the head of state, commander-in-chief and holder of the highest office within the Republic of Kazakhstan.
- 8. The Election Commission of India (ECI) has appointed transgender social activist as one of the 12 election ambassadors for Maharashtra_ Gauri Sawant.

Note:

- According to the Election Commission, Gauri Sawant's appointment would help in more people from this category getting registered during the final phase of voter's enrolment.
- Election Commission has nominated the renowned sportsmen, film-makers, literary personalities of the respective constituencies as the goodwill ambassadors to induce more voters to vote in the Lok Sabha elections.
- **9.** Election Commission has appointed two eminent former Civil Servants as Special Expenditure Observers for the upcoming Lok Sabha Elections_____ Shailendra Handa & Ms. Madhu Mahajan.

Note:

- Both officers have rich experience of working in Investigation Wing of I.T Department and have supervised many successful search and seizure actions unearthing tax evasion in complicated cases.
- > The Special Observers will supervise and monitor the work being done by the electoral machinery.
- **10.** PhonePe (UPI based payment app company) has appointed **Bollywood actor** as its Brand Ambassador_____**Aamir Khan.**

Note:

> PhonePe is one of India's fastest growing payment platform and is based on UPI.

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A brand ambassador is a person who is hired by an organization or company to represent a brand in a positive light and by doing so help to increase brand awareness and sales.

11. Who has been appointed the new Navy Chief____ Vice Admiral Karambir Singh.

Note:

- ▶ He will succeed Admiral Sunil Lanba who retires on 31st May 2019.
- Currently, Vice Admiral Karambir Singh is serving as the Flag Officer Commander -in- Chief of the Eastern Naval Command
- The Chief of the Naval Staff is the commander and the highest-ranking officer in the Indian Navy. The position is abbreviated CNS in Indian Navy cables and communication, and usually held by a four-star officer in the rank of Admiral.





12. Jet Airways founders have stepped down from the board of the cash-strapped airline___ Naresh Goyal.

Note:

- The board also approved the issue of 11.4 crore equity shares to the lenders upon conversion of Re 1 of the outstanding debt.
- The board also approved the constitution of an Interim Management Committee to manage and monitor the daily operations and cash flow of the company.
- **13.** Who sworn in as a Cabinet Minister by Governor **Mridula Sinha** at the Raj Bhavan in Dona Paula, Goa____ **Dipak Pauskar. Note:**
 - > Pauskar replaces deputy Chief Minister Sudin Dhavalikar (Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party) in the Council of Ministers.
 - As two of the three MGP MLAs, Manohar Ajgaonkar and Pauskar merged their party's legislative wing with the BJP, thereby isolating Mr Dhavalikar as the lone MGP legislator in the house.
- 14. Who has been re-appointed as Managing Director (MD)and CEO of Maruti Suzuki India for three years Kenichi Ayukawa. Note:
 - > The company's board appointed Ayukawa on the existing terms and conditions including remuneration.
 - > Maruti Suzuki India Limited is an automobile manufacturer in India.
 - ▶ It is a 56.21% owned subsidiary of the Japanese car and motorcycle manufacturer Suzuki Motor Corporation.
- 15. Who joined Toronto International Film Festival's Share Her Journey as their official ambassador___ Rima Das.

Note:

- TIFF launched the 5-year campaign in 2017 with a view to increase participation, skills, and opportunities for women behind and in front of the camera.
- The woman behind 'Village Rockstars', India's Official Entry to Oscars 2019 would like to see more and more women in the industry break the glass ceiling.

Sports News

- 1. Who won men's All England Championships 2019 singles title __ Kento Momota. Note:
 - > Japan's Kento Momota beat Viktor Axelsen in 1 hour 21 minutes to win the men's singles title All England Championships 2019 title at Arena Birmingham in England.
 - Chen Yufei (China) beat Tai Tzu-ying (Taiwan) to win the women's singles title All England Championships 2019 title.
 - > Only the top 32 in the Badminton World Federation (BWF) rankings qualify for the tournament.
- 2. Who qualifies for vault finals in Artistic Gymnastics World Cup at Baku in Azerbaijan_ Dipa Karmakar.

Note:

- India's Dipa Karmakar (25-year) has made it to the Vault Finals after finishing third in the qualifying round of the Artistic Gymnastics World Cup at Baku in Azerbaijan.
- **3.** Who will host the Under-17 Women's Football World Cup in 2020___**India**. Note:
 - This was announced by the President of International Football Federation (FIFA) Gianni Infantino after the council meeting in Miami, USA on 15th March 2019.
 - > The 2018 FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup was held in Uruguay from 13 November to 1 December 2018.
 - Spain won their first title, beating Mexico 2–1 in the Final.
- **4.** Who won their maiden Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy at the Holkar Cricket Stadium in Indore **_____Karnataka**.

Note:

- With the win, Karnataka set a record of most number of wins in a row by an Indian domestic team as they won 14 T20 matches to lift the coveted T20 trophy.
- Karnataka also equaled Indian Premier League outfit Kolkata Knight Riders' record of 14 consecutive wins.
- 5. South African all-rounder announced his retire from ODIs after the ICC World Cup in England____ JP Duminy. Note:
 - > He will continue to be available for South Africa in T20 Internationals.
 - > The 34-year-old made his ODI debut against Sri Lanka in 2004 and has played 193 matches in the format.





6. The Supreme Court has set aside the life ban imposed on cricketer by BCCI over his involvement in the 2013 IPL spotfixing scandal_Sreesanth.

Note:

- The apex court directed BCCI to hear Sreesanth and take a fresh decision on the quantum of punishment within three months.
- ▶ However, it added that its order shall have no effect on criminal proceedings pending against Sreesanth.
- 7. Who won the Indian Wells title <u>Dominic Thiem</u>.

Note:

- Australia's Dominic Thiem defeated Switzerland's Roger Federer in the men's singles final of the BNP Paribas Open in California.
- ▶ He defeated Federer 3-6,6-3,7-5 in the final.
- 8. Canadian teenager stunned three-times Grand Slam champion Angelique Kerber to win the BNP Paribas Open title_ Bianca Andreescu.

Note:

- She defeated Angelique Kerber by 6-4 3-6 6-4 to win the title.
- > With this win she won her first career title in Indian Wells on 17th March 2019 held in California.
- 9. Who defeated Ireland by seven wickets to win their first-ever Test match in Dehradun _____Afghanistan.

Note:

- Shah scored a 122-ball 76, and Janat an unbeaten 129-ball 65* as Afghanistan notched up the 147-run target on the fourth morning within a session.
- > With this win Afghanistan became the newest ICC member to win a Test match.
- **10.** Who finished second in medal tally at Asian Youth Athletics Championship in Hong Kong **___India**.

Note:

- > India won total of 26 medals including 8 gold, 9 silver and 9 bronze medals.
- > China topped the overall medals tally with 31 medals that included 12 gold, 11 silver and eight bronze medals.
- Japan finished third with 20 medals that included 6 Gold, 8 Silver and 6 bronze.
- **11.** Who won Australian F1 Grand Prix 2019 in Melbourne, Victoria____ Valtteri Bottas.

Note:

- Mercedes' Valtteri Bottas beat his world champion teammate Lewis Hamilton (2nd place) to clinch the seasonopening Australian Formula One Grand Prix 2019, held
- > The 2019 Australian Grand Prix was a Formula One motor race that was held in Melbourne, Victoria.
- **12.** Who has become only the second Indian woman to win on Ladies European Tour in golf after clinching the South African Open in Cape Town_ **Diksha Dagar**.

Note:

- > Dagar follows Aditi Ashok, who in 2016 became the first Indian to win on the LET.
- She has been wearing hearing aids since the age of six.
- 13. Who won the 2018-19 edition Indian Super League (ISL) Champions _ Bengaluru FC.

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Note:

- FC Goa's Ferran Corominas (16 goals) wins the Indian Super League (ISL) 2018-19 Golden Boot Award.
- Bengaluru FC goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu wins the Indian Super League (ISL) 2018-19 Golden Glove Award.
- **14.** PCB pays over Rs 11 cr as compensation to BCCI after losing case in _____ICC

Note:

- The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has paid 1.6 million US dollars to the Board of Control for Cricket (BCCI) as compensation after losing a case in the ICC's Dispute Resolution Committee.
- The PCB had filed a compensation case against the BCCI last year before the Committee for an amount of 70 million US dollars for not honouring an MoU signed between the two boards.
- According to the MoU, India and Pakistan were supposed to play six bilateral series between 2015 and 2023, which the BCCI failed to honour.

15. The Amateur International Boxing Federation (AIBA) President has announced his resignation_____ Gafur Rahimov.

Note:

Rahimov, an Uzbek businessman who has been accused by the US authorities of having ties to organized crime, was elected the president of AIBA in November 2018.





- The International Boxing Association (AIBA) is a sports organization that sanctions amateur (Olympic-style) boxing matches and awards world and subordinate championships.
- The organization has been involved in multiple corruption scandals including on several editions of the Summer Olympic Games.
- **16.** Who flagged of the first Indian Army Mountaineering Expedition to Mt Makalu (8485m) ____ **Director General Military Training.** Note:
 - In furtherance of the objective of summiting all challenging peaks above 8000M, Indian Army is launching its maiden expedition to Mt Makalu in Mar-May 2019.
 - Mt Makalu is considered amongst the most dangerous peaks and summiting the peak is considered extremely challenging due to inclement weather conditions and freezing temperatures.
- 17. Who bagged Gold medal in the 10-metre Air Pistol Mixed team event at the 12th Asian Airgun Championship at Taoyuan in Taipei_____ Manu Bhaker & Saurabh Chaudhary.

- Manu and Saurabh shot a combined score of 784, breaking the record set by Russians Vitalina Batsarashkina and Artem Chernousov at the European Championships.
- > The pair made it to the Final after smashing the world record in the qualification.
- **18.** Who re-elected the Basketball Federation of India (BFI) president_____ K. Govindaraj.

Note:

- He has been unanimously re-elected as the President of the Basketball Federation of India (BFI) at its annual general-body meeting.
- > A new six-team women's league would be held inside the next three months.
- > Basketball Federation of India (BFI) is the governing and controlling body of Basketball in India.
- It is responsible for the development and promotion of the sport at all levels.
- 19. The Sultan of Azlan Shah Cup Men's Hockey tournament (28th edition) held in _____Ipoh, Malaysia.

Note:

- Six nations (Malaysia, Canada, Poland, Japan and Korea) are taking part in the 8-day tournament which will be held in a round-robin format
- > Australia (defending champions) is not playing in this edition of the tournament.
- > The tournament is named after the ninth Yang di-Pertuan Agong (King) of Malaysia, Sultan Azlan Shah.

20. Who has won the SAFF Women's Championship for the fifth time in a row____India.

Note:

- > This was India's 23rd straight victory in the championship since its inception in 2010.
- > The 2019 SAFF Women's Championship is the biennial international women's football championship contested by the national teams of the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF).
- **21.** FIFA bans former **Ecuador football chief** for life after finding him guilty of taking bribes ____ **Luis Chiriboga.**

Note:

- > Chiriboga was one of the executives arrested in 2015 amid a massive US-led crackdown on corruption in world football.
- FIFA's ethics judges banned Chiriboga from all football-related activities for life and fined him 1 million Swiss francs.
 Virat Kabli's shildbard seach bas been appointed the bard seach of the 'Malta patienal cricket team'.
- 22. Virat Kohli's childhood coach has been appointed the head coach of the 'Malta national cricket team' Rajkumar Sharma.Note:
 - Malta, Estonia and hosts Spain will take part in the divisional tournament of the ICC in Spain (from 29th to 31st March 2019)
 - > Dronacharya awardee Rajkumar Sharma (former Ranji Trophy player) is a cricket coach.
 - > The Malta national cricket team is the team that represents the Republic of Malta in international cricket.

23. Who will be BCCI's ad-hoc Ethics Officer____ Justice (Retd.) DK Jain.

Note:

- The COA had requested the Supreme Court to appoint an Ethics Officer in addition to an Ombudsman for looking into the matters of Conflict of Interest.
- Earlier, the three-member COA requested Justice Jain to take over as Ethics Officer on an ad-hoc basis till a permanent appointment takes place.

ATTEMPT MOCK

24. Who appointed as the new head coach of the Indian men's basketball team ____ Veselin Matic.

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- > The Serbian's name had been cleared by the sports ministry.
- A veteran international coach, Matic helped Iran qualify for its first ever World Championship (2010) with victory in the 2009 FIBA Asia Championship.

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