

# Weekly One Liner

22<sup>nd</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019



## Weekly One Liner Updates

### 22-31st March 2019

#### Important Days

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. The Bihar state has celebrated 107th foundation day on \_\_\_\_ **22<sup>nd</sup> 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.

4. 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".

5. 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'.

6. 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).

7. 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.

8. 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. 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.



2. 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.
- 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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.

### Important News – India

1. India and Sri Lanka will conduct 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.

2. 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.
3. 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.
4. India's **Wing Commander** has gone back to his **squadron** in Srinagar \_\_\_\_ **Abhinandan Varthaman**.
- Note:**
- 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.
5. 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**.
- Note:**
- 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has launched a new podcast app \_\_\_ **Shiksha Vani**.
- 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.
  - As the examinations proceed, the episode helps students understand how their completed papers will be evaluated.
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. 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.
15. 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.
16. 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 - 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**.

**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.

**Important News – World**

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. 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.

## Honor & Awards

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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

5. According to Electoral Commission of the Indian Ocean archipelago, Comoros President was re-elected\_\_\_ **Azali Assoumani**.  
 6. 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.

7. 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.

**Sports News**

1. 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.

2. Who flagged off 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.

3. 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**.

**Note:**

- 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.

4. 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.

5. 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.



6. 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).

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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.

10. Who appointed as the new head coach of the Indian men's basketball team \_\_\_ **Veselin Matic**.

**Note:**

- 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.

### Banking & Financial Awareness

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. As per UN World Happiness Report, who has been ranked tops as the happiest country in the world \_\_\_ **Finland**.

**Note:**

- 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.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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

8. 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. Sitting AIADMK MLA from Suler constituency, passed away due to cardiac arrest \_\_\_\_ **R Kanagaraj**.

**Note:**

- He was first-time MLA (AIADMK) from Suler constituency.
- Several leaders have offered their condolences to his family for his demise.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. Karnataka Municipalities Minister passed away in hospital \_\_\_\_ **C S Shivalli**.

Note:

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

5. 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).

6. 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.

# **CDS II 2019**

## Online Test Series

1. 30 Mock Tests based on the Latest Exam Pattern
2. Available in Hindi & English
3. All India Rank & Performance Analysis
4. Detailed Explanation of Solutions
5. Available on Mobile & Desktop

