

Weekly One-Liner

8th to 14th May 2019



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New Appointments

1. E-commerce platform 'Myntra' has appointed celebrity couple as its first brand ambassadors___ **Virat Kohli & Anushka Sharma**.
Note:
 - Myntra has launched 'Go Myntra-la-la', a brand campaign that brings alive the joyful experience of shopping for fashion on the brand's platform.
 - The campaign thought was inspired by Myntra's vision to offer an online shopping experience for fashion.
 - Myntra (founded - 2007) is an Indian fashion e-commerce company headquartered in Bengaluru, Karnataka, India.
2. Who has been re-elected to the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) for another five-year term___ **Jagjit Pavadia**.
Note:
 - Ms Pavadia has been a member of the INCB since 2015 and her current term is set to expire in 2020.
 - Jagjit Pavadia Pavadia has held several senior positions in the Indian Revenue Service for 35 years in the Government of India, including Narcotics Commissioner of India, Central Bureau of Narcotics.
3. Businessman & politician has won Panama's presidential election with 33.27% of the vote in support___**Laurentino Cortizo**.
Note:
 - As the presidential election in Panama does not have run-off criteria, so the candidate with the maximum number of votes wins the election even he does not have 50% of the vote.
4. Who has won the 2019 Macedonian presidential elections ___ **Stevo Pendarovski**.
Note:
 - The president must be a citizen of North Macedonia, be over 40 years of age and have lived in North Macedonia for at least ten of the previous fifteen years.
 - The President of the Republic of North Macedonia is the head of state of North Macedonia.
5. India and Bangladesh will jointly produce a movie based on the life of ____ **Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman**.
Note:
 - The movie will be directed by acclaimed India's filmmaker Shyam Benegal.
 - Prasar Bharati has decided to carry Bangladesh TV on DD Free Dish platform without charging carriage fees.
 - As a reciprocal gesture, Bangladesh Delegation announced that a Doordarshan channel will be adopted on the soon to be launched DTH platform of Bangladesh.
 - The Bangladesh Delegation assured full cooperation in ensuring smooth logistics for shooting the movie in Bangladesh.
6. The five-member Supreme Court Collegium headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi has recommended the names of Justices to the center for their elevation as apex court judges___ **Justice B R Gavai and Justice Surya Kant**.
Note:
 - Currently, Justice Gavai is Judge of the Bombay High Court and Justice Kant is the incumbent Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court.
 - The apex court is presently functioning with 27 judges against the sanctioned strength of 31 judges.
7. Who was sworn in as the new chief justice of the Chhattisgarh High Court ___ **Justice P R Ramachandra Menon**.
Note:
 - Justice **Menon** was administered the oath by Chhattisgarh Governor Anandiben Patel at Raj Bhavan, Raipur Chhattisgarh.
 - Currently, he is serving as a **Judge of the Kerala High Court**.
 - The **Chhattisgarh High Court** was established on 1 November 2000 with the creation of the new state of Chhattisgarh upon the reorganisation of the state of Madhya Pradesh.

8. The **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation** has appointed as the **Country Director** in India___ **M Hari Menon**.

Note

- Menon will replace Nachiket Mor, who held this position for the past three years and resigned last month.
- With an endowment of USD 50.7 billion, Gates Foundation is the world's largest private philanthropic organisation and has offices in Delhi and Patna.

9. BMC commissioner will be Maharashtra's new chief secretary___ **Ajoy Mehta**.

Note:

- Out-going chief secretary **UPS Madan** will be the **chairman of SICOM** and would be also an advisor to **chief minister**.
- Meanwhile, Additional chief secretary **Praveen Pardeshi** will be appointed as the new **BMC chairman**.
- Chief Secretaries are members of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) who are the administrative head of state governments.

10. Nigerian Professor has been appointed as the new President of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)___ **Tijjani Mohammad Bande**.

Note:

- Bande is the permanent representative of Nigeria to the UN.
- He holds an M.A in Political Science from the Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts, USA (in 1981) and a PhD in Political Science from the University of Toronto, Canada (in 1987).
- He was the Vice-Chancellor of Usman Danfodiyo University, Sokoto, between 2004 and 2009.

11. Indian actress has been named as one of the 17 advocates for the ambitious Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by United Nations___ **Dia Mirza**.

Note:

- The new group of 'SDG Advocates' appointed by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.
- It will be committed to raising awareness, inspiring greater ambition and pushing for faster action on the SDGs, which were adopted by world leaders on September 25, 2015.
- The SDG Advocates will be co-chaired by Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo (President of Ghana) and Erna Solberg (Prime Minister of Norway).

12. Who has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the northeast African country Eritrea___ **Shri Subhash Chand**.

Note:

- Currently, Mr. Subhash Chand is the Deputy High Commissioner in the High Commission of India, Abuja.
- Eritrea shares borders with Ethiopia, Sudan and Djibouti.
- Ambassador an important official who works in a foreign country representing his or her own country there, and who is officially accepted in this position by that country.

13. ITC Ltd. has appointed Managing Director (MD) and Chairman of the company ___ **Sanjiv Puri**.

Note:

- Mr Puri joined the company in 1986 and rose through the ranks like his predecessor.
- He was appointed as Chief executive officer (CEO) in 2017 and as Managing Director (MD) in 2018.

Important News – India

1. Pakistan's all-rounder & former captain **Shahid Afridi** released his controversial autobiography, titled ___**Game Changer**.

Note:

- The book is co-authored by Afridi & journalist **Wajahat S Khan** and published by **HarperCollins India imprint Harper Sport**.
- Afridi stated that he was born in 1975 and not 1980 as stated in the official records.
- Afridi played 27 Tests, 398 ODIs and 99 T20Is and retired from international cricket in 2017.

2. Drug firm Merck Ltd has been renamed as ____ **Procter & Gamble Health Ltd.**

Note:

- The name has been changed following **P&G's global acquisition** of the consumer health business of Merck KGaA, Germany.
- The company has received approval from the Registrar of Companies, Mumbai, Maharashtra, for change of name from Merck Ltd to Procter & Gamble Health Ltd.

3. Engineers from the **Indian Institute of Technology Bombay** (IIT Bombay) have developed a microprocessor called ____ **AJIT**.

Note:

- The first to be conceptualized, designed, developed and manufactured in India.
- It can be used inside a set-top box, as a control panel for automation systems, in a traffic light controller or even robotic systems.
- The project was funded by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and IIT Bombay.
- Mumbai-based company '**Powai Labs** invested in the venture, and will own, market and support the product.
- In the first stage, AJIT has been manufactured in the government-owned Semiconductor Laboratory, Chandigarh.

4. Vice President **Venkaiah Naidu** embarked on a four-day official visit to ____ **Vietnam**.

Note:

- The visit is expected to enhance India's comprehensive strategic partnership with the Southeast Asian nation.
- The Vice President will participate in the 16th United Nations Day of Vesak at Tam Chuc pagoda in Vietnam's northern Ha Nam province.
- During his visit, Mr Naidu will also deliver the keynote address at the inaugural session of the event themed as "Buddhist Approach to Global Leadership and Shared Responsibilities for Sustainable Societies."

5. Who will be the principal sponsor of the **Afghanistan cricket** team for the 2019 World Cup ____ **Amul**.

Note:

- The logo of brand Amul will appear on the leading arm of the Afghanistan team playing jerseys as well as on the training kits throughout the showpiece event.
- The first time, Afghanistan Cricket team will play in the World Cup as a full member.
- Anand Milk Union Limited (Amul) is an Indian dairy company (formed in 1948), based at Anand in the state of Gujarat.

6. India and China signed a protocol for the export of Indian ____ **chilli meal**.

Note:

- This is the fourth protocol signed between the two nations over the past year allowing the export of farm commodities from India.
- India and China also agreed to resolve market access issues expeditiously in order to achieve the vision of the leaders of both countries by promoting a more balanced trade.

7. The first Apache Helicopter AH-64E (I) formally handed over to Indian Air Force (IAF) at Boeing production facility in ____ **Mesa, Arizona (USA)**.

Note:

- The first batch of the helicopters is scheduled to be shipped to India by July this year.
- The helicopter has been customized to suit IAF's future requirements and would have significant capability in mountainous terrain.
- It has the capability to carry out precision attacks at standoff ranges and operate in hostile Airspace with threats from the ground.

8. Who has signed a contract agreement with Nepal's Department of Railways to supply two 1600 HP DEMU train sets ____ **Konkan Railways Corporation Ltd.**

Note:

- These trains will be used to operationalize railway link (34 kms) between Jayanagar (India) and Kurtha (Nepal).
- Each train set will comprise of one driving power car, three trailer cars with one air-conditioned, one driving trailer car with standard accessories.
- Jayanagar- Kurtha Railway Link has been built by IRCON with Government of India financial grant under India-Nepal Development Partnership programme.
- The train sets will be manufactured by the Integrated Coach Factory, Chennai.

9. Who has developed the world's first complete parent-wise genome assembly called "NDDB_ABRO_Murrah" of riverine buffaloes ____ **National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)**.

Note:

- This comes after the successful launch of INDUSCHIP, a customized genotyping chip for indigenous cattle and their crosses.
- Buffaloes contribute more than 50% to the total milk production in India which is the world's largest milk producer.
- The development of genome assembly will help in improving the genetics of the buffaloes and enhancing their productivity further.

10. Who has conducted a successful flight test of ABHYAS - High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) from Interim Test Range in Odisha___ **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**.

Note:

- The flight test was tracked by various RADARS and Electro Optic Systems and proved its performance in a fully autonomous waypoint navigation mode.
- The configuration of ABHYAS is designed on an in-line small gas turbine engine and uses indigenously developed MEMS-based navigation system for its navigation and guidance.
- The performance of the system was as per simulations carried out and demonstrated the capability of ABHYAS to meet the mission requirement for a cost-effective High-speed Expendable Aerial Target.

11. The Young Scientist Programme was inaugurated by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman Dr K Sivan, through video mode in Bengaluru___**Yuvika2019**.

Note:

- The two-week residential summer vacation programme spread over four ISRO centres in Bengaluru, Thiruvananthapuram, Ahmedabad and Shillong are attended by 110 students.
- He touched upon how the applications of Space technology is helping in the day to day activities of common man besides ensuring the safety of life and property during disaster situations.
- The participants will be visiting the spaceport of India, Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Shri harikota during this programme.

12. India has extended 1 billion- dollar Line of Credit to set up its first-ever grass-root refinery at Sainshand in Dornogobi Province___ **Mongolia**.

Note:

- The capacity of the refinery will be 1.5 Million Metric Tons Per Annum.
- It will be implemented with Exim Bank funding.

13. The world's first exclusive women's cricket magazine was released with Indian team vice-captain Smriti Mandhana featuring as the cover story___**Criczone**.

Note:

- It is a one-stop solution, exclusively dedicated to providing updates, articles, news, interviews, etc. from the world of women's cricket.
- Publisher of the magazine 'Criczone' is Yash Lahoti.

States News

1. State assembly has passed **state's Shops and Establishments** (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 2019'___ **Gujarat**.

Note:

- It allows the shops, commercial establishments and other businesses in the state to operate 24×7 (from 1st May,2019).
- The Act replaced the Gujarat Shops and Establishments Act, 1948 which prevented shops and other businesses from operating between 12 am. to 6 am.
- Employees will get twice the regular salary for working overtime, against the one-and-a-half-time as provided under the earlier act.
- Working hours for women employees can be only between 6 am and 9 pm (relaxed if considering safety issues).

2. State's Police for the first time has introduced women commandos in the **District Reserve Guard** in its frontline anti-Naxal force___ **Chhattisgarh police**.

Note:

- These women commandos were part of the security forces' "short action teams" that eliminated three Naxal "commanders" in the past one month.

- The specially- raised squad, christened 'Danteshwari Ladake', or fighters of Goddess Danteshwari, was inducted in the state's Naxal-hit Dantewada district.
- 3. The **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs** (CBIC) organised a meeting of the **Regional Heads** of Customs Administration of Asia Pacific Region of the World Customs Organisation (WCO) in **Kochi**.
Note:
 - India is hosting this meeting in its capacity as Vice Chair of the Asia Pacific region that it assumed on 1st July 2018 for a two-year period.
 - The meeting take stock of the progress being made in carrying forward the programmes and initiatives of WCO.
 - This meeting is being chaired by Mr Pranab Kumar Das, Chairman, CBIC.
- 4. Supreme Court has refused to regularise the services of nearly four lakh contractual teachers of **Bihar**.
Note:
 - Supreme Court also set aside the Patna High Court ruling that they were eligible to get equal pay for equal work.
 - A bench of Justices **Abhay Manohar Sapre** and U U Lalit allowed the plea of the Bihar government challenging the October 31, 2017 high court order and declined to treat contractual teachers at par with regular educators.
- 5. US Chief of Naval Operations Admiral held discussions with Admiral Sunil Lanba, India's Chief of the Naval Staff **John Michael Richardson**.
Note:
 - Mr. Richardson, who is on an official tour to India, intends to further consolidate bilateral naval relations between India and USA and also to explore new avenues for naval cooperation
 - Mr Richardson also interacted with Defence Secretary, Vice Chief of the Army Staff, Chief of the Air Staff and the National Security Council Secretariat.
 - Indian Navy and US Navy interact regularly at bilateral and multilateral forums.
- 6. The most spectacular festival of Kerala has begun at Thekkinkadu Maidan **Thrissur Pooram**.

Important News – World

- 1. Microsoft has launched a software named to help countries ensure secure and verifiable voting **ElectionGuard**.
Note:
 - The tool "ElectionGuard" will enable end-to-end verification of elections, open results to third-party organisations for secure validation, and allow individual voters to confirm their votes were correctly counted.
 - "ElectionGuard" provides each voter a tracker with a unique code that can be used to follow an encrypted version of the vote through the entire election process via a web portal provided by election authorities.
- 2. Who has successfully conducted the test of a laser weapons system called the Self-Protect High Energy Laser Demonstrator (SHiELD) in New Mexico **United States Air Force (USAF)**.
Note:
 - It successfully shot down multiple air-launched missiles while in flight.
 - The SHiELD is an Advanced Technology Demonstration (ATD) Program which is capable of shooting down multiple missiles in flight.
 - It would be mounted on aircraft to demonstrate self-defence of aircraft and protect the fighter jets against surface-to-air (SAM) and air-to-air (AAM) missiles attack.
- 3. The country has passed laws to combat fake news to order the removal of content despite fierce criticism from tech giants, the media and rights groups **Singapore**.
Note:
 - The new laws give government powers to order social media sites like Facebook and Twitter to put warnings next to posts that authorities deem to be false and in extreme cases get them taken down.
 - If an action is judged to be malicious and damaging to Singapore's interests, companies could be hit with fines of up to 735,000 US dollars. Additionally, individuals could face jail terms of up to 10 years.
 - The laws have sparked outrage from rights groups who fear they could stifle online discussion.
- 4. The **Australian flight carrier** has operated the **world's first zero-waste commercial flight** from Sydney to Adelaide **Qantas**.
Note:
 - 'Qantas' disposed of all waste through compost, reuse or recycle.

- The Australian airline Qantas has planned to eliminate 100 million single-use plastics by the end of 2020 and reduce 75% of airline's waste by the end of 2021.
5. 'NASA' revealed its plan to hit a small moonlet target in a double asteroid system with a spacecraft in ____ **2022**.
- Note:**
- It is its first mission to demonstrate a planetary defence technique.
 - The Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) will get one chance to hit its target.
 - The asteroid, called Didymoon or Didymos B, is a moon asteroid around 150 meters tall orbiting a larger body Didymos A.
6. The **World Trade Organization** (WTO) ministerial meeting of developing countries held in ____ **New Delhi**.
- Note:**
- The Two-day meeting will provide an opportunity for the Ministers to discuss various issues and the way forward.
 - Sixteen developing countries and six Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are participating in the meeting.
 - The meeting is an effort to bring together the developing and the Least Developed Countries on one platform to share common concerns on various issues affecting the WTO and work together to address the issues.
7. The U.S. **Food and Drug Administration** (FDA) has announced to approve the first vaccine for dengue, ____ **Dengvaxia**.
- Note:**
- FDA has also placed significant restrictions on its use because the vaccine has been shown to put some people at heightened risk.
 - Dengvaxia is produced by the French pharmaceutical firm Sanofi Pasteur.
 - The Philippines, which became the first country to approve it in 2016, was also the first to ban it in February this year over safety concerns.

Honor & Awards

1. International event from the world of cinema Cannes Film Festival (72nd edition) has begun in ____ **France**.
- Note:**
- American film director Jim Jarmusch's ensemble zombie comedy film The Dead Don't Die will serve as the opening film of the festival.
 - Mexican filmmaker Alejandro González Inarritu will serve as jury President.
 - Indian delegation is leading by Amit Khare (India's Information and Broadcasting Secretary) at Cannes.

Sports News

1. Who became IPL champions 2019 after defeating Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in Hyderabad ____ **Mumbai Indians (MI)**.
- Note:**
- Chasing a victory target of 150 set by Mumbai, Chennai Super Kings were restricted to 148 for 7 in stipulated 20 overs.
 - Earlier, Mumbai made 149 for 8 in stipulated 20 overs.
 - Last ball dismissal of Shardul Thakur by paceman Lasith Malinga registered a final win for Mumbai over Chennai.
2. Who has won the 2019 Madrid Open title at the Park Manzanares in Madrid, Spain ____ **Novak Djokovic**.
- Note:**
- He defeated Tsitsipas (Greece) 6-3, 6-4 in the final.
 - Djokovic tied Nadal's record with 33 Masters 1000 singles titles.
 - Dutch Kiki Bertens beat two-time Madrid Open champion Simona Halep (Romania) 6-4, 6-4 to take the women's title.
3. Pakistan's off-spinner has become the highest wicket-taking spinner in women's One-day International (ODI) history ____ **Sana Mir**.
- Note:**
- She claimed her 147th ODI wicket in her 118th appearance.
 - Currently, Mir is placed on the third position in the ICC's ODI bowling ranking, which is topped by Indian pacer Jhulan Goswami (218).
4. Indian racer has won the inaugural round of the FIA Formula 3 Championship, one of the support events to Formula One in Barcelona ____ **Jehan Daruvala**.

Note:

- The all-new FIA F3 Championship was created by merging the erstwhile GP3 Championship and FIA F3 European Championship, resulting in an ultra-competitive 30 car grid.
- Jehan is the only Indian to win a Grand Prix when he won the New Zealand Grand Prix and later went on to become the only Indian to win a race in the erstwhile FIA F3 European Championship, which used slower cars.

5. Who clinched their fourth Premier League title (football) after winning the 2018-19 season___ **Manchester City**.

Note:

- Manchester City registered a 4-1 victory against Brighton to accumulate 98 points, while Liverpool, who were also in the title race, finished second with 97 points.
- Dominant Manchester City has successfully retained their Premier League title on the final day of an exhilarating 2018-19 campaign.

6. Indian captain bagged the International Cricketer and Batsman of the Year award during the CEAT Cricket Rating (CCR) International awards 2019___ **Virat Kohli**.

Note:

- Pacer Jasprit Bumrah was adjudged as International Bowler of the Year.
- Afghanistan leg-spinner Rashid Khan was awarded for outstanding bowling and Australian batsman Aaron Finch for his exceptional performance in T20.
- Young prodigy Yashasvi Jaiswal was awarded Junior Cricketer of the Year, while chinaman Kuldeep Yadav took the home outstanding performance of the year award.
- Ashutosh Aman was awarded Domestic Cricketer of the Year.
- Legendary Mohinder Amarnath, who played a key role in India's 1983 World Cup triumph, was bestowed with the 'CCR International Lifetime Achievement Award'.

Complete list of Awards at PL 2019:

S. No	Award	Winner (Team)
1.	Man of the Match (Final)	Jasprit Bumrah (MI)
2.	Orange Cap (Most Runs)	David Warner (SH) 692 runs
3.	Purple Cap (Most Wickets)	Imran Tahir (CSK)- 26 wickets
4.	Emerging Player (future star of International Cricket)	Shubman Gill (KKR)
5.	Stylish Player	KL Rahul (KXIP)
6.	Perfect Catch	Kieron Pollard (MI)
7.	Super Striker	Andre Russell (KKR)
8.	Most Valuable Player (earning more points in the whole season)	Andre Russell (KKR)
9.	Fair play Award (best spirit of the game throughout the season)	Sunrisers Hyderabad
10.	Gamechanger of the Match	Rahul Chahar (Mumbai Indians)

Banking & Financial Awareness

1. Who raised 700 crores rupees from several financial institutions including its parent State Bank of India (SBI) in the second half of FY19___ **SBI Card**.

Note:

- SBI Cards and Payment Services Pvt. Ltd (SBI Card) raised Rs. 100 crores from ICICI Securities Primary Dealership Ltd, Rs. 250 crores from State Bank of India and Rs. 50 crore each from Canara Bank and Axis Bank by issuing non-convertible debentures (NCDs) at 9.15% coupon.
 - The company also raised another Rs. 250 crores from Axis Bank through a coupon of 9.55%.
2. Who has acquired British toy retailer **Hamleys**, the energy-to-telecoms conglomerate from Hong Kong-listed C Banner International Holdings__ **Reliance Industries (Mukesh Ambani)**.
- Note:**
- Reliance Industries has been gradually transforming itself into a consumer-facing behemoth through its retail and telecoms ventures.
 - Hamleys (founded in 1760) resonates with a sense of nostalgia for adults and children alike, with its flagship Regent Street store in Central London recognised around the world.
3. India's IT conglomerate has become most valued firm in India in terms of market capitalization (market-cap) __ **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)**.
- Note:**
- TCS (market-cap of Rs 8.13 lakh crore) followed by RIL (Rs 7.95 lakh crore), HDFC Bank (Rs 6,24,362.11 crore), Hindustan Unilever (Rs 3,67,880.69 crore) and ITC (Rs 3,67,513.78 crore).
 - The m-cap figure of companies changes daily with stock price movement.
 - Tata Consultancy Services Limited (TCS) is an Indian multinational information technology (IT) service and consulting company headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra, India.
4. Max Life Insurance Co. Ltd will dedicate the 6th day of every calendar month as ____ **Protection Day**.
- Note:**
- The day aims to increase awareness around the concept of financial protection.
 - As a part of this initiative, a wide range of initiatives will be rolled out across Max Life's network.
 - The Company will also drive a "Super Customer Week", where customers across the board will be educated about various aspects of financial protection.
5. Who downgraded Yes Bank's long-term issuer rating to '**IND AA-**' from '**IND AA+**' with a negative outlook citing "quick credit migration in the bank's certain group exposures" ____ **India Ratings & Research(Ind-Ra)**.
- Note:**
- It estimates that the private lender will need to raise equity of Rs 7,500-8,000 crore in the next two fiscal years.
 - The negative outlook reflects the downside risks to the agency's estimates of profitability and capital buffers that could emanate from substantial delays in the resolution of certain stressed assets.
 - Yes Bank had also reported its maiden loss of over Rs 1,506 crore in the March 2019 quarter, driven by a near 10-fold spike in provisions.
6. India's first Fintech start-up has announced its foray into merchant services with a new app__ **BharatPe**.
- Note:**
- 'BharatPe' enabling payments for merchants through interoperable UPI QR codes,
 - The app allows merchants to record their cash/credit (Udhar) sales customer wise, request accounts receivable from customers via SMS payment links, and keep track of accounts payable to suppliers, among other services.
 - The BharatPe app also serves as a networking platform for merchants to connect with other BharatPe merchants near them.
7. According to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation data, Retail inflation rose marginally in April this year__ **2.92%**.
- Note:**
- The inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) was 2.86% in the previous month and 4.58% in April last.
 - According to the Central Statistics Office (CSO) data the inflation in the food basket was 1.1% last month, up from 0.3 per cent in March this year.

8. Who has announced the launch of a co-branded multi-currency card with online travel booking portal Goibibo ____ **ICICI Bank.**

Note:

- The card also includes benefits of up to Rs20,000, including gift vouchers of Rs15,000 from Goibibo.

9. Who has announced Rs 700-crore venture capital fund for equity investments in agriculture and rural-focused startups ____ **NABARD.**

Note:

- NABARD has been contributing to other funds till now and this is the first time that the rural development bank has launched a fund of its own.
- The fund will have a high impact as it will provide a boost to investment ecosystem in the core areas of agriculture, food and improvement of rural livelihoods.

Obituaries

1. Prominent writer and academician passed away at a hospital ____ **Maramraju Satyanarayana Rao.**

Note:

- Mr. Rao had worked as professor of political science and registrar of Ambedkar Open University, Hyderabad.
- He was born at Jayaram village in Mahabubabad district in Telangana.

2. Former West Indies batsman passed away following a prolonged illness ____ **Seymour Nurse.**

Note:

- He played 29 Tests between 1960 and 1969 and scored 2523 runs at an average of 47.60.
- The middle-order batsman from Barbados made 9489 runs in 141 First-Class matches at 43.93.

3. Former billiards player, coach and administrator passed away in Mumbai ____ **Derek Sippy.**

Note:

- He served the BSAM in various capacities and was its secretary for several years.
- He was the Indian team's coach at recently concluded Asian Under-21 Boys Snooker and Asian Women Snooker tournament in Chandigarh.

4. The first chronicler of Partition passed away in Chandigarh ____ **Prof. Kirpal Singh.**

Note:

- Prof. Singh started building an archive in 1954,
- He began his journey in Partition's historiography in 1953 as a young lecturer at Khalsa College, Amritsar.
- The turning point came in 1962 when then chief minister Partap Singh Kairon offered to send him to the UK to collect papers related to Punjab.

5. Father of Modern Legal Education has passed away ____ **Prof N.R. Madhava Menon.**

Note:

- He is known for changing the face of Indian legal education by pioneering the establishment of National Law Schools.
- He is credited with the conceptualization of five-year integrated LLB course, in place of the earlier 3-year course
- Menon was bestowed with the Padma Shri in 2003 for his outstanding contribution to public services.
- A book "Turning Point" published by Universal Law Publishers, Delhi (2010) is on the life and works of Prof. Menon.

6. Noted novelist and **Sahitya Akademi awardee** passed away at his residence ____ **Thoppil Mohamed Meeran.**

Note:

- Mohamed Meeran authored the novels Oru Kadalora Graamaththin Kathai, Thuraimugam, Koonan Thoppu, Saaivu Naarkkaali and Anju Vannam Theru between 1988 and 2011.
- He received 8 awards including the Sahitya Akademi Award (1997) and Tamil Nadu Kalai Ilakkiya Perumantram Award (1992).

7. Renowned Economist passed away due to old-age related problems__ **Baidyanath Mishra**.

Note:

- Mishra had started his career as a lecturer in Ravenshaw University in Cuttack in 1949.
- Baidyanath Mishra was vice-chancellor of Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology (from 1981 to 1985) and chairman of the State Planning Board (1985 to 1990).
- He was the chairman of the State Planning Board from 1985 to 1990.

8. The Veteran film and TV actor of Bengali Cinema passed away due to cancer and liver problems__ **Mrinal Mukherjee**.

Note:

- Mukherjee had worked for over five decades in the Bengali film industry as well as Bengali TV serials and theatres.

9. 'Pioneer of method acting' in India passed away in Mumbai__ **Roshan Taneja**.

Note:

- Roshan Taneja trained scores of Hindi film actors like Shabana Azmi, Naseeruddin Shah, Jaya Bachchan and Anil Kapoor
- He had been training talent first at the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) in Pune and later at his private school in Mumbai, the Roshan Taneja School of Acting.

10. ITC's longest-serving **corporate chief** passed away at a private hospital in Gurugram__ **YC Deveshwar**.

Note:

- Deveshwar stepped down from executive role (on 4th February 2017) but remained as a chairman in a non-executive capacity, spearheaded the diversification of ITC to an FMCG company.
- In 2011, Deveshwar received India's third-highest civilian award 'Padma Bhushan'.
- In June 2018, conglomerate ITC decided to extend the tenure of non-executive chairman YC Deveshwar by another two years from 2020 to 2022.

11. The veteran Bhojpuri vocal artist passed away in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh__ **Hiralal Yadav**.

Note:

- He was a well-known Bhojpuri folk singer from the 'Birha' genre.
- In January 2019, He received the Padma Shri award.
- In 2015, he was felicitated with the Yash Bharti award for his contribution in the field of music.

12. Renowned American actress and model passed away__ **Peggy Lipton**.

Note:

- She came to fame through her role as flower child Julie Barnes in the ABC counterculture television series.
- The Mod Squad (1968-1973) for which she won the Golden Globe Award for Best Actress – Television Series Drama in 1970.

Important Days

1. The 'World Red Cross Day' is observed annually on ____ **8th May**.

Note:

- Henry Dunant was the founder of the Red Cross as well as the founder of International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).
- This day is dedicated to the people who suffer from food shortage, natural calamities, war as well as disease of the Epidemic.
- The theme for World Red Cross Day 2019 is "#love" or simply "love".

2. The birth anniversary of Gurudev Rabindra Nath Tagore is being celebrated all over West Bengal__ **158th**.

Note:

- Rabindra Nath Tagore reshaped Bengali literature and music, as well as Indian art with Contextual Modernism in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.
- The West Bengal Government has organised a special musical programme in Kolkata to pay tributes to Gurudev Tagore.
- Rabindranath Tagore was the Author of the "profoundly sensitive, fresh and beautiful verse" of Gitanjali.

3. Fifth United Nations (UN) Global Road Safety Week is being held from ____ **6 to 12 May 2019**.

Note:

- The theme for the weekly event in 2019 is “Leadership for road safety”.
- The UN Global Road Safety Weeks and its’ campaigns are coordinated by United Nations Road Safety Collaboration, chaired by the World Health Organization (WHO).

4. The ‘**National Technology Day**’ is observed **every year** in India on ___ **11th May**.

Note:

- On May 11, 1998, India successfully test fired the Shakti-I nuclear missile at the Indian Army's Pokhran Test Range (in Rajasthan) in an operation led by aerospace engineer and late President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam.
- India conducted five underground nuclear tests at Pokhran test range in Rajasthan, on 11th and 13th of May in 1998.
- The first nuclear test Pokhran with a codenamed as ‘Smiling Buddha’ was carried out in May 1974.

5. The World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) is being observed across the world on the ___ **11th May (second weekend in May)**.

Note:

- The day raise awareness and highlight the need for the protection of migratory birds and their habitats.
- This year, WMBD is being observed on 11th May.
- It has a global outreach and is an effective tool to help raise global awareness of the threats faced by migratory birds, their ecological importance, and the need for international cooperation to conserve them.

6. The International Nurses Day (IND) is an international day celebrated around the world on ___ **12th May**.

Note:

- Florence Nightingale (the foundational philosopher of the modern nursing) was born on 12th of May in 1820.
- The theme of 2019 is “Nurses – A Voice to Lead – Health for All.”

7. Mother’s Day is celebrated on 12th May 2019 ___ **second Sunday of May**.

Note:

- It is believed that the bond between a mother and her child is the strongest, and Mother’s Day appreciates the same.

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