

# Weekly One Liner

1st to 7th July 2019



## Weekly One Liner Updates 1-7th July 2019

### Dear readers,

Weekly One Liner Updates is a collection of important news and events that occurred in the first **week** (1-7th) of **July** 2019. This file is important for, **Banking interviews** and all **upcoming Banking & Insurance** exams.

### Banking & Financial Awareness

1. Karnataka Bank Ltd. MD & CEO M S Mahabaleshwara has launched the web tool to digitalize the NPA recovery process of the bank \_\_\_ **Vasool So-Ft.**

#### Note:

- The tool will enable easy and faster processing, real-time information and immediate decision making in the recovery area.
- The bank has joined hands with a local IT start-up to develop the tool for recovery management.

2. Who has set up the Centralized MSME & Retail Group (Cen-MARG) for credit facilities at its head office in New Delhi\_\_ **Punjab & Sind Bank.**

#### Note:

- This will help branches focus better on lead generation for retail and MSME lending and enhanced customer service.
- The Cen-MARG would be linked with pan-India branches in a phased manner.
- Now, all MSME and retail credit approvals will be performed at this centralized setup.
- The bank is aiming to bring about much-enhanced customer satisfaction through this initiative.

3. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) decided not to impose any charges on Fund transfer through systems\_\_\_ **RTGS and NEFT.**

#### Note:

- RBI has also asked banks to pass on the benefits to customers from the same day.
- The transaction cost comprises two components-RBI's charges plus banks' services charges based on the infrastructure cost they incur.
- The Real-Time Gross Settlement system is meant for large-value instantaneous fund transfers, while the National Electronic Funds Transfer system is used for fund transfers of up to 2 lakh rupees.

4. According to data released by the government, Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections narrowly missed crossing the Rs. in June 2019\_\_ **1 lakh-crore.**

#### Note:

- Total gross GST revenue collected in June 2019 is RS. 99,939 crores.
- CGST (Collected by the Central Government on an intra-state sale) is Rs. 18,366 crores
- SGST (Collected by the State Government on an intra-state sale) is RS. 25,343 crores
- IGST (Collected by the Central Government for inter-state sale) is Rs. 47,772 crores
- Cess (Cess knew as a tax on tax) is Rs. 8,457 crores
- The total number of GSTR 3B Returns filed for the month of May up to 30th June is Rs. 38 lakhs.

5. The **Reserve Bank of India** has constituted a Working Group of six members to Review Regulatory and Supervisory Framework for Core Investment Companies\_\_ **Tapan Ray.**

#### Note:

- Mr. Tapan Ray is a Non-Executive Chairman of Central Bank of India and former Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Govt. of India.

- The committee will suggest measures to strengthen corporate governance and disclosure requirements for CICs, assess the adequacy of supervisory returns submitted by CICs and suggest changes therein and various other things for the betterment of CIC.
6. The union **finance minister** has presented the maiden union budget for 2019-20 in Lok Sabha\_\_ **Ms Nirmala Sitharaman.**  
**Note:**
- This is the first Budget of the Narendra Modi Government in the second tenure.
  - The annual financial statement of a government, the Union budget gives details about the revenue and expenditure of the Centre in the past and estimated spending and projections for the coming year.
7. The **Reserve Bank of India** has appointed additional director on the board of Jammu and Kashmir Bank \_\_ **A K Misra.**  
**Note:**
- He is a former executive director of RBI.
  - A K Misra shall hold the office for a period of two years up to July 2, 2021, or till further orders.
8. The Director of Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS) for a period of three years\_\_ **B Harideesh Kumar.**  
**Note:**
- Earlier, he was the Executive Director of Canara Bank.
  - He is a Post-Graduate with a Degree in Law and started his banking career with erstwhile Vijaya Bank in the year 1978.
  - The Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS) is a recruitment body that was started with an aim to encourage the recruitment and placement of young graduates in public sector banks in India, other than the State Bank of India
9. Airtel Payments Bank to sell term insurance of \_\_\_\_**Bharti AXA Life**  
**Note:**
- Airtel Payments Bank has partnered with Bharti AXA Life Insurance to offer the Bharti AXA Life POS Saral Jeevan Bima Yojana through its extensive network of banking points across the country.
  - Saral Jeevan Bima Yojana is a pure life term insurance plan which is aimed at the underinsured and un-insured segments in India.
10. The **union government** has inked pact with IBM India for undertaking a **pilot study** to utilize \_\_**Artificial Intelligence (AI).**  
**Note:**
- The pilot study will be conducted for the Kharif crop season 2019 in three districts - Bhopal, Rajkot and Nanded - in Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra, respectively.
  - IBM's Watson Decision Platform will give solution in the field of agriculture through AI and weather technology at village level/ farm level to provide weather forecast and soil moisture information on the pro bono basis to help farmers for taking decisions regarding water and crop management for better production and productivity.

### Obituaries

1. **Telugu story writer** passed away in Kondapur, Hyderabad\_\_ **Abburi Chaya Devi.**  
**Note:**
- Some of her **popular stories** are Bonsai Bathuku, Prayanam Sukhantam, Akhariki Aidu Nakshatralu, and Wood Rose.
  - She won the Sahitya Akademi award in 2005 for her book 'Thana Margam.'
  - She also won Vasireddi Ranganayakamma award (in 1993) and Telugu University's best woman writer award (in 1996) for her book, Mrythyunjaya.
  - Chayadevi worked as Deputy Librarian at JNU, New Delhi, and took voluntary retirement in 1982.
2. Malayalam director passes away at Thrissur in Kerala\_\_ **Babu Narayanan.**  
**Note:**

- He directed several Malayalam hits such as 'Kudumba Vishesham' and 'Welcome to Kodaikanal'.
  - Babu Narayanan was also part of the Anil-Babu duo that made several box office hits like Sthreedhanam, Pattabhishekam.
  - Babu Narayanan was born to Narayana Pisharody and Devaki Pisharasiar at Calicut.
3. Professional motorcycle racer passes away during Ducati Streetfighter V4 prototype run at Pikes Peak Hill Climb\_\_ **Carlin Dunne**.
- Note:**
- He had earned the title of "King of the Mountain" after becoming the first motorcycle rider in the history of the race to achieve a sub-10-minute time in 2012 while piloting a modified Ducati.
4. Legendary **American automobile executive** has passed away\_\_ **Lee Iacocca**.
- Note:**
- Mr Iacocca is best known for the development of Ford Mustang and Pinto cars and saving Chrysler Corporation from bankruptcy.
  - Iacocca began his career in 1946 at the Ford Motor Company, first as an engineer and then in sales.
5. Veteran **industrialist** passed away in Mumbai \_\_ **Basant Kumar Birla**.
- Note:**
- He was the Chairman of the BK Birla Institute of Engineering and Technology, Krishnarpan Charity Trust and about 25 other educational trusts and institutes.
  - BK built educational institutions ranging from schools and colleges to engineering and management institutes across the country.

### Important Days

1. The annual Amarnath Yatra (46-day pilgrimage) was flagged off from both 'Baltal' and 'Pahalgam' routes in\_\_ **Jammu & Kashmir**.
- Note:**
- Governor Satya Pal Malik (Chairman of Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board) attended traditional "Pratham Pooja" at the cave shrine.
  - Any person below the age of 13 years or above 75 years, pregnant women and medically unfit people are barred for taking the pilgrimage in south Kashmir.
  - Shri Amarnath Shrine Board has procured Group Accidental Insurance Policy with a cover of 3 lakh rupees for registered Yatris (three lakhs).
2. The **National Doctors' Day** is celebrated **every year** in India on \_\_ **1st July**.
- Note:**
- The day honors the **legendary physician** and the 2nd Chief Minister of West Bengal Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy.
  - This is a vital day for doctors as it provides them with an opportunity to reflect on their career and remind them about practicing the art and science of Medicine and Surgery in an ethical manner.
  - Dr Roy was honored with the country's highest civilian award 'Bharat Ratna'.
3. The **World Zoonoses Day** is observed every year on\_\_ **6<sup>th</sup> July**.
- Note:**
- The day is observed to create awareness on zoonotic diseases, how to prevent them and what actions to take when exposed.
  - The day has been observed since 1885 to mark the day Louis Pasteur administered his first rabies vaccine.
  - Millions of people across the globe every year fall prey to the diseases like swine flu, bird flu, cat scratch fever, rabies, leptospirosis, Lyme disease, cowpox, Ebola, SARS, hantavirus, anthrax, monkeypox, etc. these diseases are known as zoonotic diseases.
4. The **International Day of Cooperatives** observed every year on the \_\_ **first Saturday of July**
- Note:**
- The aim of this celebration is to increase awareness of cooperatives.
  - 2019 theme: COOPS 4 DECENT WORK

5. According to a recent estimate, cooperatives around the world employ or are the main source of income for more than 279 million people—almost 10% of humanity's total working population.

### New Appointments

1. Who has been appointed as the **interim Chairman-Managing Director** (CMD) of the government-owned BSNL (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.) for a period of three months\_\_ **Pravin Kumar Purwar**.

**Note:**

- He succeeds Anupam Shrivastava who retired upon superannuation on June 30, 2019.
- BSNL is India's largest fixed telephony and broadband, and fifth largest mobile telephony services provider.
- Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (incorporated on 15th September 2000) is an Indian state-owned telecommunications company, headquartered in New Delhi.
- BSNL is the fourth largest mobile telephony provider in India.

2. Who has been appointed as the **chairman and managing director** (CMD) of **Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited** (BHEL)\_\_ **Dr. Nalin Shinghal**.

**Note:**

- Mr. Shinghal is presently working as Chairman and Managing Director of Central Electronics Limited.
- BHEL is India's largest power generation equipment manufacturer and is owned by Government of India.

3. Who was taken over the charge as new **Managing Director** (MD) and CEO (**Chief Executive Officer**) of Indian Overseas Bank \_\_\_ **Karnam Sekar**.

**Note:**

- He has replaced R Subramaniakumar.
- Mr. Sekar began his career in State Bank of India (SBI) as a probationary officer.
- He also had served Dena Bank as its Managing Director and CEO

4. Who has been reappointed as **deputy governor** of the Reserve Bank of India \_\_\_ **N.S. Vishwanathan**.

**Note:**

- The Appointments Committee of Cabinet has approved the extension of Vishwanathan's term as RBI deputy governor by one year (from 4 July 2019).
- Vishwanathan is in charge of regulation of banks, non-banking finance companies and cooperative banks.
- Besides Vishwanathan, the other deputy governors of the RBI include B.P. Kanungo and M.K. Jain.

5. American economist will serve as **interim leader** of the **International Monetary Fund** (IMF)\_\_ **David Lipton**.

**Note:**

- He will replace Christine Lagarde who was nominated to head the European Central Bank.
- Chief of International Monetary Fund Christine Lagarde has been nominated as the first woman to head the European Central Bank.

6. Who has been elected Chairman of **Microfinance Institutions Network** (MFIN) \_\_\_ **Manoj Kumar Nambiar**.

**Note:**

- He will replace Udaya Kumar Hebbar, President MD & CEO of CreditAccess Grameen.
- Vineet Chattree (Svatantra Microfin) will be the vice-chairman.
- Microfinance Institutions Network is an association for the microfinance sector in India. Its member organizations constitute the leading microfinance institutions in India.

7. Rahul Gandhi officially resigned as \_\_\_ **Congress President**.

**Note:**

- According to Mr Gandhi, the party's working committee should meet immediately to decide on his successor.
- Indian National Congress (known as the Congress Party and abbreviated INC) is a major political party in India.
- Indian National Congress Created in 1885 by A. O. Hume.

8. IMF Chief nominated as president of European Central Bank \_\_\_ **Christine Lagarde**.

**Note:**

- The nomination means Lagarde will step down two years before the end of her second five-year term at the helm of the IMF.
- Christine Lagarde would succeed Mario Draghi, whose term ends on October 31.

**Important News – India**

1. Jal Shakti Minister **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** has launched '**Jal Shakti Abhiyan**' across the country to accelerate \_\_\_\_\_ **water harvesting and conservation measures.**

**Note:**

- The scheme is aimed at making water conservation and promotion of irrigation efficiency a mass movement through asset creation and communication campaigns.
- Over 250 officers, including Additional and Joint Secretaries, have been appointed as in-charge of water-stressed districts in the country to plan ways to conserve the natural resource.
- They have been appointed as Central Prabhari Officers of 255 water-stressed districts for coordinating the Jal Shakti Abhiyan.
- These teams will visit identified blocks & districts and coordinate the implementation of various water harvesting and conservation measures.

2. A Book titled '**A Prime Minister to Remember: Memories of a Military Chief**' has been written by \_\_ **Admiral Sushil Kumar.**

**Note:**

- The book is about the huge impact that the late Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee had on the Armed Forces of India.
- Former Navy Chief Sushil Kumar served with Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee (from 1998 to 2001) during challenging times of Kargil War, hijacking of IC 814 and Operation Parakram

3. The **University Grants Commission (UGC)** has approved a 'Scheme for Trans-disciplinary Research for India's Developing Economy' (STRIDE) to boost \_\_\_\_\_ **research culture in India.**

**Note:**

- The scheme will strengthen research culture and innovation in colleges & Universities.
- It will provide support to research projects that are socially relevant, locally need-based, nationally important and globally significant.
- An Advisory Committee has been set up by the UGC under the chairmanship of Prof Bhushan Patwardhan to oversee the entire scheme. STRIDE will support research capacity building as well as basic, applied and transformational action research that can contribute to national priorities with a focus on inclusive human development.
- It will also support creation, development and integration of new ideas, concepts and practices for the public good and strengthening civil society.

4. Union Minister Smriti Irani has launched a book at the India International Centre in New Delhi \_\_\_\_ **Whispers of Time.**

**Note:**

- The book 'Whispers of Time' authored by Dr Krishna Saksena (91-years).
- 'Whispers of Time' is an effort to condense nine decades of her life experiences, realisations and observations into a book of fiction based on facts.
- Dr. Saksena is the first woman candidate from Uttar Pradesh to get a PhD degree in English Literature in the year 1955.

5. The Union Government has decided to enhance the import limit on Tur Dal for the year 2019 – 20 from two lakh metric tonnes to \_\_\_\_ **4 lakh metric tonnes.**

**Note:**

- The Union government has also decided to release two lakh metric tonnes of Tur Dal, available in the buffer stock of pulses to States and Union Territories under the Price Stabilization Fund.
- Union Government had signed an MoU with Mozambique, in July 2016 to improve domestic availability and facilitate price stability of Tur and other pulses.

6. **Indian Railways** has set a target to install **CCTV cameras** in more than **7,000 coaches** of mainline passenger trains by **March 2021**.
- Note:**
- Railway Minister Piyush Goyal said this in a written reply in Lok Sabha.
  - CCTV cameras have already been installed in coaches of premium, mail, express and suburban trains.
  - The cameras have also been installed in one thousand 300 coaches of mainline passenger trains.
7. The **Union Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs** has approved the increase in the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for 2019-20 Season\_\_ Kharif crops.
- Note:**
- Minimum Support Prices (MSP) of paddy has been increased by 65 rupees per quintal, Jowar by 120 rupees and Ragi by 253 rupees per quintal.
  - According to Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, the move will lead to increased investment and production through assured remunerative prices to the farmers.
  - MSP of Tur has been raised by 125 rupees, Moong by 75 rupees and Urad pulses raised by 100 rupees per quintal.
8. **Reliance Jio** has launched a new digital literacy programme **Digital Udaan**.
- Note:**
- The objective of the Digital Udaan' is to provide digital literacy to first-time internet users who are using the connected internet ecosystem and apps for the very first time.
  - The Jio Digital Udaan programme is being launched across 200 locations in 13 states in partnership with Facebook.
  - As a part of the Digital Udaan initiative, Jio will engage with users every Saturday to help them learn about the JioPhone features, use of various apps and internet safety including use of Facebook on JioPhone.
9. Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has set up its first exclusive 'Aadhaar Seva Kendra' (ASK) in **New Delhi & Vijayawada**.
- Note:**
- It will be operational six days a week excluding Tuesdays and public holidays.
  - These Aadhaar centres will make it easier for citizens to apply for a new Aadhaar card or update existing ones.
  - UIDAI has an ambitious plan to set up 114 such centres by the end of 2019.
  - Although thousands of Aadhaar centres are being run by banks and post offices currently but the Aadhaar Seva Kendras (ASK) are the first specialized centres operationalized by UIDAI.
10. India's first Design Development Center 'Fashionova' has been launched in **Surat, Gujarat**.
- Note:**
- The launch of Fashionova will promote the city in the field of the fashion design sector.
  - The main objective of this studio is to provide a strong platform to all those who have a flair of the apparel business.
  - It fulfils, on a large scale, all business needs from co-working space, technicians, expert advises to cognitive workshops and exposure to the industry.
11. India will host the **3rd edition** of the International Sunflower Seed and Oil Conference (ISSOC) 2019 in **Mumbai**.
- Note:**
- The event will be hosted by the Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA).
  - The last two editions was hosted by China and Ukraine.
  - Sunflower seed is seen as a healthy table-seed and culinary seed having wide applications in variety of food preparations including cakes and pastries.
12. The first ever **India International Cooperatives Trade Fair (IICTF)** to be held in **New Delhi**.
- Note:**
- It is a unique initiative for taking farmers, artisans & other members of cooperatives directly to the global trade arena which will be held from 11th till 13th October 2019 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.
13. India's first highway corridors for e-vehicles expected by **March 2020**.
- Note:**
- India's first highway corridors with charging stations for electric vehicles are expected to come up along the Delhi-Jaipur and Delhi-Agra highways by 2020.
  - The combined stretch of the corridors on the Yamuna Expressway (between Delhi and Agra) and the National Highway 48 (between Delhi and Jaipur) will be 500 km.

- The e-corridors are proposed to be the first under the Ease of Doing Business Programme (EODB) of the Advance Services for Social and Administrative Reforms (ASSAR), a private entity which is supported by the central government, an official engaged in the project said.

### Important News – State

1. Rajasthan Chief Minister 'Ashok Gehlot' has inaugurated 5th and 6th Unit of Chabra Super Critical Thermal Power Station in \_\_\_**Baran district**.  
**Note:**
  - In Chhabra, 4 Units are already producing power with a capacity of 250 MW each.
  - These two new units are of capacity to produce 660 Megawatts power each and now the total capacity of this thermal power station has reached up to 2 thousand 320 MW.
  - This is the state's First project based on Super Critical Thermal Power Technology and the estimated cost of this project is 9 thousand 550 Crore Rupees.
2. As per recommendation of state's forest department, the state Government has declared Tamil Yeoman (Cirrochroa thais) as the state butterfly \_\_\_**Tamil Nadu**.  
**Note:**
  - With this, Tamil Nadu became the fifth state in the country to announce its state butterfly.
  - Maharashtra was the first to declare Blue Mormon (Papilio polymnestor) as its state butterfly, followed by Uttarakhand (Common peacock), Karnataka (Southern bird wings) and Kerala (Malabar banded peacock).
  - These butterflies are also known as Tamil Maravan, which means warrior.
3. The **state Government** has announced an annual financial assistance of Rs 5 lakhs to "**loktantra senanis**" or their spouse for treatment at private or government hospitals \_\_\_**Haryana**.  
**Note:**
  - Now, the term "emergency victim" on their identity cards would be replaced with "loktantra senani".
  - During the Emergency, Democracy fighters who have been jailed in Satyagraha movement for a pension of 10 thousand rupees per month, and a helper to the freedom fighter and one of his assistants in Haryana Transport buses Bus travel facility is being provided.
  - Loktantra Senanis, who went to jail during the 'Satyagraha' Movement in emergency, are already provided a monthly pension of Rs 10,000 by the state government and free travel in the Haryana Roadways buses.
4. **Ministry of Railways** has released its new **All India Railway Timetable** known as \_\_\_**Trains At A Glance**.  
**Note:**
  - In addition to this, all the 17 Zonal Railways have also released their Zonal Railway Timetables.
  - The new Trains at a Glance is available on Indian Railways' official website - [www.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.indianrailways.gov.in).
  - The Northern Railway zone has introduced two new Tejas Express trains on the New Delhi-Chandigarh-New Delhi and the New Delhi-Lucknow-New Delhi routes.
5. The Parliament has given its nod to the resolution seeking an extension of President rule for a further period of six months in \_\_\_**Jammu and Kashmir**.  
**Note:**
  - Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill, 2019 was also passed by Parliament with Rajya Sabha approving it today.
  - A total of 3.50 lakh population of 435 villages will be benefitted through this amendment.
  - In India, the president's rule is the suspension of state government and imposition of direct central government rule in a state.
6. The **Union Government** has constituted a high-powered committee of chief ministers of several states for transforming Indian agriculture and raising \_\_\_**farmers' income**.  
**Note:**
  - Maharashtra Chief Minister 'Devendra Fadnavis' will be the convener of the committee.
  - While the chief ministers of Karnataka, Haryana, Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh have been included as members.
  - Union Agriculture, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Minister will also be a member of the committee.
  - Besides, NITI Aayog member Ramesh Chand has been named the Member Secretary.
  - It will suggest the modalities for adoption and time-bound implementation of agriculture sector reforms.



7. The **Chattisgarh Government** has decided to increase the retirement age of industrial labourers working in private sectors to 60 years from the current **58 years**.

**Note:**

- Employees and labourers working in various undertakings, factories, industries and commercial institutions would now retire at the age of 60 years.
- Final notification will be issued within 15 days after disposing of the suggestions received from all stakeholders.

8. The annual **Jagannath Rath Yatra** has begun at Puri in **Odisha**.

**Note:**

- Lakhs of people converge at Jagannath Temple in Puri to witness Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra riding three giant wooden chariots which are pulled by devotees as they travel to Gundicha temple.
- The Yatra commences with Lord Jagannath and his siblings visiting his aunt's place, Gundicha Temple, and is followed by rituals like Suna Besha and Adhar Pana on their return.
- In Gujarat, 142nd annual Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath begins in Ahmedabad.

9. The state Government has decided to set up Ganga Committees in all 25 districts situated on the banks of river Ganga **Uttar Pradesh**.

**Note:**

- This step is part of the largescale program to clean the holy river.
- In coming days, a special plantation drive on the banks of prominent holy rivers will be taken up.
- Total of **85 projects** related to Clean Ganga Mission worth 1185 crore rupees are running in the state, out of which 15 have been completed so far.

10. The **Uttar Pradesh government** has launched a toll-free Chief Minister helpline **1076**.

**Note:**

- It will enable people from across the state to register their complaints, ensure time-bound action on the complaints.
- If a department gets more than 100 complaints in a month, action will be taken against the concerned officials.
- The 500-seater call centre has been established for the helpline and it has the capacity to handle 80,000 inbound and 55,000 outbound calls on daily basis.
- When the complainant calls the helpline, he/she will get an SMS informing that the complaint has been sent to the department concerned.

**Important News - World**

1. The **US space agency** has announced to launch a **spacecraft in 2026** to explore the richly organic world of Titan **NASA**.

**Note:**

- A rotorcraft called 'Dragonfly' will arrive at the Saturn's moon in 2034, looking for prebiotic chemical processes common on both Titan and Earth.
- It may lend clues to how life may have arisen on Earth.
- Titan is the second largest moon in the solar system and is an icy world whose surface is completely obscured by a nitrogen-based golden atmosphere, four times denser than Earth's.

2. India has signed a deal with Russia for acquiring the anti-tank missiles **Strum Ataka**.

**Note:**

- The deal has been signed under the emergency clause as a result of which the missile would be delivered within a time of 3 months of the signing of the contract.
- The deal is worth around Rs 200 Crore.
- The deal would give an added capability to the Mi-35 attack choppers to take out enemy tanks and other armored elements.

3. Representatives of **50 law enforcement agencies** of the International Security Alliance are taking part in the first joint security exercise in Abu Dhabi **ISALEX19**.

**Note:**

- Joint Security Exercise will test the readiness of the different teams and to evaluate the tools, strategies and procedures developed jointly between member countries.
- The participants include representatives from tactical teams, rapid intervention units, communications, civil defence, and explosive ordnance disposal, teams.
- The International Security Alliance (launched in 2017) is an international working group to confront organised, transnational and extremist crimes in Abu Dhabi.

4. The United States has designated the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), which is fighting Pakistani rule in \_\_\_\_\_ **Balochistan province**.

**Note:**

- BLA is an armed separatist group that targets security forces and civilians, mainly in ethnic Baloch areas of Pakistan.
- The department has also made it a crime for anyone in the US to assist the BLA terrorists and freezing any US assets they may have.
- The US has also sanctioned Hezbollah operative Husain Ali Hazzima, chief of the Beirut-based terrorist group's intelligence unit.

5. India has pledged to contribute **USD 5 Million** in 2019 to the \_\_\_\_\_ **UN Palestine refugee agency**.

**Note:**

- The Indian Government is assisting 150 Palestinian professionals every year under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme.
- The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) (Created in December 1949) is a relief and human development agency which supports more than 5 million registered Palestinian refugees.
- UNRWA is the only UN agency dedicated to helping refugees from a specific region or conflict and is separate from UNHCR.

6. **Indian Rupee** will now be an accepted **currency** at all the retail outlets of the \_\_\_\_\_ **Dubai airport**.

**Note:**

- Stores at the Dubai Airport will accept notes of various denominations, including 100s, 200s, 500s and 2000s.
- The move makes the Indian rupee the 16th international currency to be accepted at Dubai's airports.

7. International Monetary Fund (IMF) approves **USD 6 billion loans** to Cash-Strapped \_\_\_\_\_ **Pakistan**.

**Note:**

- The Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved USD 6 billion loan for cash-strapped Pakistan over a period of three years.
- The loan amount will help to support Pakistan's economic plan that aims at returning sustainable growth to the country's fragile economy and improving the standards of living.
- The USD 6 billion financial aid includes an immediate disbursement of USD 1 billion to help Pakistan address its balance of payment crisis.
- while the remaining amount will be phased over the duration of the programme.

8. Who has approved a small, **pioneering tax** on internet giants like Google, Amazon and Facebook\_\_ **France**.

**Note:**

- The French government hopes that other countries will follow the suit. The bill foresees a 3 per cent tax on the French revenues of digital companies with global revenue of more than 750 million Euros.
- At present, the companies pay nearly no tax in countries where they have large sales like France.
- The bill adopted by the National Assembly will be sent to the Senate next week, where it is expected to win final approval.

### Honor & Awards

1. ITBP **Deputy Inspector General (DIG)** has become the **first civil servant** to scale Mount Denali in North America\_\_ **Aparna Kumar**.

**Note:**

- Currently, Ms Kumar posted as DIG, ITBP Northern Frontier at Dehradun.
- She also became the first woman IPS DIG and Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) officer to successfully complete the South Pole expedition

2. India's chief national **badminton coach** was bestowed upon an honorary doctorate by IIT Kanpur\_\_ **Pullela Gopichand**.

**Note:**

- He received the honour from former ISRO chairman and Chairman of Board of Governors of IIT Kanpur, Prof K Radhakrishnan.
- Former President APJ Abdul Kalam and former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh are past recipients of the honour.

3. Who conferred with posthumously '**Narad Samman-2019**'\_\_ **Achyutanand Sahu (DD News cameraman)**.

**Note:**

- Late Sahu was martyred in Naxal attack in Dantewada in Chhattisgarh in October last year, in the line of duty.
  - Even after having been shot, Achyutanand showed exemplary courage and set new standards in journalism.
  - The 2019 Narad Samman was given in total nine categories.
4. Odisha-based **Navaratna Company** has been selected for President's award for utilization of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) fund in social development\_\_ **National Aluminium Company (NALCO)**.
- Note:**
- NALCO has started "Aliali Jhia" a new scheme on the line of 'BETI BACHAO BETI PADHAO' (from 2015) to promote the education of Girls of BPL families
  - Under this scheme, 416 girls from BPL families of 66 villages of Anugul, Damanjodi and Potangi area in Anugul and Koraput districts have been adopted by Company.
  - The Company is bearing all the expenditure for education and promotion of talent from 8th to 10th class.
5. As per the **BrandZ Report**, who has topped in the 100 Most Valuable Global Brand for 2019\_\_ **Amazon**.
- Note:**
- The brand value of Amazon saw an increase of 52% in 2019 at USD 315,505 million (USD 207,594 million- in 2018).
  - Apple is at the second rank followed by Google at 3rd.
  - Three Indian companies (HDFC Bank-60th, LIC-68th & TCS-97th) have found place in the ranking.
  - The BrandZ rankings of the world's most valuable brands have been compiled by WPP's research arm.

### Sports News

1. The **iconic tennis championships 'Wimbledon 2019'** (133rd-edition) started in \_\_ **London, UK**.
- Note:**
- The grass court Major Wimbledon Tennis Championships is the third Grand Slam tournament of the year after the 'Australian Open' and the 'French Open'.
  - The Swiss great Roger Federer will be playing his 21st consecutive Wimbledon.
  - The 2019 Wimbledon Championships is a Grand Slam tennis tournament which took place at the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club in Wimbledon, London, United Kingdom.
2. Indian pro boxer has become the World Boxing Council (WBC) Asia silver welterweight champion in Pattaya Thailand\_\_ **Vaibhav Yadav**.
- Note:**
- He defeated Thailand's Fahpetch Singmanassak.
  - The fight was conducted by the Asian Boxing Council and approved by the WBC.
3. India's Veer Chotrani has won a gold medal in Under-19 Squash title at the Asian Junior Championship in \_\_ **Macau, China**.
- Note:**
- **Veer Chotrani** beat Yash Fadte.
  - With this victory, Veer became the third Indian to win the Asian trophy after Ravi Dixit and Vela Senthilkumar.
  - In the other two finals, India bagged two silver medals through Neel Joshi in the boys' Under-17 category and Yuvna Gupta in the girls' Under-15 section.
  - India finished the tournament with one gold, three silver and as many bronze medals.
4. Who has won the 2019 **Austrian Grand Prix** for the second year in a row\_\_ **Max Verstappen**.
- Note:**
- The win was only confirmed three hours after the race finished following an investigation into whether Verstappen unfairly ran Leclerc off the track.
  - The victory of Max Verstappen in the Red Bull Racing RB15 was the first win for a Honda-powered F1 car since Jenson Button in the 2006 Hungarian Grand Prix.
  - He also become the first non-Mercedes driver to win a race in 2019.
  - He is the son of former Formula One driver 'Jos Verstappen'.
5. Odisha Government will host the 21st Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship at the Jawaharlal Indoor Stadium in \_\_ **Cuttack**.
- Note:**
- This championship will see participation from some of the best players from across the world.

- Sports Secretary Vishal Dev and senior vice president, TTFI SN Sultan and president, OSTTA LN Gupta signing the MoU in presence of CM Naveen Patnaik.
  - The tournament has received a good entry with 14 associations, consisting India, Singapore, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, England, Scotland, Wales, Jersey, Australia, Cyprus, South Africa, Nigeria, Pakistan
6. Indian **middle-order batsman** retired from all forms of cricket \_\_ **Ambati Rayudu**.  
**Note:**
- **Ambati Rayudu** was in India's **official standbys** list for the on-going **World Cup** but was omitted twice.
  - **Rayudu played 55 ODIs** for India, scoring **1694 runs** at an average of 47.05. He, however, did not play any Test.
  - Ambati Thirupathi Rayudu played as a right-handed middle-order batsman, who occasionally kept wicket and bowled right-arm off breaks.
7. Dutch winger has announced his retirement from football after a 10-year spell with German giants Bayern Munich \_\_ **Arjen Robben**.  
**Note:**
- He has played 96 international matches for the Netherlands, scoring 37 goals.
  - Robben, who joined Bayern in 2009 from Real Madrid, played 309 competitive games for the Bavarian powerhouse, contributing 144 goals and setting up 81 more.
8. Indian sprinter has won the women's 200m gold in the Poznan Athletics Grand Prix, Poland \_\_ **Hima Das**.  
**Note:**
- National record holder shot putter Tajinder Pal Singh Toor bagged a bronze medal in the men's shot put with a best effort of 19.62 metre.
  - Hima Das is the world junior champion and national record holder in 400m clocked 23.65 seconds on her way to the 200m gold.
9. Pakistan batsman confirmed his retirement from one-day cricket \_\_ **Shoaib Malik**.  
**Note:**
- He will continue to play the Twenty20 format, but he admitted it was an emotional moment to call time on his ODI career.
  - He appeared in 287 one-day internationals and scored 7,534 runs with nine hundred.
  - His last appearance came in the defeat against India in Manchester on June 16.
10. Who won the Copa America 2019 Title \_\_ **Brazil**.  
**Note:**
- Brazil defeated Peru 3-1 to win its first Copa America title since 2007.
  - The 2019 Copa América (46th edition) was the international men's association football championship organized by South America's football ruling body CONMEBOL.

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