

# Weekly One-Liners

8th to 14th July 2019



## Weekly One Liner Updates 8-14th July 2019

### Important Days

1. **World Population Day** is observed across the world every year on \_\_\_\_ **11th July**.

**Note:**

- This year's World Population Day calls for global attention to the unfinished business of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development.
- The main aim behind having a World Population Day is to focus attention on the consequence of population issues and how it affects overall development plans and programs.
- In 1989, the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme recommended 11th July as World Population Day to draw attention to the urgency and importance of population issues.

2. The **French government** marked the national day on \_\_\_\_ **14th July**.

**Note:**

- The day is also known as Bastille Day.
- This is the 230th anniversary of the storming of the Bastille prison which took place in Paris on 14 July 1789.
- Armed forces from France and allied countries will march, drive, ride and fly over the central Champs Elysee.

### New Appointments

1. Who sworn in as the **Prime Minister** of Greece \_\_\_\_ **Kyriakos Mitsotakis**.

**Note:**

- Mitsotakis' New Democracy party won an outright majority with 158 seats in the 300-seat legislature.
- Earlier, he was Leader of the Opposition (from 2016 to 2019) and also served as Minister of Administrative Reform (from 2013 to 2015).
- Mitsotakis is the son of former Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis, one of the country's longest-serving parliamentarians.

2. Who has been appointed as the **Country Manager** for India of LinkedIn \_\_\_\_ **Ashutosh Gupta**.

**Note:**

- He will replace Mahesh Narayanan, who was the country manager for India (LinkedIn) from January 2019 to June 2019.
- Gupta will take charge, in his new role, from 2nd September 2019.
- LinkedIn has over 630 million global users and more than 57 million members in India.
- LinkedIn is an American business and employment-oriented service that operates via websites and mobile apps.

3. Senior **IAS officer** has been appointed **full-time head** of aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) \_\_\_\_ **Mr. Arun Kumar**.

**Note:**

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Arun Kumar, Additional Secretary and Financial Advisor.
- Mr. Arun Kumar was holding additional charge as DG from 1st June when B S Bhullar retired.

4. The Union government has appointed chairman of **Airports Economic Regulatory Authority** (AERA) for five years \_\_\_\_ **B S Bhullar**.

**Note:**

- Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is India's regulatory body for civil aviation, under the aegis of Union Ministry of Civil Aviation.
- As a regulatory body, it seeks to promote Safe and efficient Air Transportation through regulation and proactive safety oversight system in India.
- Enforce civil air regulations, air safety and airworthiness standards in India as per International standards.

5. Who has been appointed as the **Director General** (DG) of Fire Services, Civil Defence and **Home Guard** till 31st July 2020\_\_ **M Nageswar Rao**.

**Note:**

- Earlier, he held the position of Additional Director of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).
- Lieutenant General Shailesh Sadashiv Tinaikar (34-years) takes Charge as Force Commander of the UN mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) in Juba.

6. **Fitness brand** has announced Bollywood actor **Katrina Kaif** as its new **brand ambassador** in India\_\_ **Reebok**.

**Note:**

- This association would further Reebok's commitment to be the best fitness brand in India.
- Katrina, who trains hard towards a fitter and better self each day, embodies the brand's ethos and is an inspiration for today's generation.
- Reebok is an English footwear and apparel company, subsidiary of German sports giant Adidas (since 2005).
- Reebok produces and distributes fitness, running and CrossFit sportswear including clothing and footwear.

7. Who has been appointed as **Secretary**, (consular, passport, visa and Overseas Indian Affairs) in the **External Affairs** Ministry\_\_ **Vikas Swarup**.

**Note:**

- His appointment will come into effect from August 1, 2019.
- Currently, Mr. Swarup is India's High Commissioner to Canada.
- The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA) was a ministry of the Government of India, dedicated to all matters relating to the Indian diaspora around the world

8. **Election Commission of India** has Notificated for the election of \_\_\_\_ **Vellore (in Tamil Nadu)**.

**Note:**

- Vellore was the only seat that did not go for polling in the whole country during the General Elections.
- During the recent General Elections, polling to the seat was rescinded following a huge haul of money by the Income Tax authorities that were hoarded purportedly for distribution to the voters.

### Important News – India

1. According to Railway Minister **Piyush Goyal**, the Union government is eyeing investment of **50 lakh crore** in railways by the year\_\_**2030**.

**Note:**

- The **rail infrastructure** in the country increased by mere 30% in the last 65 years due to the lack of adequate investment, while freight and passenger traffic increased by 1500 per cent.
- Mr Goyal announced that the **entire Konkan Railway route** from Mumbai to Mangaluru via Goa would be electrified at the cost of **11,000 crore** rupees.
- The electrification of railways will improve speed and reduce pollution on the scenic **Konkan railway route**.

2. The **city in Rajasthan** made its entry into the 39<sup>th</sup> UNESCO World Heritage Site list\_\_ **The Walled City of Jaipur**.

**Note:**

- The announcement was made after the 43rd Session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, underway at Baku (Azerbaijan).
- The committee examined the nomination of the Walled City of Jaipur for inclusion in the World Heritage list.
- With this, India now has 39 World Heritage Sites (30 cultural properties, 7 natural properties and one mixed site).

3. Who partners with **National Skill Development Corporation** to organize 'World Skills India's International Cloud Computing Challenge 2019'\_\_ **NASSCOM**.

**Note:**

- **Ten countries including India** are participating in the competition, along with New Zealand, Belgium, Japan, China, South Korea, Russia, Oman and Ireland.
- "**WorldSkills India**" is an NSDC initiative launched in 2011 to provide a platform to the youth, along with industries and educators.

- The **National Association of Software and Services Companies** (NASSCOM) is a trade association of Indian Information Technology (IT) and Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) industry.
4. **Border Security Force** (BSF) has launched **massive exercise code** to fortify the 'anti-infiltration grid' along the Pakistan border in Punjab and Jammu \_\_\_Sudarshan.
- Note:**
- The exercise will see the entire **BSF's senior field brass**, thousands of troops and machinery being deployed in these forward areas.
  - It will cover the entire over the 1,000 km length (Jammu shares 485-km and Punjab shares 553-km) of the India-Pakistan International Border.
  - It further runs down towards Rajasthan and Gujarat on India's western flank.
  - A fleet of heavy and small all-terrain vehicles has been mobilised in these areas as the field commanders are moving in those localities.
5. The **Union Government** has decided to extend the **ESI Act** to the entire country by \_\_\_**2022**.
- Note:**
- Labour and Employment Minister **Santosh Kumar Gangwar** said out of the total 722 districts, the ESI scheme has been extended to **541 districts**.
  - Under the ESIC 2.0 programme, ESI scheme was extended in newly implemented areas.
  - The Minister informed the House that around 3 crores 60 lakh employees across the country are likely to be benefited by the measure.
6. **India** has **successfully tested** the vertical steep dive version of the Brahmos supersonic cruise missile that changes the dynamics of conventional \_\_\_**warfare**.
- Note:**
- The **upgraded version** of the world's fastest supersonic cruise missile with an enhanced range of up to 500 km is also ready.
  - **Brahmos missile**, which cruises at almost three times the speed of sound at Mach 2.8, is the heaviest weapon to be deployed on the Su-30 fighters.
  - The BrahMos is a medium-range ramjet supersonic cruise missile that can be launched from submarine, ships, aircraft, or land.
  - It is a joint venture between the Russian Federation's NPO Mashinostroyeniya and India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) who together have formed BrahMos Aerospace.
7. Two new heavy-lift **Chinook helicopters** for IAF arrive in \_\_\_**Gujarat**.
- Note:**
- American aerospace major Boeing has announced the arrival of two new heavy-lift Chinook helicopters for the Indian Air Force at the Mundra port in Gujarat.
  - The Indian Air Force has ordered 15 Chinooks and the first four helicopters arrived in February.
  - According to Boeing India, the advanced multi-mission helicopter will provide the armed forces unmatched strategic airlift capability.
  - The CH-47 Chinook is an advanced multi-mission helicopter and has unsurpassed ability to deliver heavy payloads to high altitudes.
8. Vice President **M. Venkaiah Naidu** has released a book titled \_\_\_**Land Registration, Global Practices and Lessons for India**.
- Note:**
- The book has been written by the **B.K. Agarwal** (Chief Secretary of Himachal Pradesh).
  - The Vice President in the book launch event called for a comprehensive model to make land deeds, transfers and registrations litigation free.
9. Who has launched an All India Drive "Operation Thirst" to crack down selling of unauthorized Packaged Drinking Water\_\_\_**RPF (Railway Protection Force)**.
- Note:**
- The objective of the "Operation Thirst" is to curb the menace of unauthorized PDW (Packaged Drinking Water) in Railway premises.
  - Almost all major stations over Indian Railway were covered during this operation.
  - The special drive will be followed by continuous action by concerned PCSCs on this issue.
10. The **Union Minister for Chemical and Fertilizers Shri D. Sadananda Gowda** has launched the Phase-2 of the \_\_\_**Direct Benefit Transfer of Fertilizer Subsidy (DBT 2.0)**.

**Note:**

- DBT system in Fertilizers (DBT 1.0) aimed at the release of 100% subsidy on various fertilizer grades to the fertilizer companies based on actual sales made by the retailer to the beneficiaries.
- Under Phase-II (DBT 2.0), three new initiatives have been launched:
- DBT Dashboards: with details of fertiliser supply, availability and requirement at national, state and district level
- PoS 3.0 Software: The Multi-lingual facility would provide Aadhar virtual ID option for registration, login and sale activity in DBT software.
- Desktop PoS Version: Retailers with laptops and computer systems can use high-speed broadband service for fertilizer sales.

**11. Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar** launched Coffee Table Book to Commemorate 50 years of Partnership with **UNWFP**.

**Note:**

- **Shri Narendra Singh Tomar** (Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare) has launched a Coffee Table Book named '50 years of Partnership for Change' in New Delhi.
- The book has been launched to commemorate five decades (50 years) of the partnership between the Ministry and UN World Food Programme (UNWFP) towards addressing food and nutritional security in India.

**12. Army Chief** has released a '**Kargil Tribute Song**' to honour, salute and pay homage to the '**Kargil martyrs**' and war veterans **General Bipin Rawat**

**Note:**

- The song has been composed by eminent Hindi lyricist Sammer Anjaan and sung by Shatadru Kabir.
- The song was released as part of the celebration of the 20th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas to be celebrated on 26th of July

**13. DRDO** successfully tests armour-piercing Nag missiles at **Pokhran range**

**14. Vice President Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu** has released a book titled **Vivekadeepini**.

**Note:**

- It is a book (in 10 languages) that contains facts and principles of spiritual leaders like Adi Shankaracharya and Swami Vivekananda.
- The original book is written by Sri Adi Shankaracharya in Prashnottara Ratnamalika.
- The conversion in different 10 languages has been done by Vedanta Bharati

**15. Who has signed an MoU with the central government-promoted National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) to secure funding for large-sized projects, including highways** **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)**.

**Note:**

- The MoU is related to co-operation in the formation of SPVs to execute the fund arrangement for large size road projects particularly greenfield projects to be executed by NHAI in future.
- NHAI is pursuing alternate sources of funding to attract international investors and fund houses that are willing to invest in road projects in India.
- National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) is a fund promoted by the Government of India to give a boost to the infrastructure sector in the country.

**16. Parliament** (The Lok Sabha & Rajya Sabha) has adopted a **statutory resolution** for levying **200% duty** on all goods originating in or exported from **Pakistan**.

**Note:**

- Parliament approved the amendment in the first schedule of the Customs Tariff Act in this regard.
- India had notified the basic customs duty to 200% on all goods exported from Pakistan with effect from 16th of February 2019.

**17. According to MPI 2019** released by the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** & the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, India lifted how many people out of poverty between 2006 and 2016 **271 million**.

**Note:**

- In Bangladesh the number dropped by 19 million between 2004 and 2014,
- In 101 countries (31 low income, 68 middle income and 2 high income), Around 1.3 billion people are "multidimensionally poor", including poor health, poor quality of work and the threat of violence.
- The report underscored that the traditional concept of poverty is outdated, demonstrating more clearly than ever that labelling countries - or even households - as rich and poor is an oversimplification.

**18. The Union Government** issued a **fresh bid document for strategic** disinvestment in **Pawan Hans**.

**Note:**



- According to Preliminary Information Memorandum (PIM), union Government has in-principle decided to disinvestment its entire equity shareholding of 51% in Pawan Hans Ltd (PHL) by way of strategic disinvestment to investors along with transfer of management control.
  - The PIM document stated that in the case of the consortium also, the combined net worth of all the members of the consortium should be 350 crore rupees.
19. Who has rolled out an initiative in the form of a **Unique Document Identification Number (UDIN)** in to pursue a heightened sense of self-governance and strengthen the practising side of company secretaries\_\_\_ **The Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI)**.
- Note:**
- UDIN will provide ease of maintaining a register of attestation and certification services.
  - The initiative will also enable stakeholders and regulators to verify genuinely of documents signed or certified by company secretaries in practice.
20. The book named “**War over Words: Censorship in India, 1930-1960**” has been authored by \_\_\_**Devika Sethi**.
- Note:**
- This book recovers narrates and interrogates the history of censorship of publications in India over three crucial decades – encompassing the Gandhian anti-colonial movement, the Second World War, Partition, and the early years of Independent India.
  - Devika Sethi teaches modern Indian history at IIT-Mandi, Himachal Pradesh.
  - The book has been published by Cambridge University Press.
21. The **Union Government** will set up a **secretary-level task force** to figure out how to create a **USD 110-billion** mobile phone export business from \_\_\_**India**.
- Note:**
- The task force will be headed by **NITI Aayog Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** Amitabh Kant.
  - The Prime Minister’s Office (PMO) has suggested the secretaries should form a policy that eliminates India’s weakness vis-à-vis other Asian countries.
  - The **National Policy on Electronics 2019** has set a manufacturing target at USD 400 billion by 2025.
22. Asia’s first **Six Sigma Institute of Mountain Medicines and High-Altitude Rescue** will be established at \_\_\_**Rudraprayag, Uttarakhand**.
- Note:**
- The institute would train armed forces as well as para-military personnel in Mountain Medicines.
  - The mountain institute will be Specialised healthcare, advance education and Rescue Training in the state.
23. The **5th India-EU High-Level Dialogue** on Migration and Mobility was held in \_\_\_**New Delhi**.
- Note:**
- External Affairs Ministry said in a release said the discussion was held in a highly friendly and constructive spirit.
  - It encompassed a wide range of issues of mutual interest in the context of migration and mobility along the India-EU corridor.
  - Both sides reaffirmed that migration and mobility are important dimensions of the strategic partnership between India and EU and exchanged views on further initiatives and steps aimed at realizing the full potential of further strengthening cooperation in this area.
24. India and US trade negotiators will hold talks to discuss bilateral and economic issues \_\_\_**New Delhi**.
- Note:**
- The US delegation is being led by Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for South and Central Asia, Christopher Wilson.
  - The Indian side is being led by Additional Secretary level officer from Commerce and Industries Ministry.
  - This would be the first meeting on trade issues after the meeting of Prime Minister Narendra Modi with US President Donald Trump in Japan on the sidelines of the G20 summit.
25. India - ASEAN Troika Trade Ministers’ meeting was held in \_\_\_**New Delhi**.
- Note:**
- India looks at RCEP as a logical extension of its Act East Policy and it holds enormous potential for economic growth and stability for the entire region.
26. The **Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)** is a proposed **free trade agreement (FTA)** between the ten member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam) and the six Indo-Pacific states.

## Important News – State

1. According to Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Rattan Lal Kataria, how many senior citizens in the country \_\_\_\_ **Over 10.38 crore**.  
**Note:**
  - Uttar Pradesh accounts for more than one crore 54 lakh followed by Maharashtra one crore 11 lakh.
2. The state Govt. will develop over **three hundred tourist** spots \_\_\_\_ Assam.  
**Note:**
  - **Assam government** has taken a step to develop 316 tourists spot in the state.
  - According to Bhaskar Phukan (M D of Assam Tourism Development Corporation), 150 crore rupees will be spent to develop these locations under Axom Darshan.
  - Toilet, waste management, drinking water and waiting shades to be built or develop across the state in important locations.
3. The annual **Bonalu festival** kicked off in the city at the **historic Golconda Fort** of \_\_\_\_ **Hyderabad**.  
**Note:**
  - Bonalu is an annual festival of Telangana celebrated in Twin Cities Hyderabad, Secunderabad and other parts of Telangana.
  - It is celebrated every year in a grand manner in the state during the first month of the monsoon season.
  - The famous Sri Ujjaini Mahankali Bonalu celebrations at Secunderabad will be held on July 21 and 22.
4. The **Union government** is going to set-up **three Sports Centre of Excellence** (for Martial Arts, Weightlifting and Boxing) in \_\_\_\_ **Itanagar (Arunachal Pradesh)**.  
**Note:**
  - These centres will have a capacity of 300 sportspersons with the residential facility.
  - The Union government will also set up 12 to 15 football stadiums with Astro-turf football pitches across the state in the next three years.
  - Mr. Rijiju further announced that this year Arunachal Pradesh will host the North East Youth Festival.
5. The **Madhya Pradesh** State Cooperative Seed Federation will produce \_\_\_\_ **seeds**.  
**Note:**
  - In Madhya Pradesh, along with distribution and marketing of certified and high-quality seeds to farmers,
  - The brand name of seeds will be '**Sah-Beej**'.
  - A plan has been made to produce seeds from the next **Rabi season**.
6. **Delhi Police** reunited 333 children with their families this year under \_\_\_\_ **Operation Milap**.  
**Note:**
  - Under Operation Milap this year, The Delhi Police's crime branch has reunited 333 children with their families after they separated from their parents.
  - Under this project, the Anti Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) of the Delhi Police develops information, rescues the trafficked or kidnapped person and arrests the kidnapper.
  - The 'Operation Milap' is carried out by the crime branch's 'Anti Human Trafficking Unit' (AHTU).
7. The **Delhi government** has announced that the Rajghat thermal power plant will be officially shut and turned into \_\_\_\_ **Solar park**.  
**Note:**
  - A 5,000 KW of solar power will be produced at the 45-acre plant site.
  - Rajghat thermal power plant (coal-based plant), whose current units were commissioned in 1989, has been lying in a shutdown mode from 2014.
8. Who has been selected for the prestigious **two-month internship** at the **International Court of Justice (ICJ)** based at The Hague \_\_\_\_ **Isha Kanth**.  
**Note:**
  - Only **two law students** from across the world get selected for this internship programme.
  - Currently, **Isha Kanth** pursuing a bachelor's degree in Law from the Queen Mary University of London.
  - The ICJ (the principal judicial organ of the United Nations) offers internships for one to three months to students and young professionals who are in the early stages of their careers.
  - The interns get an opportunity to put their knowledge and experience into practice while performing certain tasks for the Court under the supervision of registry officials.

## Important News – World

1. Italy's north-eastern Conegliano and **Valdobbiadene hills** (home to the world-famous sparkling wine prosecco) have been added to the \_\_\_\_ **UNESCO World Heritage list**.  
**Note:**
  - The region became Italy's **55th World Heritage site**.
  - The landscape is characterized by hogback hills, ciglioni -- small plots of vines on narrow grassy terraces -- forests, small villages and farmland.
  - A **World Heritage Site** is a landmark or area which is selected by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as having cultural, historical, scientific or another form of significance and is legally protected by international treaties.
  - The **sites are judged important** to the collective interests of humanity.
2. According to the latest **Henley Passport Index 2019**, who have ranked on top\_\_ **Japan and Singapore**.  
**Note:**
  - India stands at 86th position in this index with a mobility score of 58.
  - Afghanistan has once again been labelled by the index as the least powerful passport in the world.
  - The HPI consists of a ranking of passports according to how many other territories can be reached 'visa-free'.
  - The index includes 199 passports and 227 travel destinations including micro-states and territories.
3. Who has become the fifth country in the **World Health Organisation (WHO)** Southeast Asia region to eliminate measles\_\_ **Sri Lanka**  
**Note:**
  - The other countries in the region which have achieved this feat are Bhutan, Maldives, DPR Korea and Timor-Leste.
  - WHO recommends immunisation for all children with two doses of measles vaccine, either alone, or in a measles-rubella (MR) or measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) combination.
  - According to WHO, one-third of all measles-related deaths worldwide occur in India.
4. The second **India-Russia Strategic Economic Dialogue** has been started in \_\_\_\_ **New Delhi**.  
**Note:**
  - It will be held under the chairmanship of **Rajiv Kumar** (NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman) and Timur Maksimov (Deputy Minister of the Economic Development of Russia).
  - The first Dialogue was held in St. Petersburg on November 2018.
  - The meeting will focus on six core areas of cooperation, including the development of transport infrastructure and technologies, agriculture and agro-processing sector and small and medium business support.
5. The **annual festival** at historic **Kataragama temple** attracts devotees from all faiths in \_\_\_\_ **Sri Lanka**.  
**Note:**
  - The festival will end next week on full moon night with a water cutting ceremony,
  - **Thousands of devotees travel** for hundreds of kilo metres on foot to attend the **fortnight-long festival**.
  - The place finds mention in **Skanda Purana** and is popular for centuries-old Hindu temple of Lord Kartika, known locally as Katargama Deviyo.
  - Kataragama (multi-religious city) contains a mosque within the temple complex and a Buddhist temple nearby, considered to be one of the 16 main places of Buddhist pilgrimage in Sri Lanka.
6. South Korean tech giant announced its partnership with **Paisabazaar.com** for financial products in India\_\_ **Samsung**.  
**Note:**
  - Now, Paisabazaar.com will support Samsung Pay to provide users with a one-stop solution to their financial requirements.
  - Users can apply for credit cards and personal loans from the platform.
7. The fifth edition of **International Army Scout Masters Competition** is being held at \_\_\_\_ **Jaisalmer Military Station**.  
**Note:**
  - The competition is a part of International Army Games and consists of five stages of competitions which will be conducted over a period of nine days from 06 August 2019 to 14 August 2019 at Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.
  - It is the first time that India has got an opportunity to host and participate in this prestigious event.
  - Elite teams from eight participating countries including India will undergo a gruelling experience
  - The other seven countries are Armenia, Belarus, China, Kazakhstan, Russia, Uzbekistan and Zimbabwe.
8. Who will host the **14th Conference** of the Parties (COP) \_\_\_\_ **India**.  
**Note:**



- The global conference will be hosted at India Expo Mart Limited in Greater Noida.
- As many as 197 countries are expected to participate in the conference.
- The 14th session of COP will stress on three crucial issues - desertification, land degradation and drought.

9. Indian delegation attends **Global Conference on Media Freedom** in \_\_\_\_ **London**.

**Note:**

- UK Foreign Secretary **Jeremy Hunt** made the announcement at the first Global Conference for Media Freedom in London.
- The Conference the first of its kind, was also attended by Prasar Bharati Chairman A Surya Prakash, Member of Parliament Swapan Das Gupta and Kanchan Gupta, Member, Press Council.

10. World's Largest Movable Metal Dome Unveiled in \_\_\_\_ **Ukraine**.

**Note:**

- The world's largest movable metal structure has been unveiled as the covering for the destroyed reactor at Ukraine's Chernobyl nuclear power plant.
- Volodymyr Zelenskiy (President of Ukraine) along with his European partners formally inaugurated a new metal dome called as New Safe Confinement.
- The new Safe Confinement shelters the remains of the Reactor No. 4 of Chernobyl nuclear power plant that exploded and burned on April 26, 1986.
- The 1.7 billion was paid through a special fund launched by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and sponsored by 45 countries.

11. Who will impose a tax of up to **€18 on plane tickets for all flights** from airports in France from 2020 to fund less-polluting transportation projects \_\_\_\_ **French**.

**Note:**

- A **similar tax** was introduced in Sweden in April 2018, which imposed an added charge of up to €40 on every ticket in a bid to lessen the impact of air travel on the climate.
- It will see a tax of **€1.5 imposed** on economy-class tickets on internal flights and those within Europe, with the highest tariff applied to business-class travellers flying outside the bloc.
- The new measure is expected to bring in some **€182 million a year** which will be invested in greener transport infrastructures.
- It will only be applied on **outgoing flights** and not those flying into the country.

12. Who has breached a **uranium enrichment cap** set by a troubled **2015 nuclear deal** and warned Europe against taking retaliatory measures \_\_\_\_ **Iran**.

**Note:**

- Iran has officially surpassed the 3.67% **Uranium enrichment limit** set under the 2015 nuclear deal.
- The country had stopped complying with some elements of the **2015 nuclear deal** (officially called Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action).
- Signed by China, France, Germany, European Union, Iran, Russia, the UK and the US, the JCPoA treaty was aimed at limiting Iran's civilian energy programme.

### Honor & Awards

1. Who has won the **silver medal** in the **World Youth Cup**, in the under-12 age group category \_\_\_\_ **Arinjeeta Dey**.

**Note:**

- The tournament was held in Umag, Croatia and a total of 35 countries participated in this competition.
- The tournament was organised by World Karate Federation affiliated to the International Olympic Association.

2. **Women's soccer team** successfully claimed the 2019 FIFA Women's World Cup \_\_\_\_ **United States**.

**Note:**

- This is the **record fourth title** for the United States (1991, 1999, 2015 and 2019).
- The other winners are Germany, with two titles; and Japan and Norway with one title each.
- The FIFA Women's World Cup is an international football competition contested by the senior women's national teams of the members of FIFA, the sport's international governing body.
- **Golden Boot** (top scorer): **Megan Rapinoe** (6 goals)
- **Golden Ball** (best overall player): **Megan Rapinoe** (USA)
- **Golden Glove** (best goalkeeper): **Sari van Veenendaal** (Netherlands)

3. Indian movie has been honored with the **NETPAC** (The Network for the Promotion of Asian Cinema) **Award** for Best Asian Film in South Korea \_\_\_\_ **Gully Boy**.

**Note:**

- The film '**Gully Boy**' has been directed by **Zoya Akhtar** (released on 14th February 2019).
- '**Gully Boy**' is inspired by the lives of Mumbai street rappers Vivian Fernandes aka Divine and Naved Shaikh (aka Naezy).
- **BIFAN** is an international film festival (founded in 1997) with attention to Asian cinema from East Asia and Southeast Asia.
- **NETPAC** (created in 1990) is a pan-Asian film cultural organization of **29 member countries** which involves critics, filmmakers, distributors and exhibitors, festival, organizers and curators, and film educators.

4. Singer has emerged as the **highest-paid celebrity** with her 2019 estimated earnings to be over USD 185 million\_\_ **Taylor Swift**.

**Note:**

- This is the second time after 2016 that Swift has surpassed all the celebrities which makes her first music artist to outstrip others twice on the list, reported Variety.
- Swift's 2018 'Reputation' tour became the highest-grossing tour in the US history collecting over USD 266.1 million.
- Other celebrities on the list include beauty mogul, Kylie Jenner leading the list at No. 2 with estimated earnings of USD 170 million and Kanye West who stood at No.3 with earning over USD 150 million.

### Sports News

1. India's wrestler Vinesh Phogat (in 53 Kg category) and Divya Kakran (in 68 kg category) have won Gold Medal at the Grand Prix of \_\_\_\_ **Spain**.

**Note:**

- Vinesh comfortably beat Peru's Justina Benites and Russia's Nina Minknova before getting the better of Dutch rival Jessica Blaszka in the final.
- Among others, World Championship bronze medallist Pooja Dhanda (57kg), Seema (50kg), Manju Kumari (59kg) and Kiran (76kg) won silver medal.
- India finished second with 130 points in team championship behind Russia (165-points)

2. India's Badminton player has lost to Li Shi Feng (China) in the men's singles title clash of the Canada Open\_\_ **Parupalli Kashyap**.

**Note:**

- Kashyap entered the final, defeating Taiwan's Wang Tzu-wei in a semi-final encounter at Calgary.
- Feng had defeated Koki Watanabe of Japan in the other semi-final.
- The 2019 Canada Open (or, YONEX Canada Open 2019) is a badminton tournament took place at Markin-MacPhail Centre in Canada (2-7th July 2019).
- This tournament is organized by the Badminton Alberta and sanctioned by the BWF and Badminton Canada.

3. Norwegian chess grandmaster defeated Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (France) to reach 8/11 and win the Croatia Grand Chess Tour\_\_ **Magnus Carlsen**.

**Note:**

- The world champion Carlsen won his eighth straight tournament and earned USD 90,000.
- He scored a 2943 performance and returned to his highest rating of 2882.
- India's Viswanathan Anand ended up with 4.5 points and finished 11th

4. **Board of Control for Cricket in India** (BCCI) has appointed **former cricketer** as the head of National Cricket Academy (NCA) \_\_ **Rahul Dravid**.

**Note:**

- Dravid will be involved in mentoring, coaching, training and motivating players, coaches and the support staff at the academy.
- Dravid will look after all cricket-related activities at the NCA and the head coach of India's under-19 & India A team.
- **National Cricket Academy** (established in 2000) is a cricket facility of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) for training young cricketers.

5. Indian captain has won the **AIFF Men's footballer** of the year 2018-19 award\_\_ **Sunil Chhetri**.

**Note:**

- Sunil Chhetri has already won Player of the Year award in 2007, 2011, 2013, 2014 and 2017.
  - Currently, Chhetri plays for Bengaluru FC in the Indian Super League (ISL).
6. India midfielder was named the **AIFF Emerging Men's Player** of the Year\_\_ **Abdul Samad**.
7. Ace Indian **Women's footballer** has won the Women's footballer of the year award\_\_ **Ashalata Devi**.
- Note:**
- The AIFF Player of the Year is an annual association football award presented to the best footballer in India over the previous year (2018-19 season).
  - It has been awarded by All India Football Federation since 1992.
8. Total number of **two thousand 437 sporting talents** identified for support under \_\_\_\_ **Khelo India Scheme**.
- Note:**
- Under the scheme, the government provides financial assistance of about five lakh rupees per annum for a period of eight years.
  - The Khelo India programme has been introduced to revive the sports culture in India at the grass-root level by building a strong framework for all sports played in our country and establish India as a great sporting nation.
9. India's sprinter has clinched a Gold medal in the 100-metre dash event at the World Universiade at Napoli in Italy\_\_ **Dutee Chand**.
- Note:**
- She clocked **11.32 seconds** as she led the race from start to finish.
  - **Del Ponte** of Switzerland won the Silver, while German **Lisa Kwayie** took home the Bronze.
  - With the Gold, Dutee has become the first Indian woman track and field athlete to win the coveted yellow metal at the event.

### Banking & Financial Awareness

1. The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** board has finalized a **three- year roadmap** named \_\_\_\_ **Utkarsh 2022**.
- Note:**
- To identify issues that needed to be addressed over the next three years, an internal committee was formed.
  - It was headed by outgoing Deputy Governor Viral Acharya.
  - This is in line with the practice of Central Banks across the world, that make long term and short-term plans.
2. The **Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2019-20 Series-II** is now open for the issue from 8<sup>th</sup> July to \_\_\_\_ **12<sup>th</sup> July 2019**.
- Note:**
- Government of India has decided to offer a discount of Rs 50 per gram less than the nominal value to those investors applying online and the payment against the application is made through digital mode.
  - For such investors, the issue price of Gold Bond will be Rs 3,393/-per gram of gold.
  - The minimum investment in the Bonds shall be one gram with a maximum limit of subscription per fiscal year of 4 kg for individuals, 4 kg for Hindu Undivided Family (HUF) and 20 kg for trusts.
  - The tenor of these Bonds will be for a period of 8 years (exit option after the 5th year).
3. According to Swiss brokerage firm UBS, India's GDP growth rate for FY20 (2019-20) predicted at \_\_\_\_ **6.7%**.
- Note:**
- This is 20 bps less than its earlier prediction of 6.9%.
  - As per UBS, India's GDP growth rate in FY19 was 6.8%.
  - The brokerage expects the Reserve Bank to ease the policy rate by another 75 basis points as against its previous forecast 25 basis points in FY20.
  - The lack of fiscal impetus in the budget opens the door for higher monetary easing than market expectations.
4. PAN not linked to Aadhaar card will become invalid from \_\_\_\_ **1st September 2019**
- Note:**
- To validate and continue using the existing PAN cards, citizens will have to link them to Aadhaar.
  - A person will be permitted to use Aadhaar instead for filing returns and while making other high-value transactions, specified under the Income Tax Act.
  - At present 180 out of the existing 400 million PAN cards are not linked to Aadhaar.
5. RBI's Working Group recommends extension of market hours from \_\_\_\_ **9 am to 9 pm**.
- Note:**

- An Internal Working Group of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Comprehensive Review of Market Timings has suggested calibrated extension of Currency Market (Foreign Exchange Market) hours for both Over the Counter (OTC) and Exchange Traded.
  - At present the markets close at 5 pm.
6. The state Government has set up **Non-Resident Keralites Investment** company\_\_\_ **Kerala Govt.**
- Note:**
- Kerala Government decided to form a Non-Resident Keralites Investment company with 74% stake to be held by expatriate (or expat) to channelize investments from overseas Keralites for major infrastructure development in the state.
7. Who has signed a **memorandum of understanding** (MoU) with BRICS of Commerce and Industry for promoting trade and investments between **BRICS countries** and eastern part of India\_\_\_ **Bharat Chamber of Commerce (BCC).**
- Note:**
- It was signed by Sitaram Sharma, BCC president and B B L Madhukar, BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry Director General.

### Obituaries

1. Brazilian singer, guitarist and songwriter passed away \_\_\_**Joao Gilberto.**
- Note:**
- He was considered one of the fathers of the bossa nova genre that gained global popularity in the 1960s and became an iconic sound of the South American nation.
  - Bossa nova is a fusion of samba and jazz that emerged in the late 1950s and gained a worldwide in the 1960s.
  - Over his career, he won two Grammy awards and was nominated for six, and the US jazz magazine Down Beat in 2009 named him one of the 75 great guitarists in history and one of the five top jazz singers.
2. Former **Goa minister passed away** at a hospital in Mumbai after a brief illness\_\_\_ **Wilfred Mesquita.**
- Note:**
- Mr Mesquita was the founder vice president of the then ruling Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party (youth wing) in 1974.
  - He served as the cabinet minister in late 1990s in the then Congress-led state government.
  - Mr Mesquita held various portfolios like revenue, environment, sports and youth affairs, power, law and judiciary and legislative affairs.
  - He was the leader of the Goa BJP since 2007 and served as the party's vice president and spokesman.
3. Former **Indian football team goalkeeper** has passed away after a brief illness\_\_\_ **A. U. Celestine.**
- Note:**
- Celestine played for the Tamil Nadu men's team in the Senior Nationals as a goalkeeper (in 1965) and National Championships (in 1969).
  - He had represented India in the Merdeka Cup in Malaysia in 1969.
4. Former **Bengal leg-spin** great passed away\_\_\_ **Soumendranath Kundu.**
- Note:**
- Former Bengal and Railway leg-spinner **Soumendranath Kundu** (77-years) passed away in Kolkata.
  - Kundu was bestowed with the **Lifetime Achievement award** by the Cricket Association of Bengal in 2013-14.
  - Kundu took **127 wickets** in 30 First-Class matches between 1958-59 and 1968-69.

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