

Weekly One-Liners

15th to 21st Sept. 2019

Weekly One Liner Updates 15-21st September 2019

Important News – India

1. Jal Shakti Minister **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** flagged off Great Ganga Run-2019 at ____ **Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi.**

Note:

- Large number of people from all age groups participated in the marathon.
- Participation of the people in the run corroborates the fact that people are not only aware of the importance of water but are active to conserve the important resource.
- It was organized to create awareness about the river Ganga.
- Jal Shakti ministry will organise Ganga Expedition from October 9 as well.

2. The Defence Research Development Organization (DRDO) handed over the second Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEWC) aircraft to the Indian Air Force (IAF) ____ **Netra.**

Note:

- An Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEWC) aircraft 'Netra' had played a stellar role during the Balakot airstrikes that had been carried out by the IAF in February 2019.
- It provided surveillance and radar coverage to the five Mirage jets that bombed terror launch pads in Balakot in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province in Pakistan.
- It has been designed and developed by scientists of the DRDO, with assistance from the Bengaluru-based Centre for Airborne Systems.

3. Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' (HRD Minister) has launched a major programme offering 1,000 PhD fellowships to ASEAN students at ____ **IITs in India.**

Note:

- The country's partnership with **South-East Asian nations** has developed **historically** through a shared quest for knowledge.
- It is only natural that knowledge remains the fundamental driver of people to people ties.
- Those selected can complete their PhD with Government of India funding at par with Indian counterparts.

4. India's first central police university to come up in ____ **Greater Noida.**

Note:

- The country's first central police university will be set up by the Union home ministry off the Yamuna Expressway in Greater Noida.
- The university will offer undergraduate and postgraduate courses on policing, internal security, cybercrime and forensic sciences.

5. Union Ministers **Piyush Goel** and **Hardeep Singh Puri** have jointly launched the **Steel Import Monitoring System (SIMS)** in ____ **New Delhi.**

Note:

- In this system, the importers of specified steel products will register in advance on the web portal of SIMS, providing the necessary information.
- SIMS has been developed, in consultation with the Ministry of Steel, on the pattern of US Steel Import Monitoring and Analysis (SIMA) system.
- SIMS will provide advance information about steel imports to Government and stakeholders (steel industry (producers), steel consumers(importers)) for effective policy interventions.

6. Union Minister **Prakash Javadekar** flagged off a Jaldoot vehicle a travelling exhibition in ____ **Pune.**

Note:

- The van carrying the 'SAVE WATER' message will travel to different parts of the state.
- The Union Government has launched the 'Jalshakti Abhiyan', a water conservation campaign focusing on 1592 stressed blocks in 256 districts across the country.

7. Union Minister for **Home Affairs Amit Shah** has presided the 5th International Ramayan Festival in ____ **New Delhi.**

Note:

- The three days International **Ramayan Festival** has been organized by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).
- **Ramayan** is one such scripture of India that has transcended Personal, Religious, Societal, Cultural and National boundaries and reached a global audience.
- **17 countries** have participated with their artists and rendered their versions of Ramayan.
- The **ICCR was established** with the vision of propagating Indian culture and its values to the whole world and organizing Ramayan festival is one way to realize this vision.

8. India's first National Antimicrobial Resistance Hub inaugurated in ____ **Kolkata**.

Note:

- The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Director General (DG) Balram Bhargava has inaugurated India's first National Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Hub in Kolkata.
- AMR is the ability of a microbe to resist the effects of medication that once could successfully treat the microbe.
- The Kolkata centre would be the hub for research on antibiotic resistance not only for the country but for entire South Asia.

9. Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** flew in the **Light Combat Aircraft** (LCA) Tejas at HAL (Hindustan Aeronautical Limited) airport in ____ **Bengaluru**.

Note:

- Tejas is a twin-seater, single-engine, delta wing, multi-role light fighter designed by the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA).
- Tejas is produced by Hindustan Aeronautical Limited (HAL) for the Indian Air Force.

10. Who has inked an MoU with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for development of human-centric systems and technologies for the Human Space Mission Gaganyaan ____ **ISRO**.

Note:

- ISRO is on course to its target of sending Indian astronauts to space by 2022 under the 'Gaganyaan' project, which entails an investment of Rs. 10,000 crores.
- On the other hand, DRDO is committed to providing all necessary support including customized technological capabilities to ISRO for the human space flight within the stringent timelines.

11. Ministry has taken an initiative to develop National Water Museum to raise awareness among people on the conservation of the natural resource ____ **Jal Shakti Ministry**.

Note:

- According to an **official release**, the Ministry is also organizing **two-day International Workshop** from today which will be attended by experts from India and abroad.
- The **outcome of the workshop** will be a blueprint for establishing the proposed National Water Museum under the aegis of Jal Shakti Ministry.
- During the workshop, possible broad composition, the content of the museum including highlighting importance of water and its current state in different regions of the country, possible solutions, traditional and modern water management practices and localised success stories are proposed to be discussed.

12. President of Mongolia arrived in New Delhi on a five-day state visit ____ **Khaltmaagiin Battulga**.

Note:

- Mr. Battulga has been accompanied by a high-level official and business delegation.
- The visiting dignitary will meet President Ram Nath Kovind, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- Mr Battulga will also participate in an India-Mongolia Business Forum in New Delhi.
- During his stay, the Mongolian President will visit Agra, Bodh Gaya and Bengaluru.

13. Who has launched Waste Management Accelerator for Aspiring Women Entrepreneurs (WAVE-2019) summit ____ **Pokhriyal 'Nishank'**.

Note:

- The schemes will work towards providing students with the best education to keep pace with the rapidly changing world.
- It will be jointly organized by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and Institute of Waste Management (IIWM) at Jaipur.
- This initiative stating that it will empower women and encourage entrepreneurship among youngsters.

- WAVE Summit 2019 is a great initiative for women who have skills in their hands and it will further empower and motivate them

14. Telangana Government has decided to declare 2020 as Year of ____ **Artificial Intelligence(AI)**.

Note:

- The State Government will be organising various activities related to emerging technology throughout the year.
- This comes in the backdrop of emerging talent pool as well as renewed focus by industry and other ecosystem players on AI space in last 4-5 years.
- Throughout the year 2020, the state government will be running multiple programs, meetings and activities such as hackathons, masterclasses and other activities.

15. Prime Minister Narendra Modi embarked on a 7-day visit to the ____ **United states**.

Note:

- During his visit, Mr. Modi will address the United Nations General Assembly on 27th of this month.
- On 22nd September, Prime Minister Modi will address the Indian community at the NRG Stadium in Houston, Texas at 8.30 pm (India Standard Time) and President Donald Trump will also be there.
- Around 50,000 people are expected to attend the event Howdy, Modi!.
- "Howdy", short for 'How do you do?' is a friendly greeting commonly used in the south-western US.

16. Who has allowed **Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)** to offload in a year up to a quantity equivalent to maximum 25% of total iron ore production in previous years ____ **Ministry of Mines**.

Note:

- It will be subject to clearance from the respective State Governments, where the mines are located, after following due procedure.
- Around 7 million tonnes of iron ore, produced at its different mines in the States of Jharkhand, Odisha and Chattisgarh, can be offloaded by SAIL to the domestic market after getting necessary clearance from the State Governments.
- This will enable SAIL to not only fulfil its own requirement but also to partially cater to a shortfall in domestic iron ore requirement.

Important News – State

1. The three-day-long traditional Neermahal Jal Utsav concluded with eye-catching boat race and swimming competitions at ____ **Rudrasagar lake**.

Note:

- Chief Minister of Tripura Biplab Kumar Deb flagged off the boat race.
- Neermahal is a water palace built at the middle of Rudrasagar lake by Maharaja Bir Bikram Kishore Manikya in 1930 as his summer resort being inspired by the Mughal style of architecture.

2. **Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister** dedicates **Dikshi Hydroelectric Project** to people of the state ____ **Pema Khandu**.

Note:

- The 24 Mega Watt Hydroelectric Project has been installed at Dikshi Village in West Kameng District in Arunachal Pradesh.
- It is a Run-of-the-River project constructed on the river Phudung by Devi Energies Private Limited.

3. Karnataka Chief Minister **B S Yediyurappa** has announced that the **Hyderabad-Karnataka region** has been renamed as ____ **Kalyana Karnataka**.

Note:

- The Hyderabad Karnataka region comprises six north-eastern districts of Karnataka Bidar, Kalaburagi, Koppal, Ballari, Yadgir and Raichur.
- A separate secretariat would be set up for the development of Kalyana Karnataka, through which funds would be released for developmental work.

4. Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur has launched Mukhya Mantri Service Resolution Helpline number for the speedy and time-bound redressal of public grievances ____ **1100**.

Note:

- The helpline number will make use of the latest technologies to help people register their complaints online, making the whole procedure paperless and lessen the footfall in government offices.

- Now, Himachal Pradesh has become the fourth state (after Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh) in the country to have such a helpline.
 - Mantri Service Resolution Helpline will function 6 days a week (Monday-Saturday) from 7 am to 10 pm
 - Every complaint will be resolved within a period of 7-14 days.
5. Delhi **Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal** has launched a newly **integrated one-touch** mobile app ____ **Tatpar**.
Note:
- 'Tatpar' app (developed by the Delhi Police) is a one-stop destination for access to over 50 citizen-centric services.
 - With the help of this app, people can navigate to their nearest police station, traffic pit and prepaid taxi booth.
 - The app amalgamates all the websites and mobile applications of the Delhi Police.
 - 'Tatpar' app is another step from Delhi Police to provide its services to the citizens of Delhi in a convenient online mode on 24x7 basis.
6. The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has been inaugurated a resurfaced Advance Landing Ground (ALG) at ____ **Vijaynagar, Arunachal Pradesh**.
Note:
- It will enable operations by military transport aircraft at the base near the China border.
 - The Indian Air Force has made eight advanced landing grounds (Vijaynagar, Ziro, Aalo, Pasighat, Tawang, Mechuka, Walong and Tuting) in the country till date with a cost of 720 crores.
7. The state Govt. has inked an MoU with the **Maldives** to strengthen **cancer care** ____ **Kerala**.
Note:
- Maldives has also sought RCC's support to create a cancer registry in that country.
 - The MOU was signed between Abdulla Ameen (Maldivian Minister) and K K Shylaja (Kerala Health Minister) in the presence of the state Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.
8. The first-ever "**Jammu International Film Festival**" will be held in ____ **Jammu**.
Note:
- **37 short films** and documentaries from 11 countries will be screened at the inaugural edition of Jammu International Film Festival.
 - The festival will also present an annual 'Inspiring Icon Award', which will be **given to a person**, who hails from the region and has made it big in the **film industry**.

Important News - World

1. Who became the **79th country** to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA) ____ **Saint Vincent & the Grenadines**.
Note:
- The International Solar Alliance is a group of 121 solar resource-rich countries with headquarters in Gurugram, India.
 - The organisation aims to deploy over 1,000 gigawatts of solar energy and mobilise more than USD 1,000 billion into solar power by 2030.
2. **President Ram Nath Kovind** has inaugurated a bronze bust of Mahatma Gandhi in ____ **Villeneuve, Switzerland**.
Note:
- The bust was unveiled to mark the visit of Mahatma to Villeneuve in 1931.
 - he idol sculpted by Ram Vanaji Sutar is placed on a high pedestal made of sandstone extracted from Switzerland.
3. Sri Lanka has unveiled **South Asia's tallest tower** called 'Lotus Tower' in ____ **Colombo**.
Note:
- The Lotus Tower (17-storey) is spread over an area of 30,600 sq. metres, with a height of 350-metre and overall cost, is above USD 100 million.
 - The Lotus Tower will function as a TV tower, a hotel, a shopping mall and a conference centre.
 - In 2012, Sri Lanka and China signed the Lotus Tower agreement to build the tower, with China National Electronics Import and Export Corporation being the general contractor.
4. Who is the leading country of origin of **international migrants** in 2019 with a 17.5 million-strong diaspora__ **India**.
Note:
- The International Migrant Stock 2019, a dataset released by the Population Division of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs provides the latest estimates of the number of international migrants by age, sex and origin for all countries and areas of the world.

- The report says that India hosted 5.1 million international migrants in 2019, less than 5.2 million in 2015.
 - After India, Migrants from Mexico makes the second-largest diaspora (11.8 million), followed by China (10.7 million), Russia (10.5 million), Syria (8.2 million), Bangladesh (7.8 million), Pakistan (6.3 million).
5. The 55th **Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC)** Day was celebrated at the High Commission of India in **Dhaka, Bangladesh**.
- Note:**
- Around 300 ITEC alumni from all walks of life, attended the programme.
 - Over 4,000 young Bangladeshi professionals have undergone specialized short and medium-term courses in India under the ITEC programme since 2007.
 - ITEC offers opportunities to participants to avail of short- and medium-term courses in premier institutions like IITs and IISCs in India.
6. The 38th edition of the Sharjah International Book Fair (SIBF) will be organized from **30th Oct to 9th Nov 2019**.
- Note:**
- The book fair will be held at the '**Expo Center**' in Sharjah, with the participation of selected **writers**, novelists and artists from around the world.
 - Authors, publishers, intellectuals and artists worldwide will bring their experiences and expertise to this prominent event and partake in a vibrant cultural programme.
 - **UNESCO** has named Sharjah as the World Book Capital City for the year 2019 in recognition of the city's continuous efforts in promoting books and literacy.
7. **North African country** will hold the **Presidential election** on 12th December this year **Algeria**.
- Note:**
- Abdelkader Bensalah has resigned in April following mass protests.
 - The announcement comes after Army chief General Ahmed Gaid Salah insisted that polls be held by the end of this year, despite ongoing protests demanding the creation of new institutions ahead of any elections.

Honor & Awards

1. Who received the **Dr Kalam Smriti International Excellence Award 2019** in Dhaka for her contribution in fostering cooperation between India and Bangladesh **Sheikh Hasina**.
- Note:**
- Chief Adviser of the **Dr Kalam Smriti** International Advisory Council and former Ambassador **T.P. Sreenivasan** handed over the award to **Bangladesh Prime Minister** Sheikh Hasina.
 - The award citation lauded **Prime Minister Hasina** for her vision of a peaceful and prosperous South Asia, free of tension, conflicts and terrorism.
2. Bangladesh's **bamboo-made school** wins Aga Khan Award for **Architecture**.
- Note:**
- Bangladesh's bamboo-made school built by Arcadia Education Project at South Kanarchor in Keraniganj has won the 2019 Aga Khan Award for Architecture.
 - The award was given away in Kajan, the republic of Tatarstan for the Arcadia Education Project in South Kanarchor of Bangladesh.
 - The winners that include five other structures in Bahrain, Palestine, Russia, Senegal and the United Arab Emirates will share USD 1 million between them.
3. Who has become India's first **female military diplomat** to be posted in any of the Indian missions abroad **Wing Commander Anjali Singh**.
- Note:**
- She has joined the Indian Embassy in Russia as the Deputy Air Attache.
 - Until now, only male officers from the three services (Indian Air Force, Navy and Army) were appointed as military attaches in overseas Indian missions.
 - Anjali Singh (hails from Bihar) is from the aeronautical engineering branch of the Indian Air Force (IAF) with 17 years of service, trained on MiG-29 aircraft.
4. **Meghalaya's** Right to Information (RTI) activist has been awarded the **11th International Hrant Dink Award** in Istanbul **Agnes Kharshiing**.

Note:

- Kharshiing, who was assaulted by a group of 40 people for complaining against illegal mining and transport of coal in the East Jaintia Hills district.
 - The Hrant Dink Award is an annual award presented by the Hrant Dink Foundation on the birth anniversary of Turkish journalist Hrant Dink.
5. **Bollywood actor** registered a double victory at **Indian International Film Festival** of Boston__ Neena Gupta.
- Note:**
- The 'Badhaai Ho' actor won Best Actress award while her film 'The Last Color' emerged victorious in Best Feature Film category.
 - The directorial debut of world-renowned chef Vikas Khanna 'The Last Color' deals with taboo surrounding widows in Vrindavan and Varanasi in India.
 - The film's first look was unveiled at the Cannes Film Festival and has since travelled around the world to various film festivals including New York Indian Film Festival 2019 and Indie Meme Film Festival among others.
6. Noted **Indian photographer** has been chosen as the **first recipient** of international photography award __ **Raghu Rai**.
- Note:**
- The award is in honour of the celebrated American-born French photographer and filmmaker William Klein, best known for his unusual photography techniques.
 - As a consecration award, the prize is intended to reward a photographer for their entire career and commitment to photography.
7. Noted mathematician has been felicitated in the US with a prestigious Education Excellence Award 2019__ **Anand Kumar**.
- Note:**
- The Foundation For Excellence (FFE) awarded him on the occasion of the organisation's 25th anniversary gala in San Jose, California.
 - Anand has been running a highly innovative Super 30 programme for the last 18 years to mentor 30 student free of cost through year-long residential coaching for India's premier IIT-JEE.

Sports News

1. Who clinched record **22nd world titles** by winning a **4th straight final** in the 150-up format at the **IBSF World Billiards Championship** in Myanmar __ **Pankaj Advani**.
- Note:**
- In a repeat of **last year's final** against local favourite Nay Oo, Pankaj re-enacted the one-sided match with the same eventual outcome as well as identical scoreline of 6-2.
 - **Pankaj Advani** has brought home a world trophy every year ever since returning from a professional stint in the UK in 2014.
 - In the short format of billiards, this is **Advani's fifth title** in the last six years.
2. Who won **Vietnam Open Super 100** title 2019__ **Sourabh Verma**.
- Note:**
- India's **Sourabh Verma** (Madhya Pradesh) recovered from a mid-game slump to beat **Sun 21-12, 17-2, 21-14** at the Ho Chi Minh City.
 - This victory marks **Verma's second Super 100** win in the ongoing calendar year.
 - The 2019 Vietnam Open is the seventh Super 100 tournament of the 2019 BWF World Tour and also part of the Vietnam Open championships.
 - This tournament is organized by the Ho Chi Minh City Badminton Association and sanctioned by the BWF.
3. Indian shuttler clinched the **Myanmar International Series** __ **Kaushal Dharmam**.
- Note:**
- Kaushal Dharmam had won the Hatzor International in October last year, recovered after dropping the opening game to outwit Karon 18-21, 21-14, 21-11 in a match that lasted an hour.
4. Indian **shuttler** clinched **men's singles title** of Belgian International Challenge__ **Lakshya Sen**.
- Note:**
- Lakshya Sen stunned second seed Victor Svendsen (Denmark) in straight games to clinch men's singles title at the Belgian International Challenge.

- The Belgian international is an international Badminton open tournament, held since 1958 but in irregular periods.
5. Who clinched the **Under-19 Asia Cup title** (eight editions) at R. Premadasa Stadium, Colombo __ **India**.
Note:
- Defending a paltry total of 106, India dismissed Bangladesh for 101 in 33 overs.
 - The 2019 Under-19 Asia Cup cricket tournament was held in Sri Lanka from 5th September to 15th September 2019.
 - 8 teams participated in the tournament, including 5 full members (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan) and three qualifiers (Kuwait, Nepal and United Arab Emirates).
6. **Australian batsman** has become the **highest run-scorer** in a Test series of this century__ **Steve Smith**.
Note:
- Steve Smith finished the Ashes series 2019 with 774 runs from the 4 matches at an average of over 110 with 3 centuries and 3 half-centuries.
 - Earlier, Smith went past his own record of scoring 769 runs against India during the 2014-15 season.
7. Who won the Basketball World Cup in Beijing, China __ **Spain**.
Note:
- France went on to win the bronze medal for the second consecutive time after defeating Australia.
 - With 32 teams, this was the biggest Basketball World Cup ever.
 - The 2019 FIBA Basketball World Cup was the 18th tournament of the FIBA Basketball World Cup for men's national basketball teams.
 - The next world cup will be held in 2023 in Japan, Indonesia and the Philippines.
8. Former **Indian Cricket all-rounder** has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket__ **Dinesh Mongia**.
Note:
- Mongia went on to play 57 ODI for India where he scored 1230 runs at an average of 27.95 but never played a Test cricket match.
 - Dinesh Mongia was last seen on a cricket field (in 2007) playing for Punjab, before being banned by the BCCI for joining the Indian Cricket League (ICL)
9. An **American swimmer** has become the first person to swim across the **English Channel four times** non-stop in a 54-hour feat of endurance__ **Sarah Thomas**.
Note:
- Ms Thomas swam from England to France and back - twice - in just over 54 hours.
 - It should have been a total distance of about 80 miles (129 km) but the tidal pulls in the Channel increased the distance by more than 60%, meaning she ended up swimming nearly 130 miles (209 km).
 - Sarah Thomas completed treatment for breast cancer a year ago.
 - The English Channel is the body of water that separates southern England from northern France and links the southern part of the North Sea to the Atlantic Ocean.
10. A smiling panda (Bing Dwen Dwen) and walking Chinese lantern (Shuey Rhon Rhon) were revealed as the __ **Beijing 2022 Winter and Paralympic Games**.
Note:
- The mascots were revealed at a ceremony at the Shougang Ice Hockey Arena in Beijing, China.
 - In Mandarin, "bing" means ice and "dwen dwen" means robust and lively.
 - The panda is wearing a suit which resembles ice.
 - The newly launched Olympic mascot resembles an astronaut, embracing new technologies for a future with infinite possibilities.
11. India's Vinesh Phogat becomes first Indian wrestler to qualify for ____ **2020 Tokyo Olympics**.
Note:
- **Vinesh Phogat**, scored an impressive 8-2 win over the world championship silver medalist to secure her place at the Tokyo Games.
 - Vinesh will wrestle in the bronze-medal bout against Maria Prevolarakis of Greece.
 - Earlier, she had stormed to a 5-0 win over Ukraine's Yuliya Khalvadzhy in the first round of repechage in the 53kg category to remain in contention for an Olympic quota and a bronze medal.
12. The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** has banned Sri Lankan player from bowling in international matches for 12 months__ **Akila Dananjaya**.

Note:

- He will be entitled to approach the ICC for a re-assessment of his bowling action after the expiry of this one-year period.
- Akila Dananjaya's bowling action came under the scanner during a Test between Sri Lanka and New Zealand in Galle in August 2019.

13. The **FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup** (7th edition) will be held from **2nd to 21st November 2020** in **India**.

Note:

- It will mark the first time that India has hosted a FIFA women's football tournament.
- The FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup is an international association football tournament for female players under the age of 17.
- It is organized by the Federation International de Football Association (FIFA).

Banking & Financial Awareness

1. The 'GST Network' has decided to make **Aadhaar authentication** or physical verification mandatory for new dealers from **January 2020**.

Note:

- In the first phase, Aadhaar authentication will be mandatory for new dealers.
- Afterwards, all those enrolled on GSTN would be asked to provide their Aadhaar numbers.
- As refunding is a big issue, the GSTN decided on complete online refunding from 24th September this year from a single source, either by the Central GST or state GST.
- Those who do not want to give their Aadhaar numbers would have to undergo physical verification.

2. The **Union Govt.** waives three-year lock-in period on investments made by NRIs in **IDFs**.

Note:

- As per Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) notification, the Union government has waived the three-year lock-in period on investments made by non-residents in infrastructure debt funds (IDFs), to promote funding in the infrastructure sector.
- Now, any amount of interest received by non-resident or foreign company from investment in such IDFs is charged at a reduced tax rate of 5%.
- IDFs are investment vehicles to accelerate the flow of long-term debt to the sector.

3. Airtel Payments Bank has launched savings account services **Bharosa**.

Note:

- Bharosa savings account would offer Rs 5 lakh personal accident insurance on maintaining the balance of Rs 500 along with one debit transaction per month.
- Customers would also be eligible for cashback, if they decided to receive government subsidies in their Bharosa account or if they made cash deposits in it.
- Bharosa savings account customers can also withdraw cash, check their balance or access a mini statement of their account at over 6,50,000 AePS (Aadhaar-enabled payment system) enabled outlets across India

4. Who has developed a **Management Information (MIS)** for stakeholders of Accessible India campaign_ **The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities**.

Note:

- Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Thaawar Chand Gehlot launched the MIS portal in New Delhi.
- The MIS portal will bring all the nodal ministries and States and Union Territories on a single platform for monitoring the progress being made against each target of Accessible India Campaign.
- The portal will be useful in maintaining all the function on a digital platform and capture data on a real-time basis.

5. Who has expanded speed post service to six new foreign destinations in Asia, Europe and South America_ **India Post**.

Note:

- The Department of Posts has announced commencing of **International Speed Post (EMS)** Service to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Ecuador, Kazakhstan, Lithuania and North Macedonia.
 - **Express Mail Service (EMS)** is a premium service that enables its users to send documents and merchandise faster and with the added facility of being able to track the movement of the item on the internet.
 - The EMS service to these countries will henceforth be available at major Post offices across India.
6. Ministry of Labour and Employment has notified rate of interest on Employees Provident Fund (EPF) for 2018-19 deposits 8.65%.

Note:

- The EPFO has been settling EPF withdrawal claims at 8.55% interest rate, approved for 2017-18.
 - The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), is an organization tasked to assist the Central Board of Trustees, a statutory body formed by the Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952.
 - It is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India.
7. The Union Finance Ministry has proposed to slash the corporate tax rate for Domestic companies.

Note:

- There are six amendments in the Income Tax Act and Finance Bill 2019 which will cost Rs 1.45 lakh crore.
- The corporate tax rate after surcharge will now be 25.17% inclusive of all cess and surcharges for domestic companies. The corporate tax rate has been brought down from 30% to 22%.
- The new domestic company incorporated on or after October 1, 2019, to pay income tax at 15%.
- Domestic company to pay income tax at 22%.
- Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT) reduced from 18.5% to 15%.
- The listed companies that announced buyback before July 5, 2019, will not be charged tax on buyback of shares.
- The enhanced surcharge shall not apply on capital gains arising on sale of any security including derivatives in the hands of foreign portfolio investors.

Obituaries

1. The renowned Malayalam writer passed away in Kerala Sivaraman Cheriyanad.

Note:

- Sivaraman started his career as an upper primary school teacher and was a recipient of the National Teachers Award in 1989.
- He received the Abu Dhabi Sakthi Award in 1988 and the A.P. Kalakkad Award in 2009.
- He received Kerala Sahithya Akademi scholarship in 1990-91 for his study on the works of writer Parappuram.

2. Former **Andhra Pradesh Assembly Speaker** and Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leader passed away in Hyderabad Kodela Sivaprasada Rao

Note:

- Kodela reportedly attempted suicide at his residence in the city.
- He was six-time MLA from Narsaraopet constituency in Guntur district.
- In 2014, post-bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh, Mr. Rao was made the first Speaker of the Assembly.

3. Popular filmmaker from the **Ramsay Brothers** passed away in Mumbai Shyam Ramsay.

Note:

- He is one of the seven Ramsay Brothers who were active in Indian cinema throughout the 1970s and the 1980s.
- They produced the number of horror movies such as Darwaza, Purana Mandir and Veerana

4. **Tunisia's former President** passed away Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali.

Note:

- Mr. Ben Ali led Tunisia for 23 years and was credited with delivering stability and some economic prosperity.
- He came to power in 1987, ousting Habib Bourguiba to become Tunisia's second-ever president.

- In 2011, he was forced from office following mass street protests.

Important Days

1. Engineers' Day is celebrated every year in India on ____ **15th September**.

Note:

- The day commemorate the birthday of one of the greatest engineers in India, Bharat Ratna Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvarayya.
- Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya was an Indian engineer, scholar, statesman and the Diwan of Mysore from 1912 to 1918.
- He is a recipient of the Indian's highest honour, the Bharat Ratna (1955).
- The Telangana state celebrates Engineers day on 11th July on the birthday of Ali Nawaz Jung Bahadur.

2. The **International Day of Democracy** is being observed across the world every year on ____ **15th September**.

Note:

- The 2019 theme for democracy day was 'participation'.
- This year's International Day of Democracy is an opportunity to recall that democracy is about people. Democracy is built on inclusion, equal treatment and participation.
- It is a fundamental building block for peace, sustainable development and human rights.

3. The International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer is being observed every year on ____ **16th September**.

Note:

- The Ozone layer is a fragile shield of gas which protects the Earth from the harmful ultraviolet radiation of the sun and thus helping preserve life on the planet.
- The theme for this year celebrates over three decades of remarkable international cooperation to protect the ozone layer and the climate under the Montreal Protocol.
- It reminds us that we must keep up the momentum to ensure healthy people and a healthy planet.

4. **World Bamboo Day** is observed every year on ____ **18th September**.

Note:

- India is the world's second-largest cultivator of bamboo after China with over 130 species.

5. The **World Water Monitoring Day** is observed every year on ____ **18th September**.

Note:

- It is an international education and outreach program initiated by America's Clean Water Foundation (ACWF) and now coordinated by Water at Environment Federation (WEF) and the International Water Association (IWA).
- The day aims to build public awareness of the importance of protecting water resources around the world by engaging people to conduct basic monitoring of their local water bodies.

6. The **International Day of Peace** is observed around the world **ever years** on ____ **21st September**.

Note:

- It is dedicated to **world peace** and **specifically** the absence of war & violence such as might be occasioned by a temporary ceasefire in a combat zone for humanitarian aid access.
- The theme for 2019 is "**Climate Action for Peace**".
- The theme draws attention to the **importance of combatting climate change** as a way to protect and promote peace throughout the world

7. World Alzheimer's Day is observed every year on ____ **21st September**.

Note:

- The day raise awareness about Alzheimer's and dementia.
- Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of dementia, a group of disorders that impairs mental functioning.
- Some of the most common signs of Alzheimer's Disease include memory loss, problems with language, difficulty performing familiar tasks, changes in personality and difficulty keeping track of things.

New Appointments

1. UN Secretary-General **Antonio Guterres** has appointed veteran **Indian Army official** as the head of the world body's observer mission in Yemen's port city of Hodeidah ____ **Lieutenant General Abhijit Guha (retired)**.

Note:

- Mr. Guha has been appointed as the Chair of the Redeployment Coordination Committee (RCC) and head of the UNMHA.
- Guha succeeds Danish Lieutenant General Michael Lollesgaard, who served in those posts from January 31 to July 31, 2019.

2. Who has been sworn in as the **Lokayukta of Andhra Pradesh** for five years___ **Justice P. Lakshmana Reddy (Retired)**.

Note:

- Governor Biswabhusan Hairchandani administered the oath of office to Justice Reddy at a function in Vijayawada.
- He is the first Lokayukta to be assuming charge since the state bifurcated in 2014.
- The 'Lokayukta' is an anti-corruption ombudsman organization in the Indian states.

3. President of the **Asia Development Bank (ADB)** **Takehiko Nakao** has planned to step down from the post on ____ **16th January 2020**.

Note:

- Mr. Nakao took the **ADB post in 2013** and was re-elected to a second **five-year term** in 2016.
- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** is a regional development bank established on 19th December 1966.
- The headquarters of the bank is at **6 ADB Avenue**, Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippine.
- As of 23rd March 2019, Asian Development Bank has 68 members (49 members from the Asian and Pacific Region and 19 members from Other Regions).

4. The Navies of Singapore, India and Thailand have begun their **first joint maritime exercise 'SITMEX-2019'** in___ **Port Blair**.

Note:

- The Singapore's Navy (RSN), Royal Thailand Navy (RTN) and Indian Navy (IN) are conducting the five-day exercise (till 20th September 2019).
- The objective of the 'SITMEX' exercise is to bolster maritime relationships and contribute significantly to enhancing overall maritime security.
- This would also strengthen the mutual confidence amongst three navies in terms of interoperability and development of a common understanding of procedures.

5. US President **Donald Trump** has appointed the **National Security Adviser (NSA)** of the United States of America___ **Robert O'Brien**.

Note:

- Robert O'Brien will be replacing John Bolton who was fired by President Trump last week.
- Currently, Robert C O'Brien serving as the special presidential envoy for Hostage Affairs at the State Department.
- National Security Advisor (NSA) is a senior aide in the Executive Office of the President, based at the West Wing of the White House.

6. Veteran actor has been given the prestigious **Lifetime Achievement honour** at International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) awards-2019___ **Jagdeep**.

Note:

- Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed Jafri (known as Jagdeep) is an Indian film actor and comedian who has appeared in more than 400 films.
- He played Soorma Bhopali in Sholay (1975), Machchar in Purana Mandir (1984), Salman Khan's dad in Andaz Apna Apna (1994) and directed the movie Soorma Bhopali, with his character as the protagonist.

7. **Short movie** has been nominated for Oscars ___**Moti Bagh**.

Note:

- The film made with the financial assistance from Prasar Bharati is about the life of an 82- years old farmer from Uttarakhand, Vidyadutt Sharma.
- Mr Sharma lives in Saanguda village of Kaljikhil block of Pauri district in Uttarakhand.

- It has been directed by a three-time national award winner Nirmal Chandra Dandariyal.
- The 92nd Academy Awards ceremony, presented by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS), will honour the best films of 2019 on **9th February 2020** in Los Angeles.

8. Who has appointed as the new chief of **Indian Air Force** for two years__ **Air Marshal RKS Bhadauria**.

Note:

- Currently, **Air Marshal Bhadauria** is the vice chief of air staff.
- He will replace Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa, who is going to retire 30th of this month.
- Chief of the Air Staff is the professional head and the commander of the Indian Air Force.

9. The **Union government** had increased the strength of its judges (including the Chief Justice of India) from 31 to __ **34**.

Note:

- Four separate notifications have been issued by the Ministry of Law and Justice on the appointments of four judges in Supreme Court.
- Justices Krishna Murari (Punjab and Haryana High Court Chief Justice), Justices SR Bhat (Rajasthan High Court Chief), Justices V Ramasubramanian (Himachal Pradesh High Court Chief Justice) and Justices Hrishikesh Roy (Kerala High Court Chief Justice) were appointed as judges of the Supreme Court of India.

10. Who has appointed long-serving banker 'Alison Rose' as chief executive __ Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS).

Note:

- She has become the first female boss of a major UK lender.
- Alison Rose will replace Ross McEwan on 1st November.
- Currently, Rose is deputy head of the group's NatWest Holdings retail business and its commercial and private banking division.