

# Weekly One Liner

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



## Weekly One Liner Updates 22-31st August 2019

**Dear readers,**

Weekly One Liner Updates is a collection of important news and events that occurred in the **fourth week** (22-31st) of **August 2019**. This file is important for, **Banking interviews** and all **upcoming Banking & Insurance** exams.

### **Banking & Financial Awareness**

- Who has announce to launch a co-branded **Multi-Currency Forex Travel-card** in partnership with **YES Bank** and Visa to offer a seamless experience to Indian overseas travellers \_\_ **BookMyForex.com**.

**Note:**

- Travellers can load up to 10 currencies on the card.
- Customers can buy forex travel cards using the **BookMyForex platform** and get free doorstep delivery across major cities in India.
- **BookMyForex** is the world's first and largest **marketplace** for foreign exchange and remittances.

- Who has announced a reward of up to one crore rupees for informants willing to provide credible information regarding insider trading cases\_\_ **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**.

**Note:**

- This will be a part of the detailed set of rules for the new '**Informant Mechanism**' under the Prohibition of Insider Trading Regulations that was approved by the SEBI board.
- The norms also propose a possible amnesty or settlement for minor wrongdoings in return for cooperation in the probe.
- SEBI will establish an Office of Informant Protection, which will be responsible for the receipt, registration and processing of the disclosure form and for ascertaining its authenticity.

- Who has launched a **co-branded credit card** in association with **Standard Chartered bank** to offer a complete suite of services to its existing customers\_\_ **Bandhan Bank**.

**Note:**

- The **credit card** would be offered to **40 lakh savings bank account holders** across the 1,000 branches of Bandhan Bank.
- As part of the tie-up, **Bandhan Bank** will be responsible for identifying and issuing cards to its customers.
- While Standard Chartered bank will take the credit risk.

- Who has **constituted Advisory Board** for **Banking Frauds (ABBF)** headed by former Vigilance Commissioner T M Bhasin to examine bank fraud of over 50 crore rupees\_\_ **The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)**.

**Note:**

- The panel in its **previous avatar** called the **Advisory Board** on Bank, Commercial and Financial Frauds.
- It will function as the first level of examination of all large fraud cases before recommendations or references are made to the investigative agencies by the respective Public Sector Banks.
- The **banks will refer all large fraud cases** above 50 crore rupees to ABBF and on receipt of its recommendation, they concerned will take further action in such matter.

- Who has approved the transfer of record **Rs 1.76 lakh crore** dividend and surplus reserves to the union government \_\_ **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**.

**Note:**

- This fund will comprise Rs 1,23,414 crore of surplus for the year 2018-19 and Rs 52,637 crore of excess provisions identified as per the revised Economic Capital Framework (ECF).
- The excess reserve transfer is in line with the recommendation of former RBI governor Bimal Jalan-led panel constituted to decide size of capital reserves that the central bank should hold.

- It is the highest-ever surplus amount transferred by the RBI to govt
  - Since 2013-14, the RBI has been paying 99 per cent of its disposable income to govt
6. Public sector lender and **Tata AIG General Insurance** has entered into an agreement to offer a variety of general insurance products to bank's customers\_\_ **Indian Bank**.
- Note:**
- The agreement was signed in the presence of Ms Padmaja Chundururu MD and CEO of Indian Bank and Mr Saurabh Maini, Senior Vice President and Business Head-Key partnership Group, Tata AIG General Insurance.
  - The partnership will see around 2,900 branches of the bank spread across India, offering a diverse range of insurance policies benefiting its customers by way of protection, wealth creation and savings.
  - Tata AIG General Insurance will work with the bank for sales training, product support and ensuring smooth operational processes, all leading to seamless service to customers.
7. The **Reserve Bank of India** (RBI) has increased the timing for **Real-Time Gross Settlement** (RTGS) Payment System by changing the Open for **Business timing for RTGS** from 8:00 AM to\_\_\_ **7:00 AM**.
- Note:**
- At present, the **Real Time Gross Settlement** (RTGS) System is available for customer transactions from 0800 hours to 1800 hours and for inter-bank transactions from 0800 hours to 1945 hours.
  - This timing has been applicable from **August 26, 2019**.
  - Currently, the NEFT, a retail payment system, is available for customers from 8 am to 7 pm on all working days except second and fourth Saturdays of a month.
8. Managing Director (MD) and CEO (Chief Executive Officer) of **Lakshmi Vilas Bank** has announced his resignation citing personal reasons\_\_ **Parthasarathi Mukherjee**.
- Note:**
- Earlier, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is considering a proposal of merger of Indiabulls Housing Finance with Lakshmi Vilas Bank.
  - On 5 April 2019, the board of Lakshmi Vilas Bank approved a merger of the bank with the country's second-largest housing finance company, Indiabulls Housing Finance Ltd.
9. The **central board of trustees** has allowed the **Employees' Provident Fund Organization** (EPFO) to exercise an exit option for recovering the pending **Rs 600 crore** from \_\_\_**Dewan Housing Finance Corporation (DHFL)**.
- Note:**
- The proposal to double the minimum pension to Rs 2,000 has been put on hold, with labour minister Santosh Kumar Gangwar suggesting the issue be taken up with the finance ministry.
  - The board also approved the appointment of three fund managers to manage its corpus.
10. Who will allow customers to make recurring payments of less than Rs. 2000 without the two factors authentication process by giving an e-mandate from September\_\_ **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**.
- Note:**
- According to RBI Circular, it has been decided to permit processing of e-mandate on cards for recurring transactions (merchant payments).
  - The move has been made to make digital payments to the merchant, typically at Kirana and grocery stores where ticket sizes are small, more convenient.
  - This circular is applicable for transactions performed using all types of cards (debit or credit).
11. The **Union government** unveiled major reforms in the banking sector to strengthen the \_\_\_**Foundation of the banks**.
- Note:**
- The Union government announced the merger of Punjab National Bank, Oriental Bank and United Bank of India.
  - Once these three banks are merged it will create a bank with a business of Rs 17.95 lakh crore and have 11,437 branches.
  - After the Oriental Bank of Commerce and United Bank are merged into the Punjab National Bank, it will become India's second-largest bank (SBI remains India's largest bank).

- Once the Syndicate bank is merged into the Canara Bank, the resultant bank will become India's fourth-largest public sector bank with Rs 15.20 lakh crore business.
- Union Bank, Andhra Bank, Corporation Bank to merge to become India's fifth largest public sector bank with Rs 14.59 lakh crore business.
- The 12 public sector banks: State Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, Bank of Baroda, Bank of India, Central Bank of India, Canara Bank, Union Bank of India, Indian Overseas Bank, Punjab and Sind Bank, Indian Bank, UCO Bank and Bank of Maharashtra.

## Obituaries

1. Veteran BJP leader and **former Union Minister** passed away at AIIMS hospital in New Delhi\_\_ **Arun Jaitley**.

**Note:**

- Arun Jaitley held the cabinet portfolios of Finance, Defence, Corporate Affairs, Commerce and Industry and Law & Justice in the Vajpayee government and Narendra Modi government.
- Mr Jaitley was the Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs of the Government of India from 2014 to 2019.

2. India's first woman **Director General of Police** (DGP), passed away in Mumbai\_\_ **Kanchan Chaudhary Bhattacharya**.

**Note:**

- Bhattacharya, a 1973 batch officer, made history in 2004 when she was appointed as the DGP of Uttarakhand.
- She was also the second woman IPS officer in the country, the first being Kiran Bedi.

3. Goa Naval **war hero** and **Kirti Chakra awardee** passed away in **Porvorim, Goa** \_\_ **Commander Noel Kelman**.

**Note:**

- **Kelman** was a founder member of the **Goa branch** of the All India Anglo Indian Association.
- He was involved in an operation to **flush out** the Portuguese from the Anjadip Island.
- **Commander Kelman** was honoured with the Kirti Chakra for his bravery during the Indian Navy's conquest of Anjadip Island of the coast of Goa in 1961.

## Important Days

1. United Nations' International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief is being observed every year on \_\_ **22nd August**.

**Note:**

- International days are occasions to educate the public on issues of concern, to mobilize political will and resources to address global problems and to celebrate and reinforce the achievements of humanity.

2. United Nations "**International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition**" is being observed every year on \_\_ **23rd August**.

**Note:**

- The day designated by UNESCO to memorialize the transatlantic slave trade.

3. The **National Sports Day** is observed every year on \_\_ **29th August**.

**Note:**

- Padma Bhushan Dhyanchand Known as 'The Magician' of hockey for his superb ball control and extraordinary goal-scoring feats.
- He won three Olympic gold medals in Hockey field in the years 1928, 1932, and 1936.
- In his Sports career spanning over 22 years, he scored over 400 goals.
- On this occasion, President Ram Nath Kovind presented the National Sports Awards, National Adventure Awards and other awards including Arjuna, Khel Ratna to celebrate the exceptional achievements of Indian athletes.

4. The International Day against Nuclear Tests is being observed every year on \_\_ **29th August**.

**Note:**

- The day was established on 2nd December 2009 at the 64th session of the United Nations General Assembly by the resolution 64/35, which was adopted unanimously.

## New Appointments

1. Senior **IAS officer appointed** as new Cabinet Secretary \_\_\_ **Rajiv Gauba**.

**Note:**

- Mr. Gauba will replace P.K. Sinha (1977 batch -UP cadre), who was appointed Cabinet Secretary in 2015. Currently, Mr Gauba is serving as Home Secretary of India.

2. IAS officer **Ajay Kumar** (1985 batch-Kerala cadre), Secretary, **Defence Production**, has been shifted as \_\_\_**Secretary, Defence**.

**Note:**

- He will replace Sanjay Mitra.

3. Senior IAS officer Another **Brij Kumar Agarwal** (1985 batch Himachal Pradesh cadre) has been appointed \_\_\_**Secretary, Lokpal**.

**Note:**

- The approval was given by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

4. Who has been appointed as **new** Home Secretary\_ **Ajay Kumar Bhalla**.

**Note:**

- The Union government has appointed senior IAS (Indian Administrative Service officer) Ajay Kumar Bhalla (1984 batch - Assam Meghalaya cadre) as new Home Secretary.
- He succeeds Mr Rajiv Gauba who will move out as Cabinet Secretary.
- Home Secretary is the administrative head of the Ministry of Home Affairs and is the principal adviser to the Home Minister on all matters of policy and administration within the Home Ministry.

5. Abdalla Hamdok has taken the oath as the prime minister of \_\_\_ **Sudan**.

**Note:**

- This comes a month after Sudan embarked on a three-year transition to civilian rule.
- Hamdok was sworn in before Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan, chairman of the newly- formed Sovereign Council, at the presidential palace in the capital Khartoum in presence of the chief justice.

6. Senior **IAS officer** has been selected as the next **Chairman-cum-Managing Director** of Coal India Limited\_\_\_ **Pramod Agarwal**.

**Note:**

- He will succeed incumbent Chairman Anil Kumar Jha (retire in January 2020).
- Currently, Mr Agrawal is working as principal secretary for urban development and housing department in Madhya Pradesh.
- The Coal India Limited (CIL) is an Indian state-controlled coal mining company headquartered in Kolkata, West Bengal, India.

7. The Chairman of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) -- **Pramod Chandra Mody**.

**Note:**

- He was to retire on 31st August 2019.
- The Chairperson, Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) is ex-officio special secretary and is under the direct charge of the revenue secretary of India.
- It frames a policy for the Income-Tax Department.

8. Senior diplomat has been appointed as India's Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) \_\_\_ **Pavan Kapoor**.

**Note:**

- Mr. Kapoor will replace Navdeep Suri, heading the Indian mission in UAE since October 2016.
- Earlier, Mr. Kapoor has served in different capacities in the Indian Missions in Moscow, Kyiv, London and Geneva.
- An ambassador is especially a high-ranking diplomat who represents a state and is usually accredited to another sovereign state.



9. Who has been chosen for the 'Eminent Engineer Award for the Year 2019' by the Institution of Engineers (India) \_\_\_ **Shri Prabhakar Singh**.

**Note:**

- This Prestigious Award shall be conferred to him on the 'Engineers Day' (15th September) New Delhi.

10. Former human rights lawyer has won the **Presidential election** of the pacific nation Nauru \_\_\_ **Lionel Aingimea**.

**Note:**

- The President of Nauru is elected by Parliament from among its members.
- Nauru's unicameral Parliament has 19 members, with an electoral term of 3 years.

### Important News - India

1. Who has launched the **National Initiative for School Heads'** and Teachers' Holistic Advancements (NISHTHA)\_\_\_ **Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'**.

**Note:**

- NISHTHA is the world's biggest such project and will focus on training 42 lakh teachers from across the country.
- The objective of the initiative aims to reskill the teaching workforce and is the world's biggest project for teacher training.

2. Power Minister **R K Singh** has launched the **State Rooftop Solar Attractiveness Index -SARAL** in \_\_\_ **New Delhi**.

**Note:**

- As per the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy survey, Karnataka has emerged as the best state for setting up a rooftop solar project according to the State Rooftop Solar Attractiveness Index-SARAL.
- The state rooftop solar attractiveness index (SARAL) released by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
- Four states (Karnataka, Telangana, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh) have been graded A++.
- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has set a target of 175 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2022.
- This rating has been designed collaboratively by MNRE, Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation (SSEF), Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) and Ernst & Young (EY).

3. **FASTags** will become mandatory for all vehicles from \_\_\_ **December 2019**.

**Note:**

- FASTag enabled vehicles can cruise through the dedicated FASTag lane without stopping at toll plazas on National Highways.
- According to Mr Gadkari over 52 lakh FASTags have been issued till date.
- FASTags are being issued by 22 certified banks through various channels such as Point-of-Sale at NH toll plazas and selected bank branches.

4. The Union Minister of State for **AYUSH Shripad Yesso Naik** has inaugurated the two-day National Conference on Varmam Science in \_\_\_ **Chennai**.

**Note:**

- All Indian traditional medical systems are being promoted by the Centre to ensure holistic health care.
- The National Health Policy unveiled by the Centre in March 2017 gives importance to all the Indian systems of medicine.
- He informed that the Union Ministries of Labour, Defence and Railways have been asked to have AYUSH units in the clinics being run by them.
- 'Varmam' is a constituent of the Siddha system of medicine, that also doubles up as a martial art.

5. **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** fifth stand-alone '**Aadhaar Seva Kendra**' has become operational on dry run basis at \_\_\_ **Hisar, Haryana**.

**Note:**

- Till now, five Aadhaar Seva Kendras are operational and two more will be operative by next week.
- Out of these five Kendras, two are in Delhi, while one is at Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh and remaining one at Agra in Uttar Pradesh.
- These Kendras will function along with other 35 thousand Aadhaar Kendras currently being run in banks, post offices and other designated State Government offices.

6. Culture Minister **Prahlad Singh Patel** has launched the book '**The Diary of Manu Gandhi**' at a function in \_\_\_ **New Delhi**.

**Note:**

- The **book has been brought out** by National Archives of India, on the occasion of 150th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi in collaboration with Oxford University Press.
- The **first volume covers the period** 1943-1944.
- The **Diary of Manu Gandhi** (Grandniece of Mahatma Gandhi) originally in Gujarati has been edited and translated by Dr Tridip Suvrud, a well-known scholar engaged in understanding the Gandhian Intellectual tradition.

7. Guinness Award for Blessy's documentary film on Mar Chrysostom **100 years of Chrysostom.**

**Note:**

- The documentary '100 years of Chrysostom' is an about 102-year-old longest-serving bishop in India named Dr. Philipose Mar Chrysostom Mar Thoma Valiya Metropolitan.
- Dr. Chrysostom is Emeritus Metropolitan of the Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church in Kerala.
- Dr. Chrysostom was born on April 27, 1918, at Eraviperoor in Pathanamthitta, Kerala and was consecrated in May 1952.

8. The **Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani** has distributed the '**Poshan Abhiyaan Awards**' for 2018-19 in different categories in **New Delhi.**

**Note:**

- The objective of the award to motivate the primary stakeholders and encourage large scale citizen participation in creating awareness to combat malnutrition.
- The awards were given to the States, Districts, Blocks and Anganwadi Workers for their contributions in scaling up the Abhiyaan and ensuring that it reaches every household in the country.

9. R K Singh (Minister of New and Renewable Energy) has approved a proposal to declare **ocean energy** as **Renewable Energy.**

**Note:**

- The decision will give a boost to ocean energy in the country.
- The New and Renewable Energy Ministry has also clarified to all stakeholders that energy produced using various forms of ocean energy such as tidal, wave and ocean thermal energy conversion will be considered as Renewable Energy.
- It will be eligible for meeting the non-solar Renewable Purchase Obligations.

10. The Indian Navy will organize the multilateral naval exercise **MILAN** at Visakhapatnam in **March 2020.**

11. E-commerce giant has launched a **Military Veterans Employment programme** in the country **Amazon India.**

**Note:**

- It will create employment opportunities for military veterans and their spouses across the company's fulfilment centres, sort centres and delivery centres in India.
- Amazon India is partnering with the office of the Director General of Resettlement (DGR) and the Army Welfare Placement Organisation (AWPO) to create continued work opportunities for military families across the country.
- Globally, Amazon has over 17,500 military veterans and spouses actively engaged in the programme.

12. **National AIDS Control Organization (NACO)** and **Department of Social Justice and Empowerment (DoSJE)** has signed a MoU to enhance outreach on **AIDS prevention.**

**Note:**

- The MOU will also catalyze in achieving the national goals and objectives of HIV prevention and impact mitigation.
- AIDS Control Organization (NACO), under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, and Department of Social Justice and Empowerment (DoSJE) is under Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MoSJE)

13. The seventh "Community Radio Sammelan" is being held in **New Delhi.**

**Note:**

- It is being organized by Ministry of **Information and Broadcasting** and the theme of this year's Sammelan is 'Community Radio for SDGs'.
- The 'Sammelán' will witness participation of all operational community radio stations across the country.
- Union minister Prakash Javadekar has presented National Community Radio Awards 2019 on this occasion.

14. Intel Corp has launched its latest processor designed for large computing centres **Springhill.**

**Note:**

- The chip, developed at its development facility in Haifa, Israel, is known as Nervana NNP-I or Springhill
- It is based on a 10 nanometre Ice Lake processor that will allow it to cope with high workloads using minimal amounts of energy.

- Intel Corporation is an American multinational corporation and technology company headquartered in Santa Clara, California, in the Silicon Valley.
15. HRD Ministry under its National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology (NMEICT) has launched the \_\_\_**National Digital Library of India project**.
- Note:**
- It is to develop a framework of virtual repository of learning resources with a single-window search facility.
  - As of now, there are more than 3 crore digital resources available through the National Digital Library.
  - More than 50 lakh students have registered themselves in the National Digital Library with about 20 lakh active users.
  - National Digital Library has been integrated with UMANG App and users can register through www.ndl.gov.in or through the mobile app
16. Indian **Railway ministry** have been installed bio-toilets in **60,906 train coaches** of Indian Railways\_\_ **over 2 lakhs**.
- Note:**
- The 'Bio-Toilet project' of Indian Railways is an innovative and indigenous development of technology.
  - It has been developed jointly by Indian Railways' Engineers & DRDO's scientists.
  - The bio-toilet system utilizes anaerobic bacteria which consume the waste material and convert it into water and gas.
17. Defence minister Rajnath Singh has inaugurated 26th Ladakhi Kisan Jawan Vigyan Mela in\_\_\_**Leh**.
- Note:**
- The event is being organised to share research-generated farming technology with locals of Ladakh to make their life easier.
  - Ladakhi Kisan Jawan Vigyan Mela showcasing crops and grains suitable for growing in high altitude areas.
  - The science fair is being organised at the Defence Institute of High-Altitude Research (a research unit of DRDO in Ladakh).
18. Who has become the **first country** in the world to issue **Biometric Seafarer Identity Document (BSID)** capturing the facial biometric data of seafarers \_\_\_**India**.
- Note:**
- Mansukh Mandaviya (Minister of State for Shipping) has launched the project in New Delhi.
19. A mobile app has been launched to help para-athletes to look up accessible places in Tokyo during their visit to the city for the 2020 Paralympics Games\_\_\_**IndTokyo**
- Note:**
- The application 'IndTokyo' was launched by Arhan Bagati, Awareness and Impact Ambassador of Paralympic Committee of India, at the 'Countdown to Tokyo 2020'.
  - It has features like information on para-athletes and accessible places in Tokyo among others.
20. As per Economics Intelligence Unit's Safe Cities Index (SCI)-2019, Who occupied top spots in the Safe Cities Index 2019\_\_\_**Tokyo**.
- Note:**
- Mumbai (45th rank) and New Delhi (52nd) are the only two Indian cities that made an appearance on the list.
  - The report is based on the third iteration of the index, which ranks 60 cities across 57 indicators covering digital security, health security, infrastructure security and personal security.
  - The Safe Cities Index 2019 is a report from The Economist Intelligence Unit, sponsored by NEC Corporation.
21. The **12th India Security Summit** was held in \_\_\_**New Delhi**.
- Note:**
- The theme of the summit was "Towards New National Cyber Security Strategy".
  - During the summit, many issues were discussed such as protection of critical national infrastructure, emerging cyber threats: incidents, challenges and response.
  - Union Home Ministry has launched a scheme 'Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)' to combat cyber-crime in the country, in a coordinated and effective manner.
22. Union Human Resource Development Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' has launched one of world's largest Integrated Online Junction for School Education \_\_\_**Shagun**.
- Note:**
- The app will provide all the details about the education system in the country as well as detailed information about schools with a feedback procedure structured for the parents.
  - The portal seeks to connect approximately 92 lakh teachers and 26 crores, students.



- Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' also announced the setting up of the Integrated National School Education Treasury (INSET) which envisages a fully integrated, instantly accessible and seamless information network for all parameters relating to the students, teachers, and schools in the country.

### Important News – State

1. Chief Minister of Punjab **Amarinder Singh** has launched a flagship universal health insurance scheme to mark the 75th birth anniversary of former PM Rajiv Gandhi \_\_\_ **Sarbat Sehat Bima Yojana**

**Note:**

- The mega health insurance scheme combines Centre's Ayushman Bharat plan to provide annual cashless treatment up to Rs 5 lakh per family per year, including pre-existing diseases.
- The scheme with 1,396 treatment packages will be implemented through over 450 empanelled hospitals, including 200 government hospitals.
- With this, Punjab has become 1st state to offer medical insurance for such a large proportion of its population.

2. **Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO)** handed over the design of **Mobile Metallic Ramp (MMR)** to the \_\_\_ **Indian Army**.

**Note:**

- With a **load-bearing capacity** of 70 metric ton (MT), the MMR has been designed and developed by DRDO's premier research laboratory, Centre for Fire, Explosive and Environment Safety (CFEES).
- The ramp will provide the strategic mobility for Armoured and Mechanized units and formations of the Army.
- It is portable, modular in design, which can be easily assembled or disassembled.

3. Researchers of the Indian **University** have discovered **five new fish species** in various districts of the state \_\_\_ **Rajiv Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh**.

**Note:**

- Fisheries and an aquatic ecology research team from the zoology department of Rajiv Gandhi University (RGU) led by Professor DN Das.
- The scientific names of the newly discovered fish species are *Mystus prabini*, found in Sinkin and Dibang rivers in Lower Dibang Valley district and *Exostoma kottelati*, found in Ranga river in Lower Subansiri district.
- The details of the discovery have been published in various journals of international repute, a release from RGU's zoology department stat

4. Union Health Minister **Harsh Vardhan** has inaugurated **FSSAI's National Food Laboratory (NFL)** in \_\_\_ **Ghaziabad**.

**Note:**

- This national lab is a result of a Public-Private-Partnership (PPP), the first-of-its-kind in the food laboratory sector.
- The lab is equipped with the latest technologies and facilities to conduct analysis as per global accreditation standards for testing and calibration.
- NFL is one of the two premier referral laboratories under the direct administrative control of the apex food regulator named, Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI).

5. The President **Shri Ram Nath Kovind** has inaugurated the **first World Youth Conference** on Kindness in \_\_\_ **New Delhi**.

**Note:**

- The World Youth Conference on Kindness is being organised by the UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development, Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- The objective of the conference to impart critical competencies (i.e. empathy, compassion, mindfulness and critical inquiry) in global youth to inspire, empower and enable them to transform themselves and build long-lasting peace in their communities.
- Youth leaders, representing over 27 countries, are participating in this Conference.

6. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister **Edappadi K Palaniswami** has launched its exclusive education **TV channel** named \_\_\_ **Kalvi Tholaikkatchi**.

**Note:**

- The channel will telecast various programmes, including rhymessongs, video lessons and coaching classes.
- It is an initiative of the School Education Department aimed at benefiting students of classes I to XII.
- 'Kalvi Tholaikkatchi' will telecast programmes from 6 am to 9.30 pmevery day.
- Soon, cable connections will be installed at primary and middle schools as well for its full coverage.

7. Who has retained its first position in the Composite Water Management Index (CWMI) 2.0 announced by the NITI Aayog \_\_\_ **Gujarat**.

**Note:**

- Mr. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat (Union Jal Shakti Minister) and Dr. Rajiv Kumar (Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog) have jointly released Composite Water Management Index report in New Delhi.
- This is the 3rd consecutive year that the state has retained its position in the water management sector.
- NITI Aayog has conceptualized and launched the Composite Water Management Index as a tool to install the sense of cooperative and competitive federalism among the states.

8. Dr. **Harsh Vardhan** and Trivendra Singh Rawat have **jointly inaugurated** a waste-plastics to diesel plant in \_\_\_ **Dehradun**.

**Note:**

- The plant has been set up in Indian Institute of Petroleum whose scientists will process waste plastics into fuel.
- It has the capacity to produce 800-litre diesel from one tonne of plastic.

9. Nepal's Minister for Physical Infrastructure and Transportation Raghbir Mahaseth and Indian Ambassador Manjeev Singh Puri flagged off the bus from \_\_\_ **Kathmandu**.

**Note:**

- The 44-seater air-conditioned deluxe bus will complete 650 Kilometre-journey between Kathmandu and Siliguri in 18 hours.
- The bus will leave Kathmandu daily at 3 P.M. and reach Siliguri via Kakarvitta-Panitanki border next day at around 9 A.M.
- The bus fare is 2,000 Nepali Rupees and tickets would be available on-line.
- During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Nepal visit in 2014, a Motor Vehicle Agreement for Passenger Traffic was signed to facilitate the seamless and hassle-free movement of people of both countries and promote tourism.

10. The **state government** has decided to **grant exemption** from the state **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** to Bollywood film '**Mission Mangal**' \_\_\_ **Maharashtra government**.

**Note:**

- The decision was taken at a meeting of the state cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, in Mumbai.
- The film conveys a positive message about science and to take the message further to common people.
- 'Mission Mangal' is loosely based on the life of scientists at the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) who contributed to the Mars Orbiter Mission, India's first interplanetary expedition.

11. Maharashtra Higher & Technical Education Minister has launched the database portal to serve as a resource centre for educational institutions to make better policy decisions \_\_\_ **academisthan.com**

**Note:**

- The portal will serve as a resource centre for educational institutions in government, semi-government and private sectors to develop their policies and other activities.
- This will open a new window of resources for educational institutes.

12. India's **1st garbage cafe** to be opened in \_\_\_ **Ambikapur, Chhattisgarh**.

**Note:**

- The Ambikapur municipal corporation of Chhattisgarh will open India's first 'Garbage Cafe' within a few days.
- Under this, the Municipal Corporation will provide food to the poor and homeless in lieu of plastic waste.
- In this unique Cafe' poor people and rag pickers will get free food in exchange for one kilogram of plastic, while breakfast will be provided if half a kilogram of plastic is brought to the cafe.
- According to the Mayor of Ambikapur Ajay Tirkey, the collected garbage will be sold at Solid-Liquid Resources Management Centre.

13. Meghalaya Chief Minister **Conrad K Sangma** has launch the campaign of Fit India Movement \_\_\_ **walk to work**.

**Note:**

- The Chief Minister took a two-kilometre walk from his residential quarters to his office chamber at Main Secretariat, Shillong
- The idea of 'walk to work' will have multiple benefits, cuts the cost of fuel including reduction of CO2 emission, reduce congestion in the city and more importantly for health and fitness.

### Important News – World

1. **Nepalese authorities** have banned single-use plastics in the **Everest region** in a bid to cut down on waste left by climbers by \_\_\_ **2020**.

**Note:**

- It will curb excessive pollution on the highest point of the Earth's surface.
  - Earlier, International environmentalists have expressed their concern that Nepal has not done enough to protect the fragile environment of the world's highest peak.
  - Nepal is also marking the "Visit Nepal" campaign next year which aims to draw 2 million foreign visitors.
  - Last year, 56,303 foreign trekkers and mountaineers visited the Everest region.
2. US-based e-commerce giant **Amazon.com Inc.** inaugurated its single-largest campus in the world in \_\_\_**Hyderabad**.
- Note:**
- The new campus is spread over 9.5 acres and is its largest tech base outside the Seattle headquarters, which has about 155,000 contract employees.
  - The e-commerce firm will house more than 15,000 employees out of the over 62,000 members of the India team.
3. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** held talks with French President **Emmanuel Macron** to expand cooperation in areas of \_\_\_**counter terrorism and security**.
- Note:**
- The two leaders first held a one-on-one meeting which was followed by the delegation-level talks at Chateau de Chantilly, about 50 km north of Paris.
  - Both leaders reviewed the entire gamut of the dynamic and multi-faceted bilateral relations during their more than 90-minute long one-on-one meeting.
  - Earlier, Prime Minister Modi was accorded a red-carpet welcome on his arrival in Paris, France.
4. Who has launched an unmanned rocket carrying a life-size humanoid robot named Fedor with identification number Skybot F850\_\_ **Russia**.
- Note:**
- It will spend **10 days learning** to assist astronauts on the International Space Station.
  - Fedor blasted off in a **Soyuz MS-14 spacecraft** from Russia's Baikonur cosmodrome in **Kazakhstan**.
  - It is a silvery anthropomorphic robot stands 1.80 metres (5 foot 11 inches) tall and weighs 160 kilogrammes (353 pounds).
  - Fedor is described as potentially useful on Earth for working in high radiation environments, de-mining and tricky rescue missions.
5. Iranian President Hassan Rouhani has inducted a locally built air-defence system \_\_\_**Bavar-373**.
- Note:**
- This is also Iran's first domestically produced long-range missile defence system which has been inducted into the country's missile defence network.
  - Bavar-373 is a mobile missile defence system designed to intercept and destroy incoming hostile targets.
  - The system employs missiles that have a maximum range of 300 kilo metres.

### Honor & Awards

1. As per '**Forbes**' world's 10 highest-paid actors in 2019 list, who has topped in the list \_\_\_ **Dwayne 'Rock' Johnson**.
- Note:**
- Hollywood actor Dwayne 'Rock' Johnson (WWE's Rock) has topped the list with an earning of USD 89.4 million (between 1st June 2018 to 1st June 2019).
  - Indian actor Akshay Kumar has made it to the fourth position with USD 65 million.
  - Chris Hemsworth is second in the list with USD 76.4 million and Robert Downey Jr. is third in the list with earnings of USD 66 million.
2. Tawlhlohpuan & Mizo Puanchei (from Mizoram), and Tirur betel vine (from Kerala) has received the \_\_\_**Geographical Indication (GI) tag**.
- Note:**
- GI is an indication used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.
  - The Geographical Indication comes under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade.
2. Who has been conferred with the **Pushkin Medal 2019** for her contribution to Russian studies abroad\_\_ **Professor Meeta Narain**.
- Note:**
- Pushkin Medal is the highest International Award given to a scholar of Russian language and literature for outstanding contribution to Russian studies abroad.

- Narain has contributed towards re-writing of Russian studies textbooks for graduate students after the dissolution of the Soviet Union.
3. Indian - American teenager has won 2019 South Asian Spelling Bee contest\_\_\_ **Navneeth Murali**.
- Note:**
- New Jersey-based Navneeth Murali won after correctly spelling the word 'flipe' and earned the national title and USD 3,000 grand prize.
  - He has become the first winner "on an APPEAL", in the spelling history.
  - Flype is defined as "to strip off by or as if by peeling" according to the dictionary.
  - Over 600 spellers from these centres participated from which 15 finalists took the stage at the finals.
4. For the second consecutive year, **Hollywood Actress** has topped the **Forbes' list of highest-paid female actors** in the world\_\_ **Scarlett Johansson**.
- Note:**
- Spurred by the success of her Marvel film Avengers: Endgame, her earning reached USD 56 million.
  - At number two is Modern Family star Sofia Vergara with USD 44.1 million earnings.
5. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** conferred with the highest civilian award of the United Arab Emirates, the \_\_\_ **Order of Zayed**.
- Note:**
- Prime Minister Modi launched Rupay Card in the UAE to promote cashless transactions abroad.
  - With this, UAE has become the first country in the Middle East to have this facility.
  - To mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, a commemorative stamp was jointly released by Mr Modi and the Crown Prince at the Presidential Palace in Abu Dhabi.
  - The Order of Zayed is the United Arab Emirates' highest civil decoration named after Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the founding father of the UAE.
6. Former Manchester United forward will be awarded the Uefa President's Award for his commitment to helping improve the lives of others\_\_\_ **Eric Cantona**.
- Note:**
- He will receive the award in Monaco during the Champion's League group stage draw.
  - Cantona won four Premier League titles in five years with United in the 1990s and scored 64 goals for the Old Trafford club in 143 appearances.
  - Cantona won the old First Division title with Leeds United in 1992 before joining Manchester United, where he won four Premier Leagues and two FA Cups.
7. Who has partnered with Incuspaze Solutions Private Limited (Incuspaze) to open a first-of-its-kind co-working space\_\_\_ **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)**.
- Note:**
- This coworking space exclusively designed for MSMEs and startups.
  - This coworking space is fully furnished office equipped with training and conference room, fast-speed internet, reception, refreshment, recreational area, housekeeping facilities etc.
8. Indian Air Force's **Wing Commander** has become the first female officer in the country to become the **Flight Commander** of a flying unit\_\_ **S Dhami**.
- Note:**
- Recently, Dhami took over as Flight Commander of a Chetak helicopter unit at Hindon airbase
  - She is a permanent commission officer of the flying branch in the Air Force and has been flying choppers.
  - Flight Commander is the second in command of the unit meaning that she is the number two in the unit after the commanding officer.
9. Indian **documentary film** has won the top award in the '**Under 30 minute**' category at the **14th edition** of the 'We Care Film Festival on Disability Issues' \_\_\_**I'm Jeeja**.
- Note:**
- The film tells the story of specially-abled activist Jeeja Ghosh who suffers from cerebral palsy.
  - The documentary directed by Swati Chakraborty attempts to explore the lives and battles of people living with the disability.
  - Another Indian film "Post Dark" received a jury mention in 'Under 5 minutes' category.
  - A total of 36 films were selected for the finals out of which 10 films were awarded in different categories.
10. Who won bronze medal at global tech competition in the US\_\_\_ **Maitri**.
- Note:**

- Maitri application connects children at orphanages with senior citizens in old-age homes.
- The app, called Maitri, is aimed at bringing together individuals suffering from loneliness and depression and those lacking the nurturing love of elderly role models.
- The app also allows users to volunteer and donate to old-age homes and orphanages through it.

## Sports News

1. Sports Minister **Kiren Rijju** and former Indian Football Captain **Baichung Bhutia** flagged off the Delhi leg of **Op-Blue Freedom**.

**Note:**

- Op-Blue Freedom is a nation-wide adaptive scuba diving programme for people with disabilities as well as the able-bodied.
- The dive sessions for civilians will be kept open from 22-25 August (from 9 am-5pm) for the civilians.
- The program aims to train adventure enthusiasts in special forces skills like survival techniques, emergency first response skills, unarmed combat, endurance and fitness.

2. Indian **Women's** and **Men's hockey teams** have won the Olympic Test event in **Tokyo**.

**Note:**

- Women's team defeated Japan 2-1 in the finals.
- Indian men's hockey team also won the Olympic Test event beating New Zealand 5-0.
- The 2019 Ready Steady Tokyo Hockey Tournament was field hockey tournament, consisting of a series of test matches held in Tokyo, Japan.
- The tournament served as a test event for the field hockey tournament at the 2020 Summer Olympics.

3. Mobile payments and e-commerce company has retained the title sponsorship rights for five years **Paytm**.

**Note:**

- Paytm has retained the title sponsorship rights for all cricket matches, domestic and international, played in India for 5 years.
- Paytm has signed the deal for Rs. 326.80 crores which will pay BCCI over a period ranging between 2019 and 2023.
- The deal period will begin from 5th September 2019 until 31st March 2022.

4. In football, who won Durand Cup 2019 **Gokulam Kerala FC**.

**Note:**

- Gokulam Kerala FC won the Durand Cup 2019 defeating heavyweights Mohun Bagan 2-1 at the Salt Lake Stadium, Kolkata.
- A total of 16 teams (Indian Super League-5, I-League- 6, 2nd division club - 1 and armed forces teams- 4) participated in this year's competition.
- The 2019 Durand Cup (129th edition) of the Durand Cup, oldest football tournament in Asia, since the tournament's founding in 1888.

5. Who has become **recurve cadet world champion** at the World Archery Youth Championships in **Madrid, Spain** **Komalika Bari**.

**Note:**

- She defeated higher-ranked Sonoda Waka of Japan 7-3 in the final and earn India's second gold on the final day of the Championships.
- Now Komalika is India's second recurve cadet world champion (under-18) after Deepika Kumari who won the title in 2009.

6. Badminton star has become the **first Indian** to win **BWF World Championships** Gold medal **PV Sindhu**.

**Note:**

- PV Sindhu defeated Nozomi Okuhara of Japan 21-7, 21-7 in the women's singles final to become the first Indian to win Gold at the BWF World Championships.
- With the win, Sindhu has a full set of medals at World Championships - two bronze medals, two silver medals and a gold medal.

7. Who has become the **bronze medal** in the BWF World Championships in 2019 **B. Sai Praneeth**.

**Note:**

- Sai Praneeth was outclassed by defending champion **Kento Momota** (World No. 1) by 13-21, 8-21.
- Japanese Kento Momota has won the Gold medal of 2019 Badminton World Championship.



- Danish badminton player **Anders Antonsen** has won the Silver medal at 2019 Badminton World Championship.
  - The men's singles tournament of the 2019 BWF World Championships held at St. Jakobshalle in Basel, Switzerland (19 to 25 August).
8. Constable Monali Jadhav has won three medals at World Police and Fire Games International Championship in **Chengdu, China**.
- Note:**
- Jadhav is attached to the Jalamb police station in Buldhana district of Maharashtra.
  - She won the gold in target and field archery while settled for a bronze medal in the '3D Archery'.
  - Maharashtra Director General of Police Subodh Jaiswal has congratulated Jadhav on her achievement
9. Former Indian cricketer will replace Sanjay Bangar as India's new batting coach **Vikram Rathour**.
- Note:**
- Bharath Arun and R. Sridhar were retained as bowling and fielding coaches.
  - The senior national selection committee headed by MSK Prasad recommended three names each for all the support staff positions.
  - Mr. Rathour has played six Tests and seven ODIs in 1996 without much success but was a domestic heavyweight for Punjab.
10. The **Delhi & District Cricket Association (DDCA)** has announced that the **Feroz Shah Kotla cricket stadium** will be renamed after **Arun Jaitley**.
- Note:**
- The decision was taken to honour Mr Jaitley who served as DDCA's president (from 1999 to 2013).
  - The renaming of the stadium will be done on 12th September 2019.
  - Feroz Shah Kotla Stadium is a cricket ground located at Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg in New Delhi.
11. Minister **Kiren Rijju** presented **10 lakh rupees cheque** to Badminton star **P.V. Sindhu**.
- Note:**
- Sindhu had defeated Japan's Nozomi Okuhara in a lop-sided World Championships final on Sunday.
  - The Minister also extended his congratulations to Sai Praneeth besides rewarding him with a cheque of four lakh rupees for winning a bronze medal at the Championships.
12. West **Indies pacer** has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket **Cecil Wright**.
- Note:**
- Wright made his first-class debut for Jamaica against a Barbados side which had legends Wes Hall and Sir Garfield Sobers.
  - He claims to have taken over 7,000 wickets in professional cricket.
  - Wright's longest purple patch span five seasons as he ended up taking as many as 538 wickets in five seasons.
13. Sri Lankan spinner has announced his retirement from all formats of the Cricket after not having played for his country in almost 4 years **Ajantha Mendis**.
- Note:**
- He was known as the 'mystery spinner' due to the unusual bowling action.
  - Mendis played 19 Tests (70 - wickets), 87 One-Day Internationals (152 ODI wickets) and 39 T20Is (66 T20I wickets) for Sri Lanka.
  - He also played for the Kolkata Knight Riders in the Indian Premier League (IPL).
  - Mendis was renowned in the cricketing world for his 'carrom ball' and various other variations.
14. Indian shooter has won the gold medal in the men's 10m air pistol event of the World Cup at Rio de Janeiro **Abhishek Verma**.
- Note:**
- Abhishek Verma shot 244.2 in the eight-man finals, while Saurabh Chaudhary's 221.9 was good enough to get him the bronze.
  - The young Elavenil Valarivan opened India's account with a gold in the women's 10m air rifle event.
  - Sanjeev Rajput claimed a silver in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions final to secure India's Olympic quota.
  - India was placed at the top of the medals tally with two gold, one silver and a bronze.
15. The 25th Senior Women's National Football Championship will be held in **Arunachal Pradesh**.
- Note:**
- The **tournament** will be held in the oldest town of the state **Pasighat** in **East Siang District**.
  - A total of 30 teams from across the country, representing various States, Union Territories and Indian Railways will participate in the tournament.

➤ The inaugural match will be played between Railways and Mizoram.

16. Indian sprinter clinched gold medal in the **400m run** at the International Athletic Meeting – Josef Seckar Memorial (MJS) in Brno, Czech Republic\_\_ **VK Vismaya**.

**Note:**

- VK Vismaya produced her personal best timing of 52.12s to clinch the gold medal.
- Compatriots Poovamma Machettira (53.47s) and Subha Venkatesan (53.67s) finished second and third respectively.

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