

Weekly One-Liners

15-21 December 2019



Weekly One Liner Updates 15-21st December 2019

Important Days

1. The International Tea Day is observed annually on ____ **15th December**.
Note:
 - India is the second-largest producer of tea in the World after China.
 - The day has been celebrated since 2005 in tea producing countries like India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Vietnam, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Kenya, Malawi, Malaysia, Uganda and Tanzania.
2. Vijay Diwas is commemorated every in India on ____ **16th December**.
Note:
 - On 16th December 1971, Lieutenant General AAK Niazi (chief of Pakistani forces), along with 93 thousand troops, surrendered to the allied forces, comprising the Indian Army and the Mukti Bahini.
 - Bangladesh is also celebrating its Victory Day.
3. The UN's **International Migration Day (IMD)** is being observed every year on ____ **18th December**.
Note:
 - The International Organization for Migration salutes migrants and the communities they join, the communities they remake through their mutual effort.
 - In Dec 2000, the UN General Assembly proclaimed 18 Dec as International Migrants Day after considering the large and increasing number of migrants in the world
4. Goa celebrated its 58th Liberation Day on ____ **19th December**.
Note:
 - The state was liberated on this day (19th December) in 1961 from Portuguese control after almost 450 years of colonial rule.
 - Goa is a state in India within the coastal region known as the Konkan in Western India, bounded by Maharashtra to the north and Karnataka to the east and south, with the Arabian Sea forming its Western coast.
5. The UN's International Human Solidarity Day is annually held on ____ **20th December**.
Note:
 - The Day aims to raise public awareness of the importance of solidarity and encourages debate on the ways to promote solidarity for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals including poverty eradication.
 - The United Nations General Assembly established the World Solidarity Fund on 20th December 2002 as a trust fund of the United Nations Development Programme.

New Appointments

1. Who elected as the President of Algeria ____ **Abdelmadjid Tebboune**
Note:
 - Mr. Tebboune succeeded Abdelkader Bensalah.
 - He served as the Prime Minister from May 2017 to August 2017, under the governance of President Abdelaziz Bouteflika.
2. Who will be the next Chief of Army Staff (28th) of the Indian Army ____ **Lt Gen Manoj Mukund Naravane**.
Note:
 - Lt Gen Naravane will succeed Gen Bipin Rawat, who will retire on the 31st December this year.
 - Naravane was commissioned into the 7th battalion, the Sikh Light Infantry Regiment in June 1980.
 - During his career, he has been awarded the Param Vishisht Seva Medal (2019), Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (2017), Sena Medal and Vishist Seva Medal (2015) for his service and the CoAS commendation card.
 - The Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) is the professional head, commander, and usually the highest-ranking military officer of the Indian Army.

3. Who has been appointed as the chairman-cum-managing director (CMD) of NALCO __ **Sridhar Patra**.

Note:

- Currently, Mr Patra is posted as Director (Finance) in the National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO).
- National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) is a Navratna group 'A' CPSE having integrated and diversified operations in mining, metal and power under Ministry of Mines, Government of India.

4. The Telangana government has appointed former High Court judge as Lokayukta __ **Justice C V Ramulu**.

Note:

- Governor Tamilisai Sounderarajan has issued the orders to this effect.
- The governor also appointed another former judge Justice G Chandraiah as Chairman of the State Human Rights Commission.
- This is the first time that the state government has constituted the Lokayukta and Human Rights Commission since the state was formed in 2014

5. Who has been appointed Chairman and MD of national reinsurer General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re) __ **Devesh Srivastava**.

Note:

- Srivastava succeeds Alice Vaidyan, who retired in July 2019, since then the GIC Re was functioning without a full-time chief.
- Until his appointment, Srivastava handled the departments of HR, worldwide reinsurance, health and innovation center at GIC Re.
- The government has also appointed Malay Kumar Poddar as Chairman and MD of Agriculture Insurance Corporation of India.

6. Who has been appointed as the Director of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy in Hyderabad __ **Atul Karwal**.

Note:

- The proposal of the Ministry of Home Affairs for his appointment has been approved by the cabinet committee of appointment

7. Indian American computer scientist to lead the prestigious National Science Foundation __ **Sethuraman Panchanathan**

Note:

- The **National Science Foundation** (NSF) is a US government agency that supports fundamental research and education in all the non-medical fields of science and engineering. Its medical counterpart is the National Institutes of Health (NIH).
- Dr Sethuraman Panchanathan brings to this position a wealth of experience in research, innovation, academic administration, and policy as exemplified by his long and distinguished career.

Important News – India

1. Who will host the **36th International Geological Congress** in March 2020 __ India.

Note:

- The theme of this conference is 'Geosciences: The Basic Science for Sustainable Development'.
- The IGCs are prestigious global geoscientific events held once every four years and participated by around 5,000-6,000 geoscientists from across the world.
- India is the only Asian country to host the event twice.

2. The World Design Organization (WDO) will launch its new global programme World Design Protopolis in __ **Bengaluru**.

Note:

- It aims at implementing holistic progress in megacities across the world and making them sustainable.
- The project aims to measure the progress of the city, attract investments and solve problems so that the city becomes a better place for the citizens.

3. Who has decided to establish a **Sustainable Development Cell (SDC)** in order to promote environmentally sustainable coal mining in the country ___ **Ministry of Coal**.

Note:

- It will also address the environmental concerns during the decommissioning or closure of mines.
- The SDC will advise, mentor, plan and monitor the mitigation measures taken by the coal companies for maximising the utilisation of available resources in a sustainable way.

4. The **Union Government** has extended the deadline of its flagship scheme by two more years ___ **AMRUT**.

Note:

- In 2015, PM Modi has launched AMRUT mission, promising 139 lakh water connections and 145 lakh sewer connections by March 2020.
- In the last five years, 2,316 projects have been completed so far at an expense of Rs 7,195 crore.
- The expenditure of the mission was estimated as Rs 77,640 crores.
- With the help of the AMRUT scheme, the centre formulates city level estimation of budget required to avail water supply, draining system, sewerages, digital and internet facilities, industrial and transport facilities, etc

5. Who has started laser fencing along the Indo-Nepal border ___ **Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)**.

Note:

- The objective of the laser fencing is to prevent third-party nationals from entering without permission.
- The SSB is deployed to guard the 2450-km-long border with Nepal and Bhutan.
- According to K Rajesh Chandra (SSB Director General), cases of unauthorized entry of Third-Party Nationals have increased this year as compared to previous years.

6. **Narendra Singh Tomar** has launched Phase-III of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in ___ **New Delhi**.

Note:

- The Phase-III of PMGSY aims at consolidation of 1 lakh 25 thousand Kilometers through Routes and Major Rural Links that connect habitations to Gramin Agricultural Markets, Higher Secondary Schools and Hospitals with an estimated cost of 80 thousand 250 crore rupees for the period 2019-20 to 2024-25.
- The Central Share will be 53 thousand 800 crore rupees.

7. The National Conference on 'Uniformed Women in Prisons Administration' (second edition) has been organized in ___ **Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh**.

Note:

- The conference is being held in collaboration of **Madhya Pradesh Jail Department** and BPR& D, New Delhi.
- The uniformed women police and employees from the post of Jail Warden to Inspector General Level of various states, members of non-government organisations, representatives of academic institutions and officers of other government departments are participating in the conference.
- The first conference was held in Delhi in 2017

8. An upgraded version of India's indigenously developed Pinaka guided rocket system was successfully test-fired from a base on ___ **Odisha coast**.

Note:

- The multi-barrel rocket launch system developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) will boost the Army's artillery power.
- The weapon system, mounted on a Tatra truck, is equipped with a state-of-the-art guidance kit comprising an advanced navigation and control system.
- The sophisticated system has a maximum range of 40 km for Mark-I and 75 km for the Mark-II variant and can fire a salvo of 12 rockets in 44 seconds

9. Ministry of Defence hold the ARTECH seminar in ___ **New Delhi**

Note:

- ARTEC is Army Technology Seminar that is being held since 2016.
- The fifth edition of ARTEC is to be organized by the Indian Army under the Ministry of Defence on "Technologies for Non-contact Warfare".
- The seminar was launched as a part of the "Make in India" campaign. It is a flagship event of the Indian Army that focuses on harvesting indigenous

10. Indian chess grandmaster Viswanathan Anand has launched his autobiography ___ **Mind Master**.

Note:

- Autobiography 'Mind Master' is co-authored by sports journalist Susan Ninann and published by THG Publishing Private Limited.
- The book covers wonderful memories of Viswanathan Anand's journey.

11. Government e-commerce portal (GeM) has launched a national outreach programme '**GeM Samvaad**' to bring on-board more ____ **local sellers**.

Note:

- The outreach programme will take place with stakeholders across the country and with local sellers to facilitate on-boarding of local sellers on the marketplace.
- The programme will take place from tomorrow to 17th February next year and will cover all the States and Union Territories of the country.
- GeM has more than 15 lakh products and around 20,000 services, more than 3 lakh registered sellers and service providers and more than 40 thousand government buyer organizations

Important News – State

1. Who has been selected for the 1st prize in 100-Day Work Programme for Promoting Livelihoods__ West Bengal.

Note:

- The **Rural Development Ministry** has selected Bankura and Cooch Behar Districts of the state for 1st and 2nd positions among districts in the country in implementation of rural job scheme.
- The Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee also informed that Baburmahal Gram Panchayat of Kulpi in South 24 Parganas District has also bagged the best performance award from the Centre.

2. Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has inaugurated the barcoding system of Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) ____TRAKEA.

Note:

- According to Haryana police, it helps to automate the entire procedure, right from the moment when forensic experts collect vital samples from the scene of the crime to conducting an analysis of the samples.
- Now, Haryana became the first state in the country to introduce this unique barcoding system.
- The 'TRAKEA' software has been developed by Amit Mishra, a software engineer who was in Bhondsi jail for 13 months imprisoned on the charge of killing his wife

3. Popular classical music festival held in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh__Tansen Samaroh.

Note:

- The five-day festival is celebrated every year in the memory of one of the most eminent singers of Indian history, 'Mian Tansen'.
- Pandit Vidyadhar Vyas will be honoured with this year's prestigious Tansen Samman.
- On this occasion, the music-driven platform is used by the musicians and instrumentalists from all over the world to showcase their talent.

4. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath has inaugurated the International Film Festival in Shilpkala village of ____Khajuraho.

Note:

- Films from the country and abroad including Bundelkhandi will be screened at the Tapra Talkies made for the festival.
- The International Khajuraho Film Festival is being organized by the Prayas Sanstha in collaboration with the State Government.
- Events like interaction with film stars, film making workshop, mobile film making workshop, plays, programmes for promoting local art and culture, herbal forest fair, animal fair etc. are also organized during the Film Festival.

5. Chief Minister N. Biren Singh inaugurated the three days State-level Orange festival at ____Tamenglong (Manipur).

Note:

- The state government under the sponsorship of North Eastern Council organise the festival annually to promote the fruit and encourage its growers.

- As part of the festival, cultural show, traditional games, orange queen completion, a seminar for growers will be held.
 - Tamenglong district is the largest producer of orange fruit in Manipur.
6. Who launched 'Jalsathi' programme __ **Odisha Govt.**
Note:
- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has launched the 'Jalsathi' programme and 'JalSathi' App to ensure supply of safe drinking water to all households in the state.
 - The Water Corporation of Odisha (WATCO) signed a memorandum of understanding with the women federations in Bhubaneswar for the implementation of the programme.
7. Union Minister Shri **Thaawarchand Gehlot** has released the Braille Edition of the book____**Exam Warriors.**
Note:
- The book has been authored by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.
 - The braille version (English and Hindi) has been printed by Rajasthan Netraheen Kalyan Sangh in Jaipur.
 - The book contains a detailed design of the animated picture and various yoga asanas which will let students imagine the pictorial graphics with ease.
 - It will boost the confidence level of these students and help them get success in various competitive exams.
8. The security cover of Chief Minister **YS Jagan Mohan Reddy** has been strengthened with the induction of __ **OCTOPUS.**
Note:
- The Organisation for Counter-Terrorist Operations (OCTOPUS) is an elite force for counter-terror in the state.
 - A team of 32 members divided into five teams would be part of the security.

Important News – World

1. Who launched 'Audible Suno app' in India with 60 ad-free shows in Hindi and English__ **Amazon.**
Note:
- Audible Suno is a world-first for Audible and reflects our commitment to creating exceptional entertainment for our Indian customers.
 - On Apple's App Store, these shows are available in the company's existing Audible app.
 - The Audible app comes with a 30-day free trial period after which users will have to pay a monthly subscription fee of Rs 199.
2. Who has launched India's first corporate bond **exchange-traded fund (ETF)**, called the Bharat Bond ETF__ **Edelweiss Asset Management Company (AMC).**
Note:
- **Bharat Bond ETF** is also the country's largest new fund offer (NFO) ever.
 - Edelweiss AMC will invest in AAA-rated bonds of public sector companies and aims to raise up to Rs 15,000 crore through this initiative.
 - **ETF is an initiative** of the Government of India, from the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management while Edelweiss AMC is given the mandate to design and manage the product.
3. Who formally released its new **National policy Framework** meant to guide the government ministries and departments in implementing their policies__ **Sri Lanka.**
Note:
- The framework titled 'Vistas of Prosperity and Splendor' is aimed at achieving the fourfold outcome of being a productive citizen, a contented family, a virtuous, disciplined and just society and a prosperous nation.
 - The main objective of the National Policy Framework to maintain a 6.5% or higher GDP growth rate under the macroeconomic programme, achieving a per capita income exceeding 6,500 US dollar from 2020 to 2025.
 - The policy mandates to implement a national and international partnership based on principles of priority to national security, friendly and non-aligned foreign policy.
4. Who has been recognized for their strong contribution to building peace in conflict-affected South Sudan as well as for going above and beyond their duties to support local communities__ **Indian peace keepers.**
Note:
- Around 850 Indian troops received the United Nations Medal for their dedication and sacrifice serving so far away from home to protect civilians and build durable peace in South Sudan.
 - Currently, 2,342 Indian troops & 25 police personnel are deployed with the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).

5. The **National Aeronautics and Space Administration** (NASA) will launch rover 'Mars 2020' in ____ **2020**.

Note:

- The rover builds and managed by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California.
- "Mars 2020" will explore a landscape shaped by water which is the 'Jezero Crater', the site of an ancient delta.
- 'Mars 2020's arm has the same reach as 'Curiosity's arm. 'Mars 2020's' turret weighs 99 pounds (45 kilograms) more than Curiosity's because it carries larger instruments and a larger drill for coring and has many other changes in the physical design.

6. Who has launched world's first marine carrier 'Suiso Frontier' transports liquefied hydrogen, in a bid to establish green energy supply chain__ **Kawasaki Heavy Industries**

Note:

- By liquefying hydrogen at minus 253 degrees Celsius, the cargo can be compressed to one-800th of its gaseous volume.
- The carrier will transport to Japan hydrogen produced in Australia from cheap coal, with trial shipments due to begin before March 2021.

7. Who has become the third US President in history to be impeached by the House of Representatives ____ **Donald Trump**.

Note:

- The House voted the President on two charges: one that he abused his power and other that he had obstructed Congress.
- The issue will now pass to the US Senate, which will hold a trial on whether to convict and remove Mr Trump from the office next month.
- Andrew Johnson and Bill Clinton were other two former Presidents who had been impeached.

8. Who has become the first country to recognize Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP) pursuant to the efforts of the Department of Commerce and Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare__ **The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan**.

Note:

- It has been recognized formally by the National Department of Regulation of Medicines and Health Products of the Ministry of Public Health Afghanistan.
- It will also be used based on the requirement as reputable pharmacopeia in the laboratory of medicines and health product quality.
- With this, a new beginning has been made and Afghanistan has become the first country to recognize IP pursuant to the efforts of the Department of Commerce and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Honor & Awards

1. Who has won the coveted Miss World 2019 (69th edition) crown in United Kingdom (UK) ---'Tony-Ann Singh.

Note:

- Toni-Ann Singh is a women's studies and psychology student at US' Florida State University.
- It's the first time in history that black women hold the titles for Miss USA, Miss Teen USA, Miss America, Miss Universe and Miss World.

2. Who won the Crystal award for spreading mental health awareness__ **Deepika Padukone**.

Note:

- Deepika Padukone has won the 26th Annual Crystal Award for spreading awareness about the importance of mental health.
- She is the only Indian actress to appear in the list of winners of Davos 2020.
- Deepika will receive the award in January 2020 at the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos-Klosters, Switzerland.

3. Who has been awarded the 'India Cyber Cop of the Year 2019 ____ **B P Raju**.

Note:

- He won the award for investigating and cracking a fraud case in an online entrance exam conducted by an engineering college in Rajasthan.
- Raju arrested nine accused persons and collected incriminating evidence from digital devices, which revealed the modus operandi adopted by the accuse.
- The award was conferred by NASSCOM-DSCI (Data Security Council of India).

4. **Who** has been removed from UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage of humanity__ **Aalst Carnival of Belgium**.

Note:

- Heritage list, after the annual festival, depicted afloat with caricatures of Orthodox Jews with hooked noses and sitting atop bags of money.
- The body has termed the parade as racist and antisemitic representations and mockery towards some communities.

5. Who won the 2019 DSC Prize ___ **Amitabha Bagchi**.

Note:

- The DSC Prize, instituted in 2010, awards fiction from the South Asian region, which includes Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, as well as from the diaspora.

6. Sahitya Akademi has announced its annual Sahitya Akademi Awards 2019 in ___ **23 languages**.

Note:

- Seven books of poetry, four of novel, six of short stories, three of essays and one each of non-fiction, autobiography and biography have won the Sahitya Akademi Awards 2019.
- Seven books of poetry were awarded to Dr. Phukan Ch. Basumatary (Bodo), Dr. Nand Kishore Acharya (Hindi), Sri Nilba A. Khandekar (Konkani), Sri Kumar Manish Arvind (Maithili), Sri V. Madhusoodanan Nair (Malayalam), Smt. Anuradha Patil (Marathi) and Prof. Penna Madhusudan (Sanskrit).
- Four novels were awarded to Dr. Joysree Goswami Mahanta (Assamese), Sri L. Birmangol Singh (Beryl Thanga) (Manipuri), Sri Cho. Dharman (Tamil) and Sri Bandi Narayana Swamy (Telugu).
- Six books of short stories were awarded to Sri Abdul Ahad Hajini (Kashmiri), Sri Tarun Kanti Mishra (Odia), Sri Kirpal Kazak (Punjabi), Sri Ram sawroop Kisan (Rajasthani), Sri Kali Charan Hembram (Santali) and Sri Ishwar Moorjani (Sindhi).

7. Who will launch a Gandhi Citizenship Education Prize ___ **Portugal**.

Note:

- Portuguese Prime Minister, Antonio Costa has announced that in order to help perpetuate Mahatma Gandhi's ideals.
- The first edition of this prize will be dedicated to animal welfare as Mahatma Gandhi said that the greatness of a nation can be judged by the way its animals are treated.

Sports News

1. Who won the WTA Player of the Year 2019 ___ **Ashleigh Barty (Australia)**.

Note:

- The WTA Awards are given by the Women's Tennis Association to players for outstanding achievements during the season or their career.

2. Who has been voted BBC Sports Personality of the Year 2019 ___ **Ben Stokes**.

Note:

- He became the first cricketer to win the prize after Andrew Flintoff (in 2005).
- In a public vote, Lewis Hamilton came second with Dina Asher-Smith third.
- The BBC Sports Personality of the Year 2019 took place at the P&J Live in Aberdeen, United Kingdom.

3. Who has been named **United World Wrestling's (UWW) Junior Freestyle Wrestler of the Year** ___ **Deepak Punia**.

Note:

- Punia became the first Indian wrestler in 18 years to win a junior world title since 2001.
- Japan's Yui SUSAKI has been named United World Wrestling's Junior Women's Wrestler of the Year.
- Currently, Punia is number-1 in the UWW rankings of 86kg category.

4. England off-spinner has announced her retirement after a 13-year career ___ **Laura Marsh**.

Note:

- She has represented England in 103 ODI's, 67 T20's and 9 Tests and has taken 217 wickets in her career. She is also England's 3rd highest wicket-taker in ODI cricket.
- Laura Marsh was awarded a full central contract by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) in February 2019.

5. Who has become India's first bowler to claim two international hat-tricks ___ **Kuldeep Yadav**.

Note:

- **Kuldeep Yadav** sent back Shai Hope (78-runs), Jason Holder (11-runs) and Alzarri Joseph (0) on the final three deliveries of his eighth over in Visakhapatnam against West Indies.
 - He claimed his first against Australia at Kolkata's Eden Gardens in 2017.
 - Lasith Malinga (Sri Lanka), Wasim Akram (Pakistan), Chaminda Vaas (Sri Lanka), Saqlain Mushtaq (Pakistan) and Trent Boult (New Zealand) to pick up more than one hat-trick in ODIs.
 - The only bowler to have taken three ODI hat-tricks is Sri Lanka's Lasith Malinga.
6. Who has become the national champion in the women's 10m Air Rifle event in Bhopal__ **Zeena Khitta**.
Note:
- Among the teams, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and West Bengal won two gold medals each
7. Who has become the most expensive overseas player signing in IPL history__ **Pat Cummins (Australia)**
Note:
- Kolkata Knight Riders pick up the top-ranked Test bowler for a whopping Rs 15.50 crore.
 - Glenn Maxwell earned himself a big payday as well, the hard-hitting batsmen signed by Kings XI Punjab for Rs. 10.75 crore after a tussle with Delhi Capitals.
 - Chris Morris hit the 10-crore rupee mark with Royal Challengers Bangalore outlasting both Punjab and Mumbai Indians to secure the services of the South African all-rounder.
8. The **Indian men's football team** remained static in the year-ending FIFA rankings__**108th spot**.
Note:
- Belgium ended on top for the second successive year and France remained in second place ahead of Brazil.
 - In the Asian rankings, Japan (28th) is followed by Iran (33), Korea (40), Australia (42) and continental champions Qatar (55).
9. Who has been crowned FIFA's Team of the Year __ **Belgium**.
Note:
- Roberto Martinez's side will end 2019 at the top of the standings after winning all 10 of their international 'A' matches this year to secure qualification for Euro 2020.
 - World champions France conclude the year in second place, with Brazil third, England fourth and Uruguay fifth.
 - World Cup runner-up Croatia and Nations League Finals winner Portugal join Spain, Argentina, and Colombia in the top 10.
10. Former world **champion weightlifter** has won the women's 49kg category gold medal at the 6th Qatar International Cup__ **Saikhom Mirabai Chanu**
Note:
- Chanu won gold with an effort of 194kg in the Olympic qualifying silver level event, the points from which will come in handy when the final rankings for 2020 Tokyo Olympics cut are done.
 - Chanu's performance was way below her personal best of 201kg which she lifted during this year's World Championships in Thailand.
 - In the men's 67kg category, India's Jeremy Lalrinnunga won the silver medal with a total lift of 306kg (140kg in snatch and 166kg in clean and jerk)

Banking & Financial Awareness

1. Who will waive NEFT, **RTGS transfer** charges for savings account holders__ **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**.
Note:
- In an order, RBI instructed banks to make all online payments done through **RTGS** and **NEFT** free of cost for savings account holders.
 - The new rule will be effective from 1st January 2020.
2. The **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** Council headed by finance minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** fixed a uniform tax rate on both state-run and private lottery__ **28%**.
Note:
- It also decided to rationalize the GST rate on woven and non-woven bags to 18%.

- It was for the first time that the GST Council resorted to voting to decide on an issue as it fixed a uniform tax rate on both state and private lotteries.
 - The GST Council also decided to exempt upfront amount payable for long term lease of industrial and financial infrastructure plots by an entity having 20% or more ownership of Central or State Government.
3. Union government has signed a USD 490 million loan agreement for **public-private partnership (PPP)** project__ **Asian Development Bank (ADB)**.
- Note:**
- This agreement is to upgrade about 1,600 km of state highways and major district roads (MDRs) from single-lane to two-lane widths in Madhya Pradesh.
 - An additional \$286 million investment will be mobilized through private sector participation under the PPP modality.
 - This agreement will open a new partnership by introducing PPP through the Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM), thereby leveraging government financing and improving the sustainability of capital investments.
4. Who will simultaneously purchase and sell government securities worth Rs 10,000 crore under a special Open Market Operation (OMO) __ **Reserve Bank of India**.
- Note:**
- Such exercises are done by the central bank when the proceeds from the sale of short-term securities are used to buy long-term government securities.
5. According to the Income Tax Department, it will be mandatory to link Permanent Account Number (PAN) with Aadhaar by___ **31st Dec 2019**.
- Note:**
- This will facilitate to reap seamless benefits of income tax services.
 - The deadline for linking PAN with Aadhaar was extended till the 31st of December, by Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) through an order issued in September this year.
 - Aadhaar is issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) to a resident of India and PAN is a 10-digit alphanumeric number allotted by the I-T Department to a person, firm or entity.
6. State Bank of India (SBI) has signed a loan agreement worth of USD 277 million with German development bank for establishing an energy-efficient housing programme in India__ **Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau**.
- Note:**
- Under the programme, both builders and homebuyers shall be financed for developing/purchasing energy-efficient residential projects that achieve at least 25 per cent energy savings in comparison to standard reference buildings.
 - The programme shall be part of the Indo-German Development Co-operation, guided by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
7. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will simultaneously purchase and sell government securities worth Rs 10,000 crore under a special ____ **Open Market Operation (OMO)**.
- Note:**
- The purchase will be for government securities worth Rs 10,000 crore for the instrument '6.45% GS 2029'.

Obituaries

1. New Zealand's **greatest athlete** passed away at his Texas home__ **Peter Snell**.

Note:

- **Peter Snell** took the 800 meters at the 1960 Rome Games and won both the 800 and 1,500 metres at the 1964 Tokyo Games.
- He also won 2 gold medals at the Commonwealth Games in 1962 in the 880 yards and one mile run in Perth.

2. Veteran film actor passed away __ **Danny Aiello**.

Note:

- He was nominated for an Academy Award for his role as pizzeria owner Sal in Spike Lee's "Do the Right Thing."
- He also played Madonna's father in the 1986 video for Papa Don't Preach.

3. The **legendary Bollywood actress** and a social worker passed away __ **Gita Siddharth**.

Note:

- The actress was best known for her role as Amina in MS Sathy 's 1973 classic 'Garm Hava'.
- Gita made her debut in Gulzar's 1972 film, Parichay.
- Sholay, Trishul, Disco Dancer, are some of the major films done by Gita.

4. Veteran actor passed away at his Pune residence __ **Dr Shriram Lagoo**.

Note:

- Mr. Lagoo acted in more than 100 Hindi and Marathi films in his career and directed twenty plays in Marathi.
- His roles in Marathi plays such as "Natsamrat" and "Himalayachi Saoli", and films such as "Pinjra" made him popular.
- Dr Lagoo also wrote a book, an autobiography titled 'Lamaan' (means 'the carrier of goods').

5. Former Union Minister & Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader passed away in Faridabad__ **I D Swami**.

Note:

- He served as the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs in 1999 in former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's government.
- He was also two times Lok Sabha member from Karnal (Haryana) in 1966 and 1999.

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