

Weekly One-Liner

15-21 Feb 2020



Weekly One Liner Updates
15-21st February 2020

Dear readers,

Weekly One Liner Updates is a collection of important news and events that occurred in the third **week** (15-21st) of **February** 2020. This file is important for, **Banking, SSC, Railway & Insurance** exams.

Banking & Financial Awareness

1. Who will head the Municipal Bonds Development Committee constituted by the Securities and Exchange Board of India
___ Sujit Prasad.

Note:

- The Municipal Bonds Development Committee headed by Shri Sujit Prasad, Executive Director, SEBI
- The committee will give recommendations on policy matters pertaining to development of municipal debt securities market.
- The members of the committee include representatives from ministry, Municipal Corporation, lawyers, professionals and market practitioners.

2. The Central Board of Directors of the RBI recommended aligning the financial year of RBI from July-June, with the government's fiscal year (April-March) from the year **___ 2020-21.**

Note:

- The meeting reviewed the current economic situation, global and domestic challenges and various areas of operations of the Reserve Bank.
- The meeting was addressed by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. She was accompanied by Minister of State for Finance Anurag Singh Thakur, Finance Secretary Rajiv Kumar and Expenditure Secretary T V Somanathan, among other senior officials.

3. The Reserve RBI has started the first tranche of Long Term Repo Operation (LTROs) by conducting a three-year issue worth **___ Rs 25,000 crore.**

Note:

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has started the first tranche of Long Term Repo Operation (LTROs) by conducting a three-year issue worth Rs 25,000 crore for which it received bids of more than Rs 1.944 lakh crore.
- The central bank has accepted bids of ₹25,035 crore. The RBI will conduct the second issue for Rs 25,000 crore on February 24 which will have one-year tenor.

4. The Government of India (GoI) has signed a \$ 450 million (mn) loan agreement to support Atal Bhujal Yojana (ABHY) with **___ the World Bank.**

Note:

- The Government of India (GoI) and the World Bank(WB) have inked a \$ 450 million (mn) loan agreement to support Atal Bhujal Yojana (ABHY) – National Groundwater Management Improvement Program that will be implemented by the Ministry of Jal Shakti in the states of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Haryana, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh (UP) and cover 78 districts.
- The main aim of this agreement is to stop the decreasing level of ground water in India and strengthen the institutions related to ground water.

5. As per the US-based think tank World Population Review, Indian economy has become the **___ fifth largest.**

Note:

- In accordance with the US-based think tank World Population Review, India has become the fifth-largest in the world with a GDP of \$2.94 trillion overtaking the UK and France in 2019.

- The size of the UK economy is \$2.83 trillion and that of France is \$2.71 trillion. The list has been topped by the United states (US) with \$21.44 trillion GDP.
6. In order to provide enough credit to entrepreneurs in the MSME sector, the state government of Gujarat has signed an MoU with State Bank of India (SBI).
- Note:**
- The agreement was signed between principal secretary M K Das and SBI Ahmedabad circle general manager Ramesh Kumar Agarwal in the presence of Gujarat Chief Minister (CM) Vijay Rupani,
 - The new MSME Start-ups of the state can submit an application on either the MSME portal or to the local nodal agencies.
7. HDFC and SAP concur collaborated with which entities to manage the spending of the corporate sector MasterCard.
- Note:**
- HDFC Bank will offer a corporate credit card for business travellers, providing a one-stop solution for payment and expense management during business trips.
 - The card will enable seamless integration of all business-related spend into SAP Concur offerings, enhancing employee experience, increasing visibility, saving money, and improving efficiency.
8. Which bank has received final approval from Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to reduce the promoter's stake to 26 % Kotak Mahindra Bank.
- Note:**
- Earlier on January 30, the bank had conveyed in-principle approval of the RBI to reduce the promoters' stake to 26 % of the paid-up voting equity share capital (PUVESC) within 6 months of the final approval.
 - RBI had asked the bank to reduce the stake of the promoters to 20 % of the paid-up share capital by 31 March 2018 and 15 % by 31 March 2020.
 - Along with this, the bank is moving towards bringing back the case filed against RBI in the Bombay High Court (HC) for reducing the stake of promoters.
9. SBI Cards has entered into the partnership with which group to launch 3 new retail co-branded credit cards Landmark Group.
- Note:**
- The three new retail co-branded credit cards are Lifestyle Home Centre SBI Card, Max SBI Card and Spar SBI Card —with 4 Landmark Group brands – Lifestyle, Home Centre, Max and Spar.
 - The co-branded cards are available in three variants. It includes, Base, SELECT and PRIME and cater to the needs of consumers ranging from Value for Money to Premium and Super Premium.
 - Cardholders of any of the above said cards can enjoy the same benefits across all participating Landmark brands.
10. For installing 1000 public charging stations for electric vehicles state-owned Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) has signed an MoU with BSNL.
- Note:**
- EESL will set up public charging stations in 1000 BSNL sites in a phased manner & also entire upfront investment on the services pertaining to the MoU, along with the operation and maintenance of the charging infrastructure.
 - BSNL would be responsible for providing the requisite space & power connections for installing the charging infrastructure.
 - According to the vision of National Electric Mobility Programme, EESL has commissioned 300 AC (Alternate Current) and 170 DC (Direct Current) chargers across India and at present, 66 public charging points are operational in New Delhi, India.
11. National Strategy for Financial Inclusion (2019-24) has been launched by RBI.
- Note:**
- The main motive of the strategy is to provide access to financial services in an affordable manner.
 - The Strategy has been launched after thorough consultation with SEBI, PFRDA and also Insurance IRDAI.

- The strategy was launched based on the recommendations of the Financial Inclusion Advisory Committee that worked in consultation with the above agencies.
12. According to 'The Banker's Top 500 Banking Brands 2020' report, has topped the list of 'Highest increase in brand value' among global banks ____ **IndusInd Bank**.

Note:

- The brand value of IndusInd Bank has increased by 122% over the past 12 months, making it the highest placed for growth in brand value, across the globe. The bank reported total assets of Rs 3.1 lakh crore at the end of Q3 FY20.
- As a part of the report, the list "Top 50 By Total Brand Value by Country" has been topped by China, followed by United States (US) at 2nd position while Canada and the United Kingdom (UK) ranked at 3rd and 4th spots.

Obituaries

1. Name the founding member and lead-guitarist of music band Parikrama who passed away recently, ____ **Sonam Sherpa**.

Note:

- Sherpa formed Parikrama music band with his associate Subir Malik.
- The band memorable songs include "But it rained", "Till I'm no one again", "Open skies", "Am I dreaming" and also gave music for the Bollywood movie, Manjunath.
- Sherpa owned and ran Parikrama school at Hauz Khas village, New Delhi.

2. Name the Ugandan student, who played a memorable role in 2016 Disney film "Queen of Katwe" who passed away recently ____ **Nikita Pearl Waligwa**.

Note:

- She died at the age of 15 in Uganda, Kampala due to brain tumour.
- Waligwa was studying at Gayaza High School and was known as "darling to many" in the school.
- She played the role of Gloria, a younger friend of the main character Phiona Mutesi and taught her how to play chess.

3. Name the noted American Actress passed away recently, best known for playing the role of Magda on "Sex and the City" series ____ **Lynn Cohen**.

Note:

- Lynn Cohen reprised her part in the 2 film versions- "Sex & the City" (2008) and "Sex & the city2" (2010) of the HBO (Home Box Office) Series.
- She acted in the television shows of "Damages", "Nurse Jackie", "The Affair", "Law & Order" and also featured in guest roles on "The Marvelous Mrs Maisel", "God Friended Me" and "Master of None".

4. Name the noted Bengali actor & former Trinamool Congress MP who passed away at the age of 61 ____ **Tapas pal**.

Note:

- He was born on 19th September 1958 in Chandannagar, West Bengal and completed his graduation from the Hooghly Mohsin College in Bio-Science.
- Tapas Pal was a member of All India Trinamool Congress. He was an MLA from Alipore for 2 terms (2001-2006 & 2006-2009) and former MP (Member of Parliament) of Krishnanagar constituency from 2009 to 2019.

5. Harry Greg passed away at the age of 87 in Coleraine, Northern Ireland, UK, he was a famous ____ **Footballer (goalkeeper)**.

Note:

- Harry Greg, was named as "Hero of Munich" for rescuing 2 teammates as well as a baby and her pregnant mother in the 1958 air disaster that killed 23 people.
- Greg spent 9 years with Manchester United after joining as the world's most expensive goalkeeper in 1957.

6. Hall of famer Mary Kathryn Mickey Wright, passed away recently was a famous ____ **Golfer**.

Note:

- Hall of famer Mary Kathryn Mickey Wright, was an American Ladies Professional Golf Association Tour professional golfer, passed away at the age of 85 in Florida, United States (US).
- She was born on February 14, 1935 in San Diego, California, US (United States). She was a member of the World Golf Hall of Fame.
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7. M.S. Mani who passed away at the age of 79 was a famous ____ **journalist**.

Note:

- Former Chief-editor of Kerala Kaumudi (Malayalam daily) and kala kaumudi (magazine) chief editor M.S. Mani passed away at the age of 79 in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- He was born on November 4, 1941 at Mayyanad in Kollam district, Kerala as the son of Kerala Kaumudi Founder editor K Sukumaran and Madhavi Sukumaran.

8. Name the veteran Kannada Actor who passed away recently ____ **Kishori Ballal** .

Note:

- Veteran Kannada actor Kishori Ballal passed away at the age of 82 in Bengaluru, due to her age related illness. She hailed from Dakshina Kannada district, Karnataka.
- She made her debut acting in 1960's with Ivalentha Hendthi and had a career span over 15 years.
- She has acted in over 75 movies in different languages with some famous directors and dedicated actors.

9. Name the veteran computer scientist who invented copy-cut-paste passed away recently ____ **Lawrence Gordon Tesler**.

Note:

Lawrence Gordon Tesler known as Larry Tesler was an American computer scientist who worked in the field of human-computer interaction and also the Inventor of Copy-Cut-Paste functions for computers in 1973 has passed away at the age of 74 in Portola Valley, California, U.S.

Important Days

1. The World Pangolin Day was observed across the world on ____ **15th February (3rd Saturday of Feb)**.

Note:

- The 9th World Pangolin day was observed on February 15, 2020.
- The Madhya Pradesh forest department & Wildlife Conservation Trust has radio-tagged an Indian Pangolin for the first time in order to know its ecology and develop an effective conservation plan

2. Soil Health Card Day was observed across the country on ____ **19th February**.

Note:

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had launched the Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme on February 19, 2015 at Suratgarh in Rajasthan, to increase the fertility of the soil.
- The scheme aims at issuing soil health cards to farmers every 2 years to identify the nutritional deficiencies in the soil. The scheme also ensures additional incomes to the farmers by increase in yields & also promote sustainable farming.

3. World Day of Social Justice is observed annually on ____ **20th February**.

Note:

- The day creates awareness against social injustice regarding gender, age, race, ethnicity, religion, culture or disability.
- Theme of this day this year is "Closing the Inequalities Gap to Achieve Social Justice".
- The theme aims to uphold the principles of social justice by promoting gender equality, or the rights of indogenous people or migrants.

4. The International Mother Language Day (IMLD) is observed annually on ____ **21st February**.

Note:

- International Mother Language Day (IMLD) is observed annually on February 21 since 2000 as a worldwide observance of UNESCO (United Nations, Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation).
- The day creates an awareness on linguistic, cultural diversity and to promote multilingualism and in India the day is observed as 'Matribhasha Diwas'.
- Theme of IMLD for the year 2020 is "Languages without Border".

New Appointments

1. Who has been appointed as the United Kingdom's (UK) new Chancellor of the Exchequer ___ **Rishi Sunak**.

Note:

- Indian origin Rishi Sunak (39) has been appointed as the United Kingdom's (UK) new Chancellor of the Exchequer by Prime Minister Boris Johnson.
- The Chancellor of the Exchequer is the UK government's chief financial minister. He succeeds Pakistani-origin Sajid Javid who resigned as Chancellor.

2. Who has been appointed as the CEO of GoAir ___ **Vinay Dube**.

Note:

- He was the successor of Cornelis Vrieswijk who resigned in February 2019.
- GoAir MD (Managing Director), Jehangir Waldia was holding the additional charge of chief executive.
- Vinay Dube served as CEO of Jet Airways and joined GoAir in an advisory role in October 2019.

3. Who has been elected as the president of Afghanistan ___ **Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai**.

Note:

- Afghanistan's Incumbent president Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai (70) wins second term as Afghanistan president as an Independent Candidate securing 50.64% votes in september 2019 election announced by the Election Commission of Afghanistan.
- Mr. Ghani served as president of Afghanistan from 2014, and he also served as Finance minister of Afghanistan (2002-2004) and the Chancellor of Kabul University

4. Who has been appointed as the chairman of the PFRDA ___ **Supratim Bandyopadhyay**.

Note:

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved Supratim appointment for a period of 5 years from the date of assumption or till attaining the age of 65 years.
- He was the successor of Shri Pankaj Jain.
- Supratim Bandyopadhyay served as Member (Finance) in the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).

5. Who has been appointed as the new Chief Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) ___ **Sanjay Kothari**.

Note:

- A high powered selection committee headed by Narendra Modi has selected Sanjay Kothari as the new Chief Vigilance Commissioner (CVC).
- Sanjay Kothari to succeed K. V. Chowdary as CVC

6. Who has been appointed as the new Chief Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission ___ **Bimal Julka**.

Note:

- A high powered selection committee headed by Narendra Modi has selected Bimal Julka as the new Chief Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission.
- Bimal Julka to succeed Sudhir Bhargava as CIC.

7. Who has been appointed as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Dhanlaxmi Bank ___ **Sunil Gurbaxani**.

Note:

- Sunil Gurbaxani served as the Executive Vice President of Axis Bank.
- Dhanlaxmi bank was removed from the RBI PCA (Prompt Corrective Action) framework, as the bank is found to be not breaching any of the risk thresholds of the framework.

- During the end of the third quarter in December 2019, the bank reported a 26% rise in a net profit to Rs 21.28 crore & registered a net profit of Rs 16.90 crore during the year 2019.

Important News – India

1. Which Railway Zone of India becomes the first in India to have 13 energy-neutral stations ___ **South Central Railways (SCR) zone.**

Note:

- The number is highest amongst all the zones across the Indian Railways network.
- These are capable of meeting 100% energy requirements through solar photovoltaic panels which have been commissioned at the station buildings.
- The total capacity of all the solar panels installed at the 13 energy neutral stations is 99 kWp at a cost of Rs 50 lakh

2. Union minister for Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Nitin Gadkari flagged off KVIC's 'Apiary on Wheels' in ___ **New Delhi.**

Note:

- Apiary on Wheels is a unique concept for easy maintenance of BeeBox and migration of live colonies, designed by KVIC.
- In accordance with Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi's vision, KVIC's honey mission was launched in 2017 and involves training of beekeepers, distribution of bee-keeping boxes and rural-educated.
- Apiary on Wheels is a holistic approach to meet the challenges faced by beekeepers & also help reduce the labor cost of maintenance of bee box and living bee colonies across India.

3. To investigate the need for separate arrangements for funding defense and internal security the 15th Finance Commission has set up a five-member group led by ___ **Nand Kishore Singh.**

Note:

- This group will test whether a separate mechanism for financing defense and internal security should be put in place, and if so, how this fund would be operationalised.
- The announcements were made after the commission held the 6th meeting of its advisory council to seek views of the participants on the Commission's report for 2020-21 and other recommendations included in the report. Apart from this, outlook for nominal GDP growth during 2021-22 to 2025-26 and other macro-economic parameters were also discussed.
- The Commission has also planned to form a committee to address issues of debt and fiscal deficit of states and centre, which will help in formulating a legal framework for a fiscal architecture.

4. Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the first inter-city electric bus service in ___ **Maharashtra.**

Note:

- The electric bus has 43 seats manufactured by Mitra Mobility Solution, covers a range of 300 kilometre on single charge & will be operated twice between 2 cities.
- Nitin Gadkari mentioned that the government is planning to build e-(electric) highways.

5. The National Organic Food festival was hosted by The Government of India (GOI) in ___ **New Delhi.**

Note:

- The festivals was held at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi, India.
- The festival was inaugurated by Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Minister of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI).
- The 3 day festival was celebrated for the 1st time in order to boost organic products and to promote women entrepreneurship in the area of production & processing of organic products.
- The theme of the festival was 'Unleashing India's Organic Market Potential'.

6. 3-day long 17th edition of Bio Asia 2020 was held in ___ **Hyderabad, Telangana.**

Note:

- It is Asia's largest Biotechnology and Life Sciences Forum with the theme of 'Today for Tomorrow'.
- Switzerland is the partner Country for 2020 as part of the annual tradition & around 40-member team comprising industries, academia and start-ups from Switzerland participated in this event. Assam, Kerala, Odisha and Gujarat were the partner states.

7. Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat has targeted to establish the 1st integrated tri-service command called "Air Defence Command (ADC)" by ___ **June 2020.**

Note:

- The ADC formation, by combining the resources of the three services under one command under the mandate given to the Department of Military Affairs, will help to protect the air space of the country.
- The ADC will unify the air defence and assets of the Army, Air Force and Navy and jointly provide air defence cover to the nation.

8. The 4th National Conference on Review of Implementation of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) held in ___

Udaipur.**Note:**

- It was inaugurated by Sanjay Agarwal, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.
- Organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, the conference saw the participation of 140 members representing different states, banks, insurance companies, RBI (Reserve Bank of India), NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development).
- The first three editions were held in Lucknow, Bangalore, and Guwahati respectively.

9. According to the GMR Group which airport becomes the the 1st airport in India to be completely free of single-use plastic usage ___ **Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA).**

Note:

- The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) -ITC Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development (CESD) also recognized DIAL for successfully implementing the campaign to make the airport voluntary plastic free.
- It is inline with India's target to abolish all single-use plastic from India by 2022.

10. Which state becomes the first in India to to enforce Performance regulation act 2019 for Power department ___ **Uttar**

Pradesh.**Note:**

- In order to provide timely and hassle-free service to electricity consumers, the Uttar Pradesh (UP) state Government has implemented the Performance Regulation Act 2019 for the power department.
- Consumers will now get financial compensation for delay in resolving their complaints by the department.

11. The Central Government has renamed Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA) after ___ **Manohar Parrikar.**

Note:

- The Central Government has renamed Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA) as Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses in order to "honour the commitment and legacy" of late Manohar Parrikar.
- Late Manohar Parrikar was a former defence minister and Padma Bhushan awardee. The Defence Minister chairs the Executive Committee of the IDSA Institute.

12. The Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying will facilitate the increase of milk processing capacity to 108 million metric tonne (MT) from 53.5 million metric tonne by ___ **2025.**

Note:

- In the last 5 years milk production in India has grown by 6.5%, which has increased from 146.3 million metric tonne in 2014-2015 to 187.7 million metric tonne in 2018-2019.
- From the above data only 54% of milk produced is for Marketable surplus and the remaining 46% is for local consumption, In that 46% only 36% is handled by Co-operative and private sectors.

13. India to switch to World's Cleanest petrol and diesel from ___ **April 1,2020.**

Note:

- India to switch to World's cleanest petrol and diesel from April 1,2020, when it proceeds to Bharat Stage (BS-VI) from BS-IV grades at present.
- India will join the select league of nations using petrol & diesel which contains 10ppm (parts per millions) of Sulphur which cuts down vehicular discharge that is stated to be one of the reasons for pollution.

14. BioAsia 2020 was held at the life science capital of India i.e. in ___ **Hyderabad.**

Note:

- It was hosted by the Government of Telangana in partnership with EY (Ernst & Young Private Limited).
- It was the 17th edition of the flagship international convention – BioAsia, whose CEO is Shakthi Nagappan. The event was attended by Piyush Goyal, Minister for Commerce and Industry.

15. The northeast frontier railway construction has constructed India's tallest railway pier bridge in ___ **Manipur.**

Note:

- The northeast frontier railway construction has constructed India's tallest railway pier bridge.
- It is built across the Makru river in the Tamenglong district, near Noney of Manipur

16. 8th edition of the “Ganga Kayak festival” was inaugurated in ___ **Devprayag, Uttarakhand**.

Note:

- The festival was organized by the Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board and The Adventure Sports Society witnessed participation of 45 males and 6 women athletes from Russia, Australia and Nepal.
- In male sprint category, India’s Ayodhya Prasad stood first followed by Nepal’s Man Bahadur Kandel, Rishi Rana of India coming 3rd place.
- In the women’s category, Elizabeth Health of Australia came in first followed by Ekaterina of Russia and Anna of Russia in the 3rd position.

17. According to the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, the total food grain production in the country is estimated at record ___ **291.95 million tonnes**.

Note:

- It should be noted that the 2019-20 production is also higher by 26.20 million tonnes than the previous five years’ (2013-14 to 2017-18) average production of foodgrain. India’s crop year is July-June.
- The cumulative rainfall in the country during the monsoon season has been 10% higher than Long Period Average (LPA), resulting in a boost in foodgrain production.

18. India and Myanmar signed an MoU for regular passenger bus service between Imphal and ___ **Mandalay**.

Note:

- The bus service will begin in April 2020.
- The MOU was signed between the two firms namely Shwe Mandalay Express Company limited, Yangon & Seven Sisters Holiday, Imphal
- Bus service from Mandalay will end at the border of Tamu from there Indian bus operators will take passengers to Moreh town in Manipur.

19. Name the Institute that ranked first in the Nature Ranking Index 2020 ___ **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)**.

Note:

- All the institutions are ranked on the basis of total research output from december 01, 2018 to 30th November , 2019.
- Numbers in research output are designated by total citations in numbers and shares which indicates the sharing percentage per article.

Important News – State

1. With an aim to promote the practice of planting trees in the state ‘Pyaar ka Paudha’ drive under the Jal Jeevan Hariyali campaign has been launched by ___ **Bihar**.

Note:

- The state Government of Bihar’s Department of Environment and Forest in Patna has launched ‘Pyaar ka Paudha’ campaign.
- As a part of this initiative, the environment department has appealed to the people to gift the plant of love to their close ones as it will be alive for years & also stalls of Patna plants have been planted for this purpose.
- If this experiment is successful, it will be implemented in other areas of the state as well.

2. Which state government has launched “Anganphou Hunba” (Sowing of First Crop Paddy) programme ___ **Manipur**.

Note:

- Manipur Chief Minister, Nongthombam Biren Singh launched the scheme.
- The programme was organised by Arapti Urup Farmers’ Association under the supervision of Keirao AC Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) Lourembam Rameshwar.
- The state govt has prepared a Rs 260-crore project to provide irrigation facilities by pumping ground water and is awaiting the Centre’s approval.

3. Rs 6 crores cash rewards for gold medal winners at Olympics games has been announced by ___ **Haryana**.

Note:

- The Chief Minister of Haryana Manohar Lal Khattar has announced that the state government will provide Rs. 6 crores for the players who bagged gold medals, Rs. 4 crores for the silver medalist and Rs. 2.5 crores for the bronze medalists at the Olympics Games and also employment in Haryana Civil Service or Haryana Police service to the sportsperson.

4. Haryana government has renamed Ambala city bus stand after ___ **Sushma Swaraj**.

Note:

- The Haryana government has decided to rename the the newly constructed Ambala city Bus stand as Sushma Swaraj bus stand.
- The name of the bus stand will be changed on the birth anniversary (14th February) of the late Union Minister Sushma Swaraj, who was born in Ambala Cantt and elected as MLA twice from the Ambala constituency.

5. Which state government will honour cops under 'Appreciate and Commend' scheme ___**Punjab**.

Note:

- Dinkar Gupta, Punjab DGB (Director General of Police), launched the 'Appreciate and Commend' scheme in Phillaur, Punjab, in order to boost the confidence of police officers who work extraordinarily and the best cops will be awarded every month.
- Under this scheme, the nominations of the best police will be sought from police chiefs of various districts by the 25th of every month, and these will be screened by a committee consisting of senior police officers and the awardees name would be announced by the 5th of every month.

6. Chief Minister of Maharashtra Uddhav Bal Thackeray has approved the renaming of the Latur Medical College as ___**Vilasrao Deshmukh Institute of Medical Sciences**.

Note:

- Vilasrao was a member of the Indian National Congress, he served as the Chief Minister of Maharashtra for Two times from 1999 to 2003 and from 2004 to 2008.
- He also served as Union cabinet Minister for the Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Panchayat Raj and Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises of Government of India.

7. To modernise all government hospitals Nadu-Nedu scheme has been launched by ___**Andhra Pradesh**.

Note:

- An amount of Rs 15,337 crore has been allocated to modernise all government (govt) hospitals in 3 years.
- The Government hospitals will be constructed or modernized with the highest Indian standard- Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS).

8. Atal Kisan – Majdoor canteens has been launched by ___**Haryana**.

Note:

- These canteens provide affordable and cheap meals to farmers and labourers at a concessional rate of 10 rupees per plate in all mandis and sugar mills.
- 25 such canteens will be established this year.
- Haryana government will also provide free and concessional travel facility to 41 different categories of residents in the ordinary buses of Haryana Roadways.
- Under a new initiative, the women and girls belonging to 11 lakh BPL families will be given sanitary napkins free of cost during the year 2020-2021.

9. Tea Board of India has organized "Run for India Tea" in collaboration with ___**Tripura Tea Development Corporation (TTDC)**.

Note:

- The event has been organized to further promote and popularise Tripura tea alongside India tea and to boost the tea industry in the state. TTDC is also planning to expand tea supplies through fair price shops across the state.
- "Run for India Tea" event was followed by a colourful tableau procession which featured the participation of large number of tea workers wearing traditional dresses.

10. "Yodhav" (Warrior) mobile app has been launched by ___**Kerala**.

Note:

- Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan launched "Yodhav" (Warrior) mobile app (application) at Kochi, Kerala.
- Through this app, the public can inform police about drug abuse and its distribution.
- The application was introduced by the Kochi city police and the informer's identity could be kept secret.

Important News – World

1. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)'s 43rd Governing Council meeting was held in ___**Rome, Italy**.

Note:

- The theme of the meeting is "Investing in sustainable food systems to end hunger by 2030".

- During the meet, the IFAD stated that the sequences of climate change and its impacts on agriculture will push around 100 million people to poverty by 2030.
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2. As per the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) annual “Military Balance” report what is India’s rank in the defence spending ___5th.
- Note:**
- The International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) annual “Military Balance” report states that global spending on defence hiked by 4% percent in 2019.
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3. The 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 26) to the UNFCCC is scheduled to be held in ___**Glasgow UK**.
- Note:**
- The 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 26) to the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) is scheduled to be held from 9-19 November 2020, at Glasgow’s Scottish Events Campus (SEC) in Scotland under the presidency of the UK (United Kingdom) government.
- UNFCCC, the UN’s climate body, holds an annual summit known as a COP, attended by national ministers and heads of state. All of the world’s nations are ‘parties to the Convention’.
4. 13th edition of Asian Business & Social Investor Forum 2019-20 held in ___ **Bangkok, Thailand**.
- Note:**
- 13th edition of Asian Business & Social Investor Forum 2019-20 & 4th edition – Asia’s Greatest Brands & Leaders 2019-20 held at the Marriott Marquis Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand with the aim to improve investment in India and Asia.
- As a part of this event, AsiaOne Magazine & URS Media organized a Networking Meet called ‘India-Thailand: Today, Tomorrow, Together’ in partnership with the India Thai Chamber of Commerce (ITCC) at to discuss the cause of business, political and social issues in the entire Asia & GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) region.
5. Which becomes the 1st Arab Nation to issue license to operate a reactor at its Nuclear power plant ___**UAE**.
- Note:**
- The United Arab Emirates representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency Mr. Hamad al-kaabi announced that the National Nuclear Regulator has issued an Operating license for a reactor at its Barakah nuclear power plant and becomes the 1st arab country in the world to operate a nuclear power plant.
- The Barakah nuclear power plant is being built by the Korea Electric Power Corporation in a deal of USD 20 billion and the plant is on the Gulf coast of Abu Dhabi, out of 4 nuclear reactors in the plant only one got the license, if it is fully operational it can generate 5600 megawatts of electricity which is 25% of the Nation’s need.
6. Which becomes the 3rd most spoken language in the world after English & Mandarin ___**Hindi**.
- Note:**
- The 22nd edition of the world language database Ethnologue stated Hindi, as the 3rd most spoken language of the world in 2019 with 615 million speakers.
- English language was at the top of the list with 1,132 million speakers and Mandarin Chinese was at the 2nd position with 1,117 million speakers.
7. The Worldwide Education for The Future Index (WEFFI) 2019 ranked India in ___**35th position**.
- Note:**
- The Worldwide Education for The Future Index (WEFFI) 2019 ranked India in 35th position, whereas in 2018 it was ranked 40th position.
- The WEFFI report is created by The Economist Intelligence unit and commissioned by Yidan Prize foundation.
- The index is topped by Finland, followed by Sweden in second place and New Zealand in third place.
8. Air-launched cruise missile Ra’ad-II has been launched by which country ___**Pakistan**.
- Note:**
- The Ra’ad-II weapon system is equipped with state of the art guidance & navigation systems ensuring of engagement targets with high precision.
- Ra’ad-II missile is planned to be attached to Mirage aircraft or F-16 fighter jets of the Pakistan Air Force.
- The cruise missile with a range of 600 km significantly enhances air delivered strategic standoff capability on land and at sea.
9. To combat Climate Change, Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos has announced the launch of “Bezos Earth Fund” worth ___ **\$10 billion**.
- Note:**

- Through this fund, Jeff Bezos has committed to contribute \$10 billion to help preserve and protect the natural world against the climate change.
 - The Bezos Earth Fund will fund the scientists, activists, NGOs to save Earth to tackle the issue of climate change.
10. On 19th February the 70th National Democracy Day was observed by ____ **Nepal**.
- Note:**
- Nepal celebrates the National Democracy Day every year on Falgun 7 to commemorate the attainment of democracy after the abolition of the 104-year long autocratic Rana Regime.
 - In 2007 Bikram Sambat, on this day, democracy was established in the Himalayan nation ending over a century old autocratic Rana regime.
11. Who has won the Presidential elections of Afghanistan and will become the President of Afghanistan for the 2nd time ____ **Ashraf Ghani**.
- Note:**
- Ashraf Ghani has won the Presidential elections by winning 9,23,592 votes or 50.64% of the total votes. He defeated his closest opponent Abdullah Abdullah who received 7,20,841 votes or 39.52% of votes.
 - The Election Commission stated that only 1.8 million Afghan citizens voted in the election out of total 9.6 million eligible voters in the country.

Honor & Awards

1. Who becomes India's 2nd richest person after Mukesh Ambani ____ **Radhakishan Damani**.
- Note:**
- Supermarket chain DMart's Founder Radhakishan Damani becomes India's 2nd richest person after Mukesh Ambani, Chairman of Reliance Industries Limited. According to Forbes 'Real Time Billionaires' Index, Damani has a net worth of \$17.8 billion.
 - DMart's shares surged 700% in March 2017, with a market capitalisation of Rs 1.55 lakh crore.
 - DMart operates 196 stores in 72 cities across the country.
2. Which film has won the best film award at the 65th edition of Amazon Filmfare Awards 2020 ____ **'Gully Boy**.
- Note:**
- The 65th edition of Amazon Filmfare Awards 2020 was held at Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium in Guwahati, Assam from 15 Feb 2020 – 16 Feb 2020.
 - The event was hosted by Karan Kumar Johar, an Indian film director, producer, actor and television personality & Varun Dhawan, Vicky Kaushal.
3. The 65th edition of Amazon Filmfare Awards 2020 was held at Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium in ____ **Guwahati, Assam**.
- Note:**
- The 65th edition of Amazon Filmfare Awards 2020 was held at Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium in Guwahati, Assam from 15 Feb 2020 – 16 Feb 2020.
 - The event was hosted by Karan Kumar Johar, an Indian film director, producer, actor and television personality & Varun Dhawan, Vicky Kaushal.
4. Who won the best Actor award at the 65th edition of Amazon Filmfare Awards 2020 ____ **Ranveer Singh for Gully Boy**.
- Note:**
- The 65th edition of Amazon Filmfare Awards 2020 was held at Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium in Guwahati, Assam from 15 Feb 2020 – 16 Feb 2020.
 - Zoya Akhtar's directorial 'Gully Boy' emerged as big winner as it bagged 13 awards including the prestigious best film award.
 - Ranveer Singh bagged Best Actor's trophy for his performance in Gully Boy, while Alia Bhatt won the Best Actor in a Leading Role (Female) for the same film.
5. 20th edition of Laureus World Sports Awards 2020 was held in ____ **Berlin, Germany**.
- Note:**
- It was the 2nd Laureus World Sports Awards to take place in Berlin, following the 2016 ceremony which took place at the Messe Berlin.
 - It was organized by the Laureus Sport for Good Foundation.
 - Laureus World Sports Awards is known as 'Oscars of Sport'. The event was hosted by Actor Hugh Grant.
6. Who has won Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the year 2019 ____ **Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw**.
- Note:**

- Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw won Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the year 2019 at the 21st edition of the awards held in New Delhi, India.
 - She is Chairperson and Managing Director (MD) of Bengaluru based biopharmaceutical company Biocon.
 - She will also represent India at the EY World Entrepreneur of the Year Award (WEOY) in Monte Carlo between June 4 and 6, 2020.
7. Who received the 'sportsperson of the year 2019 female at the ESPN Multi-Sport Annual Awards 2019 ____ **PV Sindhu**.
Note:
- Entertainment and Sports Programming Network (ESPN) Multi-Sport Annual Awards 2019 announced PV Sindhu & Saurabh Chaudhary as 'sportsperson of the year 2019 female & male'.
 - PV Sindhu received this 'Sportsperson of the year'(Female) award for the third consecutive time.
 - Dutee Chand was named as the first winner of the ESPN India courage award.
8. Who received the 'sportsperson of the year 2019 male at the ESPN Multi-Sport Annual Awards 2019 ____ **Saurabh Chaudhary**.
Note:
- Entertainment and Sports Programming Network (ESPN) Multi-Sport Annual Awards 2019 announced PV Sindhu & Saurabh Chaudhary as 'sportsperson of the year 2019 female & male'.
 - PV Sindhu received this 'Sportsperson of the year'(Female) award for the third consecutive time.
 - Dutee Chand was named as the first winner of the ESPN India courage award.
9. Who has been announced as the winner of the 2019 Kate Webb Prize by the Agence France-Presse ____ **Ahmer Khan**.
Note:
- The 27-year old Indian freelance reporter Ahmer Khan was announced as the winner of the 2019 Kate Webb Prize by the Agence France-Presse, for his series of videos and written reports on how people in Kashmir impacted while scraping article 370 by the Government of India.
 - In 2008 AFP established the Kate Webb Prize with a cash reward of euro 3000 (approximately Rs.3.2 lakhs) to recognize Journalists working in difficult conditions in Asia, for the remembrance of Kate Webb.
 - And later in 2020, the Award will be formally presented in a ceremony at Hong Kong
10. Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu presented the Ideal Legislative Assembly Speaker/ Ideal Legislative Council Chairman Award 2019 to ____ **P Ramakrishnan**.
Note:
- Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu presented the Ideal Legislative Assembly Speaker/ Ideal Legislative Council Chairman Award 2019 to the Speaker of the Kerala Legislative Assembly Shri P. Ramakrishnan.
 - The Ideal Legislative Assembly Speaker Award-2019 recognises the significant contribution made by the Hon'ble Speaker in strengthening & safeguarding best legislative practices in the state.
 - The selection committee was chaired by Shri Shivraj Patil -Former Speaker of the Parliament and the Governing Council of the Bhartiya Chhatra Sansad and honoured by MIT School of Government.

Sports News

1. The Tokyo Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic games revealed the official motto, ____ **"United By Emotion"**.
Note:
- The Tokyo Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic games revealed the official motto, "United By Emotion", which reflects the "universal values" and "unifying power of sport", for the upcoming 2020 Olympics to be held in Tokyo, Japan from July 24, 2020 to August 9, 2020.
 - The motto highlights the power of sport to bring together people from diverse backgrounds to connect & celebrate in a way that reaches beyond their differences.
 - The official Olympic motto is "Citius, Altius, Fortius" or "Faster, Higher, Stronger", but each host city chooses its own motto to accompany that edition of the Games.
2. Badminton Asia championships 2020 was held in ____ **Manila, Philippines**.
Note:
- Indian men's team clinched bronze medal at the Badminton Asia team championships 2020 after losing to two-time defending champions Indonesia with 2-3 scores in semi-finals of the tournament held at Rizal Memorial Coliseum in Manila, Philippines from 11 - 16 February 2020.

- This is the 2nd time that India bagged bronze medal in the championship after it won the 1st bronze in 2016 at Hyderabad, Telangana.
3. Who has won the Cairns Cup Chess tournament held at St.Louis, United States ____ **Koneru Humpy**.
- Note:**
- Grandmaster Koneru Humpy has won the Cairns Cup Chess tournament held at St.Louis, US (United States). She won the title after finishing 6 points off 9 rounds and a cash prize of \$45,000.
 - This was the second edition of the Cairns Cup. With this win, she was ranked 2nd in the recently released chess world ranking.
4. Junior Men’s Hockey World Cup 2021 is scheduled to be held in ____ **India**.
- Note:**
- The International Hockey Federation (FIH) announced that India will host Junior Men’s Hockey World Cup 2021 and the women’s Junior Hockey World Cup would be held for the first time in Potchefstroom, South Africa.
 - This is the third time that India will be hosting the prestigious tournament, having staged in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh (UP) in 2016 & New Delhi, India in 2013.
5. Who has been banned by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) for four years ____ **Amit Dahiya**.
- Note:**
- The Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel (ADDP) has passed an order to National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) to ban javelin thrower Amit Dahiya for four years for sending wrong sample collection and trying to cheat officials during the 2nd National Javelin throw open Championship 2019 held at Sonapat in Haryana.
6. AFC Women’s Asian Cup 2022 is scheduled to be held in ____ **India**.
- Note:**
- The Women’s Committee of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) informed that India has been recognised as the first South Asian to host the 2022 AFC Women’s Asian Cup, in the meeting held at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
 - Besides India, Chinese Taipei and Uzbekistan were the other competing candidates.
7. FIFA Under-17 Women’s World Cup 2020 will be held in ____ **India**.
- Note:**
- Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijju announced the 5 host cities of India for the FIFA Under-17 Women’s Football World Cup which begins on 2nd November 2020.
 - The official slogan of the tournament is: Kick Off the Dream.
 - The final match will be held at Dr D Y Patil Stadium, Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra on 21st November 2020.

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