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**Weekly One Liner Updates**  
**15<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup> March 2018**

**Important News - India**

1. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the proposal of Department of Fertilizers to continue Urea Subsidy Scheme up to **2019-20**.

**Note:**

- A total estimated cost of Rs. 1,64,935 crores and for disbursement of fertilizer subsidy.
- This decision implies that there will be no increase in price of urea, till 2020.
- Urea Subsidy is a part of Central Sector Scheme of Department of Fertilizers with effect from 1st April, 2017 and is wholly financed by the Government of India through Budgetary Support.

2. The annual 'Krishi Unnati Mela' was held at the Indian Agricultural Research institute in **New Delhi**.

**Note:**

- The main objective of the Mela is to create awareness among farmers about the latest agriculture-related technological developments.
- The main theme pavilion will be based on Doubling of farmers income by 2022.

3. The Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has inaugurated the 105th session of Indian Science Congress in **Imphal, Manipur**.

**Note:**

- The theme of this year's edition of the Science Congress is "Reaching the Unreached through Science and Technology".

4. Who is organizing fortnight long camps across the country to fast-track GST refunds to exporters **Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC)**.

**Note:**

- GST was rolled out across the country from 1st of July last year.
- The CBEC has already given refunds to the tune of 5 thousand crore rupees but as much as 70 per cent of total refunds to exporters is still stuck.

5. The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) has launched a mobile app on the occasion of its 33rd Inception Day **Citizen Services**.

**Note:**

- The application has been developed in-house by the NCRB.
- The application comprises a bouquet of 9 essential police related services for the citizen.

6. Who has released comprehensive roadmaps and detailed timelines for its initiative Sustainable Action for Transforming Human Capital in Education (SATH-E) project in New Delhi **NITI Aayog**.

**Note:**

- It will introduce system-wide governance transformation in School Education.
- The roadmaps will operate between 2018 to 2020.

7. Patiala court of Punjab has awarded a two-year prison sentence to Punjabi pop singer for 2003 human trafficking case **Daler Mehndi**.

**Note:**

- The court found him & his brother Shamsheer Mehndi (died last year) guilty of taking ten people to the United States 20 years ago as part of their singing troupe, in return for money.

8. The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has launched a mobile application for airport passengers **Lost and Found**.

**Note:**

- The objective of this mobile app is that the passengers can directly register complaints and get status of their complaint immediately from the airports under CISF security cover.
- The CISF guards 59 civil airports across the country.

9. Five-day Festival of Innovation and Entrepreneurship and present Gandhian Young Technological Innovation awards at \_\_\_ **Rashtrapati Bhavan New Delhi**.

**Note:**

- The festival is an initiative to recognise, respect, showcase, reward innovations and to foster a supportive ecosystem for innovators.
- It is being organised by Rashtrapati Bhavan in association with the Department of Science and Technology & the National Innovation Foundation-India.

10. The 106th edition of the Indian Science Congress will be held next year at the \_\_\_ **Barkatullah University, Bhopal**.

**Note:**

- The theme of the 106th Indian Science Congress will be "Future India: Science and Technology".
- Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA) is a premier scientific organization of India with headquarters at Kolkata, West Bengal.

11. The chief of the Army Staff 'General Bipin Rawat' has released a book on Paramveer Chakra Awardee \_\_\_ **Paramveer Parwane**.

**Note:**

- The book is written by Dr. Prabhakaran Jain and published by 'Medha Books'.
- The book illustrates the bravery of Paramveer Chakra Awardees from 1947 to 1965.

12. The University Grant Commission (UGC) has accorded autonomy to higher education institutions \_\_\_ **60**.

**Note:**

- In Sixty institutions (Central Universities-5, State Universities-21, deemed-24, Private Universities-2 and colleges-8), have been granted autonomy under the Autonomous Colleges Regulation.

13. Third edition of National Conclave on Mines and Minerals held in \_\_\_ **New Delhi**.

**Note:**

- The conclave will provide an effective platform to showcase the recent policy initiatives of the government.
- The first edition of the conclave was held at Raipur (in July, 2016), while the second took place in New Delhi (February 2017).

14. The first National workshop to implement the campaign in a fast track mode across the country held in New Delhi \_\_\_ **Poshan Abhiyaan**

**Note:**

- The workshop will provide a complete orientation on the campaign to provide handholding in using the software involved and to augment the convergence with different Ministries in implementing the campaign for improved Nutritional outcomes.

## **Honors & Awards**

1. Who won the 2017 Kochon Prize for TB research \_\_\_ **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**.

**Note:**

- The award comprises prize money worth USD 65,000.
- Kochon Prize is awarded annually by Stop TB Partnership to individuals or organizations that have made a significant contribution to combating tuberculosis.

2. According to sixth World Happiness Report-2018, in 156 countries by their happiness levels, India ranks at \_\_\_ **133rd rank**.

**Note:**

- Burundi (East Africa) is the unhappiest place in the world and Pakistan (75th), China (86th) and Nepal (101st).
- The World Happiness Report is published as part of the United Nations Sustainable Development Solution Network.
- It ranks countries on various quality of life parameters like social support, GDP per capita, health-life expectancy, freedom, generosity and absence of corruption.

3. India Post paid tribute to theoretical physicist and cosmologist by issuing a special cover on him at an event in Mumbai \_\_\_ **Stephen Hawking**.

**Note:**

- The postal department is paying tribute to the legendary scientist by releasing the special cover in all its 22 Circles.

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- Hawking passed away at the age of 76 on 14th March in his home in Cambridge in the United Kingdom.
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4. Indian film has bagged the Grand Prix de Montreal at the gala \_\_\_ **Halkaa**.
- Note:**
- Halkaa was selected among seven international children's films from different countries in the official competition of the festival.
  - The film is a take on a slum child's heroism, aspirations, and dreams.
  - The film stars child actor Tathastu, Ranvir Shorey and Paoli Dam.
5. Who has released comprehensive roadmaps and detailed timelines for its initiative Sustainable Action for Transforming Human Capital in Education (SATH-E) project in New Delhi \_\_\_ **NITI Aayog**.
- Note:**
- It will introduce system-wide governance transformation in School Education.
  - The roadmaps will operate between 2018 to 2020.
6. The Sri Lankan Cricket(SLC) paid tribute to the former BCCI President 'Jagmohan Dalmiya' with a **book \_\_\_A Ribute to Jagu**.
- Note:**
- The joint secretary of Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) Mr. Avishek (Dalmiya's son) received the memorial book.

### States News

1. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal & Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri ceremonially flagged off Delhi Metro's Line from the Metro Bhawan in New Delhi \_\_\_ **Pink Line**.
- Note:**
- The new service will operate on a 21.56 km stretch, taking the total area that Delhi Metro Railway Corporation (DMRC) covers to 250 km.
2. The state Govt has announced to setting up a committee led by state agriculture and farmers welfare minister Om Parkash Dhankhar to discuss the issue with the Delhi govt and the centre \_\_\_ **Haryana Govt**.
- Note:**
- The MLAs can keep their points in the meeting of the Committee and Delhi government can be approached for constructing separate channels for polluted water instead of allowing the polluted water to flow in the river.
3. Haryana state assembly passes bill proposing death penalty in rape case of girls below \_\_\_ **12 years**.
- Note:**
- Haryana state Assembly has passed "the Criminal Law (Haryana Amendment) Bill -2018" proposing death penalty or rigorous imprisonment of not less than 14 years for rape or gang rape of girls below 12 years.
  - The law also proposes punishment not less than 2 years and up to 7 years in case of assault with intent to outrage the modesty of a girl.
4. The Union minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the 5th Nadi Mahotsava at \_\_\_ **Bandrabhan, Madhya Pradesh**.
- Note:**
- The two-day mahotsava with various sessions of discussion is taking place for the conservation of Narmada river.
5. The union govt has approved the setting up of a Plastic Park in \_\_\_ **Deoghar, Jharkhand**.
- Note:**
- The project would be set up at a cost of Rs. 120 crores in an area of 150 acres.

### Important News – World

1. Who has challenged Indian export subsidies schemes at the World Trade Organization (WTO) \_\_\_ **United States**.
- Note:**
- The US Trade Representative (USTR) alleged that through these programmes, India is given exemption from certain duties, taxes, and fees which benefits numerous Indian exporters.
  - These export subsidies provide an unfair competitive advantage to recipients.
2. Prime minister of Slovenian has resigned after the supreme court annulled the result of a September referendum that approved a 1-billion-euro railway project \_\_\_ **Miro Cerar**.

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**Note:**

- He will keep the post until a new government formed.
- Cerar took office in 2014 when his SMC party scored a stunning electoral victory just one month after being created.

3. India's President **Ram Nath Kovind** has inaugurated the World Hindi Secretariat (WHS) in \_\_**Port Louis(Mauritius)**.

**Note:**

- The main objective of the WHS is to promote Hindi as an international language and further its cause for recognition at the United Nations as an Official Language.
- The organization was set up by the governments of India and Mauritius to promote Hindi across the world.

4. Who has announced a 50 million USD donation to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency(UNRWA) for Palestine Refugees\_\_ **Qatar**.

**Note:**

- Qatar has also announced to continue finance projects implemented by the UNRWA.
- Qatar is facing a nine-month boycott by its Gulf allies.

5. According to the United Nations Committee for Development Policy, four countries will be recommended for graduation from the least developed country (LDC) category \_\_**Bhutan, Kiribati, Sao Tome & Principe and Solomon Islands**.

**Note:**

- They are set to move up from the ranks of poorest nations due to their increasing national earning power as well as access to better health care and education.
- Two more countries, Vanuatu, and Angola, are scheduled for graduation in 2020 and 2021 respectively.

6. Informal world Trade Organization (WTO) ministerial meeting begins in \_\_**New Delhi**.

**Note:**

- The informal meeting will provide an opportunity for ministers to explore in greater detail the options on different issues for re-invigorating the WTO.
- This is the second WTO mini-ministerial meeting being hosted by India (first in 2009).

### **Banking & Financial Awareness**

1. Who has issued a Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework to maintain sound financial health of banks\_\_ **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**.

**Note:**

- It facilitates banks in breach of risk thresholds for identified areas of monitoring including capital, and profitability to take corrective measures in a timely manner.
- The framework is not intended to constrain the performance of normal operations of the banks for the general-public.

### **Important Dates**

1. The World Consumer Rights Day is celebrated globally on \_\_**15th March**.

**Note:**

- The theme for this year is 'Making Digital Marketplaces Fairer'.
- The first World Consumer Rights Day was observed in 1983 and become an important occasion for mobilising citizen action.
- In India, we also observe the National Consumer Day on 24th of December every year.

2. The 'International Day of Happiness' is celebrated throughout the world on \_\_**20th March**.

**Note:**

- The day was founded by United Nations adviser 'Jayme Illien' on June 28, 2012.
- The World Happiness Report 2018, ranks 156 countries by their happiness levels, and 117 countries by the happiness of their immigrants.

3. International Day of Forests being observed on \_\_**21st March**

**Note:**

- The theme of 2018 is 'Forests and Sustainable Cities'.
- This global celebration of forests provides a platform to raise awareness of the importance of all types of woodlands, trees, and celebrate the ways in which they sustain and protect us.

4. The World Poetry Day is observed every year on \_\_**21st March**.

**Note:**

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- A decision to proclaim 21st March as World Poetry Day was adopted during UNESCO's 30th session held in Paris in 1999.
5. Parsis in India & abroad are celebrating their New year with great enthusiasm\_\_**Navroz**.
- Note:
- Parsis in Mumbai are visiting nearby Agiaries to offer special Tehveel-e-Navroz prayers on the occasion of Navroz.
  - Nowruz is the day of the vernal equinox and marks the beginning of spring in the Northern Hemisphere.

### **Obituaries**

1. Noted Malayalam writer passed away in Thiruvananthapuram \_\_**M Sukumaran**.
- Note:
- Sukumaran was the recipient of the Kendra Sahitya Akademi and Kerala Sahitya awards in 2006 and 1976.
  - His short stories 'Sangaganam' and Unarthupattu' have been made into films.
2. Renowned Hindi poet & Jnanpith awardee passed away in Delhi \_\_**Kedarnath Singh**.
- Note:
- He was a professor and head of the Department of Hindi department at Jawaharlal Nehru University's Indian Language centre.

### **New Appointments**

1. Who has been re-elected as President of China for a second five-year tenure \_\_ **Xi Jinping**.
- Note:
- He has been also elected as the head of the powerful Central Military Commission (high command of the Chinese military).
  - Wang Qishan has been elected as vice president, with 2969, one vote less in the carefully choreographed poll.
2. American-trained economist will be the China's new central bank Governor\_\_ **Yi Gang**.
- Note:
- According to the Wall Street Journal(Wsj), the nomination of Yi's was reviewed by the nearly 3,000 delegates attending the National People's Congress.
  - His appointment to the top post at the People's Bank of China (PBOC) was set to be approved when the legislature reconvenes.
3. Myanmar's President resigned after two years in the position\_\_ **Htin Kyaw**.
- Note:
- The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar is the head of state and the head of government of Myanmar and heads the Cabinet of Myanmar.
4. Who appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea\_\_ **Atul M. Gotsurve**.
- Note:
- Currently, Mr. Gotsurve is serving as the Director in the Ministry of External Affairs.
5. Mauritius President has resigned after being embroiled in a financial scandal, the use of a credit card to buy luxury personal item, provided by an NGO\_\_ **Ameenah Gurib-Fakim**
- Note:
- Africa's only female head of the state, Gurib-Fakim is an internationally renowned scientist and biologist.
6. Russian President stormed to victory in presidential election\_\_ **Vladimir Putin**.
- Note:
- Putin won more than 75% of the vote according to preliminary results.
  - The President of the Russian Federation is the elected head of state, Supreme Commander-in-Chief, and holder of the highest office in the Russian Federation.
7. Bihar Governor Satya Pal Malik has been given additional charge as the Governor of \_\_**Odisha**.
- Note:
- Dr. SC Jamir, who is the present Odisha governor, is completing his tenure.

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## Sports News

1. English Cricketer has announced his retirement from the International cricket\_\_ **Kevin Pietersen**.  
**Note:**
  - Pietersen has 8,181 runs in 104 tests, 4,440 runs in 136 ODIs and 1,176 runs in 37 Twenty20 Internationals.
  - Pietersen was named both the ICC "ODI Player of the Year" and "Emerging Player of the Year" in 2005.
2. Indian para-athlete has won the gold medal in the F-53/54 category javelin event at the World Para Athletics Grand Prix in Dubai \_\_ **Deepa Malik**  
**Note:**
  - Deepa Malik became the Asian rank one in the F-53 category.
  - Now, Deepa has also qualified for the 2018 Asian Para Games in Indonesia (Scheduled, October 2018).
3. Who earn One Day International (ODI) status for the first time \_\_**Nepal**.  
**Note:**
  - Nepal have gained ODI status for the first time in their history after defeating Papua New Guinea (PNG) by six wickets in the Cricket World Cup Qualifier play-off in Harare.
4. Who won the 'Nidahas Cricket Trophy' in Colombo, Sri Lanka \_\_**India**.  
**Note:**
  - The tri-nation Twenty20 series '2018 Nidahas Trophy' (Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka) was a cricket tournament that was held in Sri Lanka.
  - The tournament was played to celebrate Sri Lanka's 70th year of independence; the title derives from the Sinhalese nidahas, meaning 'freedom'.
5. Who has won the Women's Singles (Under-19) title at the Israel Junior 2018 held in Rishon LeZion, Israel\_\_ **Purva Barve**.  
**Note:**
  - She defeated Anastasiia Pustinskaia (Russian) in three sets 21-19,19-21,21-13.
6. In Cricket who lifted their maiden 'Irani Trophy' in Nagpur\_\_ **Vidarbha**.  
**Note:**
  - They beat Rest of India by virtue of their massive first innings lead.
  - The Z. R. Irani Cup (earlier called Irani Trophy) tournament was conceived during the 1959-60 season to mark the completion of 25 years of the Ranji Trophy championship, named after the late Z. R. Irani.
7. The eighth-seeded Argentine bagged the Indian Wells Masters title in California \_\_**Juan Martin del Potro**.  
**Note:**
  - Potro beat the veteran Swiss Roger Federer, 6-4, 5-7, 7-6 in a thrilling Final.

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