

Weekly One Liners 11th to 17th March

National Affairs

- **Lok Sabha 2019 elections start from April 11**, in seven phase. Code of Conduct for parties kicks in from **10th March** and there are close to 90 crore eligible voters. Date of counting will be on the 23rd of May 2019.
- The Madhya Pradesh government issued an ordinance increasing reservation quota for the Other Backward Classes (OBC) to **27% from the current 14%**.
- The new visa agreement **between India and Maldives** came into force.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi and his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina** jointly unveiled e-plaques for development projects in Bangladesh through video conferencing. 1. **Supply of buses and trucks**, 2. **Inauguration of 36 community clinics**, 3. **Inauguration of 11 water treatment plants**, and 4. **Extension of National Knowledge Network to Bangladesh**.
- India has extended a grant assistance of up to **USD 250 million to Nepal** for the reconstruction of infrastructures in the areas of housing, education, health and cultural heritage that was destroyed during the devastating April 2015 earthquake which saw the death of over 9,000 people.

Agreements/MoUs Signed

- The **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)** has signed a Cooperation Agreement with the **International Finance Corporation (IFC)**, a member of the World Bank Group (WBG).
- **India and Pakistan** have agreed to work expeditiously on operationalizing the Kartapur corridor.
- **International Affairs**
- A **116-year-old Japanese woman** who loves playing the board game Othello is being honored as the world's oldest living person by **Guinness World Records**.
- The **Vice President of India, M. Venkaiah Naidu** visited the Republic of Paraguay and the Republic of Costa Rica.
- The 9th round of the **India-US Strategic Security Dialogue** was held in Washington DC. United States To Set Up Six Nuclear Power Plants In India.

Summits and Conferences

- Ministry of Commerce & Industry will be organizing the **14th CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnerships**, in association with

Confederation of Indian Industry and EXIM Bank of India in New Delhi.

Committees

- The Supreme Court ordered a court-monitored mediation in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land dispute case to arrive at a "permanent solution". Appointed a panel of 3: **Retired Justice Kalifullah, spiritual leader Sri Sri Ravi Shankar and senior advocate Sriram Panchu**.
- The Delhi government's Dialogue and Development Commission (DDC), a think-tank that advises the government on key issues, has set up a 17-member high-level committee to "reform higher education" in the capital. The committee will be **chaired by DDC vice-chairperson Jasmine Shah**.
- The Supreme Court **appointed senior advocate PS Narasimha** as a mediator for resolving various disputes related to cricket administration within the cricket body, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).
- **Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant will head** the National Mission on Transformative Mobility and Battery Storage, which is being set up to promote clean and sustainable mobility initiatives in the country.

Banking/Economy/Business News

- **Korea Exim Bank** has come forward to extend a Rs 4,100 crore loan for Visakhapatnam (VIZAG) Metro Rail project.
- **State Bank of India** has become the first domestic bank to link the interest rate it offers on savings account deposits to an external benchmark — the Reserve Bank of India’s repo rate.
- State-owned **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** has sanctioned loans worth Rs 689 crore to over 1,600 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) through the psbloansin59minutes.com portal as part of its effort to promote such industries.
- The Ahmedabad bench of the **National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)** has approved the Rs 42,000-crore resolution plan submitted by ArcelorMittal for the debt-ridden Essar Steel Ltd.
- **HDFC Bank Ltd** crossed the Rs6 trillion market capitalization mark for the first time, making it only the third Indian firm—after **Tata Consultancy Services Ltd (TCS)** and **Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL)**—to achieve the milestone.
- Markets regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi)** withdrew the **20% limit** on investments by Foreign Portfolio Investors in corporate bonds of an entity.
- As per RBI notification, **IDBI Bank** has been categorized as a private sector lender following the acquisition of majority stake by Life Insurance Corporation.
- **State Bank of India (SBI)** has launched doorstep banking service for senior citizens over 70 years of age and differently-abled customers.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has decided to use a new tool for the first time to enhance liquidity in the system using which it will buy \$5 billion from the banks in a swap deal that is capable of injecting around Rs. 35,000 crores into the system.



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Appointments/Resignations

- **Mohammad Shtayyeh** has been named as Palestinian Prime Minister by President of Palestinian Authority Mahmoud Abbas.
- **Dr. A.K. Mohanty**, Distinguished Scientist and Director, physics group of the **Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC)** took over as Director, BARC from Mr. K.N. Vyas, Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission and Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Atomic Energy.
- **Ashu Khullar** will replace Pramit Jhaveri as CEO of CITI Bank India from April 1, 2019.
- **Axis Bank** has appointed **Rakesh Makhija** as Non-Executive Chairman for a period of 3 years.
- Retired IAS officer **C Lalsawta** was sworn-in as the **first Chairman** of the newly-constituted Lokayukta in Mizoram.
- **Bajaj Finserv's Chairman and Non-Executive Director Rahul Bajaj** has resigned and will take over as the Chairman Emeritus from May 2019.
- The government has appointed **MR Kumar** as the **Chairman of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)** and Vipin Anand and TC Suseel Kumar as the managing directors (MDs).
- Santosh Jha presently Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of India, Washington, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Uzbekistan.

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Defence News

- Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) successfully test fired the **PINAKA guided WEAPON rocket system** from Pokhran range in Rajasthan.
- **Indo Oman Joint Exercise Al Nagah III 2019**, a joint military exercise between Indian and Royal Army of Oman (RAO), commenced at HQ Jabel Regiment, Nizwa, Oman.

- The United States Special Forces Group stationed in Japan is involved in a joint exercise with **India's National Security Guard in Hyderabad**, aimed at enhancing the capabilities of the armed forces of the two countries.
- **Exercise Sampri-VIII**, a joint Indo-Bangladesh military exercise concluded at Tangail, Bangladesh.

Awards and Recognitions

- **ACKO General Insurance** a new-age digital insurance company was awarded the coveted Golden Peacock Innovative Product Award – 2019, for their contextual micro insurance product – "Ola Ride Insurance". The award ceremony was held in Dubai.
- The **Ministry of Tourism, Government of India** has won the **First Prize** in the category of TV Cinema Spot at the prestigious international Golden City Gate Tourism Awards 2019.
- The President and Supreme Commander of the Indian Armed Forces Ram Nath Kovind conferred **3 Kirti Chakras and 15 Shaurya Chakras** to Armed Forces Personnel. Kirti Chakra Winners: 1. SEPOY VRAHMA PAL SINGH, THE RAJPUT REGIMENT (POSTHUMOUS): ARMY, 2. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR NAIN, CONSTABLE, 130 BN, CRPF (POSTHUMOUS): MHA, and 3. MAJOR TUSHARGAUBA, THE JAT REGIMENT: ARMY.
- A social entrepreneur from Tamil Nadu, **Padmanaban Gopalan, founder of No Food Waste**, was named the winner of the **Commonwealth Youth Award** for the Asian region worth 3,000 Pounds at a ceremony at the Commonwealth Secretariat in London.
- **Kent RO Systems Pvt. Ltd.** has received the Best Domestic Water Purifier Award 2018-19 for its RO+UV+UF technology at the Water Digest Water Awards function that was held in New Delhi.

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Ranks and Reports

- **India is the second largest importer of weapons** in the world, as per the annual report 'Trends in International Arms Transfers-2018' released by the think tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). **Saudi Arabia is now the world's largest weapons importer.**
- India, which is the world's largest consumer of gold, has the **11th largest gold reserve**, with the current holding pegged at 607 tonnes, as per the latest report by the World Gold Council (WGC). **The USA tops the list.**
- Indian scientists have developed a common framework for the **assessment of climate change vulnerability** in all the states in the Himalayan region. The assessment shows that the vulnerability index is the highest for **Assam (0.72) and Mizoram (0.71).**
- The **United Nation Environment Program (UNEP)** has released the sixth edition of the Global Environment Outlook (2019) titled 'Healthy Planet, Healthy People'.
- The human resource consulting firm, Mercer's annual Quality of Living Survey 2019 has placed Austria's capital city Vienna at the number 1 spot, making it the 10th year in a row.

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Sports News

- **Kavinder Singh Bisht** in the 56kg-category struck gold while Shiva Thapa in the 60kg category and three others claimed silver medals to end a fine Indian campaign at the **38th GeeBee Boxing Tournament in Helsinki, Finland.**
- 2019 All England Open, officially YONEX All England Open Badminton Championships 2019 was a BWF World Tour 1000 event which took place at Arena Birmingham in England. **Kento MOMOTA (Japan) won Men's Singles and CHEN Yufei (China) won Women's Singles.**
- **Young Mumbai sailor Upamanyu Dutta** bagged the bronze medal in the Laser Standard race for men in the Laser Asian Sailing Championship which concluded in Singapore.
- **Special Olympics World Games 2019** which was held in the UAE has made history by welcoming a record-breaking 200 nations ahead of the Games.
- **India will host the Under-17 Women's Football World Cup in 2020.**
- **South African all-rounder JP Duminy** announced that he would retire from ODIs after the ICC World Cup in England.

Important Days

- **World Kidney Day (WKD)** is observed annually on the **second Thursday in March (This year on 14th)** to create awareness on the importance of the kidneys and reducing the frequency and impact of kidney disease. Theme for WKD 2019: **Kidney Health for Everyone Everywhere.**
- World Consumer Rights Day is celebrated every year on 15 March. Theme for World Consumers day 2019: **"Trusted Smart Products"**.

Miscellaneous News

- **Indian gymnast Dipa Karmakar** was selected as Barbie role model & was presented with a one-of-a-kind doll by Barbie as the company celebrates its 60th anniversary.
- The **4th IoT India Congress**, an event which will see digital technology leaders converge to discuss and explore business opportunities in mainstreaming Internet of Things (IoT), will be held in Bengaluru in August 2019.
- After an eight-year-long process, **Erode turmeric (of Tamil Nadu)** finally got a Geographical Indication (GI) tag from the Geographical Indication Registry.
- The Registrar of Geographical Indications, Government of India, accorded a GI tag, **'Sirsi Supari', to arecanut grown in Sirsi, Siddpaur and Yellapur taluks of Uttara Kannada district in Karnataka.**
- **Aviva Life Insurance announced the launch of 'Wings'**, a specially designed mentorship program to empower the female workforce.

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