Weekly One Liners 25th February to 3rd March

National Affairs

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated a new **National War Memorial**, situated in the India Gate complex in New Delhi.
- Union Railway Minister Piyush Goyal announced a new railway zone for Andhra Pradesh, that is the **Southern Coast Railway** and it will be headquartered in Visakhapatnam.

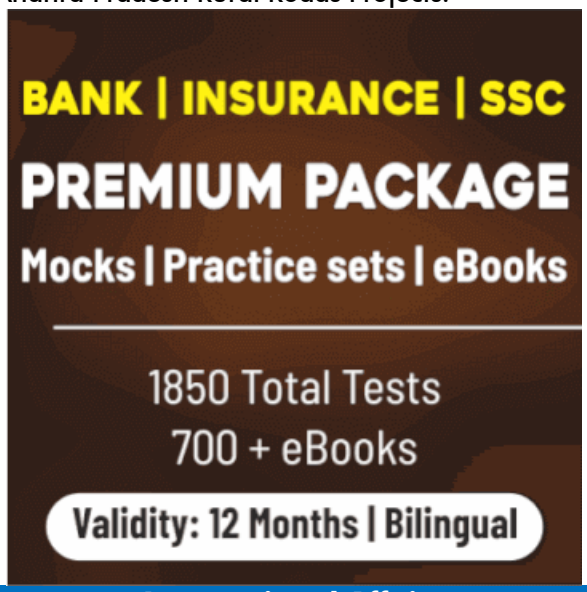
Agreements/MoUs Signed

- Under its diversification programme, **FCI Aravali Gypsum and Minerals India Limited (FAGMIL)** has taken up a project to establish a white cement plant near village **Nohra Dhar in Himachal Pradesh,** at a project cost of approximately Rs. 605 crores (4th white cement plant in the country).
- **Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) and Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)** signed an MoU for jointly developing infrastructure for fuels, lubricating oil, LPG, Natural Gas and any other related fuel and gas for meeting the requirement of National Waterways.
- **India and Brunei** signed a pact for the exchange of Information and Assistance in Collection with respect to taxes in order to curb tax evasion and tax avoidance **in New Delhi.**
- **NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)** and **Adobe signed a Statement of Intent (SOI)** to collectively drive the charter of developing creative skills and spreading digital literacy across all **Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) in India.**

Cabinet Approvals

- Cabinet approves to the MoU between India and Argentina on cooperation in the field of Medical Products Regulation.
- Cabinet approves inclusion of Common Services Centres under MEITY as Enrolment Agency for PM-SYM.
- Cabinet approves setting up of a Railway Zone at Vishakhapatnam.
- Cabinet approves Relaxation in Aadhaar related Conditions for Second Instalment under PM – KISAN scheme.
- Cabinet approves joining of IEA Bioenergy TCP by Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas as a Member.
- Cabinet approves National Policy on Software Products – 2019.
- Boost to Urban Public Transport connectivity in Kanpur.
- Cabinet approves Promulgation of an Ordinance for Amendment to the Special Economic Zones Act, 2005.
- Cabinet approves promulgation of Aadhaar and Other Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2019.
- Boost to Urban Public transport connectivity in Agra.
- Cabinet approves Homeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Ordinance, 2019.
- Cabinet approves the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2019.
- Cabinet approves Rs. 1450 crore for the share capital of RBI in National Housing Bank, NHB.
- Cabinet approves Laying Down Procedure and Mechanism for Asset Monetization of CPSEs/PSUs/other Government Organizations and Immovable Enemy Properties.
- Cabinet approves Implementation of Master Plan of AIIMS, New Delhi.
- Cabinet approves the Constitution (Application to Jammu & Kashmir) Amendment Order, 2019.
- National Mineral Policy, 2019 approved by Cabinet.
- Cabinet approves Creation of two posts of Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities in the Central Government in terms of Section 74(2) of The RPwD Act, 2016 to assist the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities.
- Cabinet apprised of MoU between India and the UK on Cooperation in Weather and Climate Sciences.
- Cabinet approves MoU between India and Norway for undertaking non-intrusive Geological Surveys and Investigations.
- Cabinet approves MoU between India and USA to access tip line reports on Missing and Exploited Children.

- Cabinet approves Setting up of New AIIMS at Manethi, Haryana.
- Cabinet approvesthe New Delhi International Arbitration Centre Ordinance, 2019.
- Cabinet approves setting up of SPV for disinvestment of Air India and its Subsidiaries/JV
- Cabinet approves Scheme for FAME India Phase II.
- Cabinet apprised of MoU between India and Tajikistan on Cooperation in the field of Renewable Energy.
- Cabinet approves Setting up Centre for Disability Sports at Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh.
- The Centre and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have signed a 926 million dollar loan agreement to operationalize two lines of the Mumbai Metro Rail System.
- A loan agreement of USD 455 million was signed between the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and the Government of India for financing the Andhra Pradesh Rural Roads Projects.



International Affairs

- The United States has officially shuttered its consulate in **Jerusalem, downgrading the status of its main diplomatic mission to the Palestinians** by folding it into the U.S. Embassy to Israel.

Summits and Conferences

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed Network-18 Rising India Summit, held in New Delhi and laid out his vision for a 'New India'. Theme: **'Beyond Politics: Defining National Priorities'**.
- The 16th edition of BioAsia 2019 Asia's largest biotechnology and life-sciences forum was conducted in Hyderabad, Telangana. Theme: **'Life Sciences 4.0 – Disrupt the Disruption'**.
- The Ministry of Civil Aviation organised a conclave on the theme **'flying for all'** where more than 200 delegates including industry leaders and regulators deliberated on issues and opportunities in the sector.
- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj addressed the plenary session of the foreign ministers' meet of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation states in Abu Dhabi.

Schemes and Committees

- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath launched the State Government's flagship scheme **'Mukhyamantri Yuva Swabhiman Yojana'** that guarantees 100 days of employment every year to urban youth from economically weaker sections.
- Union minister Prakash Javadekar launched **'Scheme for Higher Education Youth in Apprenticeship and Skills' (SHREYAS)** for providing industry apprenticeship opportunities to fresh graduates.
- Union Minister of Tribal Affairs Jual Oram launched the ambitious scheme of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs named Van Dhan.
- The Reserve Bank of India has constituted an eight-member task force on offshore rupee markets, **headed by Usha Thorat former Deputy Governor**, to look into issues related to the markets and recommend appropriate policy measures to ensure the stability of the external value of the rupee.
- A water conservation scheme **'Jal Amrutha'** was launched by Karnataka chief minister H D Kumaraswamy, in Bengaluru.
- **'Mukhyamantri Parivar Samman Nidhi'** scheme was launched by Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar in Chandigarh.
- **Gram Samridhi Yojana,** a Rs 3,000 crore scheme funded by the World Bank and the Government of India, is being worked upon by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries in order to strengthen the unorganised food processing sector concentrated in rural areas.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved **the 'Pradhan Mantri Jaiv Indhan- Vatavaran Anukool fasal awashesh Nivaran (JI-VAN) Yojana'** for providing financial support to the Integrated Bioethanol Projects.
- **Union Minister of Textiles, Smriti Zubin Irani** launched a comprehensive scheme for the development of knitting and knitwear sector under PowerTex India in New Delhi.

Appointments/Resignations

- **Muhammadu Buhari** was re-elected Nigeria's President, results showed, after a delayed poll that

angered voters and led to claims of rigging and collusion.

- IDBI Bank has appointed **Hemant Bhargava** as non-executive, non-whole time chairman.
- Former Finance Secretary **Hasmukh Adhia** was appointed as non-executive chairman of Bank of Baroda.
- Ministry of External Affairs has appointed **Pranay Kumar Verma** as India's Ambassador to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.
- Former Finance Secretary Ajay Narayan Jha has joined as a member of the 15th Finance Commission. Jha has been posted in place of Shaktikanta Das.

Defence

- As part of the ongoing India Bangladesh defence cooperation, a joint military exercise Sampriti-2019 started at **Tangail, Bangladesh.**
- India has signed a deal with a Russian firm to manufacture 7.5 lakh AK-203 rifles.
- Border Security Force (BSF) and Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) took part in the 3-day **'Mainamati Maitree Exercise 2019'** as a part of 'Confidence Building Measures' between India and Bangladesh held in Agartala, Tripura.

Awards and Recognitions

- **President Ram Nath Kovind** conferred the Gandhi Peace Prize for 2015, 16, 17 and 18 at a function in Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi.
  - **For 2015:** Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari.
  - **For 2016:** Jointly to Akshaya Patra Foundation and Sulabh International.
  - **For 2017:** Ekal Abhiyan Trust.
  - **For 2018:** Japan's Yohei Sasakawa.
- **G.R. Karthikeyan,** father of India's first Formula One driver Narain Karthikeyan, was honored with the Lifetime Achievement award at the FMSCI annual awards function.
- Eminent Indian playwright **Mahesh Elkunchwar** has been chosen for this **year's META Lifetime Achievement Award.**
- The **Central Zone Power Distribution Company (CZPDC),** Bhopal and West Zone Power Distribution Company (WZPDC), Indore were conferred with the "Saubhagya Award" under Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana at the National Conference of Energy Ministers by the Union Minister of State for Energy, R.K. Singh.
- The **National Youth Parliament Festival 2019** awards were given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
  - **1st position-** Shweta Umre from Maharashtra.
  - **2nd position-** Anjanakshi M.S from Karnataka.
  - **3rd position-** Mamta Kumari from Bihar.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi conferred the **Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prizes** for Science and Technology for the years 2016, 2017 and 2018 in New Delhi.
- **ASSOCHAM (The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India),** which is one of the apex trade associations of India has conferred 'Non-Life Insurer of the Year Award 2019' to Bharti AXA General Insurance.

Ranks and Reports

- India ranked 47th in the **'Inclusive Internet Index 2019'** which is prepared by the 'Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) for Facebook. **Sweden topped the index.**
- With a net worth of **$54 billion, Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani** has broken into the global top 10 richest billionaire list compiled by Hurun Research.
- According to BCG-IBA Report - EASE Reforms for Public Sector Banks, released by Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs, **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** secured the top spot among all public sector banks in the implementation of **'Reforms agenda'.**

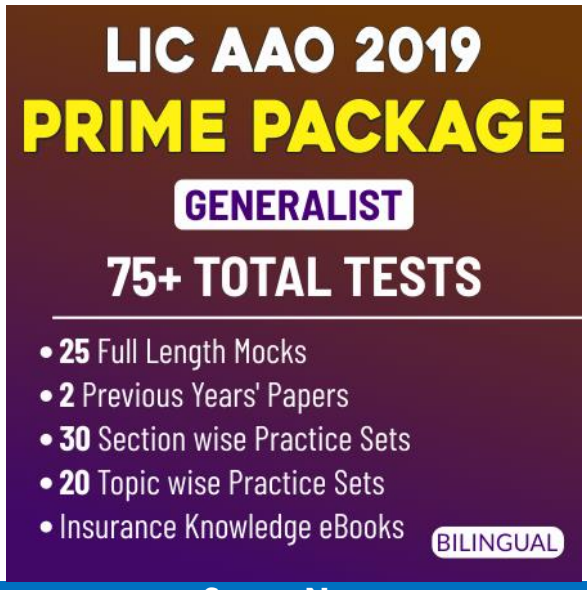
Books and Authors

- Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu launched the book titled **'Quality, Accreditation, and Ranking - A Silent Revolution in the Offing in Indian Higher Education'** edited by Education Promotion Society for India's (EPSI) Alternate President Dr. H Chaturvedi in New Delhi.

- A book titled, **'Mann Ki Baat- A Social Revolution on Radio'** was released by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley in New Delhi.

Banking/Economy/Business News

- **State-run Bank of Baroda** has tied up with Germany's KfW Development Bank for funding of USD 113 million to refinance solar projects.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has taken off Allahabad Bank, Corporation Bank and Dhanlaxmi Bank from the Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework allowing them to resume their normal lending activities.
- **Reserve Bank of India and Bank of Japan** have signed a Bilateral Swap Arrangement (BSA). The BSA was negotiated between India and Japan during the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Tokyo in October 2018.
- According to Moody's, **Indian economy is expected to grow at 7.3%** in the calendar year 2019 and 2020, and the government spending announced ahead of elections this year which will support near-term growth.
- **IFFCO Tokio General Insurance** has launched 'bank locker protector policy', the first stand-alone bank locker cover offered by any insurance company with a plan to protect the contents of a bank locker such as jewelry, title documents, and other valuables.



Sports News

- Afghanistan scored 278 for the loss of three wickets from their allotted 20 overs, to register the **highest-ever total in T20s** at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium in Dehradun, Uttarakhand (against Ireland).
- Sri Lanka cricket team became the **first Asian side to win a Test series in South Africa** after winning the series by 2-0.
- **Indian Grandmaster Abhijeet Gupta** lifted the Cannes International Open trophy.
- **Manu Bhaker and Saurabh Chaudhary clinched the gold medal** in the 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team event at the ISSF World Cup in New Delhi.
- **National Boxing champion Deepak Singh (49kg) was the only Indian boxer** to notch up the gold medal, while five others claimed silver medals in the Makran Cup in Chabahar, Iran.
- West Indies opener **Chris Gayle has become the first batsman** ever to smash 500 or more sixes in international cricket.
- **Roger Federer has claimed the 100th ATP title** of his career after beating 20-year-old Greek Stefanos Tsitsipas in the final of the Dubai Tennis Championships.

Important Days

- **National Science Day** is celebrated across India on **February 28.** Famous Indian scientist Sir Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman or CV Raman discovered the Raman Effect on this day in 1928. Theme: **'Science for people and people for science'**.

Obituaries

- **Legendary composer and pianist Andre Previn** has passed away at the age of 89 in Manhattan, New York, USA.
- **Zhores Alferov**, a Russian physicist and Nobel Prize laureate, has passed away.

Sci-Tech News

- **Bengaluru-based Signalchip** has unveiled semiconductor chips for 4G, LTE and 5G modems. These are first such chips developed in India.

Miscellaneous News

- **Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal** launched the PRANAM Commission, which is a panel set up to look after the issues concerning a Bill brought in for the protection of parents of state government employees.
- With an aim to promote Odia films and create a conducive eco-system for production of films in the region, **Naveen Patnaik-led state cabinet** gave its nod to the Odisha State Film Policy-2019.

- Union Textiles Minister Smriti Irani inaugurated the '**Titanwala Museum'** that showcases the hand block printing of the Chhipa community in Bagru.
- West Bengal **Education Minister Partha Chatterjee** inaugurated a web portal, '**Banglar Shiksha**', which is set to provide real-time data on state-run and aided schools.
- Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Anupriya Patel, inaugurated the International Digital Health Symposium and an exhibition on Digital Health as a part of the Symposium, in New Delhi.
- IRCTC launched its own digital payment aggregator called '**IRCTC iPay'.**
- Mr. Gehlot stated that the **"7th Guinness Book of World Record"** has been created by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), at Bharuch, Gujarat.
- Rice Knowledge Bank-Assam was launched, dedicated to magnifying knowledge on rice production technologies and techniques, best production practices and state agriculture facts. It was launched under the World Bank funded project – **Agri-business and Rural Transformation (APART).**
- The **Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)** created the Guinness World Record for '**longest single line bicycle parade (moving)**' at the Yamuna Expressway, Noida.