

Weekly One Liners 6th to 12th May 2019

National Affairs

- **India was re-elected as Observer to the Arctic Council**, an intergovernmental forum. The decision was taken during the **11th Arctic Council ministerial meeting at Rovaniemi, Finland**.
- '**Gujarat Shops and Establishments (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 2019**' passed by Gujarat Assembly which came into force from May 1, 2019.
- **The Chhattisgarh police for the first time** has inducted **women commandos in the District Reserve Guard (DRG)**, its frontline anti-Naxal force.

International Affairs

- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** launched a \$5 Billion Action Plan for **Healthy Oceans and Sustainable Blue Economies for the Asia and Pacific region** at the 52nd Annual Meeting of ADB's Board of Governors in **Fiji**.
- **India** will be attending the **Group of 7** industrialised nations meet organised by **France** in **Biarritz** in August along with Australia, Chile, and South Africa.
- The **US Air Force Research Laboratory** tested a laser system called **Self-Protect High Energy Laser Demonstrator (SHIELD)** at the US Army's White Sands Missile range in New Mexico which successfully shot down multiple air-launched missiles while in flight.
- **Vice President of India Venkaiah Naidu** embarked on a **four-day official visit to Vietnam** to participate in **16th United Nations Day of Vesak**.
- **Singapore's Parliament passed a law** to curb the spread of **fake news under which offenders may face up to 10-year jail or fines of up to S\$1 million** (over Rs5.12 crore).
- The Australian flight carrier, **Qantas** has operated the world's **first zero-waste** commercial flight from Sydney to Adelaide which disposed of all waste through compost, reuse or recycle.
- **Ireland has declared a climate emergency in their country**, to be the second country after Britain to do so. Britain's parliament became the first in the world to declare a climate emergency, passing the largely symbolic motion on May 1.

Agreements/MoUs Signed

- **Common Service Centre's (CSC)** e-Governance Services India Limited, a special purpose vehicle under the **Ministry of Electronics & IT**, has tied up with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-**Kanpur** to upscale '**Unnat Bharat Abhiyan**'.

- India's largest telecom operator **Vodafone Idea Ltd** announced a **five-year multi-million-dollar IT outsourcing deal** with tech giant **IBM**.
- The **National Institute of Open Schooling Ministry of Human Resources Development (NIOS)** and **National Health Mission of Public Health Department (NHMPH)** of Government of Maharashtra signed a Memorandum of Understanding in Mumbai.
- **Tractor-manufacturer Tractors and Farm Equipment (TAFE) Ltd** has signed an MoU with **Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA)** to aid conservation of resources.
- **Commerce Secretary, Anup Wadhawan** and **Vice Minister, General Administration of Customs of China (GACC), Li Guo**, held a meeting in New Delhi to discuss trade related issues of pending Indian request for clearance of agricultural products.
- **Konkan Railways Corporation Ltd** has signed a contract agreement with **Nepal's Department of Railways** to supply **two 1600 HP DEMU train sets**.

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Summits and Conferences

- The **G7's (Group of Seven) Environment Ministers** gathered for a 2-day meeting in **Metz, France** to discuss on steps required to handle deforestation, plastic pollution, depletion of coral reefs and ways to build pacts between the countries in order to achieve the target.
- The **IBSA (India, Brazil & South Africa) Sherpas' Meeting**, following the 9th IBSA Trilateral Ministerial Meeting, was held in **Cochin**.
- **Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE)** held a '**Chintan Baithak**' with the stakeholders of the Renewable Energy sector. The '**Baithak**' (meet) was chaired by **Secretary, MNRE, Anand Kumar**.
- The **15th Finance Commission** headed by **Chairman, N.K. Singh** held a **detailed meeting with the Governor and Deputy Governors of RBI** in Mumbai.

- **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)** has organised a 2-Day meeting of the **Regional Heads of Customs Administration of Asia Pacific Region of the World Customs Organisation (WCO)** in Kochi.
- A **WTO Ministerial meeting of developing countries** is being hosted by **India** in New Delhi.

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Banking/Economy/Business News

- **Reserve Bank of India** has slapped a monetary penalty on five pre-paid payment instrument issuers including **Vodafone m-pesa** and **Phonepe**, for violating regulatory guidelines.
- The **Reserve Bank of India** has decided to enhance the housing loan limits for Regional Rural Banks (**RRBs**) and Small Finance Banks (**SFBs**) for eligibility under priority sector lending, in a bid to give them a level playing field with other Scheduled Commercial Banks.
- **India Ratings** has downgraded the **YES bank's long-term rating to 'IND AA-'** with a negative outlook, while reaffirming short-term rating.
- **Bank credit grew by 13.2%** in the financial year 2018-19 **as compared to 10.3% in the previous financial year**, mainly aided by loans to services and retail sector. Deposit growth also gained momentum, growing by 10% as compared to 6.7% a year ago.
- Global card payments brand **Mastercard** has announced its plan of investing **\$1 billion** in India operations over the period of next 5 years.
- The **Sunil Mittal** led telecom major **Bharti Airtel** and **Hughes Communications India (HCIL)** have decided to combine their **VSAT (Very Small Aperture Terminal)** satellite communications operations in **India**.
- **Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL)** acquired **British toy retailer 'Hamleys'** in an all cash deal. RIL has acquired Hamleys in **67.96 million pounds (about Rs. 620 cr)**.
- **Facebook** has chosen **London as the centre for the global roll-out of WhatsApp pay**, before the social media giant launches its digital payments service on the mobile messaging platform in India.

- **Bharatpe** Launched **India's 1st UPI Bahi Khata** For Merchants.

Appointments/Resignations

- Flipkart-owned fashion e-commerce platform **Myntra** announced that it had appointed celebrity couple **Virat Kohli and Anushka Sharma** as its first brand ambassadors.
- The **Volleyball Federation of India** appointed **Serbian Dragan Mihailovic as head coach of the men's national team** in a move linked to the long-term goal of Olympic Games qualification.
- **India's Jagjit Pavadia** has been re-elected with the highest number of votes by the **UN Economic and Social Council** to a five-year term on **International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)**, while China's candidate **Hao Wei** lost.
- **Indian actress Dia Mirza and Alibaba chief Jack Ma** are among the 17 global public figures appointed by **UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres** as the new advocates to drive action and solidify global political will for the ambitious **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.

Defence News

- The fourth of Indian Navy's stealth Scorpene class Submarines of Project 75, **INS Vela** was launched at the Kanhoji Angre Wet Basin of Mazagon Dock Limited at Mumbai in **Maharashtra**.
- **INS Ranjit**, an Indian navy **destroyer** built by erstwhile **USSR**, is set to be decommissioned.
- Indian Army is commemorating this year as the **'Year of Next of Kin'** and plans to reach out to the next of kin of battle casualties, ex-servicemen and serving soldiers.
- **First AH-64E (I) – Apache Guardian helicopter** was formally **handed over to the Indian Air Force** at Boeing production facility in Arizona, USA.

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Awards and Recognitions

- **GD 'Robert' Govender**, an Indian-origin journalist in South Africa, has been honoured in the **UK** with **2019 V K Krishna Menon** award for his outstanding contribution as a pioneer of decolonised journalism.
- Israel honoured **Lt. Gen. (retd) Jack Farj Rafael (JFR) Jacob**, who negotiated the historic surrender of **Pakistani** troops in Dhaka after the **1971** Bangladesh's liberation war, with a plaque on the **Wall of Honour** at the Ammunition Hill.
- Oscar-winning actress **Anne Hathaway** was honoured with a star on the Hollywood Walk Of Fame in Los Angeles, US.

Books and Authors

- Pakistan's former captain and star all-rounder **Shahid Afridi** released his autobiography, titled '**Game Changer**'. The book is co-authored by Afridi and journalist **Wajahat S Khan**.

Sci-Tech News

- A **Japanese** aerospace start-up **Interstellar Technology Inc.** has successfully launched a **first privately developed** rocket '**Momo-3**' into space.
- Space Exploration Technologies Corp. (**Space X**) launched its 17th commercial resupply mission to the International Space Station (**ISS**) by using **Falcon 9** rocket with **Dragon Spacecraft**.
- **Microsoft** has unveiled fully-managed **Azure Blockchain Service** that would simplify the formation, management, and governance so that businesses can focus on workflow logic and application development.

Sports News

- Ace Indian squash players **Saurav Ghoshal** and **Joshna Chinappa** won their respective Asian Individual Squash Championship titles in **Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**. Saurav Ghoshal defeated Leo Au Chun Ming of Hong Kong.
- Indian boxers finished with a rich haul of **six medals, including two gold at the 36th Feliks Stamm International Boxing Tournament in Warsaw, Poland**. **Gaurav Solanki and Manish Kaushik bagged one gold each**.
- **Amul** has been announced as the principal sponsor of the **Afghanistan** cricket team for the upcoming **World Cup**, slated to be held in **England and Wales** from **May 30**.

Important Days

- **World Laughter Day** is celebrated on the **first Sunday of May** every year. It is a day to raise awareness about laughter and its many **healing benefits**.
- **World Asthma Day** is an annual event organized by the **Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA)** on the **first Tuesday in May** to improve asthma awareness and control around the world. This year it was observed across the globe on **May 7, 2019**. The **theme** of World Asthma Day 2019 was '**STOP for Asthma**'.
- **World Red Cross Day** (also known as Red Crescent Day) is **observed every year on May 8**. It is a gentle nod to all the volunteers who have made an unparalleled contribution to people in duress or need. The 2019 theme chosen by them is, '**#Love**'.
- The 5th United Nations Global Road Safety Week is being observed from **May 6 to 12, 2019**. The theme of the Road Safety Week is '**Leadership for Road Safety**'.
- **National Technology Day** is observed every year on **11th of May in India**, acting as a reminder of the anniversary of Shakti, Pokhran nuclear test which was held on the 11th of May 1998.

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Obituaries

- Prominent writer and academician, **Maramraju Satyanarayana Rao** passed away following a cardiac arrest.
- **Former Indian Cue sports Player, Coach and administrator Derek Sippy** passed away in Mumbai due to a massive heart attack.
- **Prof. Kirpal Singh, the first chronicler of Partition**, who started building an archive in 1954, passed away at 95 in Chandigarh.
- Prof **N.R. Madhava Menon**, an educationist, scholar, and the pioneering spirit behind modern **legal education in India**, has passed away.
- Renowned **economist Baidyanath Mishra** passed away due to old-age related problems. He was 99.

- **Noted Tamil novelist and Sahitya Akademi awardee Thoppil Mohamed Meeran**, passed away in Pettai, Tamil Nadu.
- **The Padma Bhushan awardee and ITC's Non-Executive Chairman YC Deveshwar** passed away at the age of 72.

Miscellaneous News

- **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)** has launched new initiative named **Global Registry of Violent Deaths (GReVD)** to count deaths caused by all forms of violence across the world and display these in open-source database.
- A 18-year-old Nepali girl, **Bandana** danced continuously for **126 hours** to set a Guinness World Records on '**Longest Dancing Marathon by an Individual**', a feat previously held by an **Indian**.
- **India's first Nobel laureate** who reshaped **Bengali literature and music, Rabindranath Tagore's** 158th

Birth Anniversary was celebrated on 9th May Nationally.

- Pune-based Indian **Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER)** team found a new species of reddish-brown pit viper snake named '**Trimeresurus arunachalensis**' after Arunachal Pradesh.

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