

Weekly One Liners 10th to 19th January

National Affairs

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched development projects worth **Rs 1,100 cr at Solapur** in Maharashtra.
- The 124th Constitution Amendment Bill, 2019 to award **10% reservation to economically weaker sections** was passed with a majority in Rajya Sabha. It was already passed in Lok Sabha.
- The **Polavaram project of Andhra Pradesh** entered the Guinness Book of World by pouring 32,100 cubic meters of concrete in a matter of 24 hours.
- The University Grants Commission (UGC) has approved a list of journals, in that the UGC has decided to establish a **Consortium for Academic and Research Ethics (CARE)**.
- India's longest 300-meter single lane steel cable suspension bridge was inaugurated by Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu.
- An agreement for Renukaji Dam Multipurpose Project was signed in New Delhi among the States of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand in the presence of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Minister Nitin Gadkari.
- ISRO Chairman Dr. K Sivan has announced that the organization is well prepared to meet the targets of launching Gaganyaan manned mission to outer space **by December 2021**.
- **Gujarat has become the first state** to implement the 10% reservation for economically weaker sections of the general category.
- The Department of Science and Technology (DST) along with Doordarshan (DD), Prasar Bharati launched two science communication initiatives, **DD Science and India Science**.
- India got its largest startup ecosystem when Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated a 1.8-lakh-square-foot facility housing incubation set-ups across a string of segments in modern technology.
- PM Narendra Modi has dedicated the **Kollam Bypass on the National Highway-66** to the nation. This is the first National Highway project in the country taken up on a 50:50 Centre-State partnership.
- The Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) and the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) signed an MoU, kick-starting cooperation in building energy efficiency.
- **India has signed a long-term contract with Uzbekistan** for supply of uranium ore concentrates to widen its source base for the nuclear fuel.
- **Nashik in Maharashtra** will be the site of the country's 2nd defence innovation hub after Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu.

International Affairs

- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj embarked on a two-day visit to **Uzbekistan**. Mrs. Swaraj was in Samarkand for the First India-Central Asia Dialogue which she co-chaired with Uzbekistan's Foreign Minister Abdulaziz Kamilov.
- The **Parliament of Macedonia** has passed the resolution to amend the constitution of the country to rename it as the Republic of Northern Macedonia.
- **Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas** has pledged to protect the interests of all 134 countries in the UN's Group of 77, as Palestine took the chairmanship of the group from Egypt for 2019.


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Summits and Conferences

- The First '**National Consultation on Child Protection for 2019**' was held at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi under the Chairmanship of the Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- The **25th edition of Partnership Summit 2019**, a global platform for dialogue, debate, deliberation and engagement among Indian and global leaders on economic policy and growth trends in India was held in Mumbai.
- The Indian Paint Association (IPA), the apex body of the country's paint industry announced that the **29th biennial Indian Paint Conference** started in Agra, Uttar Pradesh.
- Union Minister for Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu, chaired the 4th meeting of the Council for Trade Development and Promotion (CTDP) in New Delhi.
- A 2+2 Inter-Sessional meeting between the United States and India took place in New Delhi, focusing on the

progress of defence and foreign policy issues between the two countries.

- The 1st National Level Sports Meet for the students of Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) was inaugurated by Jaswantsinh Sumanbhai Bhabhor, Minister of State for Tribal Affairs at G.M.C Balayogi Stadium, Hyderabad.
- In order to promote Micro irrigation amongst farmers, Ministry of Water resources and River development has organized **9th International Micro irrigation conference** in Aurangabad, Maharashtra.
- Civil Aviation Minister Suresh Prabhu inaugurated the '**Global Aviation Summit 2019**' in Mumbai. Theme: Flying for All.
- PM Modi to inaugurate **9th edition of Vibrant Gujarat Summit** in Gandhinagar.

Schemes and Committees

- Market regulator Security and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has constituted a "Research Advisory" committee which will assist in formulating policy to undertake research relevant for development and regulation of capital markets. It will be **headed by Sankar De**.
- UGC has constituted a Committee under the **Chairmanship of Prof. P. Balram**, to review its quality mandate relating to promotion of Research and to review the existing M.Phil/ Ph.D Regulations.
- **Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Modi** will head the 7-member committee to look into revenue shortfall being faced by the states after the GST roll-out and suggest steps for augmenting collections.
- Sikkim Chief Minister Pawan Kumar Chamling launched the '**One Family One Job**' scheme, under which for every family one government job has been allotted, in Gangtok.
- The Madras High Court has set up an expert committee to find a solution to root out invasive species of plants from the Western Ghats. The committee shall be **headed by Cherukuri Raghavendra Babu**.
- The government has constituted a seven-member Group of Ministers (GoM) to boost the real estate sector under the GST regime. **Deputy Chief Minister of Gujarat Nitin Patel** is the convener of the GoM.
- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath launched his government's Rs 50,000-crore farm debt-waiver scheme named '**Jai Kisan Rin Mukti Yojana**'.
- A ministerial **panel headed by Maharashtra Finance Minister Sudhir Mungantiwar** will examine uniformity of taxation on lottery under GST or other issues arising out of it.

Appointments/Resignations

- **Nicolás Maduro** was sworn in for a second term as Venezuela's President amid the economic and humanitarian crisis faced by the Latin American country.

- President of the Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWF), **Birendra Prasad Baishya**, has been named Chef de Mission for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.
- Yes Bank, India's fourth-largest private sector bank, announced the appointment of **Brahm Dutt** as non-executive part-time chairman up till July 4, 2020.
- **Ashok Chawla** resigned as chairman of the National Stock Exchange of India Ltd (NSE) with immediate effect "in light of recent legal developments".
- Taiwan President **Tsai Ing-wen** has appointed Su Tseng-chang as Prime Minister, during a Cabinet reshuffle following the ruling Democratic Progressive Party's heavy losses in local elections.
- India's largest software exporter Tata Consultancy Services has appointed **Don Callahan** as an additional and independent director for a period of 5 years, based on the recommendations of the Nomination and Remuneration Committee.
- **Ananth Narayanan** has stepped down as CEO of Myntra and Jabong to pursue external opportunities.
- **Amar Nagaram** has been named as Head, Myntra and Jabong, reporting to Kalyan Krishnamurthy, CEO of Flipkart Group.
- **Mohammed Ali Qamar**, the man who won India's first Commonwealth Games gold medal in boxing, has taken over as the chief coach for the country's female boxers.
- The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced that **Manu Sawhney** has been appointed as the organization's new Chief Executive Officer (CEO).
- Indian football team head **coach Stephen Constantine** has stepped down after the team's shock 0-1 defeat to Bahrain which led to its exit from the Asian Cup.

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Defence

- The second edition of the India-Myanmar bilateral army exercise, **IMBEX 2018-19**, commenced at Chandimandir Military Station, that houses the headquarters of the Western Command, Chandigarh.

Awards and Recognitions

- Industrialist and Godrej Group Chairman **Adi Godrej** was conferred the ICSIs Lifetime Achievement Award for 'Translating Excellence in Corporate Governance into Reality'.
- Writer Namita Gokhale has won the **Sushila Devi Literature Award** for her novel "Things to Leave Behind".
- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, received the **first-ever Philip Kotler Presidential award**, in New Delhi.
- A detained Chinese rights lawyer Yu Wensheng has won a Franco-German human rights award for his 'exceptional contribution' to the protection and promotion of human rights.
- The Gandhi Peace Prize for the years 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 has been conferred on the following:
 - For 2015: **Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari** for their contribution in Rural Development, Education, Development of natural resources.
 - For 2016: Jointly to **Akshaya Patra Foundation** for its contribution in providing mid-day meals to millions of children across India and Sulabh International for its contribution in improving the condition of sanitation in India and emancipation of manual scavengers.
 - For 2017: **Ekal Abhiyan Trust** for their contribution in providing Education for Rural and Tribal Children in remote areas pan India, Rural Empowerment, Gender and Social Equality.
 - For 2018: **Shri Yohei Sasakawa** for his contribution in Leprosy Eradication in India and across the world.
- Ace Indian female wrestler **Vinesh Phogat** has become the first Indian athlete to receive a nomination in the prestigious Laureus World Comeback of the Year Award.
- The Japan Prize Foundation announced India born **professor Dr. Rattan Lal**, University Professor of Soil Science at The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio, U.S.A, as the recipient of the 2019 Japan Prize for his contributions in the field of "Biological Production, Ecology".

Ranks and Reports

- A report by World Economic Forum stated that India is set to become the world's third largest consumer market behind only USA and China by 2030. The report was titled as '**Future of Consumption in Fast-Growth Consumer Market - India**'.
- According to the Henley Passport Index, India jumped two positions from 81st in 2018 to 79th in 2019. **Japan topped**.
- Indian men's hockey coach **Harendra Singh** was removed from the position and offered the task of helming the junior squad by the national federation.
- The 11th edition of EIU Democracy Index 2018 was released by the Economist Intelligent Uni. In the list, **Norway topped**, and **India ranked 41st place**.

- India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra), a Fitch Group Company, estimated India's GDP growth could touch 7.5 % in the financial year 2019-20 as against 7.2 % during current fiscal i.e. 2018-19.
- The World Economic Forum released the **14th edition of its annual Global Risk Report, 2019**.

Books and Authors

- Nobel Peace Prize winner and Pakistani activist **Malala Yousafzai pens a new book**, titled 'We Are Displaced: My Journey and Stories from Refugee Girls Around the World,' charting her experiences traveling the world and visiting refugee camps.

Banking/Economy/Business News

- Sri Lanka's Central Bank announced that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has agreed to provide **USD 400 million** under a swap arrangement to boost the island nation's reserves.
- Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has announced that India has allowed an Iranian bank, Pasargad Bank, to open a branch in Mumbai.
- Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC), the Railways' subsidiary, will offer insurance of up to INR50 lakh for free for air passengers who book their tickets through its portal. IRCTC has tied up with Bharti-Axa for the offer.
- The 32nd Meeting of GST Council was concluded in New Delhi. Excerpts:
 - The Limit of annual turnover for composition scheme increased to **1.5 crore rupees** effective from April 1, 2019.
 - The Council has decided to increase the GST registration threshold limit to **40 lakh rupees from 20 lakh**.
 - The Taxpayers who are giving Services of up to Rs 50 lacs per annum will be taxed under **6% under Composition Scheme**.

- Private sector ICICI Bank inducted former **SBI Managing Director B Sriram** and management consultant Rama Bijapurkar on its board as independent director.
- The Union Cabinet has approved the recapitalization of EXIM Bank. Details
 - Issuance of Recapitalization Bonds by the Government of India to the tune of Rs.6,000 crore for capital infusion in Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank).
 - The equity will be infused in two tranches of Rs. 4,500 crore in FY 2018-19 and Rs.1,500 crore in FY 2019-20 respectively.
 - The Cabinet also approved an increase in the authorized capital of Exim Bank from Rs. 10,000 crore to Rs. 20,000 crore.
- Reliance Industries Ltd Chairman and managing director Mukesh Ambani announced that group companies Reliance Retail and Reliance Jio Infocomm would jointly launch a new e-commerce platform in the country. Gujarat would be the first state to get it.
- Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) and Libcoin are in dialogue to form a world-class consortium to initially build 1GWh lithium-ion battery plant in India.

- **Gurgaon's 8-year-old Kartik Singh** has won the under-8 category at the **Kids' Golf World Championship** organized by US kids Golf in Malaysia, which makes him the youngest Indian to win the title.
- **Bengaluru Raptors** have won their first ever Premier Badminton League, PBL title.
- Asian Cup gold medallist **Shakil Ahmed** has set up a world record in indoor rowing by completing 1 lakh meters in above-40 years category in Kolkata.
- Tamil Nadu lad D Gukesh became the **2nd youngest Grand Master** in the world and the youngest Indian to achieve the feat at 12 years, 7 months and 17 days, erasing the mark set by his state-mate R Praggnanandhaa in June 2018.
- India defeated Australia in the third ODI to clinch the three-match series 2-1.




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- ### Important Days
- **World Hindi Day** is celebrated on January 10 every year, marking the anniversary of first World Hindi Conference which was held in 1975.
 - The **National Youth Day** is celebrated across the country on 12th January.
 - **Army Day** is observed on January 15 in India.

- ### Obituaries
- **Sir Michael Atiyah**, a British mathematician who received the 1966 Fields Medal, also known as the 'Nobel for Mathematics,' passed away at the age of 89.
 - Malayalam director and **screenwriter Lenin Rajendran** has passed away at 67.

- ### Miscellaneous News
- The government launched **Web-Wonder Women Campaign** to celebrate the exceptional achievements of women who have influenced and impacted society through social media.
 - The Environment Ministry launched **the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)** aimed at reducing toxic particulate matter in 102 Indian cities by 2024.
 - Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Col Rajyavardhan Rathore launched the National Youth Parliament Festival 2019 at a function in New Delhi.
 - The Global Innovation Policy Center (GIPC) of United States Chamber of Commerce launched a new innovation strategy at Raisina Dialogue, 2019 in New Delhi. The Initiative is titled as **"Fair Value for Innovation"**.
 - Government e Marketplace (GeM) has **launched "Womaniya on GeM"**, an initiative to enable women entrepreneurs and women self-help groups (WSHG) to sell handicrafts and handloom, accessories and many other products.
 - **Mountaineer Satyarup Siddhanta** conquered Antarctica's highest point, Mount Sidley. With this feat, he became the first Indian and youngest man to climb the 7

- ### Sports News
- Liverpool's Mohamed Salah has been named as the 2018 Confederation of African Football Player of the Year. For the second consecutive year he has won the award. Egypt forward Salah, 26, beat Liverpool team-mate Sadio Mane of Senegal and Arsenal and Gabon striker Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang to the title.
 - **M C Mary Kom** has attained number one position in the International Boxing Association's (AIBA) latest world rankings.
 - **Albie Morkel**, the South African all-rounder, announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.
 - **Maharashtra** topped the medal tally with 37 golds at the **Khelo India Youth Games in Pune**. It had 111 medals in its kitty with 37 gold, 31 silver and 43 bronze.

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- PM Modi Inaugurates the **Ahmedabad Shopping Festival-2019**.
- PM unveils Vibrant Gujarat Global Trade Show in Gandhinagar.
- **Information and Broadcasting Secretary Amit Khare** and TRAI Chairman RS Sharma inaugurated the 25th International conference and exhibition on terrestrial and satellite broadcasting, BES EXPO 2019 in New Delhi. Theme: **Next Gen Broadcasting in the IT World**.
- Minister of State in Department of Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated the **UNNATI (Unispace Nanosatellite Assembly & Training) programme** organized by ISRO in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- The second World Orange Festival has begun in **Nagpur**.
- Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, Suresh Prabhu inaugurated the **10th edition of the India Rubber Expo - 2019** in Mumbai.
- **'Saksham'**, an annual high intensity one-month long people-centric mega campaign of Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) was launched by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.


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