

## Weekly One Liners 4th to 10th February 2019

### National Affairs

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for various development projects, worth nearly 12,000 crore rupees, at Leh.
- PM also dedicated to the nation the 220 KiloVolt Srinagar-Alusteng-Drass-Kargil-Leh transmission system. He also launched the University of Ladakh, the first-ever in the state's region.
- The Union Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari laid the foundation stone of three major highway projects with an investment worth Rs 2,345 crores in Odisha.
- The State Government of Jammu and Kashmir issued a notification of creation of Ladakh as 3rd Division in the state.

### Agreements/MoUs

- Ministry of Coal of India entered into an MoU with the Ministry of Energy, Republic of Poland.
- India and Germany have joined hands for cooperation on Water and Waste Management.
- Indian Coast Guard and the Airport Authority of India (AAI) signed an MoU at Coast Guard Regional Headquarters in Port Blair.
- Government e Marketplace (GeM) and Competition Commission of India (CCI) entered into an MoU to enable a fair and competitive environment in the e-Marketplace.
- India and Bangladesh have signed an MOU for training 1800 Bangladesh Civil Servants at the National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) over the next 6 years.
- The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) announced that it has signed a pact with Invest India to promote foreign investments in the country and Indian investments abroad.

### CABINET APPROVALS (7th Feb)

#### The Cabinet has approved-

- MoU between India and Malaysia for Mutual Cooperation in the field of Company Secretaryship.
- MoU between India and Election Management Bodies of Namibia and Panama.
- MoU between India and Norway on India-Norway Ocean Dialogue.
- MoU between India and Brazil on cooperation in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy.
- MoU between India and Maldives for Establishing Mutual Cooperation to Improve the Ecosystems for Agribusiness.
- MoU between India and the UAE on Development cooperation in Africa
- Signing of Agreement between India and Ukraine for cooperation in Agriculture and Food Industry

- The revised Office Memorandum pertaining to the Cabinet Note on "Amendment of Constitution to provide for reservation for Economically Weaker Sections"
- MoU between India and Finland in the field of Biotechnology.
- Regularization of certain allowances being paid over and above the 50% (pre-revised) ceiling prescribed by DPE to the executives of certain operational category employees of AAI.
- Abolition of Institution of Income-Tax Ombudsman and Indirect Tax Ombudsman.
- MoU between India and Uzbekistan for promoting Bilateral cooperation in the area of e-Governance.
- Proposal for higher allocation of power to Home State from Under Construction Projects of NTPC Ltd.
- Framework Agreement between Tackling Film Piracy & Copyright infringement
- Introduction of National Institutes of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management Bill, 2019 in the Parliament.
- Establishment of a unified authority for regulating all financial services in International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs) in India through International Financial Services Centres Authority Bill, 2019.
- Establishment of Circuit Bench of Calcutta High Court at Jalpaiguri
- Proposal for Official Amendments to the Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Bill, 2018.
- Establishment of Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog for Conservation protection and development of cows and their progeny.

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### Sci-Tech News

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) unveiled its Human Space Flight Centre (HSFC) at ISRO

Headquarter campus in Bengaluru, Karnataka for its maiden manned space mission 'Gaganyaan'.

- India's 40th communication satellite GSAT-31 has been launched successfully from French Guiana.

### International Affairs

- Macedonia signed an accord to join NATO to become the 30th member of the US-led alliance.
- The India Pavilion at the Berlin International Film Festival (Berlinale) 2019 was inaugurated by Mr Matthijs Wouter Knol, Director European Film Market (EFM).

### Summits and Conferences

- Dr M. Manikandan, Minister for Information Technology of Tamil Nadu inaugurated '**ICT Academy Bridge 2019**' conference (Organized by ICT Academy, the 37th edition of the conference is the largest Industry-Institute Interaction Event of Asia).
- Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu has inaugurated the Indo-Monaco Business Forum in New Delhi.
- 2nd ASEAN-India Youth Summit held in Guwahati, Assam.
- Mr. Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister for petroleum and natural gas, inaugurated the 2019 Asia LPG summit in New Delhi. This two-day event will focus on 'LPG – Energy for Life.'
- The second joint secretary level meeting to review the India-Nepal Trade Treaty begun in Pokhara, Nepal.
- Ministry of External Affairs and Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) organized Parmanu Tech 2019 in New Delhi to discuss the issues related to Nuclear Energy and Radiation Technologies.
- The 5th India-Bangladesh Joint Consultative Committee Meeting was held in New Delhi.
- US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross has announced the names of the American private sector members of the US-India CEO Forum among who are MasterCard CEO Ajay Banga and Qualcomm CEO Steve Mollenkopf. The first meeting of the forum will be held in New Delhi on February 14.
- The 13th Conference of Parties (COP) of the Convention on the conservation of migratory species of wild animals (CMS), an environmental treaty under the aegis of United Nations Environment Programme, is going to be hosted by India during 15th to 22nd February 2020 at Gandhinagar in Gujarat.

### Schemes and Committees

- The Maharashtra government has set up a committee to review various schemes being implemented for the welfare of tribals in the state headed by former MLA and Shramjeevi Sanghatna president Vivek Pandit.
- Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh announced a high-powered 5-member committee to

prepare a comprehensive action plan to boost the dairy sector with the aim of supplementing the income of farmers in a result-oriented manner.

### Appointments/Resignations

- Rishi Kumar Shukla, 1983 batch IPS officer of Madhya Pradesh cadre, was appointed as the new chief of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).
- Former Law Minister of Nepal Nilambar Acharya has been appointed as country's ambassador to India.
- The former executive director of Canara Bank, P V Bharathi assumed charge as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Corporation Bank. P V Bharati became the first woman CEO of the bank.
- The government has appointed Dinesh Bhatia, the present Consul General, Consulate General of India at Toronto as the next Ambassador of India to Argentina.
- The government appointed Air India chief managing director and Chairperson Pradeep Singh Kharola the secretary of the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

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### Awards and Recognitions

- President Ram Nath Kovind presented the Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards for the year 2017 to 42 noted artists in five categories.
- National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) of India has been selected as Winner under the Miniratna Category (Category II) by Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).
- The State Bank of India's UK chief Mr. Sanjiv Chadha has been honored with the 'Freedom of the City Of London' by the city of London Corporation in recognition of his contribution to promoting the bilateral relations.
- Father Francois Laborde, a 92-year-old priest, was conferred the Légion d'Honneur (Legion of Honour), the highest civilian award of France, in recognition of his work for specially-abled children.
- In a bid to recognize the outstanding performance and to promote a healthy competition by States/UTs, Urban

Local Bodies, Beneficiaries and Housing Finance Corporations (under CLSS), Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has instituted the 'PMAY (U) awards for Implementation and Innovation' under the Mission.

### Ranks and Reports

- Union Tourism Minister KJ Alphons has announced that the country's tourism sector fetched revenue of 234 billion US Dollar in 2018, registering a growth of over 19%. This revenue was contributed by 87% domestic and 13% foreign tourists.
- Minister of Railways, Piyush Goyal launched the "The Future of Rail" report of the International Energy Agency (IEA), a first-of-a-kind report that analyses the current and future importance of rail around the world through the perspective of its energy and environmental implications.
- Assam occupied the top slot in the ranking of best practices followed by states in the Budget formulation, followed by Andhra Pradesh and Odisha, as per a survey by Transparency International.
- Fitch Solutions, the research arm of Fitch Group, projected the government's fiscal deficit to overshoot the budgeted target by 0.2% to 3.6% of GDP in 2019-20 fiscal.
- India has jumped eight places to 36th position on the International Intellectual Property (IP) Index, which analyses the IP climate in 50 global economies, this year. US Topped.

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### Banking/Economy/Business News

- India's new e-commerce policy came into effect From February 1, 2019. A new set of policy rules had been formed for the e-commerce companies.
- Two regional rural banks (RRBs) - Pallavan Grama Bank and Pandyan Grama Bank - will be merged to form the Tamil Nadu Grama Bank as per the Finance Ministry notification. The integration will be effective from April 1.

- National Bulk Handling Corporation (NBHC) has released Kharif Crop estimation for the year 2018-2019. According to the report, the basmati rice production is expected to decline by 9.24% to 5.18 million metric tonnes.
- Food delivery startup Swiggy has acquired Bengaluru-based AI startup Kint.io for an undisclosed amount.
- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has bought a 14% stake in micro-financier Annapurna Finance for Rs 137 crore, reinforcing the belief that India's microfinance sector is on course to attract long-term funds from global lenders and investors.
- The Reserve Bank of India has slapped an Rs1-crore penalty on Syndicate Bank and Rs20 lakh on Axis Bank for violating norms.
- Indian Banking Association has issued advisory requesting banks to waive off the processing, documentation, inspection and all other service charges for Kisan Credit Card and crop loans up to 3 lakh rupees.

### RBI has released 6th Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy Statement. Details:

- Reduce the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) by 25 basis points from 6.5% to 6.25% with immediate effect.
- Consequently, the reverse repo rate under the LAF stands adjusted to 6.0%, and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate to 6.5%.
- Fino Payments Bank (FPB) has announced the launch of a sweep account facility in association with Suryoday Small Finance Bank (SSFB).
- The Reserve Bank of India raised the limit of collateral-free agricultural loans to Rs. 1.6 lakh from the current Rs. 1 lakh with a view to help small and marginal farmers.
- RBI in the exercise of powers conferred under Section 47 A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 has levied a penalty of Rupees one crore on the State Bank of India (SBI) for not monitoring the end use of funds in respect of one of its borrowers.

### Sports News

- Former captain of the Pakistan women team Sana Mir has become the first Asian woman to play hundred T20Is.
- Haryana Hammers won the fourth edition of the Pro Wrestling League (PWL) as they outclassed Punjab Royals 6-3 in the summit clash at the Gautam Buddha University indoor stadium, Greater Noida.
- Indian women's cricket team opener Smriti Mandhana has become the top-ranked batter in women's ODI cricket, as per the latest rankings released by the ICC.
- Indian squash player Ramit Tandon defeated Egyptian Mohamed El Sherbini in the finals to win the Seattle Open, a PSA challenger squash Tour event.
- Indian opener Smriti Mandhana hammered the fastest fifty for India in Women's T20Is.

- World champion Indian weightlifter Saikhom Mirabai Chanu notched up a gold medal at the EGAT Cup in Thailand.

### Important Days

- World Cancer Day is being observed globally on 4th February. Theme: "I Am and I Will."
- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari flagged off Suraksha Yatra – a motor car rally from Rajghat in New Delhi to launch the 30th National Road Safety Week (4<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> February).

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### Obituaries

- Veteran Marathi actor Ramesh Bhatkar passed away aged 70 after battling cancer for over one and a half years.
- John Dingell, the longest-serving congressman in US history, has passed away aged 92.
- Oscar-nominated British actor Albert Finney passed away peacefully after a short illness. He aged 82.

### Miscellaneous News

- The Kala Ghoda festival, India's largest multi-cultural street festival begins in Mumbai to celebrate its 20 years of art and culture through cinema, theatre, dance, literature, and sculpture.
- The 6-day long music and dance festival 'Sopan 2019', to encourage young artists to take up traditional art took place in New Delhi.
- Kerala has become the first State to set up a Price Monitoring and Research Unit (PMRU) to track violation of prices of essential drugs and medical devices under the Drugs Price Control Order (DPCO).
- Shehri Samridhi Utsav, an initiative of Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA), aims to extend the outreach of Deendayal Antyodaya Mission – National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM), to the most

vulnerable, showcase its initiatives and facilitate access of Self-Help Group (SHG) members to the other government schemes.

- Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) App has been launched on Google play store.
- 'Darwaza Band- Part 2' campaign launched by Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen focuses on sustaining the open defecation free status of villages across the country.
- Actor Vijay Sethupathi launched the mobile App 'DigiCop' of the Chennai police department at the Commissioner's office.
- Union Minister of Textiles Smriti Irani launched the India Size project in Mumbai.

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