

Weekly One Liners 15th to 21st April 2019

National Affairs

- **Bharti Airtel and the FICCI Ladies Organisation** launched a carrier agnostic safety app named '**My Circle**' to empower women in the event of any distress or panic situation.
- **India's first-of-its-kind 'Voter Park'** was inaugurated in **Gurugram, Haryana**, aimed at increasing voter awareness and educating people about the electoral process.
- **India's first exotic Bird Park 'Essel World Bird Park'** was launched by EsselWorld Leisure Pvt. Ltd, the entertainment arm of the **\$6-billion** Essel Group in **Mumbai**.
- The **8th edition of Home Expo India 2019** opened at India Expo Centre and Mart, Greater Noida.
- Professor **Gagandeep Kang** has become the **first Indian female scientist** to be elected as a **Fellow of the Royal Society (FRS)** in the **UK** fellowship's 358-year-history.

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International Affairs

- **UAE** is set to **host the world's foremost Artificial Intelligence (AI) Summit** to empower global dialogue on the future of government, business and society. The inaugural '**AI Everything**', AIE will take place at the **Dubai World Trade Centre**.
- The world's first armed amphibious drone boat named '**Marine Lizard**' and guided by China's **BeiDou** Navigation Satellite System, has been successfully tested by **China**.
- The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** and the **World Bank** have together launched a private blockchain with a pseudo-token called "**Learning Coin**".

- **Google** has opened its **first African artificial intelligence (AI) centre** in Ghana's capital **Accra**, one year after announcing the project.
- **Nepal** successfully launched its first satellite **NepaliSat-1** into space from **Virginia** in the **United States**.
- Sri Lanka's first satellite '**Raavana-1**' was launched into space, marking Sri Lanka's entry into the global space age.

Agreements/MoUs Signed

- The **Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI)** and the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** have joined hands to map, validate and protect smaller wetlands in coastal regions.

Summits and Conferences

- The **Resilient Cities Asia-Pacific (RCAP) 2019 Congress** is being organised by **ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability** and hosted by South Delhi Municipal Corporation in **New Delhi, India**.
- **Saudi Arabia** announced that it will be hosting the **G20 summit in November 2020** in its capital **Riyadh**.

States In News

- **Assam's most awaited festival – the Rongali Bihu**, also known as '**Bohaag Bihu**' which marks the beginning of the new Assamese calendar year started.

Banking/Economy/Business News

- **PayU**, Digital payments security and payment facilitator has acquired **Wibmo**, a US-based financial technology firm for **USD 70 million** (about Rs 484 crore) to assist the company scale-up its business.
- The **Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT)**, an arm of Reserve Bank of India, has launched a **5G Use Cases Lab** for banking and financial sector.
- **Bandhan Bank** has received approval from the **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** for the proposed scheme of **amalgamation of Gruh Finance with the bank**.
- **IDBI Bank** has launched '**NRI-Insta-Online**' account opening process for NRIs residing in the **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)** member countries.
- **India** was a **net importer** of steel during the 2018-19 fiscal year, the first time in **three years**.

- **ADB** committed to provide **USD 3 billion** in sovereign loans to India in 2018, the **highest level** of assistance since sovereign operations began in the country in **1986**.
- **Canara Bank** has successfully rolled out major new functionality to support EMV card acquiring across its ATM network and Aadhaar Authentication, leveraging ACI's UP Retail Payments solution to achieve market firsts.
- **Bank of Maharashtra (BoM)** has partnered with **M1Xchange Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS)** platform for MSME bill discounting.
- **CRISIL Ltd**, a diversified global analytics company, will transfer its rating business to its proposed new wholly-owned subsidiary.
- **ETMONEY** India's largest app for financial services has integrated with Unified Payment Interface (**UPI**) as a payment method.
- **Fincare Small Finance Bank (SFB)** has been awarded the prestigious **Celent Model Bank 2019** Award in the category of Financial Inclusion, for 'Redesigning Lending to Reach Small Businesses'.
- **Exim Bank** has provided soft loans of **USD 266.60 million** to **Rwanda** for various projects.

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Appointments/Resignations

- **Bibhu Kalyan Nayak** became the **first Indian** to be appointed Chair of **International Hockey Federation (FIH) Health and Safety Committee** by the world governing body.
- **Professor Najma Akhtar** was appointed as the **first woman vice-chancellor** of **Jamia Millia Islamia**, making her the first woman to hold the charge.
- Indian women's cricket team captain **Mithali Raj** has been named the goodwill ambassador of Team India at the **Street Child Cricket World Cup (SCCWC)**.

- The **Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas** has appointed **Mohammed Ishtayeh** as the new Prime Minister. Mohammed Ishtayeh will succeed Rami Hamdallah.
- Deutsche Bank appointed **Kaushik Shaparia** as the chief executive officer for India to succeed **Ravneet Gill**.
- Mali's Prime Minister **Soumeylou Boubeye Maiga** has resigned along with his whole government.

Defence News

- **India has successfully test-fired** first indigenously designed and developed long-range sub-sonic cruise missile '**Nirbhay**' from a test range in Odisha. Strike range-1,000 km
- The Indian Navy undertook the second edition of the bilateral maritime exercise between the Indian Navy and Vietnam Peoples' Navy, (**IN - VPN BILAT EX**) at/ off Cam Ranh Bay, **Vietnam**.

Awards and Recognitions

- Dr. **A K Singh**, director at Life Sciences, **DRDO** has been honoured with **Lifetime Achievement Award 2019** during 4th APJ Abdul Kalam Innovation Conclave at Chandigarh University, Mohali.
- An image of a **little girl crying**, clicked by **John Moore**, won the prestigious World Press Photo of the Year award.
- The **New York Times** and **The Wall Street Journal** were awarded **Pulitzer Prizes** for their separate investigations of **President Donald Trump and his family**.
- A total of **150** Indian peacekeepers serving with the **UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)** have received medals of honour for their dedicated service and sacrifice.
- Reuters journalists, **Kyaw Soe Oo**, and **Wa Lone** have been selected for **UNESCO/Guillermo Cano Press Freedom Prize 2019**. Currently, they are serving 7-year prison sentences in **Myanmar**.
- **2019 Pulitzer Prize winners:**
 1. **Public service:** Staff of the South Florida Sun Sentinel.
 2. **Criticism:** Carlos Lozada of the Washington Post.
 3. **Editorial writing:** Brent Staples of the New York Times.
 4. **Fiction:** "The Overstory" by Richard Powers.
 5. **Drama:** "Fairview" by Jackie Sibbles Drury.
 6. **Special Citation:** Aretha Franklin.

Ranks and Reports

- Reliance Industries Chairman **Mukesh Ambani** and public-interest litigators **Arundhati Katju** and **Menaka Guruswamy**, who spearheaded

a historic legal battle for LGBTQ rights in India, are the Indian names that appeared in the **Time 100 Most Influential People 2019** list.

- **India** ranked **140th** out of **180** countries in the **World Press Freedom Index 2019**, released by Reporters Without Borders. Index topped by-Norway.

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Books and Authors

- A book containing English translation of the **100-year-old** classic Punjabi poem about Jallianwala Bagh massacre, '**Khooni Vaisakhi**' authored by **Nanak Singh** and translated by **Navdeep Singh Suri** has been released in Abu Dhabi.

Sports News

- **Ethiopian athletes Gelete Burka** (women's race) and **Abrha Milaw** (men's race) won the 43rd edition of the **Paris Marathon**.
- **Famous Golfer Tiger Woods** completed one of the sport's great all-time comebacks to end an 11-year major title drought at the **Masters** by **claiming a fifth Green Jacket**.
- In motor racing, **Lewis Hamilton** won the **Chinese Grand Prix** for a record sixth time.
- **Meena Kumari Maisnam** (from Manipur) claimed the **Gold medal** at the **Boxing World Cup** in the **54 kg category** at **Cologne, Germany**.
- **Former junior national champion Harsheel Dani** rallied from a game down against **Mads Christophersen** of **Denmark** to clinch the **Dutch International badminton** title in **The Hague, Netherlands**.
- India's **Bajrang Punia** has regained the world number **one** spot in the men's **65-kilogram** freestyle category rankings.
- **Winners of Singapore Open 2019:**
- **Men's Singles:** winner- **Kento Momota** (Japan).

- **Women's Singles:** winner-Tai Tzu-ying (Chinese Taipei).

Important Days

- The **World Allergy Organization** has organized the **World Allergy Week 2019** globally from 7-13 April 2019. Theme - "**The Global Problem of Food Allergy**".
- **18 April-** International Day for Monuments and Sites. Theme- 'Rural Landscapes'.

Obituaries

- Renowned **Hindi poet Pradeep Choubey** passed away of a cardiac arrest.
- **Former Director of Indian Space Research Organisation Satellite Centre (ISAC), SK Shivakumar** died at the age of 66 in Bengaluru.
- **Scotland** all-rounder **Con de Lange** who had been diagnosed with a brain tumour has passed away at the age of 38.
- **America's first female astronaut** candidate, pilot **Jerrie Cobb** passed away in **Florida** at the age of 88 following a brief illness.

Miscellaneous News

- **NASA** astronaut **Christina Koch** is going to have her mission on the **International Space Station (ISS)** extended to **328** days, which would set a record for the longest single spaceflight by a **woman**.



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