

# Weekly One Liners 18th to 24th March 2019

## National Affairs

- **Prime Minister of Guinea Dr. Ibrahima Kassory Fofana** arrived in New Delhi on a ten-day official visit to India.
- Former **Supreme Court Judge Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose** was recommended to be the **first Lokpal or anti-corruption ombudsman of India**.
- The Election Commission of India has appointed **India's 1<sup>st</sup> transgender social activist Gauri Sawant**, as one of the 12 election ambassadors from Maharashtra.
- **Indian Railways Integral Coach Factory (ICF)** has surpassed the top Chinese manufacturers after creating a 40% record increase in its production, becomes the single largest rail coach manufacturer in the world.

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## Agreements/MoUs Signed

- **IIT Roorkee and ISRO** have signed an MoU to develop Space Technology Cells on the campus of the varsity.
- The **Ministry of Human Resource Development** has signed an MoU with the **Afghanistan** government to work on digital education initiatives, which include many prominent programs developed by Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs).
- **Maldives finance ministry** has signed an agreement with **India's Export-Import Bank (EXIM)** for line of credit (LOC) of 800 million US dollars to finance the new government's infrastructure projects.
- **Ola** has signed an MoU with the **Government of Telangana** to support the latter's efforts in strengthening traffic infrastructure in the city.
- The **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)** signed a Memorandum of Understanding

(MoU) with the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**.

## International Affairs

- External Affairs Minister **Sushma Swaraj** left to the **Maldives on a two-day visit**. She is accompanied by Foreign Secretary **Vijay Gokhale** and other officials.
- **Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi** have been hit by a vicious cyclone '**IDAI**' that has killed nearly 150 people, left hundreds more missing and stranded tens of thousands who are cut off from roads and telephones in mainly poor, rural areas.
- **New Zealand has imposed an immediate ban on assault weapons** following the Christchurch massacre that claimed the lives of 50 mosque-goers.

**Kazakhstan has renamed its capital Astana to Nursultan** to honor outgoing leader **Nursultan Nazarbayev**.

## Summits and Conferences

- The **first BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) Sherpa meeting** held in Curitiba, Brazil under the Presidency of Brazil.
- The Government of Indonesia has hosted the **first ever High-Level Dialogue on Indo-Pacific Cooperation (HLD-IPC)** in its capital city Jakarta. Theme of the HLD: '**Towards a Peaceful, Prosperous, and Inclusive Region**'.

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## Banking/Economy/Business News

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** named **State Bank of India (SBI), ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank**

as Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs), which in other words mean banks that are too big to fail.

- The State Bank of India has launched a new service called '**YONO Cash**' for its customers using which customers can withdraw money from ATMs without using debit cards. This facility is available over 16,500 of its ATMs through the You Only Need One (YONO).
- Microsoft has announced that it has partnered with The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) to promote its **Project 'Sangam'** which is developed to accelerate Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) in India.
- Reserve Bank of India provided **no objection to Bandhan Bank** for the proposed acquisition of Gruh Finance.

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- **ICICI Lombard and Mobikwik** announced a strategic partnership to provide cyber-insurance cover.
- **Hyundai Motor Group (the Group) and Ola** announced a strategic partnership under which Hyundai Motor Company and Kia Motors Corporation will invest a total of \$ 300 million in Ola, making it their biggest combined investment to date.
- GST council approved a **transition plan for new goods and services tax rates on residential properties** under which developers of under-construction buildings may either opt to shift to the revised lower rates without input tax credit or stick to the previous rates.
- **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has inked an agreement to invest USD 50 million in solar energy project developer **Avaada Energy Pvt Ltd** to help the company scale up rapidly.
- The country's largest lender **State Bank of India has signed a pact with the Bank of China** to boost business opportunities.
- Fitch Ratings cut India's economic growth forecast for the next financial year starting April 1, to **6.8%**

**from its previous estimate of 7%**, on weaker than expected momentum in the economy.

- Indian low-cost airlines **SpiceJet has joined the International Air Transport Association (IATA)**. SpiceJet is the first Indian budget carrier to join the IATA, which has over 290 airlines as members.

### Appointments/Resignations

- **Pramod Sawant (45)**, former Speaker of Goa legislative Assembly and MLA from Sankhelim in North Goa was sworn-in as **11th Chief Minister of Goa**, succeeding Manohar Parrikar.
- **Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev** has announced his resignation after nearly 30 years in power.
- President Ram Nath Kovind administered the oath of office to **Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose as the country's first Lokpal**.
- **Tata Coffee announced the appointment of Chacko Purackal Thomas** as the managing director and chief executive officer. He will replace Sanjiv Sarin.

### Defence News

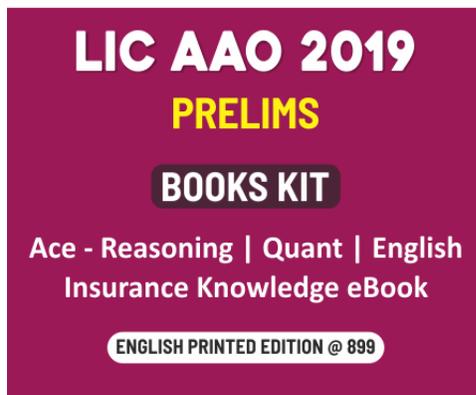
- Highlighting the close maritime proximity between India and Indonesia, **Indian Coast Guard Ship 'Vijit'** became the first-ever Coast Guard ship to visit Sabang, Indonesia.
- The inaugural Africa-India **Field Training Exercise-2019** for India and African nations called **AFINDEX-19** started with a grand opening ceremony at Aundh Military Station, Pune.
- **Exercise MITRA SHAKTI** was started in Sri Lanka as part of military diplomacy and interaction between armies of India & Sri Lanka.

### Awards and Recognitions

- **University of Texas professor Karen Uhlenbeck** has become the first woman to win the Abel Prize, a mathematics honour first given in 2003.
- An Indian journalist, author and chief of The Wire, **'Raghu Karnad' received the prestigious Windham-Campbell prize** of USD 165,000 for his debut book, 'Farthest Field: An Indian story of Second World War'.
- **Brazilian physicist and astronomer Marcelo Gleiser** has been awarded the 2019 Templeton Prize, worth \$1.4 million, for his work blending science and spirituality.
- Hindi writer Leeladhar Jagudi honoured **with Vyasa Samman 2018** for his collection of poems "Jitne Log Utne Prem" published in 2013.

### Ranks and Reports

- **Reliance Industries CMD Mukesh Ambani** leads Forbes' list of richest sports team owners with a net worth of around \$50 billion.
- **Tata, Reliance, and Airtel** emerged as the top three Indian brands of 2019, according to a report published by Interbrand, part of the Omnicom Media Group.
- The **World Happiness Report** was released by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network for the United Nations on March 20, the International Day of Happiness. **India is ranked 140th out of 156 nations. Finland topped the list.**



### Sports News

- **18-year-old Diksha Dagar** has become the second Indian to win an event on Ladies European Tour after clinching South African Women's Open in Cape Town.
- The 2019 Swiss Open, officially the YONEX Swiss Open 2019, was a badminton tournament which took place at St. Jakobshalle in Basel, Switzerland. **Shi Yuki of China won Men's Singles** while **Chen Yufei (China) won Women's Singles.**
- **Mercedes' Valtteri Bottas** beat his world champion teammate Lewis Hamilton to clinch the season-opening Australian Formula One Grand Prix.
- Asian Youth Championship 2019 Concludes: **India Finishes 2<sup>nd</sup> (26 medals including 8 gold), China Tops with 31 medals.**
- **Bengaluru FC clinched their maiden Indian Super League** title as Rahul Bheke found a championship-winning header in the dying minutes of the final against FC Goa, in Mumbai.
- India returned with 368 medals (85 gold, 154 Silver, and 129 Bronze) at the **Special Olympics World Summer Games, held at Abu Dhabi, UAE.**
- India has lifted **South Asian Football Federation SAFF Women's Championship** fifth time in a row

after defeating host Nepal in the final by 3-1 in Biratnagar, Nepal.



### Important Days

- **International Day of Happiness** is celebrated every year on **March 20**. The theme for IDH 2019: **'Happier Together'**.
- **Bihar Diwas or Bihar Day** is celebrated every year on **22 March** to commemorate the state's separation from Bengal presidency in 1912.
- The **International Day of Forests** is held annually on 21 March to raise awareness of the importance of forests. Theme for 2019: **Forests and Education.**
- **International World Water Day** is held annually on 22 March as a means of focusing attention on the importance of freshwater. Theme for World Water Day 2019: **'Leaving no one behind'**.
- **The Shaheed Diwas or Martyr's Day** is observed on **23rd March** to pay homage to the great revolutionary fighters Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev who sacrificed their lives for the country.
- **Obituaries**
- **Manohar Parrikar, Goa Chief Minister and former defence minister**, has passed away at the age of 63 after a long battle with pancreatic cancer.
- Senior journalist and environmental activist **Darryl D'Monte passed away** in Mumbai after a brief illness at the age of 74 years.
- **Former White House economist and Princeton University professor Alan Krueger** passed away. He was 58.
- **Miscellaneous News**
- The **3rd edition of Namaste Thailand festival**, organised by the Royal Thai Embassy with an aim to strengthen bilateral ties and increase cultural exchange between India and Thailand, began at Select Citywalk in New Delhi.

- The 'i-help' initiative to promote digital electoral literacy in Assam has been launched in view of the forthcoming Lok Sabha polls.
- **Indian Institute of Public Health Gandhinagar, (IIPHG)** in collaboration with National Mental Health Program, Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Gujarat has developed a mobile application called as '**Conquer Exam, Be a Warrior**' for students to reduce the exam pressure.
- The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) launched a new podcast app '**Shiksha Vani**' that will disseminate crucial information to students and parents in a timely manner.

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