

## Weekly One Liners 29th April- 5 May

### National

- The government has hiked the customs duty on wheat to **40%** from **30%** to curb imports and protect the domestic industry.
- The Central government has asked the state transport departments to make it mandatory for **all EVs** to use the **green number plates**, irrespective of the year in which they were bought.
- State-owned telecom firm BSNL** has become the **first** operator to start optical **fibre-based high-speed broadband** service in Pulwama with the launch of 'Bharat Fibre'.
- Cyclone Fani** intensified into a severe cyclonic storm and has now become an '**extremely severe cyclonic storm**' according to an **Indian Meteorological Department (IMD)** report.

### International Affairs

- Russia's Vladimir Putin** and **North Korea's Kim Jong Un** met face-to-face for the **first time** and vowed to seek closer ties.
- he United Nations and the European Union (EU)** have signed a joint framework aimed at strengthening partnership in counter-terrorism efforts.
- US President **Donald Trump** stated that his administration is withdrawing the U.S. signature from the **U.N. Arms Trade Treaty**, in response to concerns from gun rights activists that it could impinge on Americans' right to bear arms.
- Akihito** became the **first Japanese Emperor** to step down from the throne in more than 200 years.
- In a huge diplomatic win for India, **the United Nations Security Council** designated **Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Masood Azhar** as a **global terrorist** after China lifted its hold on a proposal to blacklist him under the Security Council's Sanctions Committee.

- Russian President Vladimir Putin** has signed into law a new measure that **aims to expand government control over the Internet**.
- The **UK parliament** became the **first** national legislative body in the world to declare a **climate change emergency**.

### Agreements/MoUs Signed

- The Office of the **Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA)** to the Government of India and **Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT Delhi)** signed an MoU in New Delhi for setting up a **Centre of Excellence (CoE)** for **Waste to Wealth** Technologies for implementation of sustainable, scientific and technological solutions for waste management.
- To nab tax evaders and reduce black money generation, **the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** and **Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN)** signed an agreement to facilitate the exchange of data between the two.

### Summits and Conferences

- The second edition of **Belt and Road Forum (BRF)** was held in Beijing, China in which 37 heads-of-state and 159 countries had participated. Theme - "**Belt and Road Cooperation: Shaping a Brighter Shared Future**".
- The 5th Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) Media Summit** on Climate Action & Disaster Preparedness was **held at Kathmandu, Nepal**. Theme- "**Media Solutions for Sustainable Future: Saving Lives, Building Resilient Communities**".
- The **16th Ministerial Meeting of Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD)** was held in Doha, Qatar.

### Schemes and Committees

- Insurance Regulatory & Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has set up a 13 member committee under **IRDAI Executive Director Suresh Mathur** to review the regulatory framework on microinsurance & recommend measures to increase the demand for such products.
- The Union Environment Ministry has constituted a committee to implement the **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)**, which aims to reduce particulate matter (PM) pollution by 20%-30% in at least **102** cities by 2024.
- Iraq** has become **India's top crude oil supplier** for the second consecutive year, meeting more than **one-fifth of the country's oil needs in the 2018-19 fiscal year**.

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## Banking/Economy/Business News

- **Canara Bank** and its life insurance partner **Canara HSBC Oriental Bank of Commerce Life Insurance** launched '**Web assurance**' to enable its customers to purchase life insurance in a convenient and hassle-free way.
- The **Defence Ministry** has awarded a contract of worth **Rs 6,311 crore** to **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited (GRSE)** to build eight anti-submarine warfare shallow watercraft (**ASWSWC**) for the **Indian Navy**.
- **Wipro Consumer Care** announced that it is acquiring personal care company '**Splash**', which is based in the **Philippines**.
- **Facilities management provider UDS** has acquired a **majority stake in Matrix Business Services**, which operates in the business assurance and background verification segment.
- **Bharti AXA General Insurance**, a private non-life insurer, **has tied up with** financial marketplace **Wishfin's** insurance arm **Wishpolicy**, to offer two-wheeler insurance to customers **via WhatsApp**.
- **India Ratings & Research (A Fitch Group Company)** has **lowered the country's growth forecast for the current fiscal to 7.3%**, from the earlier projection of 7.5%.
- **Paytm** has launched a **recurring payment service** for merchants that are working on a digital subscription model.
- Markets regulator **SEBI** directed **National Stock Exchange** to pay more than **Rs. 625 crore** in the case of **misuse of its co-location facility**.
- **India's largest bank State Bank of India** has moved to a new interest rate regime on large savings account deposits as well as short-term loans.

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- **LIC Housing Finance (LIC HFL)** has launched '**Udyam**', a skilling center in **Bengaluru**.
- The **Netherlands** has emerged as the **third** largest foreign direct investor in India during **2017-18**, with investments pegged at about **\$2.67 billion** across sectors.
- **Huawei Technologies Co** overtook **Apple Inc** to claim the **No. 2** spot in smartphones making in the first quarter, moving a step closer to its avowed ambition of displacing **Samsung** at the top of the market.

## Appointments/Resignations

- Senior IAS officer **Dilip Kumar** was appointed as the **Officer on Special Duty (OSD)** in the office of Lokpal. Kumar, a 1995-batch IAS officer of **Punjab** cadre, is at present joint secretary, **National Human Rights Commission**.
- **BSE**, formerly known as the Bombay Stock Exchange, has appointed its first independent woman director **Jayshree Vyas**.
- **Former Sri Lanka captain Kumar Sangakkara** has been named as the **next President of Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC)**, becoming the **first non-British President of the club**.
- US Air Force General **Tod D. Wolters** has been sworn in as the top military officer of the 29-nation **NATO** military alliance.
- **Spain** and **Barcelona** legend **Xavi Hernandez** has announced that he will retire from professional **football** at the end of the current season.

## Defence News

- **India was the world's fourth biggest military spender in 2018** behind the United States, China, and Saudi Arabia, according to new data think tank **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)**.
- The first part of the **Indo-French joint naval exercise, Varuna 19.1** was kicked off the **Goa coast**.

## Awards and Recognitions

- **Ex-South Africa all-rounder Jacques Kallis** has been honoured with the Order of Ikhamanga in the **Silver Division**.
- **Liverpool defender Virgil van Dijk** and **Arsenal Women Football Club's Vivianne Miedema** were named **Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) Players' Player of the Year** for the 2018-19 season.
- **Arjuna awardee and star Indian golfer Gaganjeet Bhullar** won the **outstanding achievement as a player award** at the fourth edition of the annual **India Golf Industry Association (GIA) awards** at the **Delhi Golf Club**.

- Six environmental activists received the prestigious **Goldman Environmental Prize**. Winners are-
  - Alfred Brownell, Liberia
  - Bayarjargal Agvaantseren, Mongolia
  - Ana Colovic Lesoska, North Macedonia
  - Jacqueline Evans, Cook Islands
  - Alberto Curamil, Chile
  - Linda Garcia, United States
- Rapper **Drake** set a record with the most wins ever, taking home **12** honours at the Billboard Music Awards bringing his career total to **27**.
- Former ISRO chairman **A S Kiran Kumar** was conferred with France's highest civilian honour, **Chevalier de l'Ordre national de la Legion d'Honneur**, for his contribution to India-France space cooperation.

### Sports News

- **Dominic Thiem (Austria)** won the **Barcelona Open 2019** after defeating **Daniil Medvedev (Russia)**.
- **2019 Badminton Asia Championships winners-**
  - **Men's singles-** Kento Momota,
  - **Women's singles-** Akane Yamaguchi.
- **India** ended their campaign at the **International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup** held in **Beijing** with a total of **four medals, three golds and a silver**.
- **Australia's Claire Polosak** will become the **first female umpire** to officiate in a **men's one-day international** at the ICC World Cricket League Division Two match.
- **World number three tennis player Petra Kvitova (Czech Republic)** beat **Anett Kontaveit (Estonia)** to win **Stuttgart's Porsche Grand Prix** for her second title of the year.
- **Mercedes' Finnish driver Valtteri Bottas** beat his English teammate **Lewis Hamilton** by 1.5 seconds to win **Azerbaijan Grand Prix**.
- **23rd edition of the Asian Athletics Championships** held in **Doha, Qatar. Bahrain topped, India-4th.**

- **Bajrang Punia** is set to become the **first wrestler from India to fight at the iconic Madison Square Garden in New York**.
- **India** wrapped up their campaign at the **Asian Wrestling Championships** on a resounding note with **16 medals (1 Gold, 3 Silver & 4 Bronze)**.
- **India's G Sathiyan** has become the **first Indian** to break into the **top-25** of world rankings in Table Tennis.
- **Raheem Sterling** has been named the **2019 footballer of the year by the Football Writers' Association (FWA)**.
- Indian shooting ace **Apurvi Chandela** has been ranked the world number **one** in the **women's 10 metres** air rifle event while compatriot **Anjum Moudgil** rose to number **two** after consistent performances.
- **World number one Bajrang Punia** has become the **first Indian** to win gold at the **Ali Aliev wrestling tournament** after defeating **Viktor Rassadin of Russia** in the 65 kg freestyle in Kapiisk.
- **Jaipur** will host the **8th Asian Youth Women Handball Championship** in which 10 teams will be participating.
- **Abhishek Verma** won the **10m air pistol** gold medal at the ISSF World Cup at **Beijing, China**.
- **India** won **13 medals**, including **2 gold** (Pooja Rani and Amit Panghal), 4 silver, and 7 bronze at the Asian Boxing Championships in Bangkok.
- **Pankaj Advani**, the 21-time India's cueist defeated **Ehsan Heydari Nezhad of Iran 6-4** to clinch the **Asian Snooker Tour title**.

### Important Days

- **International Dance Day** is observed globally on **29th of April**.
- **International Labour Day (also known as May Day or International Workers' Day)** is celebrated across the world on **1st of May every year**. Theme - "**Sustainable Pension for all: The Role of Social Partners**".
- **May 1** is celebrated as '**Maharashtra Day**' and '**Gujarat Day**'.
- **The United Nations (UN)** established **World Tuna Day on May 2** to raise awareness about the importance of tuna and to promote more sustainable fishing practices.
- **World Press Freedom Day (WPFD)** is celebrated all over the world on the **3rd of May**.
- Theme- "**Media for Democracy: Journalism and Elections in Times of Disinformation**".

### Obituaries

- **Mark Medoff**, whose acclaimed play "**Children of a Lesser God**," which won the **Tony Award** for best play in 1980 passed away at the age of 79.
- **Former India footballer Pungam Kannan** passes away at age 80 years.
- **The former Ethiopian president, Dr Negasso Gidada** had passed away in Germany where he was undergoing medical treatment.

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- **John Singleton**, an Academy Award-nominated filmmaker has passed away following complications from a stroke.
- **Noted Kannada theatre personality**, satirist and TV actor **Master Hirannaiah** has passed away. He was 85 years old.
- **Terry Rawlings**, a British film and sound editor has passed away.
- **Peter Mayhew**, the actor behind the character of **Chewbacca** has passed away.

**Miscellaneous News**

- **Mangaluru** City Police has launched an **all-women police patrol** unit '**Rani Abbakka Force**'.
- Vice President **M Venkaiah Naidu** released a postage stamp to commemorate the **750th birth anniversary** of **Sri Vedanta Desikan** in New Delhi.



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