

Weekly One Liners 20th to 26th May 2019

National Affairs

- As per **Election Commission of India**, the 2019 Lok Sabha elections witnessed a **voter turnout of 67.10% (interim)**, which is the **highest ever voter turnout in the history of general elections**.
- **Kerala** became the first state to tap into **masala bond** market by listing the **Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB)**'s masala bond worth of **USD 312 million (Rs 2,150 crore)** in London Stock Exchange (LSE)'s International Securities Market (ISM).
- The **Meghalaya government** has approved setting up of a commission to look into the problem faced by farmers.
- The **Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh** also called as **Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen India** or **Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Hindustan** has been declared as a banned terrorist organization by the **government of India**.
- **Odisha's ruling** Biju Janata Dal (BJD) headed by incumbent **Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik** is all set to form a government for a **fifth consecutive term**. The new Cabinet is likely to be sworn-in on 27th May 2019.

International Affairs

- The **World Bank and the Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CommBank)** have teamed up to enable recording of secondary market bond trading using blockchain tech.
- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** declared **Algeria and Argentina** as malaria-free, with no recorded cases of indigenous transmission of the disease since 2013 and 2010 respectively.

- **British Prime Minister Theresa May** announces resignation from her post. **She will resign on 7 June**.

Agreements/MoUs Signed

- **Tech Mahindra** announced its **biggest defence order worth over Rs 300 crore** with the **Indian Navy**.
- **Asian Development Bank** has signed an **agreement to provide USD 750 million equivalent** in Indian rupee long-term financing to electrify railway tracks in India.
- The **Department of Biotechnology (DBT)** under **Ministry of Science and Technology** and **Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)**, under Prime Minister of India, has signed an MoU for supporting joint collaborative research programmes in the area of **Cancer**.

Summits and Conferences

- **External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj** represented India in the meeting of **Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation** held in **Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic**.
- The **Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI)** gas pipeline meeting was held in **Ashgabat, Turkmenistan**.
- National Security Advisor **Ajit Doval** has stated that technology will play a pivotal role in guarding the borders in days to come as security challenges are increasing day by day. **Doval was addressing 17th Investiture Ceremony of Border Security Force, BSF** in New Delhi.

Banking/Economy/Business News

- The **State Bank of India (SBI)** has announced a **strategic partnership with the FMCG arm of The Art of Living – Sri Sri Tattva**.
- **State-run telco BSNL** has announced that it has joined hands with **internet major Google** to **expand its WiFi footprint across the country**.
- **Reliance Industries** has toppled state-owned **Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)** to become the **country's biggest company by revenue**.
- **Social media giant Facebook** has apparently formed a **new financial tech firm, Libra Networks LLC**, in **Geneva, Switzerland**.
- **Ride-hailing company Ola** has launched **Ola Money SBI Credit Card** in partnership with **SBI Card**, one of India's largest credit card issuers.
- The **HDFC group** has overtaken the **151-year-old Tata group** to **emerge as India's most valuable** by way of market capitalization (m-cap).

- **The Reserve Bank of India** has announced that it will allow large modern currency chests to increase the service charges on cash deposited by non-chest bank branches from the existing rate of **Rs5 per packet of 100 pieces to a higher rate subject to a maximum of Rs8 per packet.**
- **Corporation Bank** has launched '**Corp SME Suvidha**', a product for GST-registered MSMEs. The product has been designed as part of the bank's efforts to provide the best products to the MSME sector.
- **RBI stated** that all non-deposit-taking non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) with an asset size of **Rs 5,000 crore and above**, and all deposit-taking NBFCs irrespective of their asset size, have to maintain a liquidity buffer in terms of a **Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR).**

Appointments/Resignations

- **Indonesia's Joko Widodo** has been re-elected as **president of the country**, beating rival Prabowo Subianto, a retired general.
- In **Andhra Pradesh**, **YSR Congress Chief Jagan Mohan Reddy** will be sworn in as **chief minister of Andhra Pradesh** on 30th of May at Vijayawada.
- The **Centre has cleared four names recommended** by the Supreme Court Collegium for elevation as judges of the apex court. The four appointed judges are **Justice Aniruddha Bose, Justice A S Bopanna, Justice B R Gavai and Justice Surya Kant.**
- **Volodymyr Zelenskiy** took the oath of office as the **president of Ukraine** and immediately announced that he is dissolving the Verkhovna Rada, the country's parliament.

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Defence News

- The 26th Edition of **Singapore India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX)-19** has commenced in the **South China Sea.**
- **Indian Air Force** successfully fired the **BrahMos** air version missile from its frontline **Su-30 MKI** fighter aircraft.
- **Flight Lieutenant Bhawana Kanth** became the **first woman pilot of the Indian Air Force to qualify to undertake missions by day on a fighter aircraft.**
- **U.S. Navy ships** conducted joint drills with warships from allies **Japan, Australia and South Korea** in their first combined exercise in the Western Pacific.
- **DRDO** has successfully test-fired an indigenously-developed **500 kg class** guided bomb from a Sukhoi combat jet at **Pokhran in Rajasthan.**

Sci-Tech News

- **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has successfully launched the '**RISAT-2B**' Satellite from the Sriharikota's, Satish Dhawan Space Centre, SHAR. The **Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C46)** lifted-off from the First Launch Pad and injected **RISAT-2B into an orbit of 556 km**, about 15 minutes and 25 seconds after lift-off.
- **The world's scientific and technical community**, in a landmark and historic decision has unanimously adopted the resolution to redefine four of the seven base units, **the kilogram (SI unit of weight), Kelvin (SI unit of temperature), mole (SI unit of amount of substance), and ampere (SI unit of current).**

Awards and Recognitions

- **Anil Kapoor** was felicitated by **Council of European Chambers of Commerce in India** and a **European Union delegation in Mumbai.**
- **Indian filmmaker, Achyutanand Dwivedi's film, "Seed Mother"**, won the third prize in the international section of **Nespresso Talents 2019** in Cannes.
- **Comedian-actor Kapil Sharma** has been acknowledged as the **most viewed stand-up comedian in India and abroad** by the **World Book of Records London.**
- **Police Officer Jitender Kumar**, an Indian peacekeeper is among the **119 military, police and civilian personnel** who will be honoured with a prestigious UN medal 2019 for courage and sacrifice in the line of duty.
- **An author from Oman, Jokha Alharthi** has won the prestigious **Man Booker International Prize** for "**Celestial Bodies**", the story of three sisters of a desert country confronting its slave-owning past and a complex modern world.

- Former foreign secretary **Shyam Saran** will be conferred with Japan's second highest national award, 'Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star'.
- **Bharti AXA Life Insurance**, a private life insurer, has been conferred with the **FICCI Claims Excellence Award**.

Ranks and Reports

- According to the **RBI data**, in Mar 2019, the total number of financial transactions done by people using their debit cards increased by **15%** and the financial transactions done by the debit cards at **POS terminals increased by 27%** compared to March 2018.
- As per the report by the **United Nations**, India's economy is projected to grow at **7.1%** in the fiscal year **2020** on the back of strong domestic consumption and investment. Indian economy expanded by **7.2%** in 2018.
- India stands in a lowly **117th position out of 181 countries** in the **KidsRight Index**, the annual global index which ranks how countries adhere to and are equipped to improve child rights. **Iceland secured the top position**.
- As per the **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) Economic Outlook**, India's economic growth will regain strength and approach **7.5% by 2020** buoyed by rural consumption and subdued inflation.

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Sports News

- **2nd India Open International Boxing Tournament** has started in Guwahati.
- **2019 Italian Open** tennis tournament played on outdoor clay courts in Rome, Italy. **Men's Singles Winner: Rafael Nadal** (Spain), **Women's Singles Winner: Karolina Pliskova** (Czech Republic).

- The world body governing **Badminton, BFA**, has launched two new formats of the game **AirBadminton** and **Triples** with new dimensions of the court and an innovative shuttlecock called Airshuttle.
- **Germany's double Olympic biathlon champion Laura Dahlmeier** announced her retirement at the age of just 25 after struggling with health issues.
- **Brooks Koepka (of USA)** returned to the top of the world rankings after his nerve-jangling **second straight US PGA Championship victory at Bethpage Black**.
- **Sethu FC** turned around a first-half deficit to **clinch their first ever Indian Women's League trophy** after defeating **Manipur Police** at the Guru Nanak Stadium, in Ludhiana, Punjab.
- **India bags a total of 57 medals** including 12 Gold, 18 Silver and 27 Bronze at India Open International Boxing tournament in **Guwahati**. **MC Mary Kom, Shiva Thapa, L Sarita Devi, and Naman Tanwar** won gold in their respective finals. The London Olympic bronze medallist blew away the challenge of Vanlal Duati in a facile 5-0 win.

Important Days

- To raise awareness of the importance of **pollinators (such as bees, butterflies, bats and hummingbirds)** the UN designated **20 May as World Bee Day**.
- **World Metrology Day** is observed every year on **20 May**. **Theme 2019: The International System of Units – Fundamentally better**.
- On **21st May**, the UAE celebrated **World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development** to highlight its efforts in promoting tolerance and cultural diversity.
- **May 21** is chosen as **Anti-terrorism day** in India to commemorate the death Anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi died in a terrorist attack.
- The **UN General Assembly proclaimed 22 May**, the date of the adoption of its text, as the **International Day for Biological Diversity**. **2019 Theme: 'Our Biodiversity, Our Food, Our Health'**.

Obituaries


- **I M Pei**, a dominant figure in American **architecture** for more than three decades who designed the **Louvre's crystal pyramid**, has passed away.
- The former **Formula One driver and three-time world champion Niki Lauda** has passed away at the age of 70. He hailed from Austria.
- **Sammy Shore**, an actor and stand-up comedian who **co-founded the Comedy Store** passed away.

- **Renowned filmmaker, film historian, researcher and educationist Vijaya Mulay** passed away in New Delhi.

Miscellaneous News

- **HDFC Capital Advisors**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of **HDFC Ltd**, launched a new initiative called '**HDFC Affordable Real Estate and Technology Program (HeART)**'.
- **Niti Aayog** has circulated a cabinet note to provide **Rs 7,500 crore** for the establishment of **AIRAWAT**, a cloud computing platform along with research institutes.
- **Taiwan Expo 2019** began in Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.
- **South African Saray Khumalo** has reached the **highest point on the planet** becoming the first black African woman to **scale Mount Everest**.
- The **5th Smart Cities India 2019 expo**, including Transport India, Solar India, Buildings India and Water India expos, was inaugurated by Durga Shanker Mishra, Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoUHUA) at the **Pragati Maidan, New Delhi**.

- After the **Reserve Bank of India** released a draft framework for setting up a **regulatory sandbox (RS) for fintech players** in the counter, the market and insurance regulators **SEBI and IRDAI** have also launched similar initiatives.



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