

Weekly One Liners 8th to 14th April 2019

National Affairs

- The **Guwahati Railway Station** has become the first ever railway station in the Indian Railways to get an ISO certification from the National Green Tribunal (NGT) for "providing passenger amenities in a clean and green environment."

International Affairs

- The US designated **Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)** a foreign terrorist organisation.
- **Google parent Alphabet** has beaten Amazon to launch one of the first commercial drone delivery businesses.
- **London** is the first city in the world to implement a 24-hour, seven day a week **Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ)**, inside which vehicles will have to meet tough emissions standards or face a charge.
- **The UAE** has announced that India will be the Guest of Honour country at the **Abu Dhabi International Book Fair, ADIBF 2019**, to be held at the end of April 2019.
- Israeli **Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu** has won a fifth term in office.
- **Hong Kong's equity market** has overtaken **Japan** to be the **world's third largest in value**, behind only the U.S. and mainland China, according to a Bloomberg Report.

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Agreements/MoUs Signed

- **India and Sweden** launched a joint programme that will work towards addressing a range of challenges around smart cities and clean technologies among others.

Summits and Conferences

- The **World Economic Forum** in the **Middle East and North Africa (MENA)** took place at Jordan's Dead Sea.

Banking/Economy/Business News

- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** approved **engineering and construction major Larsen & Toubro's (L&T's)** proposal to acquire up to **66.15% stake** in Mindtree.
- **NTPC** has inked a term-loan agreement with **Canara Bank** to raise Rs 2,000 crore, which would be used to part finance its capital expenditure.
- As per the **World Bank**, India's GDP growth is expected to accelerate moderately to **7.5%** in Fiscal Year 19-20, driven by continued investment strengthening, particularly private-improved export performance and resilient consumption.
- **The RBI** came out with guidelines for banks to set up new currency chests, which include a minimum area of **1,500 square feet for strong room**. The new chests should have a processing a capacity of **6.6 lakh pieces of banknotes per day**.
- **Emirates Islamic** has announced the launch of Chat Banking services for customers via **WhatsApp**, marking a global first in the Islamic banking sector.
- The **BSE has signed a MoU with HDFC Bank** with an objective to strengthen the BSE Startups platform.
- The IMF cut its economic growth forecasts for India by **20 basis points each** from its January predictions to **7.3% for FY20 and 7.5% for the next fiscal**.
- **PAISALO Digital Limited** signed the first co-origination loan agreement with **SBI**, the first agreement of its kind in the country that SBI has signed.
- The government has retained the interest rate for **General Provident Fund (GPF)**, Contributory Provident Fund and other related schemes at 8% for the first quarter of the current financial year.
- **TCS** partnered with Google Cloud to build industry-specific cloud solutions.
- **RBL Bank** has partnered with credit profiler **CreditVidya** to improve the lender's customer experience.
- The **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** has approved the merger of Tata Teleservices with Bharti Airtel Ltd., subject to the condition that it furnishes a Rs 7200 crore bank guarantee.

Appointments/Resignations

- **Praful Patel, president of All India Football Federation (AIFF)**, has become the **first Indian to be elected as a member of FIFA Executive Council**.
- **SUN Group Chairman Vikramjit Singh Sahney** elected as the new president of International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) - India.

- The government has announced that **Karnam Sekar** (MD and CEO of the erstwhile Dena Bank) will take over as **MD and CEO of Indian Overseas Bank** from July 1.
- **R A Sankara Narayanan** (former MD and CEO of Vijaya Bank) will move to **Canara Bank** as MD and CEO.
- Algeria's parliament appointed Abdelkader Bensalah as the new interim president of the country. Replaced **Abdelaziz Bouteflika**.
- **Justice Vikram Nath**, the senior most judge of Allahabad High Court, was appointed as the **first Chief Justice of the newly-constituted Andhra Pradesh High Court**.
- **In a bureaucratic reshuffle, the Centre has appointed** Gargi Kaul as Secretary, Defence Finance.
- **President Jovenel Moise** announced that **Jean Michel Lapin** will be the new prime minister of Haiti. It is French-speaking Caribbean Community (CARICOM) country.

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Defence News

- **India's first indigenously** designed and developed **Dhanush artillery gun** was inducted in the Indian Army during a ceremony held at Ordnance Factory in Jabalpur, MP.
- The joint military exercise between Morocco and the US, "**African Lion 2019**," kicked off in southern Morocco.
- The **Indian Navy and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** inked an MoU to undertake joint research and development of advanced technologies for the **Indian Navy**.
- The sixth edition of the joint military training exercise between the **Indian Army and the Sri Lankan Army, Exercise Mitra Shakti** concluded in Sri Lanka.
- Military forces of India and Singapore got together to participate in a joint exercise 'Bold Kurukshetra-2019' in Babina Cantonment in Jhansi.

Awards and Recognitions

- **Tata Steel** has been named as the '**Global Slag Company of the Year**' at the 14th Global Slag Conference and Exhibition 2019.
- **VP Naidu** conferred President's Certificate of Honour and Maharshi Badrayan Vyas Samman Awards at New Delhi.
- **Virat Kohli** has been named as the Wisden Almanack's '**Leading Cricketer of the Year**' for the third straight time.
- Team India opener **Smriti Mandhana** has been named as the Wisden Almanack's '**Leading Women's Cricketer of the Year**'.
- **Indonesian Eni Nuraeni** was named by Asian Athletic Association (AAA) as the best athletic coach in Asia for the short-haul run category in 2019.
- PM Modi was decorated with **Order of St Andrew the Apostle** – the highest state decoration of Russia, for exceptional services in promoting special and privileged strategic partnership between the two countries.
- India's education technology startup '**Dost Education**' won a \$25,000 tech prize along with two other winners from Tanzania and Egypt.
- The **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)** was awarded the distinction of "Public Water Agency of the Year" by Global Water Intelligence at the Global Water Summit in London.
- **Indian Oil Corporation** has bagged the prestigious 'AIMA Managing India Award 2019 for outstanding PSU of the year.'
- **Telugu poet K Siva Reddy** has been selected for the **prestigious Saraswati Samman, 2018** for his collection of poetry titled **Pakkaki Ottigilite**.
- **Two schemes of the West Bengal government** for skill development- "**Utkarsh Bangla**" and distribution of bicycles to students "**Sabooj Sathi**" have won the prestigious World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) awards of the United Nations.

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Ranks and Reports

- **President Kovind** has released the national ranking of higher institutes by the **Ministry of Human**

Resources Development (HRD) in New Delhi. Indian Institute of Technology Madras topped the rankings.

- As per the **World Bank Report**, India retained its position as the **world's top recipient of remittances** with its diaspora sending a whopping USD 79 billion back home in 2018. The Report was titled as 'World Bank's Migration and Development Brief'.
- India's **asset management companies (AMCs)** own assets under management (AUM) worth Rs24.46 trillion, according to data released by the **Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI)**. HDFC Asset Management Co. Ltd has claimed the top spot.
- India's population grew at an average annual rate of **1.2% between 2010 and 2019** to 1.36 billion, more than double the annual growth rate of China, according to a report by the **United Nations Population Fund (UNPFA)**.
- **HDFC Bank** has been identified as number 1 bank by customers in India, as per Forbes World's Best Bank survey.

Sci-Tech News

- Astronomers have taken the **first-ever image of a black hole**, which is located in a distant galaxy known as 'Messier 87' (M87). The **'Event Horizon Telescope'** captured the image from the galaxy that is 50 million lightyears away.
- The most powerful operational rocket in the world, **SpaceX's Falcon Heavy**, launched its first commercial mission from Florida.
- **Google launched Anthos**, a new open platform from Google Cloud, that lets users run applications from anywhere.

Sports News

- The **2019 Malaysia Open** is a badminton tournament which takes place at Axiata Arena in Malaysia. **Lin Dan of China** won in Men's Singles category (defeated Chen Long of China). **Tai Tzu-ying of Chinese Taipei** won in Women's singles (defeated Japan's Akane Yamaguchi).
- Hockey India named **Graham Reid** as the new chief coach of the India men's hockey team.
- The **All India Tennis Association (AITA)** has signed an MoU with **Serbian Tennis Federation (STF)** to train Indian junior players under world-renowned Serbian coaches.

Important Days

- **April 7** of each year marks the celebration of **World Health Day**. The theme of World Health Day 2019 is '**Universal health coverage (UHC): Everyone, Everywhere**'.

- The **World Homoeopathy Day 2019** was observed across the world on **April 10** to commemorate the birth anniversary of the founder of Homoeopathy, Dr Christian Fredrich Samuel Hahnemann.
- **The General Assembly declared** 12 April as the International Day of Human Space Flight **to celebrate each year at the international level the beginning of the space era for mankind**.

Obituaries

- **Biologist Sydney Brenner** who helped decipher the genetic code and jointly won the 2002 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, passed away.
- **Kerala Congress (M) chairman K. M. Mani**, the longest-serving legislator in the State's history, is no more.

Miscellaneous News

- **President Kovind** launched '**CRPF Veer Parivar**' app, a mobile application for families of CRPF personnel killed in the line of duty.

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