

Weekly One Liners 07th to 13th of October 2019

Must Do Current Affairs

The Nobel Prize 2019

- The **Nobel Assembly** has announced the 2019 Nobel Prize in the Memory of **Alfred Nobel**. The winners will receive a cash prize (individually/jointly), valued this year at **9-million kronor** (\$918,000), a **gold medal** and a **diploma**. The awards have been announced in the following categories:
- **Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2019:** The prize will be awarded jointly to **William G. Kaelin, Sir Peter J. Ratcliffe** and **Gregg L. Semenza**. They have been nominated for the prize for their discoveries of **how cells sense and adapt to oxygen** availability.
- The Nobel Prize in **Physics 2019:** **James Peebles** was honoured for his contributions to the understanding of the **evolution of the Universe and Earth's place in the cosmos**.
- **Michel Mayor** and **Didier Queloz** were awarded the prize for finding **51 Pegasi b**, a gas giant orbiting a star 50 light-years away.
- The Nobel Prize in **Chemistry 2019:** The prize will be awarded jointly to **John B. Goodenough, M. Stanley Whittingham** and **Akira Yoshino**. They have been nominated for the prize for the development of **lithium-ion batteries**.
- The Nobel **Peace** Prize for 2019: The Norwegian Nobel Committee has decided to award the Nobel Peace Prize for 2019 to **Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali** for his efforts to **achieve peace and international cooperation**, and in particular for his decisive initiative to resolve the border conflict with neighbouring **Eritrea**.
- The Nobel Prize in **Literature 2018 and 2019:** The Nobel Prize in Literature for **2018** is awarded to the **Polish** author **Olga Tokarczuk** for a narrative imagination that with encyclopedic passion represents the crossing of boundaries as a form of life.
- The Nobel Prize in **Literature** for **2019** is awarded to the Austrian author **Peter Handke** for an influential work that with linguistic ingenuity has explored the **periphery and the specificity of human experience**.

WEF's Global Competitiveness Index

- **World Economic Forum** has released the **Global Competitiveness Index** report. In total, there are **103 indicators distributed** across the **12 pillars** on which the performance of the countries was evaluated.

- As per the WEF's released report, **India** has moved down 10 places to **rank 68th** on an annual global competitiveness index which was **topped** by **Singapore**.
- Here is the detailed ranking of India in individual pillars across which the performance of the countries was evaluated:

Sl. No.	Pillars	Rank
1.	Institutions	59
2.	Infrastructure	70
3.	ICT Adoption	120
4.	Macroeconomic Stability	43
5.	Health	110
6.	Skills	107
7.	Product Market	101
8.	Labour Market	103
9.	Financial System	40
10.	Market Size	3
11.	Business Dynamism	69
12.	Innovation Capability	35

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Some Important Cabinet Approvals

- The Central government has increased the **Dearness Allowance (DA)** of **Central government employees and pensioners** by **5%**, which means the dearness allowance has been **increased** from 12% to **17%**. The hike would be effective from **July 2019**. The **cost to the exchequer** will be **Rs 16,000 crore**.
- The cabinet also approved inclusion of **5,300 families** under the **development package of Jammu & Kashmir**, who initially opted to move outside the state, but later returned and settled in

the Jammu & Kashmir. This will enable such development package families to become eligible to get **one-time financial assistance of Rs 5.5 lakh** under the existing scheme.

- Cabinet has also **relaxed the mandatory requirement** of Aadhaar-seeded data as a pre-condition for release of funds to the beneficiaries under the **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme**. The relaxation will be **till 30th November 2019**.

National Affairs

- **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog** and United Nations Development Programme (**UNDP**) **India** jointly launched **Youth Co:Lab**. It aims at accelerating **social entrepreneurship and innovation** in young India and to recognize young people as critical drivers of sustainable development.
- The three-day event "**5th World Parliament of Science, Religion and Philosophy**" with the theme of '**role of science, religion and philosophy for world peace and well-being of mankind**' will be held at the MIT World Peace University in **Pune, Maharashtra**.
- **All India Institute of Medical Sciences** in collaboration with the **Health Ministry** launched the 1st-ever website and mobile application on oral health awareness "**eDantSeva**" which contains a detailed list of all the dental facility and colleges, Information, Education and Communication (IEC) material.
- **Central Board of Direct Taxes** has launched "**Faceless e-Assessment scheme**" that eliminates **physical interface** between an assessing officer and an assessee. They also inaugurated the National e-Assessment Centre (**NeAC**) in **Delhi** to be headed by **Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax**.
- "**DHRUV**" a Pradhan Mantri Innovation Learning Programme has commenced from **ISRO** in **Bengaluru** and will conclude at IIT, Delhi. It aims to further sharpen innovative imagination, skills and knowledge of the students who are expected to contribute to bringing solutions to socio-economic, political and environmental issues in the country.
- **Jal Shakti Minister** has launched an initiative '**Ganga Amantran**'. The initiative has been launched to **connect with the stakeholders of the river**. It is a pioneering exploratory open-water **rafting and kayaking expedition** on the Ganga river. The expedition will start at Devaprayag and culminate at Ganga Sagar.
- **SARAS Aajeevika Mela** begins at India Gate Lawns, in **New Delhi** and organized by the **Ministry of Rural Development** under the initiative of the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission.

- **Government of India** has launched the **Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan (SUMAN)** initiative in **New Delhi** during the 13th Conference of Central Council of Health and Family Welfare. It aims to assure dignified, respectful and quality health care at no cost for every woman and newborn visiting the public health facility
- Vice President **M Venkaiah Naidu** has signed an **MoU** with the island nation **Comoros**. As per MoU, **India** will extend over **\$60 mn line of credit** to Comoros for Energy and Maritime Defence Cooperation.

States in News

- The Bhopal Municipal Corporation (**BMC**) and the Central Pollution Control Board (**CPCB**) have joined hands to set up the country's **first e-waste clinic** in **Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh**, which will enable segregation, processing and disposal of waste from both household and commercial units.

International Affairs

- **Antonio Costa** has been re-elected as the Prime Minister of **Portugal** after winning the general elections.

Agreements/MoUs Signed

- **National Health Authority** signed a Statement of Intent with **Google** to collaborate and strengthen the implementation of Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (**PMJAY**). Google will support NHA in **improving digital presence** of PMJAY.
- **Government e-Marketplace** signed an MoU with **Union Bank of India**. UBI will be able to offer an array of services including transfer of funds through GeM Pool Accounts, advising of Performance Bank Guarantees and Earnest Money Deposit to the registered users on the GeM portal.

Books and Authors

- A new book titled "**150 Years of Celebrating the Mahatma the South African Legacy**", by **Fakir Hassen** launched in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Banking/Economy/Business News

- **Reliance Mutual Fund** has been renamed as "**Nippon India Mutual Fund**" following the purchase of 75% stake in Reliance Nippon Life Asset Management by Nippon Life Insurance.
- **Infosys** has been selected as the main supplier to deliver **Volvo Cars' digital transformation** services for its enterprise digital commercial operations applications and products.
- The Reserve Bank of India has **rejected** the merger proposal of **Indiabulls Housing Finance** and **Lakshmi Vilas Bank**.

- The **Reserve Bank of India** has given the **go-ahead** to the **Kerala government** to amalgamate **13 district cooperative banks** (DCBs) with the Kerala State Cooperative Bank to form the proposed "Kerala Bank". **Except the Malappuram District Cooperative Bank**, all district banks had approved the scheme of amalgamation.
- **Moody**, the rating agency has lowered its 2019-20 **GDP growth forecast** for India to **5.8%** from 6.2%.

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Appointments/Resignations

- The **Punjab government** has appointed **Justice Vinod Kumar Sharma** (retired) as the new **Lokpal**.
- The Director-General of UNESCO, Audrey Azoulay, has named Mexican actress **Yalitza Aparicio** as a **UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador** for Indigenous Peoples. She is committed to the fight against racism and for the rights of women and indigenous peoples
- **Yes Bank Ltd** has appointed **Anita Pai** as the **Chief Operating Officer** and **Jasneet Bachal** as the **Chief Marketing Officer** of the bank.

Defence News

- 14th edition of **Indo-Mongolian** joint military training, Exercise **Nomadic Elephant-XIV** started. The Indian Army is being represented by a contingent of a battalion of RAJPUTANA RIFLES.
- India has got the **1st Rafale fighter jet "RB-001"** built for the Indian Air Force (IAF) at Production Unit of Dassault Aviation in France. **1st batch of jets** will arrive in India only in **May 2020**.
- The 2nd edition of **Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT)** of the navies of **India** and **Bangladesh** has begun in Northern Bay of Bengal.

Awards and Recognitions

- Short film from Kerala "**Spirit Of Kerala**" has won the **People's Choice Award** at the recently

concluded **My Rode Reel film competition**. The short film is based on a boat race and directed by **Arun Joseph**.

- **Russia** has honoured NASA astronaut **Nick Hague** with one of its highest honours, "**The Order of Courage**" for his "courage and high professionalism" shown during life-threatening conditions.
- The **Vice President** was conferred '**The Order of the Green Crescent**', the highest Civilian Honour of **Comoros**, by Azali Assoumani, President of Comoros in Moroni.
- Indian Forest Service officer **Ramesh Pandey** has been selected for the prestigious **Asia Environmental Enforcement Award** by the United Nations Environment Programme.
- **Ashleigh Barty** has been awarded Australian sport's highest individual honour '**The Don**' Award at the annual Sport Australia Hall of Fame.

Schemes and Committees

- The Central Government has constituted a **committee of officers** to suggest measures to **augment GST revenue collections** and **administration**. The committee have to submit its 1st report within 15 days to the GST Council Secretariat.

Science and Technology

- **Saturn** overtakes Jupiter as planet with **most moons**. A team of astronomers has **discovered** a haul of **20 new moons** orbiting the ringed planet, Saturn. This discovery has brought its total to 82 moons, while Jupiter, by contrast, has 79 natural satellites.

Ranks and Reports

- The **Reserve Bank of India** has released the results of the September 2019 round of its **Consumer Confidence Survey**. The survey was conducted in 13 major cities.
- **5 of the Richest Indians** in **Forbes India Rich List 2019** are: **Mukesh Ambani** with net worth of \$51.4 billion; **Gautam Adani** (\$15.7 billion); **Hinduja Brothers** (\$15.6 billion); **Pallonji Mistry** (\$15 billion); **Uday Kotak** (\$14.8 billion).

Summits and Conferences

- **Gujarat** will host the **State Power Ministers' Conference**. It will take place at Kevadia, on the banks of Narmada river.
- The **9th** Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (**RCEP**) **Intersessional Ministerial Meeting** will be held in Bangkok, **Thailand**. Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal will represent India in the meeting.

- Minister of State for Youth and Sports Kiren Rijiju inaugurated **1st India Sports Summit 2019** in **New Delhi**.
- The **2nd "India-China Informal Summit"** between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and China's President Xi Jinping begins at **Mamallapuram, Tamil Nadu**.

Sports News

- Japan's **Naomi Osaka** defeated world number one **Ashleigh Barty** with a score of 3-6, 6-3, 6-2 to win the **China Open** held in Beijing, China.
- Austria's **Christine Wolf** has won the **Hero Women's Indian Open** at Gurugram, Haryana.
- **Novak Djokovic** defeated Australia's John Millman in the finals to win the **Japan Open** title.
- **Harmanpreet Kaur** has become the 1st Indian to play **100 T20 International** matches.
- **Simone Biles** has clinched a record-extending **15th World Gymnastics Championship** title in Stuttgart, **Germany**. With the victory, she has become the event's most decorated woman.
- German World Cup champion **Bastian Schweinsteiger** has announced his **retirement** from soccer.

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Important Days

- **Air Force Day** is celebrated every year by the **Indian Air Force** on **8th of October**. This year Indian Air Force celebrated its 87th anniversary. The IAF was founded on October 8, 1932.
- The United Nations designated the **first Monday of October** of every year as **World Habitat Day**. **Theme:** Frontier Technologies as an innovative tool to transform waste to wealth. This year's Global Observance of World Habitat Day will be held in **Mexico City**.
- United Nations celebrates **World Post Day** every year on **9 October**. The purpose of World Post Day is to bring awareness to the Post's role in the

everyday lives of people and businesses, as well as its contribution to global social and economic development. The day marks the establishment of the Universal Postal Union in 1874 in the Swiss Capital, Bern.

- World Health Organization observes **World Mental Health Day** on **10th of October** every year. **Theme: Suicide Prevention.**
- The United Nations (Office for Outer Space Affairs) observes **4-10 October** every year as **World Space Week**. **Theme:** The Moon: Gateway to the Stars
- The United Nations observes **International Day of the Girl Child** on **11th of October** every year. **Theme:** GirlForce: Unscripted and Unstoppable.
- **World Migratory Bird Day** is observed on **12 October** every year. **Theme for 2019: Protect Birds: Be the Solution to Plastic Pollution!**

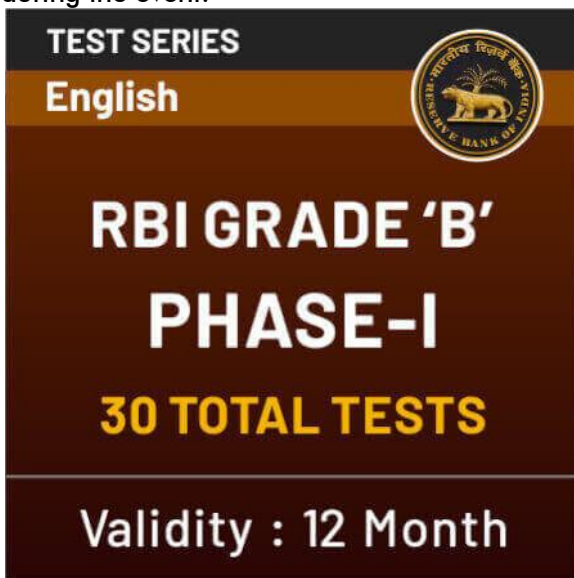
Obituaries

- US actress **Diahann Carroll**, who won Golden Globe and Tony awards and was nominated for an Oscar passed away.
- Legendary saxophonist and the Padma Shri awardee **Kadri Gopalnath** passed away.

Miscellaneous News

- Union Health Minister, Dr Harsh Vardhan has launched **eco-friendly green firecrackers** developed by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (**CSIR**) labs and manufactured by licensee-manufacturers in **India**.
- Health Minister Harsh Vardhan launched the **'trans-fat-free' logo**, which can be voluntarily used by food business operators in their outlets and also on food products. He also released a slogan **'Chefs 4 Trans Fat-Free'**.
- The 1st Government-sponsored and operated **Day-Care cum Recreation Centre** for senior citizens has been inaugurated in **Leh**. It will provide a raft of medical facilities including geriatric care, health consultations and check-ups, physiotherapy to the senior citizens.
- **Vishnu Nandan**, polar researcher from **Kerala**, only Indian aboard among the 300 researchers, will join largest ever Arctic expedition "MOSAIC Expedition". Led by the Alfred Wegener Institute in Germany, MOSAIC, the largest ever Arctic expedition in history, will be the first to conduct a study of this scale at the North Pole for an entire year.
- The Indian **National Centre for Ocean Information Services** collaborated with **Accord**, a private company, to develop **"GEMINI"**, a portable receiver developed to avoid communication blackouts and is linked to ISRO-satellites and is "fail-proof" and warn fishermen of danger.

- Union Minister Nityanand Rai has launched a Government Railway Police's website "railways.delhipolice.gov.in" and a mobile application "**Sahyatri**".
- The 38th **India Carpet Expo** will be held in Varanasi, **Uttar Pradesh**. The expo will be organized by the Carpet Export Promotion Council (CEPC).
- The **Maharashtra** and **Goa Circle** of the India Post is celebrating **National Postal Week** in each of the six regions under its jurisdiction – Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, Pune, Nagpur, Aurangabad and Goa.
- The 1st ever '**India International Cooperatives Trade Fair**' to promote export of products of cooperatives has been inaugurated in New Delhi. '**Yuva Sahakar**' Cooperative Enterprise Support and Innovation Scheme 2019 was also launched during the event.



Static Takeaways

- Capitals of South Africa: Cape Town, Pretoria, Bloemfontein; official currency: The rand.
- Mongolia Capital: Ulaanbaatar; Currency: Mongolian togrog.
- CM of Punjab: Amarinder Singh; Governor: VP Singh Badnore.
- Chief Minister of MP: Kamal Nath; Governor of MP: Lal Ji Tandon.
- WHO Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland; Director general: Tedros Adhanom.
- Governor of RBI: Shaktikant Das; Headquarters: Mumbai; Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata.
- Chairman of Indiabulls Group: Sameer Gehlaut.
- Union Jal Shakti Minister: Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.
- Chief Executive Officer of Yes Bank: Ravneet Gill.
- Headquarters of United Nations: New York, USA; Founded: 24 October 1945; Secretary General of the United Nations: Antonio Guterres.
- Air Force Chief: Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria.
- Chairman of CBDT: P.C. Mody.