

Weekly One Liners 23rd to 29th of December 2019

Most Important Current Affairs

Atal Bhujal Yojana launched by Government of India

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched **Atal Bhujal Yojana (ATAL JAL)** which aims to **improve groundwater management**. The scheme has been designed with the principal **objective** of strengthening the institutional framework for **participatory groundwater management**.
- It aims to bring behavioral changes at the community level for sustainable groundwater resource management in **7 States: Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh**.
- The scheme will **promote panchayat led ground water management** and behavioural change with primary focus on demand side management.
- The Government has outlaid **Rs. 6000 crore for the scheme**. Out of the total outlay of Rs. 6000 crore to be implemented over a period of 5 years (**2020-21 to 2024-25**), **50%** shall be in the form of **World Bank loan**, and to be repaid by the Central Government.
- The remaining 50% shall be through Central Assistance from regular budgetary support. The entire World Bank's loan component and Central Assistance will be passed on to the States as Grants.

Nadal and Barty named 2019 ITF World Champions

- **Ashleigh Barty** and **Rafael Nadal** were named **International Tennis Federation's (ITF) World Champions** in singles for 2019. The awards will be given at the 2020 ITF world champions 2nd June, in Paris.

CATEGORY	WINNER
Men Singles	Rafael Nadal (Spain)
Women Singles	Ashleigh Barty (Australia)
Women Doubles	Timea Babos (Hungary) and Kristina Mladenovic (France)
Men Doubles	Juan Sebastian Cabal and Robert Farah (Colombia)
Men's Wheelchair	Gustavo Fernandez (Argentina)
Women's Wheelchair	Diede de Groot (Netherland)
Quad	Dylan Alcott (Australia)

Tamil Nadu tops 'Good Governance Index' launched by GoI

- The Central Government has released the **"Good Governance Index"** on the occasion of **Good Governance Day** to assess the state of governance in **Indian States and Union Territories**.
- The prime objective of the GGI is to provide quantifiable data to **compare the state of governance** in all **states and Union Territories**, enable them to formulate and implement suitable strategies for improving governance and shift to result oriented approaches and administration.
- The Index was **launched** by the **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances**, and the Centre for Good Governance.
- The GGI takes into consideration ten sectors. These ten Governance Sectors are measured on total **50 indicators**. The 10 sectors are: **Agriculture and Allied Sectors; Commerce & Industries; Human Resource Development; Public Health; Public Infrastructure & Utilities; Economic Governance; Social Welfare & Development; Judicial & Public Security; Environment; Citizen-Centric Governance**.
- The states and UTs are divided into **three groups**: Big States, North-East & Hill States and Union Territories.

Some key results of the Index:

- Among the **"Big States"**, **Tamil Nadu topped** the Good Governance Index. The poor performers are Odisha, Bihar, Goa, and Uttar Pradesh with Jharkhand finishing last in the group.

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- Among the “North-East and Hill States”, **Himachal Pradesh topped** the index, followed by Uttarakhand, Tripura, Mizoram and Sikkim. The worst performers in this group are Jammu and Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, with Arunachal Pradesh finishing last in the group.
- Among the “Union Territories”, **Puducherry topped** the index followed by Chandigarh and Delhi. Lakshwadeep is the worst performing UT.

RBI caps lending on P2P platforms at Rs 50 lakh

- The **Reserve Bank of India** has capped the **permissible exposure limit** of a lender on a **Peer-to-Peer lending (P2P)** platform for all borrowers. The aggregate exposure has been set at **Rs 50 lakh** at any given point of time. The step has been taken to protect the consumers interest.
- The lender investing more than Rs 10 lakh across P2P platforms has to produce a certificate to P2P platforms from a practising Chartered Accountant certifying minimum net-worth of Rs 50 lakh.
- The central bank also stated that the “**Escrow accounts**” to be operated by bank promoted trustee for transfer of funds need not be mandatorily maintained with the bank which has promoted the trustee. It also mandates that all the transactions through bank accounts, and cash transaction are strictly prohibited.

Kamareddy wins Unicef-2019 Award for Swachh Bharat implementation

- **Kamareddy** district of **Telangana** has secured the **United Nations International Children’s and Education Fund (Unicef)-2019 Award** for effective implementation of Swachh Bharat Mission in **water sanitation and hygiene sectors**.

- **Kamareddy** district was on top in the country among other districts in construction of individual **sanitary lavatories, swachh darpan wall paintings, swachh survekshan, swachh sundar shouchalay** and many other activities.

National Affairs

- The **Government of India** has constructed **Girls’ Hostel for Nepal Armed Police Force School, Kirtipur, Nepal**. The new infrastructure is constructed with the Gol’s **grant** assistance of **40.42 million Nepali Rupees**.
- President Ram Nath Kovind released the **mobile app** of the **Red Cross Society of India**, developed by the **Telangana Centre for Good Governance**.
- Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban has achieved its target of creating **Urban India Open Defecation Free** as urban areas of 35 states and Union Territories have become ODF.
- Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister unveiled **India’s 1st long-distance CNG** bus fitted with CNG cylinders in **New Delhi**. It can travel around 1000 kilometres in a single fill and will **ply from Delhi to Dehradun**.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi named **Rohtang passageway** in **Himachal Pradesh** as **Atal Tunnel** to mark the 95th birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- **5 verticals of Quality Mandate** developed by **UGC** was launched in New Delhi to equip country’s next-generation with vital skills, knowledge and ethics for leading a rewarding life. The 5 documents covers **evaluation reforms, eco-friendly and sustainable university campuses, human values & professional ethics, faculty induction and academic research integrity**.
- The Union Health Minister has inaugurated the **2nd edition** of “**Eat Right Mela**” in **New Delhi** organized by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). ‘The **PURPLE Book**’ a handbook on diets for diseases was also launched during the event.
- Network for Scientific Co-operation for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (**NetSCoFAN**), a network of research & academic institutions working in the area of food & nutrition along with the **NetSCoFAN directory** was launched during the “Eat Right Mela”.
- **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT)** railway station in **Mumbai** has been conferred with ‘**Eat Right Station**’ certification with the five-star rating by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) for **food safety and hygiene**.
- All India Radio organized the **National Symposium of Poets 2020** which was attended by select poets of all 22 languages recognized in the constitution.

States in the News

- Chief Minister of Sikkim has laid the foundation stone of 2 **Integrated Organic Food Processing** units of **Sikkim IFFCO Organics Ltd.** (a joint venture between IFFCO and Government of Sikkim) in **Rangpo, East Sikkim.**
- Rajasthan Chief Minister inaugurated its first "**Janta clinic**" in the Malviya Nagar area of **Jaipur.** The clinic will provide **free primary health care** to people living in **slums.**
- **Andhra Pradesh** chief minister YS Jaganmohan Reddy launched the '**YSR Nethanna Nestham**' scheme at Dharmavaram in **Anantapur district** to provide **financial assistance** of **Rs 24,000** annually to **handloom weavers** across the state.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled a **statue** of former Prime Minister **Atal Bihari Vajpayee** at Lok Bhawan in **Lucknow,** Uttar Pradesh and also laid the foundation stone for the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical University in the Uttar Pradesh capital.
- In **Jharkhand,** Grand Alliance leader **Hemant Soren** will take oath as **Chief Minister** of the state.
- The 1st edition of **Mandu Festival** begins at Mandu, picturesque fort city of **Madhya Pradesh** and organized by **Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board.**

International Affairs

- **Ecuador** has activated the **emergency protocols** in the **Galapagos Islands** to contain the environmental impact of a fuel spill in the Galapagos Islands. The step was taken after the accident occurred in a port on **San Cristobal Island** when a crane collapsed while loading a container onto the barge.
- Eight West African countries: **Benin, Burkina Faso, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Mali, Niger, Senegal** and **Togo** have agreed to change the name of their **common currency** to **Eco** and severed their earlier currency CFA Franc's links to former colonial ruler France.
- **David Calhoun** will replace Dennis Muilenburg as the **CEO** of the world's largest aerospace company **Boeing.**
- **China** has successfully launched its **largest carrier rocket "Long March-5"** also known as "**CZ-5**" from Wenchang Space Launch Center in south China's Hainan Province. It carried a communication satellite "**Shijian-20**".
- **Russia's 1st missile** unit equipped with **Avangard Hypersonic** glide vehicle with latest strategic

missiles of intercontinental range, enters into service.

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Agreements/MoUs Signed

- **Wipro** has partnered with **Nasscom** to train students on **emerging technologies** such as artificial intelligence, data science, internet of things, cybersecurity as a part of its corporate social responsibility programme "**TalentNext**". The programme will be extended to students through **Future Skills**, a Nasscom platform.
- **Bank of Baroda** has signed an MoU with the **Gujarat** government to facilitate the flow of credit in the **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** sector for greenfield projects, startups, women entrepreneurs and entrepreneurs from backward areas.
- **Federal Bank** has tied up with online real estate platform **Magicbricks** for listing and e-auctioning of immovable properties repossessed by it in recovery proceedings.
- **Kotak Mahindra Bank** has tied up with **Pine Labs** to enable debit card facility for their debit cardholders across point-of-sale terminals by Pine Labs. Banks customers can avail EMI facility with a minimum purchase of Rs 8,000 and repay over 3 months to 12 months.

Books and Authors

- A book titled "**Turbulence and Triumph: The Modi Years**" jointly authored by **Rahul Agarwal** and **Bharathi S Pradhan** was released in New Delhi. The book is about the life journey of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi from his days as a young boy in Gujarat to becoming the Prime Minister of India.
- A book titled "**Dreams of a Billion: India and the Olympic Games**" authored by **Boria Majumdar** with **Nalin Mehta** will be published by HarperCollins India in January 2020.

- A book titled “**Politics of Opportunism: Regional Parties, Coalitions, Centre-State Relations In India**” and authored by **R P N Singh** was released by noted economist and political analyst S Gurumurthy.

Banking/Economy/Business News

- The **Government of India** has approved the release of **Rs 8,655 crore** as fresh capital to three public sector banks: **Allahabad Bank** (Rs 2,153 crore), **Indian Overseas Bank** (Rs 4,630 crore) and **UCO Bank** (Rs 2,142 crore) for preferential allotment of shares.
- The **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank** has announced a loan of **\$210 million** for irrigation and solar energy projects in India. The bank will lend **\$145 million** to improve **irrigation services** and strengthen flood risk management in **West Bengal** and **\$65 million** for a 250-megawatt **solar project in Rajasthan**.
- The **Reserve Bank of India** has introduced a new **semi-closed** prepaid payment instrument (**PPI**) which can be used for the transaction of goods and services up to a limit of **Rs 10,000**. The loading facility of the instrument will be linked only from a bank account.
- The **Reserve Bank of India** has directed **large cooperative banks** to report all exposures of **Rs 5 crore** and more to the **Central Repository of Information on Large Credits (CRILC)** with effect from December 31, 2019. The CRILC was created by the Reserve Bank of India.

Appointments/Resignations

- In **Cuba**, President has appointed **Manuel Marrero Cruz** as the country's **first prime minister** in more than 40 years since its scrapping in 1976.
- **Dr Monisha Ghosh** has been appointed as the **first woman Chief Technology Officer** at the US government's powerful Federal Communications Commission (**FCC**). She will replace Dr Eric Burger.
- **Sangita Reddy**, Joint Managing Director of Apollo Hospitals Group, has taken over as the **President** of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (**FICCI**) for 2019-20. She will succeed Sandip Somany.
- **Harsh Vardhan Shringla** has been appointed as the new **Foreign Secretary**. He will take over from incumbent Vijay Gokhale.
- **Niranjan Hiranandani** will succeed Balkrishan Goenka as the new **president** of The Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industry of India (**Assocham**), the country's apex organisation of industry and trade.

Defence News

- The **Indian Coast Guard** has conducted a regional level pollution response exercise named '**Swachchh Samundra NW-2019**' at sea off Vadinar in Gulf of Kutch.
- **Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile system** developed by **DRDO** was successfully flight-tested from Integrated Test Range, Chandipur off the **Odisha coast**.
- The **Indian Air Force** bids farewell to the iconic "**MiG-27**" with a decommissioning ceremony at the **Jodhpur air base**.

Awards and Recognitions

- **Aditya K.** of Kozhikode, Kerala has become the **1st child** from the State to bag the **Bharat Award for bravery** given away by the Indian Council for Child Welfare. Two more children Muhammed Mohsin & Fatah from Kerala are also the recipients of the awards.
- Noted archaeologist **R. Nagaswamy** was honoured at the **Silver Jubilee International Conference** of Art in Dhaka by **Bangladesh**.
- India's ophthalmologist **Dr Santosh G Honavar** has become the **1st Indian** to be conferred with the American Academy of Ophthalmology's (AAO) highest award **Life Achievement honour**.

Summit and Conference

- External Affairs Minister **S Jaishankar** co-chaired the **19th Joint Commission** meeting with **Foreign Minister of Iran** in Tehran, Iran.
- The **5th Round of India-Japan Maritime Affairs Dialogue** was held in Tokyo, Japan.

Ranks and Reports

- **India** has emerged as the **world's 3rd-largest** publisher of **science and engineering articles** as per the statistics compiled by the **US National Science Foundation (NSF)**. **China** is at the **top** position, followed by the **US**.

Sports News

- India's shuttler **Maisnam Meiraba Luwang** beats Ken Yong Ong to win the **Men's singles Bangladesh Junior International Badminton Series 2019** held in Dhaka, **Bangladesh**.
- **South African** all-rounder **Vernon Philander** announced international **retirement** from all forms of cricket.
- Former India skipper and wicket-keeper batsman **MS Dhoni** has been named **Captain of Cricket Australia's (CA) ODI** team of the decade. Apart from

Dhoni, Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma also made into the CA's team.

- Indian tennis ace **Leander Paes** has announced to **retire** from Tennis in **2020** as a professional tennis player.

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- **Abhinav Lohan** has won the **Bengaluru Open Golf Championship 2019** powered by Karnataka Tourism.
- Indian skipper **Virat Kohli** is one of the five players named in the **Wisden Cricketers of the Decade**. Other players in the list are: Australian batsman Steve Smith, and South Africans: Dale Steyn, and AB de Villiers. Australian all-rounder Ellyse Perry is the only female cricketer in the list.

Science and Technology

- The **World Health Organization** has approved a “**biosimilar**” medicine of Trastuzumab named “**Ontruzant**” to make cheaper breast cancer treatment at an affordable rate to women globally.

Important Days

- **National Mathematics Day** is celebrated on **22nd December** every year to mark the birth anniversary of legendary mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan.
- **Kisan Diwas** or **National Farmers' Day** is observed across India on **December 23** to honour Chaudhary Charan Singh, the 5th Prime Minister of India.
- **Good Governance Day** is observed in India annually on the **25th of December** to mark the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna and former-Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- **India** observes **24th December** every Year as **National Consumer Day** with a theme “**alternate consumer grievance/dispute redressal**”.

Obituaries

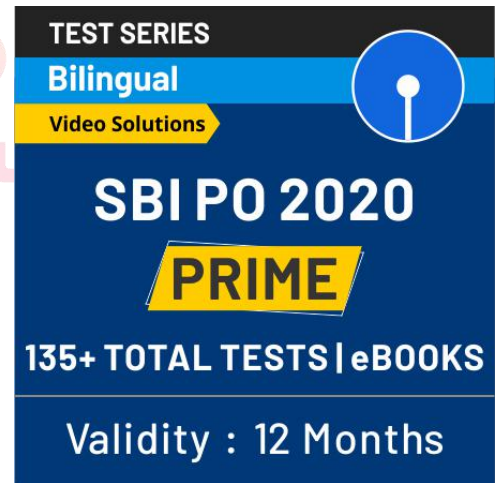
- Renowned Hindustani classical vocalist **Vidushi Savita Devi** known for her thumris and her book ‘Maa...Siddheshwari’ passed away.
- Former West Ham and Tottenham midfielder **Martin Peters** passed away.
- Renowned Hindi author **Ganga Prasad Vimal** from **Uttarakhand**, passed away recently.
- The American songwriter **Allee Willis** who penned the iconic “I’ll Be There For You” track for the long-running television show “Friends” passed away recently.
- **China’s** brilliant storyteller, **Da Chen**, who created the critically acclaimed memoir “Colours of the Mountain” passed away recently.
- Veteran Political cartoonist **Vikas Sabnis** has passed away recently.

Miscellaneous News

- Prof. **Krishnasamy VijayRaghavan**, Principal Scientific Adviser to the Govt of India launched a national program called “**EChO Network**” in New Delhi. The EChO network provides a template for cross-disciplinary leadership in India.
- **Integral Coach Factory (ICF)** of **Indian Railways** has produced its **3000 Coaches** in record 215 days and retained its position as the largest coach- maker in the world.
- To battle rising air pollution in cities, an ‘**Oxygen Parlour**’ has been opened at **Nashik railway station** with the efforts of Airo Guard in collaboration with the Indian Railways. The parlour will provide an experience of breathing clean air to the commuters.
- Finance minister of India released a **postage stamp** to commemorate distinguished service and glorious contribution of **Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI)** in protecting the nation.
- **Indian Railways** started a glass-enclosed vistadome “**Him Darshan Express**” train on the heritage **Kalka-Shimla** route, with glass rooftop to have a panoramic view of the hilly region.
- Central government will launch the “**Digital Radio**” in **2024**.
- Raksha Mantri has launched the “**DefExpo 2020**” mobile app of the forthcoming **DefExpo 2020**, developed by **Department of Defence Production**, Ministry of Defence (MoD).

Static Takeaways

- Headquarters of Integral Coach Factory: Chennai, Tamil Nadu; Established: 2nd October 1955.
- Iran Capital: Tehran; Currency: Rial; President: Hassan Rouhani.
- Chief Minister of Kerala: Pinarayi Vijayan; Governor: Arif Mohammad Khan; Kerala: Thiruvananthapuram.
- Headquarters of ITF: London, United Kingdom; President: David Haggerty.
- President of Cuba: Miguel Díaz-Canel; Capital: Havana; Currency: Cuban peso.
- Chief Minister of Sikkim: Prem Singh Tamang; Governor of Sikkim: Ganga Prasad.
- Nepal Prime Minister: K P Sharma Oli; Capital: Kathmandu.
- WHO Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland, Director general: Tedros Adhanom.
- DRDO Chairman: G Satheesh Reddy; Established: 1958; Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Indian Coast Guard was founded on 18 August 1978; Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Bank of Baroda is headquartered at Vadodara, Gujarat.
- FICCI was established in 1927; FICCI Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Governor of Andhra Pradesh: Biswa Bhusan Harichandan.
- CM of Rajasthan: Ashok Gehlot; Governor: Kalraj Mishra.
- Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs: Hardeep Singh Puri.
- CM of Telangana: K Chandrashekar Rao; Governor: Tamilsai Soundararajan.
- World Consumers Rights Day is celebrated on 15 March.
- CM of UP: Yogi Adityanath; Governor of UP: Anandiben Patel.
- Headquarters of Boeing: Chicago, United States.
- Himachal Pradesh CM: Jai Ram Thakur; Governor: Bandaru Dattatraya.
- Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister: Dharmendra Pradhan.
- Chairman of Prasar Bharati: A Surya Prakash.
- Railway Minister: Piyush Goyal.
- The Union finance minister of India: Nirmala Sitharaman.
- ICC Chief Executive Officer: Manu Sahney, Headquarters: Dubai, United Arab Emirates.
- RBI 25th Governor: Shaktikant Das; Headquarters: Mumbai; Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata.
- President of AIIB: Jin Liqun; Headquarter: Beijing, China.
- MD & CEO of Indian Overseas Bank: Karnam Sekar.
- Chairman of UCO Bank: Atul Kumar Goel.
- American Academy of Ophthalmology Headquarters: San Francisco, California, US.
- Japan Capital: Tokyo, Currency: Japanese yen, PM: Shinzo Abe.
- CM of Maharashtra: Uddhav Thackeray; Governor: Bhagat Singh Koshyari; Capital: Mumbai.
- Chief Executive Officer of FSSAI: Pawan Kumar Agarwal; Chairperson: Rita Teaotia.
- Union Defence Minister of India: Raj Nath Singh.
- Capital of China: Beijing; Currency: Renminbi.
- President of Russia: Vladimir Putin; Capital: Moscow; Currency: Russian Ruble.



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