

# Monthly One - Liner Gk Digest



**BANK  
EXAMS  
Today**

**October 2019**

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## MONTHLY ONE-LINER GK DIGEST- OCTOBER 2019

### INTERNATIONAL NEWS

#### IMF downgrades India's growth Projection to 6.1%

- In the IMF's World Economic Outlook report released on 15th October 2019, IMF has **downgraded** India's growth projection by **1.2% from its April projections**.
- India suffered the sharpest cut, next only to **Saudi Arabia**, which saw a cut of 1.7 percentage points in the growth rate.

#### International Jury of 50th International Film Festival of India (IFFI)

- **John Bailey**, Cinematographer will chair the International Jury of 50th International Film Festival of India (IFFI), **Golden Jubilee edition**.

- Malayalam film Jallikattu directed by **Lijo Jose Pellissery** and Marathi film **Mai Ghat: Crime No. 103/2005** directed by **Ananth Narayan Mahadevan** are the two Indian films competing at 50th IFFI (Golden Peacock Award).

#### UP Govt Organized First Training Programme

- The Culture Department of **Uttar Pradesh government** has organized the first training programme of **KHON (खोन (Ramlila** in collaboration with the **Thailand government**.
- KHON Ramlila of Thailand is included in the list of **UNESCO's Intangible cultural heritage**.

#### Sri Lanka removed from FATF's Grey List

- Sri Lanka has been removed from the **Financial Action Task Force's** grey list at the five-day plenary concluded in Paris.
- The FATF was established in **1989**, is an inter-governmental body to combat terror financing, money laundering and related financial and cybercrimes.

#### Rohingya refugees to be Relocated to Camp at Bhashan Char Island

- The relocation camp built at Bhashan Char will accommodate **about 1lakh people** and has the facilities of warehouse, embankment, etc.
- Rohingya are an **ethnic group (largely Muslims)**, who moved to certain parts of India and Bangladesh from **Myanmar**, where they are classified as resident foreigners or as associate citizens.

#### 2nd Assembly of International Solar Alliance (ISA)

- ISA is the Indian government's initiative, launched by Indian Prime Minister and the **President of France** on 30th November **2015** at **Paris, France**.
- The Alliance was formed on the **side-lines of the COP-21**, with 121 solar resource rich countries lying fully or partially between the **tropic of Cancer and tropic of Capricorn** as prospective members.

## NATIONAL NEWS

#### Railway to launch Pilot Project to introduce Industry 4.0

- The pilot project has been launched by the **Ministry of Railways and the Department of Science and Technology in partnership with IIT Kanpur**.
- The department of Science and Technology has recently launched '**Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (ICPS)**' to enhance research and development work in this field.

#### 'Consumer App' Launched by MCAFPD

- **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution** launched 'Consumer App': A one stop solution for consumer grievance redressal'.
- Consumers get **information about 42 Sectors** including e-commerce, Banking, Insurance, Consumer Durables, Electronic Products, etc.

### Delhi-Katra Vande Bharat Express

- The train operation aims the **speedy development of the Jammu and Kashmir** region and make it par with the other states.
- This will also improve **connectivity along with spiritual tourism** of devotees to Vaishno Devi.

### India and Mauritius jointly launched Projects

- The grant (total \$353 million) was awarded by the Government of India to Mauritius in March **2017**.
- In 2017, India provided a **Special Economic Package of \$353 million** for the execution of five projects in Mauritius, of which the Metro Express project and the ENT hospital are the part.

### 'Sarbat Da Bhala Express'

- Union Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal requested to rename the train on the occasion of the **550th Parkash Purb** i.e. the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji.
- In **Sultanpur Lodhi** only, Guru Nanak Ji spent 14 years of his life and taught that all communities are one.

### Financial assistance for the State of Karnataka and Bihar

- Union Minister for Home Affairs, Shri Amit Shah has approved the advance release of **Rs.400 crore and Rs.1200 crore to the State of Bihar and Karnataka** respectively, from **National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF)**.
- During the South West Monsoon 2019, **13 States have been affected** from unprecedented floods/landslide.

### eDant Seva Website & Mobile Application

- The first ever **oral health awareness website and mobile application** are launched by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (**AIIMS**) in collaboration with the Union Health Ministry.
- The 'e-DantSeva' digital platform will contain the information about the **National Oral Health Programme, list of dental colleges and facility etc.**

### Special Economic Zone (SEZ) at West Jalefa, Tripura

- The Tripura government submitted a proposal in June this year, to the **Ministry of Industries and Commerce** for the setting of an agro-based SEZ at **Jalefa**.
- An estimated investment of around **Rs. 1550 crore** will be made in setting up **first-ever SEZ**.

### Youth Co:Lab jointly launched by NITI Aayog and UNDP

- The **Youth Co: Lab** is launched with the aim of **accelerating social entrepreneurship and innovation in young India and promote youth leadership**.
- The Youth Co:Lab will give a chance to the young entrepreneurs and innovators, to connect with **governments, investors, mentors, incubators etc.** who will help equip them with entrepreneurial skills.

### Vayoshreshtha Samman-2019

- It is a scheme of awards gradually upgraded to the status of **National Awards** and is instituted by the **Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry**.
- **International Day of Older Persons was observed on 1st October** and these awards are presented as a part of it.

### 50th International Film Festival of India 2019

- The **Golden Jubilee edition of the festival** will showcase 200 best films from 76 countries, 26 feature films and 15 non-feature films in the Indian Panorama section.
- **Information and Broadcasting Ministry** said that for the **first time**, films with audio deion will be screened for the visually impaired.

### National e-Assessment Centre (NeAC)

- **The National e-Assessment Centre (NeAC)** is launched for better taxpayer service and promotion of ease of doing business.
- NeAC, an **Income tax department**, will avoid **face-to-face interaction between taxpayers and tax officials** and shall impart greater efficiency, transparency and accountability in the assessment process.

### Innovation Learning Programme, DHRUV

- The programme is **started at the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)** and will **conclude on 24th of this month at IIT, Delhi**.
- Under the DHRUV programme, **60 talented students will be chosen from Science, Mathematics and Performing Arts** and they will be mentored in the centre of excellence for 14 days so that they can reach their full potential.

### Disaster Warning Device Launched by the Government

- GEMINI stands for **Gagan Enabled Mariner's Instrument for Navigation and Information**.
- The device is developed by the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (**INCOIS**) which is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), and Airports Authority of India (**AAI**).

### Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship Programme

- The programme is designed under the **Skills Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP)** which is World Bank loan assisted project for skill development.
- The **MGNF programme** will provide the students an in-built component of on-ground practical experience with the district administration.

### 'Garbage Cafe' in Chhattisgarh's Ambikapur

- The collected plastic waste will be sold at **Solid-Liquid Resources Management Centre** which will then be turned into granules and will then be used in the construction of roads in the city.

- **Ambikapur** is the **first dustbin-free city of Chattisgarh** and was ranked as the **2nd cleanest city in the country in Swachhata rankings**.

#### **SARAS Aajeevika Mela**

- The SARAS initiative is undertaken by the **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)**, Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD).
- The marketing arm of the Ministry, **Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART)** is administering the Mela.

#### **Mobile App, "mHariyali" Launched**

- The mobile app, **"mHariyali"** has been launched for **'Environment Protection in Government Colonies'**.
- **"Haryali Mahotsav"**, a mass plantation drive was launched in San Martin Park, Chanakyapuri on 28th July 2019 by Secretary HUA in which approx 500 plants were planted.

#### **10th Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav**

- Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav is the **flagship and premier festival of Ministry of Culture**, launched in the **year 2015**.
- The **Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat programme** was launched on 31st October, 2016 with the aim to promote engagement and enhance mutual understanding amongst the people of different States/UTs for securing a strong cultural bond.

#### **Air India: 1st Airline to use Taxibot**

- The taxibot was used on an A-320 aircraft with passengers on board.
- The bot was flagged off by Air India Chairman and Managing Director **Ashwani Lohani**, at Terminal 3 of the **Delhi Airport - to Mumbai**.

#### **2nd Phase of LOTUS-HR Launched**

- LOTUS-HR is a water laboratory that aims to produce clean water through a holistic waste-water management approach that can be reused for various purposes.
- The LOTUS-HR initiative is jointly supported by **Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research** and the **Department of Biotechnology**, the Ministry of Science and Technology.

#### **CBIC launched programme to attract Investments into India**

- **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)** has launched a revamped programme to attract investments into India.
- CBIC has launched a **dedicated microsite** <https://www.investindia.gov.in/bonded-manufacturing> in collaboration with **Invest India** to provide information about the scheme.

### RIL became 1st Indian Company to hit Rs 9 lakh crore m-cap mark

- The RIL shares rose nearly **2%** in Friday trading session to hit Rs1,423 whereas, India's benchmark Sensex Index rose 0.5% or 200 points to hit 39,252 points.
- According to **Bank of America Merrill Lynch** RIL can become the first Indian company to achieve a market capitalisation of **\$200 billion in the next two years.**

### 91st Interpol General Assembly

- **The International Criminal Police Organisation (Interpol)** is an international police cooperation organisation, based in **Lyon, France.** It has 194 member states and 100 years of experience of international cooperation in policing.
- **Rishi Kumar Shukla, the director of the CBI** is the representative of Interpol in India.

### PM Modi meets the delegation of USISPF

- PM Modi meet the delegation of **US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF)** on 21st October 2019 in New Delhi.
- The US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (**USISPF**) was **established in 2017** with the objective of creating meaningful opportunities of entrepreneurship, employment-creation, and innovation for the citizens of both the countries and to strengthen their economic and commercial ties.

### Zomato tie up with BioD

- The partnership is for the purpose of collecting the **used cooking oil** from restaurants around the country and convert it into **biodiesel.**
- This a step in the direction of **environment friendly measure** with the aim to collect **1,000 tonnes of used cooking oil per month.**

### Training of 2nd group of Nepalese Officers at NACIN Started

- The training is given on Anti-Money Laundering and Countering Financing of Terrorism at NACIN Regional centre in Bengaluru.
- The course is being provided under the **Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC)** Programme of Ministry of External Affairs and is **fully supported by the Government of India.**

### 25 years of Pulse Polio Programme

- The **Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI)** was launched by the **World Health Assembly (WHA)** in **1988.**
- In India, the **Delhi government** had first launched the immunization programme on a **pilot basis** on **2nd October 1994** with the tagline 'Do Boond Zindagi Ki'.

### Hindustan Petroleum, Power Grid Corp got 'Maharatna' Status

- The government has accorded '**Maharatna**' status to state-owned **Hindustan Petroleum and Power Grid Corporation.**

- The Department of Public Enterprises, under the **Ministry of Heavy Industry and Public Enterprises**, issued the orders to this effect on 23rd October 2019.

#### **BSNL, MTNL to be Merged**

- As per the merger, **MTNL will act as a subsidiary of BSNL** (both together holds 14% market share in mobile business in India).
- The **revival package of Rs 70,000 crore** includes raising sovereign bonds, monetising assets and voluntary retirement scheme (VRS) for employees.

#### **World Bank signed Loan Agreement for Odisha Farmers**

- In Odisha, farming is largely dominated by farmers with landholdings of less than two hectares and the frequency of droughts in the state has increased **from 1 in 5 years to 1 in 2 years**.
- The \$165 million loan from **the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)**, has a maturity of 24 years and a 6-year grace period.

#### **Ease of Doing Business-Implementation of RFID**

- Minister of State (Independent Charge) for **Shipping and Chemicals and Fertilizers**, Mansukh Mandaviya, inaugurated the **Ease of Doing Business-Implementation of Radio Frequency Identification (RFID)** based **Port Access Control System (PACS)** at Kolkata Dock System (KDS).
- RFID based Port Access Control System (PACS) will provide **single window system** to the Port users for obtaining **permit/ pass through 100% cashless transaction**.

#### **Odisha-Mo Parivar Launched**

- Chief Minister and BJD supremo Naveen Patnaik have launched '**Odisha-Mo Parivar**' initiative on 26th October 2019.
- Under the Programme, the party leaders of **Biju Janata Dal (BJD)** will dedicate themselves to protect the environment with trees planting and generate awareness among the public.

#### **Vote through Postal Ballots for Octogenarians & Persons with Disability**

- The Ministry has amended the **Conduct of Election Rules, 1961** to allow them for postal ballots and ease the process of voting to all such categories of electors.
- As per the amended Rule, the person will make an application in a **new Form 12 D**, which will reach the Returning Officer within 5 days following the date of notification of election.

#### **14th National Health Profile, 2019**

- The NHP is published **since 2005 by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**.
- The **e-book of NHP** was also released by the ministry, as **digital documents** give us an opportunity for wider dissemination of information.



### Overseas Citizen Permitted to Enroll in NPS

- **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** is a statutory Authority that functions to regulate, promote and ensure orderly growth of the National Pension System (NPS).
- Earlier, NPS was notified for **central government employees** joining service after 1st Jan **2004** and was later adopted by state governments employees.

## BANKING

### RBI cuts Repo Rate by 25 Basis Points

- The cut has been made to **5.15% from 5.40% earlier**, while the **reverse repo rate has been adjusted to 4.90% and bank rate at 5.40 %**.
- RBI has **revised the GDP outlook from 6.9%** in previous Monetary Policy committee meet in August to **6.1% for 2019-20**.

### Swiss Bank Shared Financial Info with India

- **Switzerland Federal Tax Administration (FTA)** has exchanges information on financial accounts with 75 countries, about their nationals within the **AEOI (Automatic Exchange of Information) framework**.
- The AEOI implementation is reviewed by the **Global Forum of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development**.

### Bharat-22 Exchange Traded Fund (ETF)

- The amount raised through Bharat-22 would help the government meet its disinvestment target of **Rs 1.05 lakh crore for the current financial year**.
- **State Bank of India (SBI), Indian Bank and Bank of Baroda** are the only three public sector banks that figure in Bharat-22 index.

### Govt. announced 5% DA for Central Employees

- The Union cabinet has also decided to relax the date for mandatory requirement of Aadhaar seeding for release of benefits under **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PMKSN)** till 30th November 2019.
- The scheme provides income support of **Rs 6,000 per year to landholding families** and the amount is released in 4 instalments of Rs 2000 each.

### Bangladesh becomes 2nd Fastest Growing Economy

- The World Bank released the report '**South Asia Economic Focus, Making (De) Centralization Work**' on 13th October 2019.
- The report shows that the GDP growth rate of Bangladesh is projected to be **7.2% for the FY 2019 and 7.3% for FY 2020**.

### RBI guidelines on 'on tap' Authorisation on Payment Systems

- **Bharat Bill Payment Operating Unit (BBPOU)** - Entities who are desirous to operate or provide platforms for BBPOU, should have a **100 crore rupees** net worth and should be maintained at all times.
- **Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS)** - the minimum paid up equity capital should be **25 crore rupees**.

### No MDR on Digital Payment to Large Firms

- The government has said that banks or system providers **will not impose Merchant Discount Rates (MDR) on customers/merchants on digital payment to large firms** having a turnover in excess of **Rs 50 crore**.
- Amendments have been made into the **Income Tax Act** as well as the **Payment and Settlement System Act 2007** to enact the new provisions.

### SEBI norms dealing with Auditor Resignation

- The Security and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has tightened the disclosure norms dealing with **resignations of statutory auditors in listed companies**.
- As per the new norm, if the **auditor resigns within 45 days from the end of the quarter** in a Financial Year, the auditor has to issue the audit report for such a quarter before the resignation.

### Penalty Imposed on TMB

- RBI has imposed **Rs 35 Lakh penalty** on TMB for non-compliance of provisions issued by RBI on **“Reserve Bank of India (Frauds classification and reporting by commercial banks and select FIs) directions 2016”**.
- RBI is vested with powers under the provisions of **Section 47A(1)(c)** read with **Section 46(4)(i)** of the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949** to impose such penalty.

### RBI imposed Penalty on Jalgaon Peoples Co-operative Bank Ltd

- RBI has imposed the penalty with the power vested in RBI under the provisions of Section 47A(1)(c) read with Section 46(4)(i) and Section 56 of the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**.
- On 1st March 2018, the **statutory inspection of the bank** was conducted by RBI, with reference to the financial position of the Bank.

### RBI imposed Penalty on Janata Sahakari Bank Ltd

- RBI has imposed a monetary penalty of **Rs 1 crore on Janata Sahakari Bank Ltd., Pune** by an order dated 16th October 2019.
- RBI has imposed the penalty with the power vested in RBI under the provisions of Section 47A(1)(c) read with Section 46(4)(i) and Section 56 of the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**.

### RBI imposed Penalty on Bandhan Bank Limited

- The penalty has been imposed for the for non-compliance with the guidelines on promoter holding contained in '**Guidelines for Licensing of New Banks in Private Sector**', read with the conditions imposed by RBI in exercise of powers under **section 22 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949**.
- RBI is vested with powers under the provisions of Section 47A(1)(c) read with Section 46(4)(i) of the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949** to impose the penalty.

## REPORTS

### India ranks 63rd in World Bank's Doing Business Report

- The DBR ranks countries on the basis of **Distance to Frontier (DTF)** and this year India's DTF score improved to **71.0 from 67.23 in 2018**.
- India has improved its **rank in 7 out of 10 indicators** that includes Construction Permits, Registering Property, Getting Electricity, Starting a Business, Paying Taxes, Trading Across Borders and Resolving Insolvency.

## INDEX AND RANKING

### World Digital Competitiveness Rankings

- The **largest jump** was registered by **Indonesia and China** i.e. from 62nd to 56th and 30th to 22nd respectively.
- The **Index ranks 63 nations** and measures their capacity to adopt digital technologies as a key driver for economic transformation in government, business, and society.

### School Education Quality Index (SEQI)

- The index provides States and UTs with a platform to identify their strengths and weaknesses and aims to bring an '**outcomes**' focus to education policy.
- This is the **1st edition of SEQI** which foster the spirit of competitive and cooperative federalism and consists of 30 critical indicators.

### Swachh Bharat cleanliness Assessment 2019

- The **North Western Railways headquartered at Jaipur** has maintained top rank consecutively for the second year.
- **Jaipur Junction and Gandhinagar Jaipur stations** have made the facility to treat single use plastic, and bottle crushing machines have been planted at the station.

### India Innovation Index 2019

- The index **aims** to benchmark the performance of **29 state and 7 Union territories** with each other through a holistic tool to identify challenges in the economic growth and promote competitive federalism.
- Among the category of **major states**, **Maharashtra** performs the best in the dimension of Enablers. **Sikkim** took the top spots among the **northeastern & hill states**, and **Delhi** among the **union territories/city states/small states**.

### India ranked 57th in Global Health Security Index

- **US has topped the list** and is followed by **UK and Netherlands at 2nd and 3rd positions** respectively.
- The report is a project of the Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI) and the Johns Hopkins University Center for Health Security, with research by the **Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)**.

## APPOINTMENTS

Name of the Person	Designation
J.P.S. Chawla	New Controller General of Accounts (CGA)
Amit Khare	Secretary, Department of School Education and Literacy
Anup Kumar Singh	Director-General of the National Security Guard (NSG)
Pankaj Kumar	New CEO of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)
Pramod Kumar Das	Minority Affairs Secretary
Rajesh Bhushan	Secretary (Coordination) in the Cabinet Secretariat
Tuhin Kanta Pandey	Secretary in the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management
Braj Raj Sharma	Chairman of Staff Selection Commission
Sanjeev Nandan Sahai	Power Secretary
Sanjeev Gupta	Secretary of Inter-State Council Secretariat
Sailesh	Secretary of the Department of Public Enterprises
Alok Tandon	Secretary in the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances
Nagendra Nath Sinha	Secretary in Department of Border Management
Kais Saied	President of Tunisia
Alberto Fernandez	Presidential election of Argentina
Girish Chandra Murmu	Lt. Governor of Jammu-Kashmir
R K Mathur	Lt. Governor of Ladakh
P.S. Sreedharan Pillai	New Governor of Mizoram
Dineshwar Sharma	Administrator of Lakshadweep

## AWARDS AND HONOURS

Award	Awardee
Saraswati Samman Award	Telegu poet K Siva Reddy
Asia Environmental Enforcement Award	Ramesh Pandey
Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine 2019	Scientists William G Kaelin, Gregg L Semenza and Jr Peter J Ratcliffe
Nobel Prize for Physics 2019	Scientists Michel Mayor, James Peebles and Didier Queloz
Nobel Prize in Literature 2019	Austrian author Peter Handke
Nobel Prize for Chemistry 2019	Scientists Stanley Whittingham, John Goodenough and Akira Yoshino
Booker Prize 2019	Bernardine Evaristo and Margaret Atwood
Nobel Prize for Economics 2019	Michael Kremer of the United States, Abhijit Banerjee and Esther Duflo

## IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme
2 <sup>nd</sup> October 2019	Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi and Former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri	--
2 <sup>nd</sup> October To 13 <sup>th</sup> October 2019	Paryatan Parv 2019	--
7 <sup>th</sup> October To 11 <sup>th</sup> October 2019	World Cotton Day	--
9 <sup>th</sup> October 2019	World Post Day	--
16 <sup>th</sup> October 2019	World Food Day	--
23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2019	International Snow Leopard Day	--
27 <sup>th</sup> October 2019	Infantry Day	--
28 <sup>th</sup> October to 2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2019	Vigilance Awareness Week	<b>Theme-</b> "Integrity- a way of life"

## MOU'S SIGNED

### Bilateral talks between India and Bangladesh

- A total of **seven agreements** were signed between India and Bangladesh in several areas including education, health, defence, trade and connectivity, development cooperation etc.
- She was the **chief guest at the 33rd India Economic Summit** which was organised by the **World Economic Forum** in New Delhi on 3rd October 2019.

### GeM signs MOU with Union Bank of India

- The MoU will offer **paperless, cashless and transparent payment and procurement system** for government entities on the GeM portal.
- GeM has already signed MoU with **14 Public Sector and private banks** to enable online integration for payments and various banking services.

### MoUs signed between India and Sierra Leone

- Vice President, M. Venkaiah Naidu on his visit to Sierra Leone has signed 6 agreements with **Mr Julius Maada Bio**, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone.
- India was among the first countries to contribute to the **UN Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL)** with the deployment of the 4000 strong Indian Military contingents.

### India-Netherlands bilateral Ties

- India and the Netherlands have a **bilateral trade turnover of USD 12.87 billion (2018-2019)**.
- The Netherlands is **India's 4th largest trading partner in the European Union** with a cumulative investment of \$ 23 billion for the period 2000 to 2017 (Dec).

### GeM Signed MoU with Federal Bank

- The **Government e-Marketplace (GeM)** signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the **Federal Bank for Payment Services**.
- Government launched GeM portal in **August 2016** for seamless procurement of goods and services by the government departments in a transparent manner.

### Ministry of Railways signed MoU with ISB

- ISB has been training the Indian Railway officers for their mid-career training requirements through its **Centre for Executive Education (CEE)**.
- **Indian School of Business (ISB)** is a global business school that provides management education across its two campuses – Hyderabad and Mohali.

## GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

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### Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2019 – 20

- The **maximum limit** of subscribed shall be **4 KG for individual and HUF** each and **20 Kg for trusts and similar entities per fiscal** (April-March) notified by the Government from time to time.
- In case of **joint holding**, the **investment limit of 4 KG** will be applied to the **first applicant only**.

### PM-ASMI to integrate Existing Schemes to fight against Maternal Mortality

- The Scheme **aims** to bring down maternal and infant death to zero by providing quality medical service to them in public healthcare.

- Through **PM-ASMI** both **infrastructure and quality of service** will be improved with taking care of dignity of women.

#### **Assam Launched free Medicines Scheme for tea garden Workers**

- The Free Drug scheme will provide medicines including **142 essential drugs, 47 surgical items, 45 consumables/linens and 6 numbers of disinfectants** free of cost to 651 tea garden hospitals in the State garden.
- 20 crores will be allotted each year on this scheme. This scheme is similar to already available scheme **Mobile Medical Unit (MMU)** which was operational in 442 tea garden and has a wage compensation of Rs12,000 which given in four instalments to pregnant women working tea garden.

#### **Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan, SUMAN launched**

- Under the **SUMAN scheme**, pregnant women, mothers up to 6 months after delivery, and all sick newborns will be able to **avail free healthcare benefits**.
- In order to end all preventable maternal and newborn deaths, the initiative aims to provide quality health service at **no cost for denial of services** for every woman and newborn visiting the public health facility.

#### **Delhi government agreed to Implement PM-KISAN**

- The PM-KISAN scheme was announced on **1st February 2019**, during the interim budget presented by stand-in Finance Minister Piyush Goyal.
- The scheme credits an amount of **Rs 6000 in 3 instalments** into farmers account through DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer) i.e. **Rs 2000 in each instalment**.

## **DEFENCE**

#### **India received its 1st Rafale Fighter Jets**

- India had signed an agreement **worth Rs 59,000 crore with France in September 2016** for the procurement of **36 Rafale fighter jets**.
- This was the formal handover ceremony and the **1st batch of 4 Rafale jets will fly in India by May 2020** and the other sets are expected to arrive by **September 2022**.

#### **2nd Edition of Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT)**

- **BNS Ali Haider, BNS Shadinota** from Bangladesh and **INS Ranvijay** (a guided-missile destroyer) and **INS Kuthar** (an indigenously built missile Corvette) from India will participate in the exercise.
- In the current edition, mutual cooperation whilst patrolling near the **International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL)** will be practised.

### DHARMA GUARDIAN – 2019

- DHARMA GUARDIAN-2019, **Joint Military Exercise** between **India and Japan** is scheduled to be conducted at Vairengte, Mizoram from 19th October to 2nd November 2019.
- 25 soldiers from each country would be teamed for the **Indian Army and Japanese Ground Self Defence Forces (JGSDF)**, to participate in the exercise.

### President's Colours to the Army Aviation Corps

- The president awarded the **Colours** during the ceremony at the **Combat Army Aviation Training School**.
- **President's Colours** is an acknowledgement of the meritorious service rendered by the Army Aviation Corps over the years.

### Joint Exercise EX-EASTERN BRIDGE-V

- EX-EASTERN BRIDGE-V, the **joint exercise between the Indian Air Force (IAF) and Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO)**, has started from 17th October till 26th October 2019.
- From India, **MiG-29 fighter aircraft** will participate in the exercise and this is the first time it is participating in an International Exercise outside India.

### DAC approved Indigenous Military Equipment Procurement

- The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by the Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved the procurement of indigenously developed military equipment **worth Rs 3300 crore for the armed forces**.
- The **third-generation Anti-Tank Guided Missiles** would provide Fire and Forget and Top Attack capabilities to the troops.

### Rudrashila: White Water Rafting Expedition

- The white water rafting expedition- '**Rudrashila**' was flagged in on 25th October 2019 at **Jodhpur Military Station**.
- The soldiers covered a total distance of over 140km from **Rudraprayag to Rishikesh** in river Ganga along Uttarakhand mountains.

### Indo-French Joint Exercise Shakti-2019

- Exercise SHAKTI is a biennial exercise between **India and France** and is conducted alternatively in India and France since **2011**.
- The Indian side is represented by the **Sikh Regiment of Sapta Shakti Command** (Indian Army) and the French army is represented by troops of **21st Marine Infantry Regiment of 6th Armoured Brigade**.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### BRAHMOS Supersonic Cruise Missile Successfully Test-Fired



- BRAHMOS is a medium range, supersonic cruise missile, made with a joint venture of **DRDO, India and Russian Federation's NPO Mashinostroyeniya**.
- The name BrahMos is formed from combining the names of two rivers, the **Brahmaputra of India and the Moskva of Russia**.

#### **DNA Technology Regulation Bill**

- The bill has been referred to the Standing Committee on **Science and Technology and Environment and Forests**.
- The bill seeks to control the use and application of the **Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA)** technology for establishing the identity of missing persons, suspects, offenders, victims and under-trials.

#### **First all-Female pairing to Spacewalk**

- **Jessica Meir** is a marine biologist has now become the **15th Women and 228th person** in the world to conduct a spacewalk.
- This was **Christina Koch's** 4th spacewalk, who is an electrical engineer.

#### **IndiGen Genome Project**

- The **Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), Ministry of Science & Technology** has conducted Whole Genome Sequencing of 1,008 Indian under the **IndiGen Genome project**.
- CSIR has led human genomic sciences in India for studying the "**Indian Genome Variation**".



#### **Sumit Nagpal won the title of ATP Challenger Tournament**

- Sumit Nagpal clinched the men's singles title of **ATP Challenger Tournament**, held on 30th September 2019.
- He defeated **Facundo Bognis** by straight-sets 6-4, 6-2 in an hour and 37 minutes.

#### **Surender Singh creates three World Records**

- The **World Powerlifting Championship** is being held in **Berlin, Germany**.
- Under the superb guidance of International Coach Dronacharya Bhupender Dhawan, Three-time World Champion **Mukesh Singh** added another gold only to be known as **4-time World Champion**.

#### **Bahrain International Series 2019**

- **Priyanshu Rajawat** clinched the men's singles title at the Bahrain International Series Badminton.
- He has defeated **Jason Anthony Ho-Shue** from Canada in the finals from 16-21, 21-7, 21-12.
- Indian mixed double pair of **Juhi Dewangan and Venkat Gaurav Prasad** also finished with the gold.

### Kiran Uniyal created Individual Guinness World Records

- She has so far achieved **15 World Records**, including 10 Guinness World Records in Martial Arts, Social Work and Fitness.
- Kiran Uniyal created her **1st Individual Guinness World Record** for “The most full contact elbow strikes (466 strikes) (one hand) in 3 minutes.

### Kuhoo Garg-Dhruv Rawat won Egypt International Mixed Doubles Title

- The match was held in **Cairo, Egypt** on 20th October 2019.
- The two played against **Ahmed Salah and Hadia Hosny of Egypt, the second seed in the all-Indian final.**
- It was 16-21 21-19 19-21 to **third seeds Simran Singhi and Ritika Thaker.**

### Praveen Kumar: 1st Indian to win Wushu World Championships

- The 15th edition of the championship was held in **Minhang Gymnasium in Shanghai, China** on 23rd October 2019.
- Praveen Kumar has defeated **Russel Diaz of Philippines in the 48kg category.**

### India won Silver at French Open

- The doubles pair lost to world No.1 **Indonesian pair of Marcus Fernaldi Gideon and Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo** in the finals of the French Open.
- **Partho Ganguli and Vikram Singh** were the last doubles pair from India to win the French Open in 1983.

### Tiger Woods equals US legend Sam Snead's all-time Record

- American Golfer Tiger Woods equals world **record for most career titles on PGA Tour with his 82nd win in Japan**, equalling **Sam Snead's** 54-year-old record.
- He is the youngest player to achieve the **career Grand Slam**, and is only the **second golfer** (after **Nicklaus**) to have achieved a career Grand Slam **three times.**

### 2024 Olympic Games Logo

- The organising committee for the **Olympic and Paralympic Games Paris** has unveiled the logo for the 2024 Olympic Games.
- **Pierre-Olivier Beckers-Vieujant** is the chairman of the International Olympic Committee Coordination Commission.

## SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES

### India International Cooperative Trade Fair

- The **first ever India International Cooperative Trade Fair** is aimed at enhancing rural and farm prosperity (doubling farmers income by 2022) by promoting cooperative to cooperative trade within India and abroad.
- This will be **India's first and the largest international cooperatives trade fair.**

#### 9th RCEP Intersessional Ministerial Meeting

- Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal is to attend the **9th RCEP (Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership) Intersessional Ministerial Meeting.**
- RCEP was commenced in **2013** with the **objective** is to achieve mutually beneficial economic partnership agreement among the ASEAN member states and ASEAN's FTA partners.

#### 2nd India-China Informal Summit

- The **70th anniversary of the establishment of India-China relations in 2020** will be fully utilized to deepen exchanges at all levels including between their respective legislatures, political parties, cultural and youth organizations and militaries.
- Both the countries agreed to establish sister-state relations between **Tamil Nadu and Fujian Province** which is the link of the age-old commercial and people-to-people contacts between the countries.

#### 2019 First Global DXB Challenge

- The **2019 First Global DXB Challenge** is a large gathering for creative young minds in the fields of robotics and artificial intelligence.
- The competition is organised by the **Dubai Future Foundation** and the **theme is 'Ocean Opportunities'.**

#### G20 Okayama Health Ministers' Meeting

- The **G20 Okayama Health Ministers' Meeting** was held under the Presidency of Japan in **Okayama City, Japan** on 19th-20th October 2019.
- The G20 Health Ministers meeting concluded by adopting the "**Okayama Declaration of the G 20 Health Ministers**". The declaration endorses the Commitment of G20 countries to address the major global health issues, towards an inclusive and sustainable world.

#### DEFKOM 2019

- DEFKOM is jointly organised by the **Corps of Signals, Indian Army** and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)/ Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM).
- The event stresses on the need and measures for **seamless communication between the three services.**

#### 29th BASIC Ministerial Meet on Climate Change

- The meeting was **chaired by H.E. Mr. Li Ganjie**, Minister of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China.

- The member countries urged the developed nations to deliver on their commitment to **provide \$100 billion** to the developing nations as climate finance for proper implementation of the climate action plan.

