

Weekly One-Liners

15-21 Dec 2020



Weekly One Liners Updates 15-21st December 2020

Dear readers,

Weekly One Liners Updates is a collection of important news and events that occurred in the third **week** (15-21st) of **December 2020**. This file is important for, **Banking, SSC, Railway & Insurance** exams.

Banking & Financial Awareness

1. The Asian Development Bank has launched which facility to offer financial support to procure COVID vaccine for member countries ____ **APVAX**.
Note:
 - Asian Development Bank (ADB) has launched Asia Pacific Vaccine Access Facility (APVAX) to offer rapid and equitable financial support to procure vaccines for ADB's developing member countries.
 - Total cost for allocation of APVAX: \$ 9 Billion
2. Which entity has launched e-agricultural spot market platform 'BEAM' ____ **Bombay Stock Exchange**.
Note:
 - This will act as a national level, institutionalised, electronic, transparent commodity spot trading platform with vision to create a single market.
 - BSE is Asia's oldest stock exchange and world's 10th largest stock exchange
3. Which Payments Bank has unveiled a new digital payment app DakPay ____ **India Post Payments Bank**.
Note:
 - The App is launched as part of its ongoing efforts to provide Digital Financial inclusion at the last mile across India.
 - Along with digital payment the DakPay will also work as suite of digital financial and assisted banking services provided by India Post and IPPB.
4. Which general insurance company has launched a first of its kind, Open Application Programming Interface (API) Gateway to enable full digital collaboration with its business partners ____ **Edelweiss General Insurance**.
Note:
 - It is a first of its kind, to facilitate complete digital collaboration with its business partners.
 - With this gateway, EGI's authorised partners can integrate their systems with the company's robust technology platform.
 - It will help further reinforce EGI's linkages with both customers and partners.
5. Which public sector bank has launched 'FX 4 U', a new technology(tech) product to enable internet banking users to handle forex transactions seamlessly ____ **Canara Bank**.
Note:
 - The new product will enable internet banking users to handle forex transactions seamlessly.
 - Currently, the outward remittance module is being activated, the remaining modules will be activated shortly.
 - This facility enables all the eligible individual customers to undertake remittance facilities as per the Foreign Exchange Management Act(FEMA), 1999.
6. The Reserve Bank of India has announced to set up an Automated Banknote Processing Centre (ABPC) in which city of India ____ **Jaipur**.
Note:
 - ABPC will automate the handling of banknotes for receipt, storage, retrieval, processing and destruction.
 - It will also handle storage of fresh banknotes received from printing presses, processing of banknotes received from currency chests (CCs) and bank branches and destruction of soiled banknotes in an automated manner.
7. The Rating agency CRISIL has projected what per cent of contraction in India's GDP in ongoing financial year 2020-21 ____ **7.7%**.
Note:
 - CRISIL in its September release, estimated India's GDP to be around 9% forecast in September 2020.
 - CRISIL expects the growth to bounce back to 10% for the fiscal 2021-22 (FY22).

8. In association with which bank the Ewire Softtech, under Kerala Startup Mission, has launched a prepaid card in association enabling the next-generation payment platform provider chart an all-India presence _____ **Yes Bank.**

Note:

- The co-branded digital banking mobile application will help the public and corporate houses with loans, insurance and CASA account through its channel partners.
- This can be done via its dedicated RuPay prepaid cards platform.
- The card will be offered through YES Bank's branches across 28 States and 8 UTs.

9. In partnership with which Bank the National Centre for the Performing Arts has been offering scholarships to the young promising students who seek advanced training in the field of Hindustani music _____ **Citi Bank.**

Note:

- The CITI–NCPA Scholarship for Young Musicians 2021-22 will be offered for training in khayal and dhrupad under vocals and for tabla or pakhawaj in percussion.
- Applicants aged 18 to 35 years need to send in their application by January 15, 2021. Auditions will be held in February either online or at NCPA, depending on BMC norms at that time.

10. Which Bank has partnered with Visa as a payment processor to enhance salaried account holders' payment experience _____ **Yes Bank.**

Note:

- This launch enables customers to avail VISA-branded YES bank debit cards along with Mastercard and RuPay branded debit cards.
- This upgradation is aligned with the vision of the bank to offer its customers a best payment experience in the world.
- It also is the step towards the cashless transformation in India.

11. The Financial Intelligence Unit has imposed Rs 96 lakh penalty on which payment solution company for alleged contravention of the anti-money laundering law and accused of "concealing" suspect financial transactions and abetting "disintegration" of India's financial system _____ **PayPal.**

Note:

- The company has also been charged with "defeating and frustrating" the tenets of public interest and the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), which aims to keep the country's financial system safe from economic crimes, terrorist financing and black money transactions.

12. In partnership with which fintech company the Yes Bank has launched 'Yes Private Prime Credit Card' for the Affluent and Ultra High-Net-Worth-Individuals of India _____ **Mastercard.**

Note:

- Yes Private Prime credit card is in line with YES Bank's strategy to deliver premium and exclusive services to its valued customers.
- It offers unlimited access to the International & Domestic Airport Lounges for Primary and Add-on card holders and guests.
- Upon purchasing the card, a gift voucher of Rs 9,000 will be given by Oberoi Hotels & Resorts. It is an annual feature and will also be available on card renewal.

13. Export-Import Bank of India has extended a Line of Credit of \$448 million to the _____ **Uzbekistan.**

Note:

- This LOC is for financing various projects in the Roads & Transport, Water and Technology & Communication sectors in Uzbekistan.
- With the signing of this LOC Agreement, Exim Bank has now in place 266 Lines of Credit, covering 62 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, CIS and the Oceania, with credit commitments of around \$26.59 billion, available for financing exports from India.

14. Which regulator has set up a specialised department to tackle cases of diversion of funds, bank loans and resources by company promoters _____ **SEBI.**

Note

- The new department will be known as the Corporation Finance Investigation Department (CFID).
- The new department will even check if resources like company land, guest houses or vehicles are misused by promoters.

15. Which fintech company has launched Ace Money Micro ATM service in Kochi _____ **Aceware.**

Note:

- Initially, the service will be available in Kochi city, and the company has already recruited delivery executives for rolling out the service.
 - The company is planning to expand the service to all the municipalities in the State by January 2021.
16. The State Bank of India research report has projected what per cent of contraction in India's GDP in FY 2020-21 _____
7.4 percent.
Note:
- The report also believes that it would take seven quarters from the fourth quarter of FY21 for GDP to reach the pre-pandemic level in nominal terms.
 - The revised GDP estimates are based on SBI 'Nowcasting Model' with 41 high frequency indicators associated with industry activity, service activity, and global economy.
17. Which general insurance company has partnered with IntrCity RailYatri, a multi-modal intercity mobility platform, to offer domestic travel insurance _____ **SBI General Insurance.**
Note:
- The insurance would be offered to bus travelers opting to commute through IntrCity RailYatri, it would be a complimentary travel cover worth Rs 5 lakh which will come along with the travel ticket.
 - Under the travel insurance, SBI General Insurance would provide a wide variety of coverage including accidental death, permanent total disability, and medical evacuation.
18. With which intergovernmental bank the Indian government has signed a pact worth 400 million dollar to aid the poor and vulnerable reeling under the coronavirus crisis _____ **World Bank.**
Note:
- This is the second operation in a programmatic series of two as the first operation of Dollar 750 million was approved in May 2020.
 - The \$400 million credit has been extended by World Bank's concessionary lending arm International Development Association (IDA).
19. The Government of India and which bank have signed a loan agreement for lending \$1,000 million to support the rural infrastructure in the country and the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme _____ **New Development Bank.**
Note:
- The programme proposes creation of durable rural infrastructure assets relating to NRM and generation of employment opportunities for rural poor, especially migrant workers who have returned from urban areas and have lost their livelihoods due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
20. With which bank the Indian government has signed a \$300 million loan to upgrade rural power distribution networks in Uttar Pradesh _____ **Asian Development Bank.**
Note:
- This is the first tranche of the loan for the Uttar Pradesh Power Distribution Network Rehabilitation Project.
 - Overall, the \$430 million multi-tranche financing facility (MFF) has been approved for the project constituting two tranches.

Obituaries

1. Renowned personality UA Khader passed away recently he was a famous writer of which language _____ **Malayalam.**
Note:
- He published more than 70 novels, short stories and travelogues that are considered among the finest works in Malayalam.
 - Khader was known for a progressive and secular outlook to his life and his literature.
 - His most acclaimed work of fiction, Thrikkottoor Peruma (Thrikkottoor Lore), won him the Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award in 1984
2. Renowned personality Manglesh Dabral passed away recently, he was a veteran poet of which language _____ **Hindi.**
Note:
- As a critic of government policies, he returned his Sahitya Akademi award in 2015 in protest against the growing climate of intolerance in the country.
 - He worked as the Editor of Jansatta's Sunday Magazine, Ravivari.
 - Through his writings in the four-page literary magazine, Jansatta, he mentored a generation of Hindi writers.

3. Renowned personality Padma Vibhushan recipient, Roddam Narasimha, passed away recently, he was a veteran _____
Aerospace Scientist.

Note:

- Prof Narasimha made a mark in the field of aerospace and as a fluid dynamicist. He taught Aerospace Engineering at the IISc from 1962 to 1999. He also served as the director of the National Aerospace Laboratories from 1984 to 1993.
- Considering his contribution, the Central government bestowed on him Padma Vibhushan, the second-highest civilian award of India, in 2013.
- Dr Kalam and Prof Narasimha had together authored a book – Developments in Fluid Mechanics and Space Technology.

4. Renowned sportspersons D Ethiraj passed away recently he was associated with which sports _____ **Football.**

Note:

- Ethiraj was a part of the Indian football team that finished on top of the podium at the 1962 Asian Games.
- The Indian team led by the legendary Chuni Goswami defeated South Korea 2-1 in the Games final to clinch the gold medal.
- He was a part of the national team during the '50s and '60s, which are widely regarded as the golden era of Indian football.

5. Renowned sportsperson Shripati Khanchnale passed away recently, he was associated with which sports _____
Wrestling.

Note:

- He was a recipient of the Shiv Chhatrapati award, which is given by the Maharashtra government.

6. Renowned personality Eric Freeman passed away recently, he was a veteran _____ **Cricketer.**

Note:

- Freeman became Australia's 244th men's Test cricketer when he made his debut against India at the Gabba in 1968, removing both openers in the tourist's first innings with his right-arm fast-mediums.
- Freeman received the Medal of the Order of Australia in 2002 for his services to sport.

Important Days

1. International Tea Day is celebrated every year on _____ **15th December.**

Note:

- International Tea Day focuses on promoting better trade practices and working conditions as well as ethical and sustainable production of tea.
- The day also aims towards raising awareness on the importance of tea in fighting poverty and hunger.

2. India celebrates Vijay Diwas every year on which date _____ **16th December.**

Note:

- On the occasion, PM Narendra Modi paid tribute at National War Memorial by lighting the 'Swarnim Vijay Mashal'.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh unveils the logo for 'Swarnim Vijay Varsh' to mark Vijay Diwas.

3. International Migrants Day is observed annually on which date _____ **18th December.**

Note:

- The day also commemorates the assembly adopting the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families in 1990.
- As per the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), the theme for International Migrants Day 2020 is "Reimagining Human Mobility".

4. In India, Minorities Rights Day is observed every year on which date _____ **18th December.**

Note:

- On 18 December 1992, the United Nations adopted the Statement on the individual's Rights belonging to religious or Linguistic National or Ethnic Minorities.

- The Ministry was established on 29 January 2006. It was carved out of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
 - The Union Government established the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) under the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992.
5. International Human Solidarity Day is observed globally every year on _____ **20th December**.
- Note:**
- The is commemorated to celebrate unity in diversity and raise awareness about the importance of solidarity.
 - According to the United Nations Millennium Declaration, solidarity is among the fundamental values that are essential to international relations.

New Appointments

1. Who has been reappointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMB) for a period of 3 years _____ **Uday Kotak**.
- Note:**
- RBI also granted approval for reappointing Prakash Apte as Part -time Chairman and Dipak Gupta as joint MD for 3 years period with effect from January 1, 2021.
 - The board and the shareholders of the bank had approved these reappointments, subject to RBI's approval at their respective meetings.
2. Name the Indian-American astronaut who has been selected as the Commander of the SpaceX Crew-3 mission to the International Space Station (ISS) by NASA and the European Space Agency _____ **Raja Chari**.
- Note:**
- The Indian-American will command the mission, while Tom Marshburn will serve as pilot and Matthias Maurer as a mission specialist.
 - Earlier this year in January, Chari became one of the 11 astronauts to join NASA's ranks.
3. Who has been elected as the Vice President of Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) _____ **Shekhar Vempati**.
- Note:**
- It is one of the largest broadcasting associations in the world.
 - The Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union was formed in 1964 as a professional association of broadcasting organisations with over 286 members in 57 countries and regions, reaching the potential population of about three billion people.
 - Vempati is an alumnus of IIT Bombay and worked in Infosys for more than a decade as Product Strategist.
4. Who has been appointed as the United Nations Resident Coordinator in China by the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres _____ **Siddharth Chatterjee**.
- Note:**
- Resident Coordinators are the UN Secretary-General's representatives for development at the country level.
 - They lead UN teams supporting countries to recover better from the COVID-19 pandemic through the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Important News - India

1. Which organization releases white paper titled 'Vision 2035 - Public Health Surveillance in India' _____ **NITI Aayog**.
- Note:**
- It lays out India's vision for public health surveillance through the integration of 3-tiered public health system into Ayushman Bharat, along with the need for expanded referral networks and enhanced laboratory capacity.
2. Which institution has signed an agreement with cGanga, a think-tank of the National Mission for Clean Ganga, for development of sludge management framework in India _____ **Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research (NIBIO)**.
- Note:**
- This was announced during the 5th India Water Impact Summit 2020.
 - The event is co-organised by National Mission for Clean Ganga and Centre for Ganga River Basin Management and Studies.

3. To commemorate the 125th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in 2022, the Union Culture Ministry was planning to set up a museum in _____ **Kolkata**.

Note:

- A museum on Bose was “proposed to be set up in Kolkata as a part of commemorations and that the current museum at Red Fort, New Delhi is also proposed to be expanded
- The GoI is also planning to reprint some of the books written by Netaji.
- The Netaji museum in New Delhi is also to be expanded

4. What is India’s rank in the recently released United Nations’ Human Development Index 2020 _____ **131st**.

Note:

- For the first time, the United Nations Development Programme introduced a new metric to reflect the impact caused by each country’s per-capita carbon emissions and its material footprint, which measures the amount of fossil fuels, metals and other resources used to make the goods and services it consumes.
- Norway, which tops the HDI, falls 15 places if this metric is used, leaving Ireland at the top of the table.

5. A dedicated control centre for Space Situational Awareness (SSA) activities in the country has been set up in which city _____ **Bengaluru**.

Note:

- ISRO SSA Control Centre, 'NETRA', is set up within the ISTRAC campus at Peenya.
- The control centre is envisaged to function as a hub of all SSA activities within India.

6. Which Indian city ranked first in the Urban Quality of Life (UQoL) Index 2020 released by the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT-B) _____ **Mumbai**.

Note:

- In accordance to this, Mumbai (Maharashtra) tops the index followed by Delhi, Kolkata (West Bengal) and Chennai (Tamil Nadu) by providing Highest Quality of Life while Bihar’s capital city Patna provides poorest quality of life to its people.
- Notably, this is for the first time the index has considered the factor of gender parity under which Chennai is named as the most women-friendly city while Patna stood last.

7. Which becomes the India’s first Zoological Park to acquire ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management Standards Certification _____ **Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad**.

Note:

- HYM International Certifications Pvt Ltd, accredited by the ASCB, recently reviewed the ISO 9001: 2015 certification.
- The basis of assessment was sanitisation, food processing, animal breeding, medicare, animal care, hygiene maintenance and establishment.
- Notably, the number of tigers and Indian Gaur were also increased at the Nehru Zoological Park.

8. Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) & Automotive Skills Development Council (ASDC) announced partnership with which company to reduce the digital skill gap in India’s auto dealership sector _____ **Google**.

Note:

- The main focus of the partnership is to empower Indian dealerships through adoption of digital tools and platforms to engage with customers in post-COVID era.
- Training will be provided under the topics of Digital Marketing, Hyper Local Marketing & Full Funnel Strategy.
- This is Google India’s first-of-its-kind initiative to help the dealer fraternity and support them in this necessary transition.

9. The networking and communication company Ericsson released a report “The Ericsson Mobility Report 2020” which estimated India’s 5G connection to surpass 350 million by _____ **2026**.

Note:

- The report also notified India’s first 5G connection to be rolled out by 2021.
- More than 15% of the world’s population (1 billion people) will live in areas under 5G coverage.
- 60% of the global population (3.5 billion) will use 5G connections with 5G subscriptions by 2026

10. According to the 2020 Global Status Report for Buildings and Construction released by Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction, the Building & Construction sector accounted for what per cent of CO₂ emissions _____ **38%**.

Note:

- This is the 5th Edition of the Annual Report.
- GlobalABC was launched at COP21 (2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference) and is hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

11. What is India's rank in the 'Human Freedom Index 2020: A Global Measurement of Personal, Civil, and Economic Freedom' _____ **111th**.

Note:

- It is the sixth Annual Report released by Cato Institute of United States & Fraser Institute in Canada.
- New Zealand topped the index followed by Switzerland.
- India was ranked 110th in terms of personal freedom and 105 on economic freedom.
- The index put China at 129th, Bangladesh at 139th and Pakistan at 140th rank.

12. What is India's rank in the corrected 'Doing Business' 2020 report _____ **63rd**.

Note:

- The World Bank has come out with a corrected Doing Business ranking following review of data irregularities.
- The WB has lowered China's ranking by 7 notches.
- The WB also corrected the rankings of Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Azerbaijan.
- The ranking of Azerbaijan has been improved to 28 from 34.

Important News – State

1. World's leading mobility platform, Ola has signed an MoU with which state government for setting up the world's largest scooter manufacturing plant _____ **Tamil Nadu**.

Note:

- Initially, it will have an annual manufacturing capacity of 2 million units
- It will make India a manufacturing hub for two-wheeler electric vehicles
- It will also reduce dependence of India on import of electric vehicles, boosting manufacturing, employment.

2. What is India's rank in global spam calls in the 4th Edition of Global Insights Report for 2020 released by Truecaller _____ **9th**.

Note:

- The fourth edition of the report points out that the Covid-19 pandemic affected "communications behaviour and spam patterns around the world".
- As per the report, Brazil is the most affected country in the world by spam calls, followed by the US and Hungary.

3. The Telangana government has partnered with which tech major to skill 30,000 students in emerging technologies _____ **IBM**.

Note:

- IBM will work with Telangana Academy for Skill and Knowledge (TASK) to offer Open P-TECH, a free digital education platform focused on emerging technologies and professional development skills.
- A total of 30,000 students of engineering, degree and polytechnic courses would benefit from the initiative over a period of one year.

4. India's eighth hydrocarbon producing basin has been open by country's largest largest oil and gas producer ONGC in which state _____ **West Bengal**.

Note:

- ONGC has discovered and put to production seven out of the eight hydrocarbon producing basins of India, covering 83 per cent of established oil and gas reserves.
- ONGC is India's largest oil and gas producer contributing 72 per cent of the country's hydrocarbon production.

5. The Ministry of AYUSH has approved 200 AYUSH Health and Wellness Centres in which state under centrally sponsored scheme of National AYUSH Mission _____ **Uttarakhand**.

Note:

- In this regard, Arvind Lal Vandana Lal (ALVL) Foundation, New Delhi is providing support to the department of AYUSH, Uttarakhand, in operationalization of AYUSH HWCs in Almora district of Uttarakhand.
- The Central Government will provide necessary technical support.
- The ALVL Foundation will support in Population Enumeration, creation of Health Cards in the catchment population of the HWCs and help in training and capacity building of HWC team.

6. Which state government has launched 'Free Crop Insurance' scheme for farmers _____ **Andhra Pradesh**.

Note:

- AP Government credited ₹1,252 crores into the bank accounts of 9.48 lakh farmers in insurance claims for the agricultural season 2019.

- The previous government spent an average Rs 393 crore per annum for three years towards payment of insurance premium.
 - The compensation for the crop losses during 2020 will be paid in April next.
7. Which state gets a new online fire safety approval system, the 'Fire Safety COP' and becomes the first state to do so _____ **Gujarat**.
- Note:**
- The system, which will be implemented from January 26 next year, comes after recent incidents of fire in COVID-19 facilities in which several patients died, including in Rajkot on November 27.
8. Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of the world's largest renewable energy park in which state _____ **Gujarat**.
- Note:**
- This 30,000 megawatt capacity hybrid renewable energy park will be built along the Indo-Pak border at Khavda using both wind and solar energy.
 - Spread over 72,600 hectares of waste land, the first of its kind energy project is expected to play a major role in fulfilling India's vision of generating 450 gw (4,50,000 mw) of power by 2030.
9. Which state government has launched 'Kisan Kalyan Mission' to double the income of farmers _____ **Uttar Pradesh**.
- Note:**
- The program named as Kisan Kalyan Mission will cover all assembly constituencies of the state.
 - Under the Kisan Kalyan mission various programs will be organised across the state.
10. Ustad Iqbal Ahmed Khan passed away following a cardiac arrest, was an exponent of which Music Gharana _____ **Delhi Gharana**.
- Note:**
- Ustad Iqbal Ahmed Khan was best known for his versatile renditions in various genres of Indian classical music, including 'thumri', dadra', as well as bhajans' and ghazals.
 - Iqbal Ahmed Khan had several accolades to his credit, including the Priyadarshini Award (2001), and the Rajiv Rattan Sadbhavna Samman (2003).

Important News - World

1. Which of the following virtually co-hosted Climate Ambition Summit 2020 _____ **UK, UN and France**.
- Note:**
- Climate Ambition Summit marked 5 years of the adoption of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.
 - It is a major step to the next UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26), which will be hosted by UK in 2021.
2. 'Swadhinata Sarak' is to be opened in 2021 between India and which of the following nation _____ **Bangladesh**.
- Note:**
- It will be inaugurated by March 2021.
 - It will remain functional on the Indian side while it will be connected through Mujibnagar, Meherpur district in Bangladesh.
3. India is planning to work with which country on strengthening the academic and research collaborations and also set up a joint task force which would work towards mutual recognition of academic qualifications _____ **United Kingdom**.
- Note:**
- Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom, Dominic Raab hailed India's National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 as visionary and expressed the resolve of strengthening India-UK collaboration on deepening engagement in the field of education and research.
 - Raab held a bilateral talk with India Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal "Nishank" during which he said that the proposed reforms of NEP 2020 will open up opportunities for students, economy and for deeper engagement and collaboration between the two countries.
4. Which International organization has released the 2nd edition of "State of the Education Report for India 2020: Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)" _____ **UNESCO**.

Note:

- India's often cited demographic dividend, the aspirations of its youth and the skill requirements of the growing economy – all hinge on a well-functioning TVET system for achieving an inclusive and equitable growth that will propel the country to the next phase of socio-economic development.
- The Report aims to support the Government of India which has already announced skills development as a key national priority under the Skill India Mission.

5. Which becomes the first Arabian country to establish Friendship Association with India _____ **Oman**.

Note:

- Oman's Foreign Minister Sayyid Badr bin Hamad bin Hamood Al Busaidi held detailed dialogue with his Indian counterpart S Jaishankar on giving further momentum to strategic ties.
- The aim of the association to provide a platform that promotes friendship, understanding and matters of mutual interest between Oman and India business and social communities in the Sultanate.

6. Which country has been banned from using its name, flag and anthem at the next two Olympics or at any world championships for the next two years _____ **Russia**.

Note:

- The Court of Arbitration for Sport's ruling also blocked Russia from bidding to host major sporting events for two years.
- Russian athletes and teams will still be allowed to compete at next year's Tokyo Olympics and the 2022 Winter Games in Beijing, as well as world championships including the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, if they are not implicated in doping or covering up positive tests.

7. Which country has approved the chemical castration of rapist in its new Anti-Rape legislation _____ **Pakistan**.

Note:

- New laws approved by President Arif Alvi will see rape cases expedited through the courts and create the country's first national sex offenders register.
- Pakistan is a deeply conservative and patriarchal nation where victims of sexual abuse often are too afraid to speak out, or where criminal complaints are frequently not investigated seriously.

8. Which country's tradition of communal dining at hawker centres has been recognised by UNESCO for its cultural significance _____ **Singapore**.

Note:

- The UN cultural agency added the city-state's "hawker culture" to its Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.
- Singapore's hawker centres were set up to house former street vendors, or "hawkers" in an effort to clean up the island in the 1970s

9. The second Bangladesh-India Cotton Fest 2020 was held in _____ **Dhaka**.

Note:

- Bangladesh Cotton Association (BCA) jointly organized the festival, in cooperation with Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA), Indian Cotton Association Ltd. (ICAL), India-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IBCCI).

10. Which country successfully test-launched its heavy lift Angara A5 space rocket for the second time _____ **Russia**.

Note:

- First test-launched in 2014, it is being developed to replace the Proton M as Russia's heavy lift rocket, capable of carrying payloads bigger than 20 tonnes into orbit. A launch pad for the new rocket is due to open in 2021.

Honor & Awards

1. Who has been named as the FICCI 2020 Male Sportsman of the Year _____ **Bajrang Punia**.

Note:

- He has won silver in 2018 World Wrestling Championships and bronze in 2019 World Wrestling Championships and 2013 World Wrestling Championships
- The award is an attempt by FICCI to acknowledge and recognise the contribution of sportsman and various stakeholders who deliver excellent results throughout the year.

2. Who has been conferred with the 2020 Female Sportsman of the Year by FICCI _____ **Elavenil Valarivan**.

Note:

- At the 10m air rifle Asian Air Gun Championships in Taoyuan, Taipei, she clinched her first individual gold medal in the senior category with a score of 250.5.
 - She also won two junior World Cup gold and a silver at juniors' 2018 World Championships.
3. Who has been conferred with the Social Entrepreneur of the Year Award – India 2020 _____ **Ashraf Patel**.
- Note:**
- She is the founder member and Board member of Pravah and ComMutiny – The Youth Collective (CYC).
 - Social Entrepreneur of the Year Award – India 2020 is the 11th edition of the annual award, instituted by the Schwab Foundation and Jubilant Bhartia Foundation in 2010
4. Who will be the Chief Guest at the Republic Day Parade in 2021 _____ **Boris Johnson**.
- Note:**
- After Independence he will be the 2nd British leader to attend the RD Padre as guest of honour.
 - John Major (1993) was first.
 - This will be Boris Johnson's "first major bilateral visit" since he took charge last year.
5. Which steel makers has been awarded the prestigious Golden Peacock Environment Management Award for the year 2020 in the Steel Sector _____ **Steel Authority of India Limited**.
- Note:**
- The company has been the winner of this award for successive 2yrs.
 - This award is one of the most coveted awards in the category.
 - Considering various environmental issues leading to global warming and climate change, this encourages corporates to enhance their environmental performance.
6. Who has been honoured with 'Global Visionary of Sustainable Business and Peace' _____ **Ratan Tata**.
- Note:**
- He will be honoured by the Indo-Israel Chambers of Commerce for promoting innovation that supports sustainability and peace in the region, including with the Palestinians.
 - He will be awarded during the launch of the Federation of Indo-Israel Chamber of Commerce's international chapter in Dubai.
7. India conducted 35th edition of Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) with which country _____ **Indonesia**.
- Note:**
- As part of Government of India's vision of SAGAR (Security And Growth for All in the Region), the Indian Navy has been proactively engaging with countries in the Indian Ocean Region.
 - The CORPAT being conducted since 2002 to ensure the safety and security of shipping and international trade in the region.
8. Who has won the FIFA men's player of the year 2020 _____ **Robert Lewandowski**.
- Note:**
- The 32-year-old Lewandowski, the top scorer in Europe and winner of the Champions League with Bayern, came out ahead of the other two nominees, Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo
9. Who has been named as FIFA Women's player of the year 2020 _____ **Lucy Bronze**.
- Note:**
- It is the first occasion for both Lewandowski and Bronze to win the award, with the Pole only the second player after Luka Modric in 2018
10. Who has been crowned the highest-paid celebrity of 2020 by Forbes _____ **Kylie Jenner**.
- Note:**
- The top-earning stars in the world earned a combined of \$6.1 billion in 2020 with Kylie Jenner and Kanye West at the top of the list.
 - In addition to Tyler Perry, Howard Stern, and Dwayne Johnson, A-lister athletes like Roger Federer, Cristiano Ronaldo, Lionel Messi, Neymar and LeBron James helped round out the top 10.
11. Name the Indian entrepreneur who has been is among the seven winners of the prestigious “Young Champions of the Earth” 2020 prize given by UNEP _____ **Vidyut Mohan**.
- Note:**
- Vidyut Mohan, an engineer, is the co-founder of “Takachar”, a social enterprise enabling farmers to prevent open burning of their waste farm residues and earn extra income by converting them into value-added chemicals like activated carbon on-site.

Sports News

1. Who is the winner of Formula 1 season-ending Abu Dhabi Grand Prix 2020 _____ **Max Verstappen.**

Note:

- He is the racer of Red Bull and is from Netherlands.
- Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes-Finland) bagged 2nd place, followed by Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes-Great Britain) at Abu Dhabi Grand Prix 2020.

2. Who has won the ITF doubles title in Dubai along with Ekaterine Gorgodze _____ **Ankita Raina.**

Note:

- Indian tennis player Ankita Raina won her third doubles title of pandemic-hit 2020 season, clinching the Al Habtoor challenge with Ekaterine Gorgodze
- She along with Ekaterine Gorgodze won 6-4 3-6 10-6 against Aliona Bolsova Zadoinov from Spain and Slovakian Kaja Juvan in the final of the USD 100,000 hard court event

3. Which state will host the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup 2023 _____ **Odisha.**

Note:

- The 2023 tournament will be held at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar and Biju Patnaik Hockey Stadium in Rourkela.
- FIH Men's Hockey World Cup 2018 was also hosted by Odisha.
- FIH 2023 tournament will be 15th edition of the Men's FIH Hockey World Cup.

4. Which country will host the Asia Cup Cricket Tournament in 2022 _____ **Pakistan.**

Note:

- In July 2020, Asia Cup's Governing body, Asia Cricket Council (ACC) announced that the 2020 Edition of Asia Cup was cancelled due to Pandemic.
- The 2020 Edition was originally set to be hosted by Pakistan, as it was cancelled Pakistan were awarded to host the 2022 Edition as Compensation.
- Asia Cup is a men's One Day International (ODI) & Twenty20 International Cricket Tournament.

5. The Sports Ministry has formally recognized which event as a competitive sport _____ **Yogasana.**

Note:

- Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju and Minister of AYUSH (Ayurveda Yoga and Naturopathy Unani Sidda Homoeopathy) Shripad Yesso Naik formally promoted yogasana as a competitive sport during an event here.
- The move was made to encourage yoga, spread awareness about its benefits and to help improve physical and mental wellbeing of the people.

6. Which country will host the qualifiers of the 2023 ODI ICC World Cup _____ **Zimbabwe.**

Note:

- India, the hosts of the rescheduled 2023 ODI World Cup, along with seven other top Super League teams will qualify directly for the tournament to be held in October-November.
- The bottom five teams from the Super League will compete in the 2023 World Cup qualifier, joining the best three teams from League 2.

7. Name the Indian boxing champion who has won the gold medal in Cologne World Cup 2020 among men _____ **Amit Panghal.**

Note:

- Veteran Satish Kumar (+91kg) had to settle for a silver after an injury forced him to withdraw from the finals.
- India finished the competition at the second spot overall after claiming three gold, two silver and four bronze medals.

8. Simranjeet Kaur is associated with which sports who has won a gold medal recently in an international event _____ **Boxing.**

- Indian women boxers Simranjeet Kaur (60kg) won a gold medals with contrasting final wins in the Cologne World Cup in Germany.
- Simranjeet defeated German Maya Klienans 4-1 to finish on top.
- India finished the competition at the second spot overall after claiming three gold, two silver and four bronze medals.

9. The Sports Ministry has approved the inclusion of four indigenous games to be a part of the Khelo India Youth Games 2021, these are _____ **Gatka, Kalaripayattu, Thang-Ta & Mallakhamba.**

Note:

- Mallakhamba has been well-known across India and Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra have been the hotspots of this sport.
- Gatka originates from the state of Punjab and this traditional fighting style of the Nihang Sikh Warriors is used both as self-defense as well as a sport.
- Thang-Ta, a Manipur martial art has passed into oblivion in recent decades, but the sport will get national recognition again with the help of the Khelo India Youth Games 2021.
- Kuttu varisai means empty hand combat in Tamil and was first documented in Sangam literature, also called kai silambam means hand

10. Which country will host the 2030 Asian Games as per the announcement made by the Olympic Council of Asia _____

Qatar.

Note:

- An executive board meeting of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) unanimously approved the proposal to name the runner-up in the two-horse race for the 2030 games as 2034 hosts.
- The decision means Qatar will play host to the multi-sport event eight years after it organises the 2022 football World Cup finals.

Books and Authors

1. Which state government has unveiled a Braille version of the Indian Constitution _____ **Maharashtra.**

Note:

- A valuable work of making available the Indian Constitution in Braille script for the visually impaired has been done.
- The Braille version of the Constitution has been prepared on behalf of Thane-based NGO Astitva Foundation.

2. Who has authored the book titled "Reporting India" released by the External Affairs Minister S Jai Shankar _____ **Prem Prakash.**

Note:

- External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has released a book titled "Reporting India" My Seventy-Year Journey as a Journalist'.
- The book is pretty much history of India from a foreign policy perspective for half-a-century and the domestic aspects of his journalistic work are no less interesting.

3. Who has authored the book titled 'Oh Mizoram' which was released by the vice president M Venkaiah Naidu _____ **P S Sreedharan Pillai.**

Note:

- The book has been authored by Mizoram governor P S Sreedharan Pillai
- It is his 125th book
- OH, Mizoram' is his first poetry collection in English.
- It was published by the Indus Scrolls Press.

Science and Defence

1. Indian Coast Guard Interceptor Boat got commissioned at Hazira in Gujarat, is built indigenously by _____ **Larson & Toubro.**

Note:

- This Interceptor boat is built indigenously by M/s L&T Jetty, Hazira.
- It is capable of a high speed of 45 knots having capability to operate in shallow waters.
- Vessel is fitted with latest state-of-the-art navigation and communication equipment.

2. The Indian Space Research Organisation successfully launched the CMS-01 through PSLV-C50. CMS-01 is India's which number communications satellite _____ **42nd.**

Note:

- The 44-metre-high four-staged engine, PSLV-C50, is the 22nd flight of PSLV in 'XL' configuration (with six strap-on motors hugging the first stage). It will be the 52nd mission for India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV).
- The PSLV in normal configuration is a four-stage expandable rocket powered by solid and liquid fuels alternatively, with six booster motors strapped on to the first stage to give higher thrust during the initial flight moments.

3. Where was the Advanced Hypersonic Wind Tunnel (HWT) test facility inaugurated by the Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh _____ **Hyderabad**.

Note:

- The state-of-the-art HWT Test facility is pressure vacuum driven enclosed free jet facility having nozzle exit diameter of 1 meter and will simulate Mach No 5 to 12 (Mach represents the multiplication factor to the speed of sound).
- After USA and Russia, India is the third country to have such a large facility in terms of size and operating capability.
- It is an indigenous development and an outcome of synergistic partnership with Indian industries.

4. Who has handed over three systems indigenously developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation to chiefs of the three armed forces _____ **Rajnath Singh**.

Note:

- The systems are Indian Maritime Situational Awareness System (IMSAS), ASTRA Mk-I Missile and Border Surveillance System (BOSS).
- All three systems--IMSAS, Astra Mk-1 and BOSS-- have been designed and developed DRDO only.
- Astra Mk-1 is the first indigenously developed beyond visual range (BVR) missile.

5. Indian Coast Guard (ICG) ship 'Sujeet' was commissioned at _____ **Goa**.

Note:

- It is the second in the series of five Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) built by Goa Shipyard Limited.
- This vessel has been made in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Make in India'.
- The indigenously built ship will be commissioned by Secretary of Defence Production Raj Kumar.





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