

# Weekly One-Liners

July 1-7



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### Weekly One Liners Updates <u>1-7th July 2020</u>

#### Dear readers,

**Weekly One Liners Updates** is a collection of important news and events that occurred in the **first week** (1-7th) of **July** 2020. This file is important for, **Banking, SSC, Railway** & Insurance exams.

#### **Banking & Financial Awareness**

- 1. Food tech giant, Swiggy has launched its digital wallet 'Swiggy Money' in partnership with which bank \_\_\_\_\_ ICICI Bank. Note:
  - > The digital wallet named 'Swiggy Money', will provide users with a single-click checkout experience.
  - > Through this partnership, Swiggy customers allow storing money to be used for orders on the platform.
- 2. Which bank has approved a USD 750 million Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Emergency Response Program to support severely impacted MSMEs in India due to COVID-19 crisis \_\_\_\_\_World Bank.

#### Note:

- > The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) will provide the loan.
- The World Bank's MSME Emergency Response program will address the immediate liquidity and credit needs of around 1.5 million applicable MSMEs.
- 3. Which bank has launched 'e-Kisaan Dhan' App for Farmers in India \_\_\_\_\_\_HDFC Bank.

#### Note:

- With this app, farmers can access a bouquet of services in banking and agriculture, through their mobile phones.
- > It will provide users information in regard to new government schemes and ways to access them.
- Fitch Ratings Inc in its 'Global Economic Outlook (GEO)', has lowered India's growth forecast for FY 2021-22 to \_\_\_\_\_ 8 per cent.

#### Note:

- However, Fitch has not made any change in its previous estimate of a 5% decline in the economy during the current financial year (FY 2020-21).
- Fitch has also predicted growth in the global economy at 4.9 % in 2021& in 2022 it is estimated to be 3.4 %.
- 5. Name the Indian Telecom company that has launched video conferencing platform to take on likes of Zoom, Google Meet and Microsoft Teams with unlimited number of free calls \_\_\_\_\_Jio.

#### Note:

- Additionally, JioMeet appears to not impose a short time limit on a call's duration the free call can be uninterrupted for "up to 24 hours" long.
- The video conferencing platform can also be accessed through Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox for users working on desktop apart from Android and iOS phones. It is absolutely free of cost.
- 6. Which entity will set up a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) in the form of Special Liquidity Scheme (SLS) Trust through which special liquidity scheme for NBFCs and HFCs will be operated \_\_\_\_\_ SBICAP.
  Note:
  - The SPV will purchase the short-term papers from eligible NBFCs/HFCs, who shall utilise the proceeds under this scheme solely for the purpose of extinguishing existing liabilities.
  - > The instruments will be CPs and NCDs with a residual maturity of not more than three months and rated as investment grade.
- 7. Which bank has launched 'Insta Loans against Mutual Funds', a facility in partnership with Computer Age Management Services(CAMS) \_\_\_\_\_ICICI Bank.

Note:

- The facility enables the retail customers to avail loans upto Rs 1 crore instantly by pledging their holdings in both debt and equity Mutual Funds(MFs).
- It is a full digital and paperless facility. It empowers customers to get this loan as an overdraft (OD) within a few minutes without having to visit a branch and submit physical documents.

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8. American multinational private equity company Carlyle Group has decided to acquire about 25% stake in which Indian telecom company \_\_\_\_\_ Airtel.

#### Note:

- ▶ Airtel will continue to hold the remaining 75% stake in the business.
- > Nxtra will use the proceeds from the stake sale to scale up its infrastructure across the country. The deal will peg the company's post-money enterprise valuation at \$1.2 billion, which is over Rs 9,084 crore.
- 9. United States-based Intel Corporation's investment arm Intel Capital will invest Rs 1,894.50 crores in which Indian telecom company \_\_\_\_\_ Jio.

#### Note:

- Rs 1894.50 of investment will translate to 0.39 percent of an equity stake for Intel Capital in Jio Platforms.
- In a matter of 11 weeks since 22nd April 2020, this was the 12th foreign investment in Jio Platforms.
- The 12 investments make a total of Rs 1,17,588.45 crores that have been raised in Jio Platforms. This investment also takes the total stake in Jio Platforms of foreign investors to 25.09 percent
- **10.** Which bank offered an instant car loans to existing customers through an initiative called "ZipDrive" in 1,000 cities

#### HDFC Bank.

#### Note:

- > This solution gives the customer with a pre-approved loan offer to avail an auto loan through net banking or via assistance from the bank's phone banking team.
- It is a technology-enabled loan product where credit assessment is done by banking software.
- **11.** Care Ratings has forecasted Indian economy in the financial year 2020-21 to contract by \_\_\_\_\_ **6.4 per cent.**

#### Note:

- The rating agency has slashed the GDP growth rate of Indian economy citing continued restrictions in the  $\triangleright$ economic activities due to the lockdown on account of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- > It also expects that the positive growth will come from only agriculture and the government sector.
- 12. Which bank has partnered with Mastercard to enable its customers to make real-time domestic & cross-border payments(Business to Consumer- B2C) and remittances quickly and efficiently through 'Mastercard Send' \_\_\_\_\_\_SBM Bank.

#### Note:

- This partnership allows the bank's customer base to offer quick, convenient and secure payments experiences.
- Mastercard Send is a secured and innovative solution. It has played a key role in diversifying MasterCard payment flows and the payment experience for customers.
- **13.** Which bank has launched a digital solution, 'Loan in Seconds' for instant disbursement of retail loans \_\_\_\_\_ **Yes Bank.** Note:
  - The algorithm evaluates the loan application in real-time and eliminates the need for documentation.  $\geq$
  - $\geq$ The solution aims to provide customers, hassle-free loans to help them meet their immediate financial needs.
- **14.** Which entity has launched the Global Bharat program, designed to enable Indian micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) become globally competitive by equipping them with digital technologies \_\_\_\_\_ SAP India.

#### Note:

- > A subsidiary of Germany based enterprise technology firm in partnership with NASSCOM foundation United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Pratham InfoTech Foundation, has rolled out Global Bharat program.
- It is to equip micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) by providing them access to global marketplace, digital skilling for the workforce and transforming business processes.
- 15. Which bank has joined the Paris based Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS) as an observer \_\_\_\_\_Asian **Development Bank.**

#### Note:

- > The NGFS is a global forum that brings together central banks and supervisors committed to understanding and managing the financial risks and opportunities associated with climate change.
- > ADB now joins the ranks of the World Bank (WB), the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) as NGFS observers.
- 16. Which Bank has collaborated with Innoviti Payment Solutions Pvt. Ltd to provide EMI billing options on bank's Debit Cards which are swiped on Innoviti Point of Sale (POS) terminals \_\_\_\_\_\_ Kotak Mahindra Bank. Note:

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- More than half of Innoviti's POS terminals have been installed in 350 smaller cities and towns in India with a population of less than 2 million.
- This will help consumers especially in tier 2 & 3 cities to access credit conveniently through their Kotak debit cards.
- **17.** As per the RBI data in FY 2020 India's External debt increased by \_\_\_\_\_ **2.8%**.

- India's external debt stood at \$558.5 billion in March 2020, an increase of \$15.4 billion or 2.8% as compared to the March 2019.
- The largest component of the external debt is Commercial borrowings with a share of 39.4%, followed by non-resident deposits at 23.4% and short-term trade credit at 18.2%.

#### **Obituaries**

- 1. Renowned personality Carl Reiner passed away recently, he was a veteran \_\_\_\_\_ Actor. Note:
  - > Legendary comedian, Carl Reiner passed away. He was a prolific writer, comedian, director and actor.
  - He had a run as a movie director with such films as "Oh, God!" (1977) and "The Jerk" (1979). He won several Emmys awards in writing and producing.
- 2. Renowned personality Saroj Khan passed away recently, she was a veteran \_\_\_\_\_ Choreographer. Note:
  - In a career spanning over four decades, Khan is credited with choreographing more than 2,000 songs, including Dola Re Dola from Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Devdas, Ek Do Teen from Madhuri Dixit-starrer Tezaab and Ye Ishq Haaye from Jab We Met in 2007.
- 3. Famous sportsperson Everton Weekes passed away recently he was associated with which sports \_\_\_\_\_ Cricket. Note:
  - > Everton Weekes made his first-class debut at 19-year-old and his Test debut in 1948 at 22.
  - His test career spanned between 1948 to 1958, where he played 48 Tests & scored 4455 runs at an average of 58.62.
- 4. Name the Hollywood screen writer, film maker, actor and voice artist passed away recently \_\_\_\_\_ Carl Reiner. Note:
  - Veteran Hollywood and multi-hyphenate personality Carl Reiner, a creator and director of several Steve Martin films, died at 98 of natural causes at his Beverly Hills home.

He has won multiple Emmy Awards, among which 5 awards were backed by "The Dick Van Dyke Show" in the 1960s.

#### **Important Days**

1. National Postal Worker Day is observed every year on which date \_\_\_\_\_1st July.

#### Note:

- National Postal Worker Day is a unique way to say 'thank you' to the postmen and all delivery personnel, as online shopping has become a lifeline for many of us.
- > In India, amid the COVID-19 pandemic, postal services have uniquely diversified.
- Workers in postal departments have become the new 'corona warriors', playing an active role in India's fight against COVID-19
- 2. National Charted Accountants Day is celebrated every year on which dated \_\_\_\_\_1st July.
  - Note:
    - This day is celebrated to commemorate the finding of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) by the parliament of India in 1949. Every year on the day of the establishment of the ICAI, CA Day is celebrated to honour the Chartered Accountant.
- **3.** What is the theme of the National Doctor's Day 2020 which is celebrated every year in the country on 1st July\_\_\_\_\_\_ Lessen the mortality of COVID 19.

Note:

The theme for National Doctor's Day 2020 is "Lessen the mortality of COVID 19" and includes awareness about asymptomatic hypoxia and early aggressive therapy.

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- The National Doctor's Day also marks the birth and death anniversary of Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy. He was the one of the most renowned physicians of India.
- 4. World Sports Journalists Day is observed globally every year on \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd July. Note:
  - > The day aims to acknowledge the work of sports journalists & to encourage them to do better at their work.
  - The day was established in 1994 to mark the 70th anniversary of the International Sports Press Association (AIPS). This year 2020 marks the 96th anniversary of AIPS.
- 5. The United Nations celebrates the International Day of Cooperatives every year on the \_\_\_\_\_ first Saturday of July. Note:
  - In the year 2020, the International Day of Cooperatives will be celebrated on 4th July with a focus on the contribution of cooperatives to combating climate change.
  - UN has also appealed to spread the word: "#Coops4ClimateAction" to celebrate the International Day of Cooperatives 2020.
- 6. International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) celebrated Dharma Chakra Day on \_\_\_\_\_ 4th July.

- This day commemorates Buddha's First Sermon to his first five ascetic disciples at the Deer Park, Rsipatana in the present day Sarnath near Varanasi, UP.
- The day is also observed as Guru Poornima by both Buddhists as well as Hindus as a day to mark reverence to their Gurus.
- 7. World Chocolate Day or International Chocolate Day is observed every year on \_\_\_\_\_ 7th July.

#### Note:

- The day celebrates the existence of chocolate in our lives. It is marked by eating chocolates and sharing with dear ones.
- The first International Chocolate Day was celebrated in 2009. The day is celebrated on July 7th because it was on this date in 1550 that chocolate was first brought to Europe.

#### **New Appointments**

- 1. Gudni Johannesson was re-elected as president of which country \_\_\_\_\_ Iceland. Note:
  - ▶ In 2016, Gudni became the youngest president of Iceland since Independence in 1944.
  - > He enjoyed a solid support from 76 to 86 percent throughout his first term.
  - > Iceland is the Second European country to hold polls during the COVID 19 pandemic.
- 2. Who has been appointed as the next Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva, Switzerland \_\_\_\_\_ Indra Mani Pandey.

#### Note:

- He will represent India in more than 25 important organisation of the UN in Geneva including World Health Organisation (WHO) and therefore the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC).
- India was appointed as the chair of the executive committee of the WHO in 2020 at the World health assembly.
- **3.** Who has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Central Board of Films Certification (CBFC) \_\_\_\_\_\_ Ravinder Bhakar.

#### Note:

- > He is a 1999 batch officer of Indian Railway Stores Service (IRSS). He will replace Anurag Srivastava.
- Prior to this, Bhakar was posted as the Secretary & Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railways. He also served as an Indian Engineering Services officer.
- Who has been appointed as the as the Director General of the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) \_\_\_\_\_ Sanjay Dwivedi.

Note:

- He is presently serving as the Registrar of Makhanlal Chaturvedi National University of Journalism and Communication, Bhopal.
- K.S. Dhatwalia, Principal Director General in the Press Information Bureau, is presently holding the additional charge of the post of Director General of the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC).
- Who has been appointed as the new chairman of Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) \_\_\_\_\_ Srikant Madhav Vaidya. Note:

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- Vaidya will also be the chairman of Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd, a stand-alone refining subsidiary of IOC, and Indian Oiltanking Ltd, a joint venture providing terminalling services.
- He will also take over as the head of Ratnagiri Refinery & Petrochemicals Ltd and also be a director on the board of Petronet LNG Ltd. He has had a decade-long association with India's largest cracker plant—the Panipat Naphtha Cracker Complex.
- 6. As per the votes during referendum in Russia the President Vladimir Putin can lead the Russia until \_\_\_\_\_ 2036. Note:
  - > As per the votes during the Referendum, 77.95 percent of Russian citizens have voted in support of the Amendments to the 1993 Constitution of Russia.
  - > Only 21.23 percent of the Russian Citizens voted against the Amendments.
- 7. Who has been appointed as the New Managing Director (MD) of Cholamandalam MS General Insurance Company

#### \_\_ V Suryanarayanan.

#### Note:

- Suryanarayanan was a Chartered Accountant and Company Secretary served in financial services sector of the Murugappa Group for the past 24 years.
- Suryanarayanan served in Cholamandalam Investments and Finance for 10 years and moved to Chola MS as the CFO in 2006 and became the President and COO in April 2019.
- **8.** Jean Castex has been appointed as prime minister of which country \_\_\_\_\_ **France.**

#### Note:

- > He is known for his role in drafting the strategy to lift lockdown measures in the country in the French Media.
- He is known as Mr Deconfinement of French Media.
- 9. Who has been appointed as the 1st chairman of the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) for a period of three years \_\_\_\_\_ Injeti Srinivas.

#### Note:

- Besides the Chairman, IFSCA has a member each nominated from RBI, IRDAI, SEBI and PFRDA. There are also two members from the Central Government and full-time or part-time members in the Authority.
- > The IFSCA was recently established by the finance ministry on April 27 as the unified authority to regulate all financial services in International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs) in the country.
- **10.** Who has been appointed as the chairman of the nine member working Group (WG) set up by IRDAI to study the suitability of insurers offering surety bonds for contractors \_\_\_\_\_ **G. Srinivasan.**

#### **Important News - India**

1. With which two Maharatna PSUs the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) has signed an MoU for setting up of a Waste to Energy Plant Okhla New Delhi \_\_\_\_\_ Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. & NTPC Ltd.

#### Note:

- > In Delhi, Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Management has been a major issue for the local Municipal Authorities, the Waste to Energy Plant will help in addressing the issue and also will lead us towards a more energy-efficient and greener future.
- > The Plant in Delhi will serve as a demonstrative model, the success of which will further help in establishing such Plants in other cities of the country.
- 2. The report titled "Towards a Clean Energy Economy: Post-Covid-19 Opportunities for India's Energy and Mobility Sectors" released jointly by NITI Aayog and which organization \_\_\_\_\_ Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI). Note:
  - > The report has recommended specific actions and laid down four principles as a framework by which India can revive two of our economic powerhouses - the transport and power sectors from the COVID-19 effect that has impacted their demand and supply.
- 3. What is the name has been given to the longest 2.8 km long freight train operated Indian Railways \_\_\_\_\_ SheshNaag. Note:
  - Indian Railways created another record by operating the longest freight train. Indian Railways named it as 'SeshNaag'.
  - > The rake had a total of 251 wagons which were pulled by four electric locomotives which were fitted in between.
  - > The feat was achieved in the South East Central Railway zone of the Indian Railways. The train had empty BOXN rakes.





4. According to the report "Annual Marine Fish Landings in India for 2019" by Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) which state grabbed the top in annual fish production \_\_\_\_\_ Tamil Nadu.

Note:

- As per the report, Tamil Nadu grabbed the top in annual fish production with 7.75 lakh tonnes followed by Gujarat (7.49 lakh tonnes), which had been holding the first position earlier, and Kerala (5.44 lakh tonnes) which retained the third position.
- > Notably, in the global front, India is ranked 3rd after China and Indonesia in marine fish production.
- 5. An inter-ministerial scheme called "Accelerate Vigyan" was launched by SERB which is a statutory body functioning under which Union Ministry \_\_\_\_\_ Ministry of Science and Technology.

#### Note:

- The primary objective of the scheme is to give thrust on encouraging high-end scientific research and manpower that will lead to a knowledge-based economy.
- > The scheme will identify research potential, mentors and provide hands on training on a national scale.
- 6. Under whose chairmanship the Central Committee for reforms in Criminal Law has been constituted by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) \_\_\_\_\_\_ Ranbir Singh.

#### Note:

- > The objective of this excercise is to gather opinions by consulting with experts and collating material for their report to the government.
- In this regard, the committee has invited experts in the field of criminal law to participate in the exercise through an online consultation mechanism.
- . The CBSE has partnered with which social media platform to launch a free and comprehensive training program for teachers and students of its affiliated schools in the first phase \_\_\_\_\_ Facebook.

#### Note:

- The program will cover teacher training on augmented reality and student training on digital safety and online well-being.
- The training program will be of three weeks in which 10 thousand teachers will be trained on augmented reality while 10 thousand students will be trained on digital safety and well-being.
- 8. 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat App Innovation Challenge' was announced by PM Narendra Modi is an initiative of which ministry \_\_\_\_\_\_Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

Note:

- > The App Innovation Challenge is an initiative by the MeitY in partnership with Atal Innovation Mission
- > The prize money for apps is between Rs 20 lakh and Rs 2 lakh depending on the category.
- > The app will be evaluated on the basis of ease of use, robustness, security features and scalability.
- **9.** For the formation of a Joint Venture Company (JVC) to develop solar and thermal power assets to the tune of 5000 MW on pan-India basis the Coal India Ltd signed an agreement with which another PSU \_\_\_\_\_ NLC India Ltd. Note:
  - > The equity participation in the proposed JVC between Coal India and NLC will be in the ratio of 50:50.
  - This joint venture company marks a new era in the power sector, with the synergy and expertise of two central public sector undertakings under the Ministry of Coal.
- **10.** Which of the following organization has developed 1000 bed Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel COVID-19 Hospital in New Delhi in partnership with Tata Sons Private Limited \_\_\_\_\_ **DRDO.**

Note:

> The facility will be providing treatment and care for the COVID-19 positive patients.

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- Along with Tata Sons Private Limited, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel COVID-19 Hospital is developed by DRDO. The facility is set up in the land belonging to the Indian Air Force.
- **11.** Indian Railways has setup 1.7 MWp Solar Power plant project at which place to directly power the Railway Overhead Line **Bina.**

Note:

This project is unique because, for the first time in the world, the power generated by the solar power plant will be directly fed to the overhead power lines of the national transporter to power the traction system of the electric locomotives to run trains.

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The pilot project of 1.7 mega watt solar power plant has been set up by Indian Railways in collaboration with Bharat Heavy Electrical Limited (BHEL) on railway land.



 Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is going to establish a research cell at which IIT to meet the future defence technological requirements of the country \_\_\_\_\_ II T-Hyderabad.

#### Note:

- Envisaged to become a 'Centre of Excellence', it is being established as an extension of the DRDO Research and Innovation Centre (RIC), Chennai.
- The research cell will ensure seamless execution of different projects between both organisations as IIT-H has a strong research base in advanced technologies.
- What is India's rank in the recently released "Sustainable Development Report (SDR) 2020", including the SDG Index and Dashboards by Cambridge University Press \_\_\_\_\_\_ 117th.

Note:

- > The index has been topped by Sweden.
- The report contains data on changes over time in 17 SDG indicators, the future of the SDGs amidst Covid-19, as well as calculations for trajectories until 2030.
- The 2020 report has reviewed the performance of 193 UN Member States out of which 166 were ranked under SDG index 2020.
- 14. What is India's rank in the "INFORM Report 2020:Shared evidence for managing crises and disasters" released by research centre INFORM \_\_\_\_\_31st.

#### Note:

- The report ranked the countries based on "INFORM Risk Index" which has been topped by Somalia with an inform risk of 8.9. The report has analyzed 191 countries.
- Notably, this report is produced by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA) on behalf of all INFORM Partners.
- **15.** Under whose chairmanship the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has set up an 11-member expert committee to study impact of Covid-19 on human rights of individuals \_\_\_\_\_\_ K S Reddy.

#### Note:

- > The expert panel would be headed by Dr K S Reddy, president of Public Health Foundation of India.
- The expert committee would assess the impact of Covid-19 on human rights of people, especially marginalised and vulnerable sections of the society, including migrant labourers.

#### **Important News - State**

 Which state government has launched "Hamara Ghar-Hamara Vidyalaya" campaign to take care of academic regularity of the students during the Lockdown due to COVID-19 pandemic \_\_\_\_\_ Madhya Pradesh. Note:

#### Note:

- > The scheme will start on 6th July 2020.
- Under the scheme, the school bells are going to be heard within the student's house and the teachers will begin the class of the students after the bell.
- > The scheme provides a school-like environment for the children taught at their home through online classes.
- 2. Which state government has launched a portal, 'Skill Connect Forum' to connect job seekers and employers on a common platform \_\_\_\_\_Karnataka.

Note:

- Job seekers can register on https://skillconnect.kaushalkar.com by uploading details of their educational qualification, skill sets and other details.
- Employers will also register on the portal. The portal matches the requirement and availability.
- > The job seekers can search for jobs in different sectors and different regions within the state.
- 3. The UK India Business Council signed a Memorandum of Understanding (Mou) with which state for Sustainable Business Relation \_\_\_\_\_ Maharshtra.

Note:

- > MIDC is the premier industrial infrastructure development agency of the Government of Maharashtra.
- This business framework between the UKIBC and Government of Maharashtra will help the State to proactively better its business environment and strengthen its collaboration with British business.
- **4.** Which State government has launched an e-learning portal LEAD for schoolchildren \_\_\_\_\_ **Delhi**. **Note:**

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- The portals will give students access to textbooks, study material and course content as per the syllabus of the CBSE, NCERT and Delhi government's curriculum online.
- > It will include digital QR coded textbooks, explanatory videos, practice questions and evaluation.
- 5. World's largest, 10,000 bed Sardar Patel COVID Care Centre and Hospital (SPCCCH) was inaugurated in which state of India \_\_\_\_\_ Delhi.

- SPCCCH is built on the campus of spiritual organization 'Radha Soami Satsang Beas'. SPCCCH is located in South Delhi's Chhatarpur area.
- > SPCCCH is an air-conditioned facility that will be cooled by 18,000 tons of air-conditioners.
- To date, SPCCCH is the World's largest COVID-19 Treatment and Care facility.
- 6. Which State government has launched a social media campaign, 'Intzaar Aap Ka' to attract tourists in the state

#### \_\_\_\_\_Madhya Pradesh.

#### Note:

- The campaign will be conducted by describing the characteristics of the tourism destinations in Madhya Pradesh through photographs and videos.
- Through the campaign, the tourism board aims to establish the confidence back in the tourism sector by offering tour packages to the tourists that are specially designed by keeping in mind safe travel, stay, and excursion for prevention from COVID-19 infection
- 7. Which state government has launched 'Balaram Yojana' to provide crop loans to landless farmers \_\_\_\_\_ Odisha. Note:
  - > Under the new scheme, the landless cultivators will get loans through joint liability groups (JLGs).
  - Under 'Balaram' scheme, the government has set a target to provide farm loans to 7 lakh landless farmers in the next two years.
- 8. Which state government has launched a mega plantation programme 'Mission Vriksharopan-2020' \_\_\_\_\_ Uttar Pradesh. Note:
  - The name of the mega plantation programme is 'Mission Vriksharopan-2020'. Yogi Adityanath planted 3 saplings at the Kukrail Reserve Forest's Harishankari Vatika in Lucknow to inaugurate the Mission Vriksharopan-2020. He planted saplings of a Banyan tree, Ficus Virens and Ficus Religiosa.
- 9. Which state government has decided to bring an ordinance under which 75 percent of the jobs with a salary of less than Rs 50,000 per month will be reserved for the locals of the state \_\_\_\_\_ Haryana. Note:
  - In the month of June 2020, Haryana had the highest unemployment rate among all states in the country. The unemployment rate in June 2020 was 33.6 percent.
  - > The proposed draft Ordinance is named 'Haryana State Employment of Local Candidates Ordinance 2020'.
- **10.** 'Self Scan' mobile application has been launched by which state government as an alternative for the much popular Chinese document scanning application- Cam Scanner \_\_\_\_\_ West Bengal.

#### Note:

- Following the ban of 59 Chinese mobile applications by the Central Government on 29th June 2020, the West Bengal State's Information Technology Department has developed a mobile application that will serve as a better alternative for the much popular Chinese document scanning application- Cam Scanner.
- The Chief Minister launched the 'Self Scan' mobile application that will be available free of cost at various application download platforms.
- **11.** Which state government has launched 'Maha Jobs' portal that will will bridge the gap between the Industrial
  - Units/Employers and the Workers \_\_\_\_\_ Maharshtra.
  - Note:
    - Anyone can access the portal by visiting- 'mahajobs.maharashtra.gov.in'. For registration in the Maha Jobs portal, a domicile certificate of the state of Maharashtra is compulsory for the workers.
    - The portal will help in the resumption of business and industries in the state of Maharashtra, which will further help in recreating the economic cycle in the state that was disrupted due to the nationwide lockdown imposed against the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **12.** Which state government has launched 'Nekar Samman Yojane' for the weaver's community in the state \_\_\_\_\_ Karnataka. Note:
  - > The name of the scheme is 'Nekar Samman Yojane', which means Weaver Samman Yojana.

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For becoming a beneficiary of the scheme, silk, cotton, woolen and other handloom weavers in the state of Karnataka have to register themselves at the Seva Sindhu portal.

#### **Important News - World**

- According to the US-based news agency Associated Press, which country has been running a number of in-human campaigns to slash the birth rates among the minority Muslim population called 'Demographic Genocide' \_\_\_\_\_China. Note:
  - Experts have labeled this Campaign of China as 'Demographic Genocide'. Among the Muslim minorities in China, most belong to Uyghurs ethnic groups.
  - The Chinese Government continues to claim that the camps set up at the Xinjiang Autonomous Region of China are for offering voluntary education and training.
- 2. Which two countries have conducted Naval Exercise 'PASSEX' to promote mutual understanding and for tactical and communications training \_\_\_\_\_ India and Japan.

#### Note:

- > This was the 15th exercise undertaken by the navies of these two nations in the last three years.
- > The overall content of this PASSEX was goodwill training and to promote understanding.
- Which country has cancelled the 2021 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) due to the COVID-19 pandemic and is opting to lead a virtual summit \_\_\_\_\_ New Zealand. Note:
  - New Zealand cancelled the 2021 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum that was scheduled to be held in Auckland, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and is opting to lead a virtual summit.
  - The 2019 leaders' meeting was cancelled by Chile due to violent anti-government protests and the virtual APEC meeting of 2020 are being hosted by Malaysia.
- 4. Which became the first African country to submit the results for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) \_\_\_\_\_ Uganda. Note:
  - Uganda became the first African country to submit the results for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which has opened the way for potential results based payments to Uganda.
  - The submitted documents will help Uganda to claim the funds through the Green Climate Fund's forest conservation scheme.
- 5. Which country has successfully launched a new spy satellite "Ofek 16" \_\_\_\_\_Israel. Note:
  - Ofek 16 is a small electro-optical imaging satellite, which will capture high-resolution images of the Earth for
    - Israel's Ministry of Defence.
    - With the launch of Ofek 1 in September 1988, Israel became the eighth country to develop its own orbital launch capability.
    - It uses this capability exclusively for military payloads, relying on foreign rockets to carry its civilian and commercial satellites into orbit.

#### **Honor & Awards**

1. Who has been conferred with the first Prof. P C Mahalanobis Award in Official Statistics for lifetime achievements \_\_\_\_\_Raghuram Rajan.

#### Note:

- He received the Lifetime Achievement Award for his contribution in providing solutions in the issues related to the estimation of national income.
- > The award has been instituted by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) from 2020
- 2. Who among the following has been named as the India's 'Most Valuable Player' (MVP) of the 21st century by Wisden

#### \_\_\_\_\_ Ravindra Jadeja.

- Note:
  - ▶ He made his debut in 2009 and represented India in 49 test matches, 165 ODIs and 49 T20Is as of 2020.

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- ➢ Jadeja's MVP rating is around 97.3 which is second only to Muttiah Muralitharan of Sri Lanka making him the second most Valuable Test Player of the 21st Century.
- Name the Indian-American who were listed among the 38 immigrants to be honoured as the '2020 Great Immigrants' by the Carnegie Corporation \_\_\_\_\_ Dr Siddhartha Mukherjee and Prof Raj Chetty.
   Note:
  - The noted biologist, oncologist and the author Siddhartha Mukherjee was awarded Pulitzer Prize in 2011 for his book: The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer.
  - Raj Chetty was chosen as the recipient for the award for his efforts in launching a real-time economic impact monitor of COVID-19.
- 4. Government announced to release commemorative stamp to honour \_\_\_\_\_ PV Narasimha Rao. Note:
  - > PV Narasimha Rao served as 9th prime minister from 1991 to 1996.
  - He is the only non-Gandhi who completed a full term as prime minister. He was also the 1st prime minister of the country to hail from South India.
  - His 100th birth anniversary was celebrated on June 28, 2020.

- The SKOCH Crucible Award for its focus on mission mode implementation of opening bank accounts through the Indian post Payment Bank (IBBP).
- SKOCH Order of Merit for its quick and innovative response to contain and prevent the spread of COVID-19 and its initiative to home deliver the essentials to assist the citizens.
- 6. A new category of awards titled 'Prerak Dauur Samman' has been announced as a part of \_\_\_\_\_ Swachh Survekshan 2021.

Note:

- The Prerak Dauur Samman has a total of five additional subcategories namely, Divya (Platinum), Anupam (Gold), Ujjwal (Silver), Udit (Bronze) and Aarohi (Aspiring).
- In Swachh Survekshan 2020, cities are evaluated on the criteria of 'population category' but for 2021, they will be categorised on the basis of six select indicator wise performance criteria
- Name the student who has received the 2020 Diana Award for her "Recycler App" \_\_\_\_\_ Freya Thakral. Note:
  - > She developed this App to connect users with waste-handlers as a measure to help the ragpickers of Delhi.
  - > Her recycler App is a web-based mobile application which connects the users with waste handlers.

#### **Books and Authors**

- 1. Who has authored the book titled "Future of Higher Education Nine Mega Trends" \_\_\_\_\_ CA V Pattabhi Ram. Note:
  - Vice President of India, M Venkaiah Naidu has virtually released a book titled "Future of Higher Education Nine Mega Trends".
- 2. Who has authored the book titled "Getting Competitive: A Practitioner's Guide for India" \_\_\_\_\_ RC Bhargava. Note:
  - The book published by HarperCollins India, provides practical suggestions to make India a competitive industrialised country.
- 3. Who has written the book titled "Overdraft: Saving the Indian Saver' \_\_\_\_\_Urjit Patel. Note:

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- > The book focuses on the non-performing assets (NPAs) issue that has afflicted Indian banking in recent years, its causes and Mr Patel's efforts as the RBI Governor in dealing with it.
- > It is published by Harper Collins India.

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Patel worked with a '9R' strategy which would protect depositors' savings, rescue the banks and protect them from "unscrupulous racketeers"



#### **Sports News**

- 1. Who has launched the National Anti-Doping Agency's first mobile app named as "NADA App" \_\_\_\_\_ Kiren Rijiju. Note:
  - > The recently launched mobile application aims to bridge the gap between NADA and the athletes by offering
  - easily-accessible information on various aspects of sport, prohibited substances as well as dope-testing.
- 2. Who has become the country's 66th Grandmaster \_\_\_\_\_ G. Akash. Note:
  - Akash got his third GM norm in the National senior chess championship in Majhitar (Sikkim) last year, but his rating fell short of the required Elo mark of 2500.
  - > He played another five tournaments across the world to reach that rating.
  - > He attained his final norm in Bad Worishofen (Germany) in March.
- 3. Who was named the men's 'cricketer of the year' at Cricket South Africa's (CSA) annual awards ceremony \_\_\_\_\_ Quinton de Kock.

#### Note:

- The 27-year-old also bagged the Test cricketer of the year while young opener Laura Wolvaardt took home the women's cricketer of the year and ODI cricketer of the year awards.
- Pacer Lungi Ngidi was named ODI and T20 player of the year while David Miller was voted the fans' favourite player.
- **4.** Who has won the Austrian Grand Prix 2020 \_\_\_\_\_ **Valtteri Bottas.**

#### Note:

- Austrian Grand Prix 2020 was the first race of 2020 Formula One season.
- > Ferrari's Charles Leclerc finished second while McLaren's Lando Norris came third.
- Another Mercedes racer Lewis Hamilton being handed a 5 second penalty that dropped him from second place to fourth.
- > The event was held at the Red Bull Ring without spectators
- 5. Two-times Olympic badminton champion Lin Dan announced his retirement, he held from which country \_\_\_\_\_China. Note:
  - During his 20-year glorious national team career, he won the Olympics singles titles in Beijing in 2008 and the 2012 London Games.

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